

APRIL 2023



**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF LORTON AND
LOWESWATER WITH BUTTERMERE**

Letter from the Editor

Dear Link Readers

A few things to draw to your attention this month. We have received an article and a poster from the Melbreak Wildlife Group about events they are planning - an online talk about Barn Owls and there will be an Open Evening in YTH to find out more about their various initiatives.

The Jazz and Jambalaya evening is now fully booked but we do have a poster about an auction of photographs which is being held in conjunction with the event.

We have a slight watery theme going on with the second and concluding report about the creation of the Lorton ponds and an article by Les Webb about the future of the valley lakes.

There are a number of events going on at LVH including a Coronation Lunch and we also include the schedule of Helen's Community lunches at Lorton School. There is a new date for the Lorton School 10k run which had to be cancelled last month because of bad weather. The

'Whinlatter Whistlers' event for May Day sounds like fun, as does the prospect of the launch of the Spring Season of Indoor Bowls.

Progress continues to be made on the Eco Church/Eco Community front as we spread our wings across the Grasmoor Mission community.

Last month we included information about the launch of Michael Baron's book of poetry and he has let me know that 45 copies of the book, with its eye catching cover, were sold and there was a throng of 50 or so people at Lutyens and Rubenstein's lovely bookshop on Kensington Park Road. As he says himself "Not bad for a 94 year old which is old me ! Michael". Copies of the book can be obtained from the Palewell Press at 89 Sheen Lane SW14. Cost £9.99 plus postage.

I close with the very sad news of the death of Sheila Mills - see page 27 for a moving tribute by her long-time friend Judith Benn.

Rosemary
07885 360353

Our cover picture contributor this month is once again John Macfarlane:
Great Spotted Woodpecker
The spring wood drummer
Watergate Loweswater



‘Blessed are those who have not seen’
‘You had to be there’. People sometimes say that when they tell you an incredible story and they’re uncertain whether you’re going to believe them. Or they tell you a joke, but they’re not sure you’re going to get the full flavour of it. ‘You had to be there’ – but since you weren’t, that means you’re bound to miss out to some extent. But with the resurrection the opposite is true. You didn’t have to be there. Of all the men, women and children who have followed Christ faithfully and entered into the joy of his presence at the end of their lives, only a handful, a vanishingly small number, were there in person when these events first took place. For nearly everybody else the good news of Jesus’s victory over sin and death is something we have received at second hand. We heard it first from someone else. Yet Jesus says that we later believers are if anything even more blessed than those who actually witnessed what happened. St Thomas, the only disciple who was not

with the others when Jesus first appeared to them after his resurrection, insisted on seeing with his own eyes. ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails ... I will not believe.’ When Jesus does appear to him he is quickly convinced as we probably would be too. But as Jesus says to him: ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. In every time and place there have been ordinary people who have passed on the good news of Jesus Christ and ordinary people who have taken that step of faith and received it with joy. As we celebrate Easter in our various ways may we too find our faith kindled and our hope renewed in the God we will one day see face to face. With every good wish for a blessed Easter from the clergy of Grasmoor Mission Community.

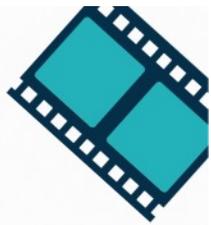
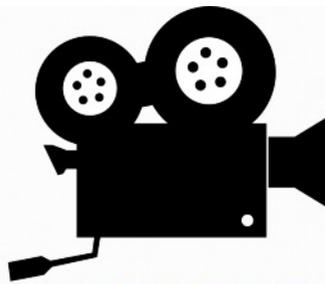
Jane Charman
Grasmoor Mission Community Leader

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LORTON FILM NIGHT AT YTH

THURSDAY 20th April
“Aftersun”

**A moving exploration of the bond
between parent and child.**

Doors and Bar open 7pm
Film starts 730pm
£6 Entry

Organisers
Eleanor 07497 618364
Polly 07793 495659
Fip 07729 004943



Don't forget to use the **Little Lending Library** and the **new Toy Library** to be found in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton. They both have a great selection.

Melbreak Wildlife Group



Melbreak Wildlife Group was set up as part of The Melbreak Communities with the aim of providing an opportunity for anyone who is interested in wildlife and nature to get together – to share ideas and observations, learn more, and take part in activities large or small that benefit wildlife in and around the Melbreak communities area. The Group has a number of initiatives currently underway (for more details, see the Melbreak Communities website, or contact Tanya St Pierre – tanya.stpierre@outlook.com):

- Monitoring Swifts, and installing Swift nest boxes in suitable sites.
- Helping Hedgehogs, and finding ways to promote their welfare.
- Building a map of wildlife within the Melbreak Communities area by recording wildlife sightings using the iNaturalist app/website, or via reporting forms.
- Sharing information about wildlife sightings & news, via the Melbreak Wildlife WhatsApp Group (please contact David Gardiner davidj.gardiner@btinternet.com to join this group).

The Wildlife Group has arranged 2 events in the next couple of months which are open to everyone who has an interest in the natural world:

- An online talk by David Ramsden from the Barn Owl Trust on Tuesday April 18th about the pressures facing Barn Owls, and how we can help them (see poster elsewhere in The Link). Places are limited, so please email David Gardiner as soon as possible if you would like to register for this talk
- An open evening in Yew Tree Hall on Thursday May 18th, where there will be further information about the current initiatives, but also an opportunity for open discussion how the Wildlife Group could develop. Please do come along, and bring your ideas!

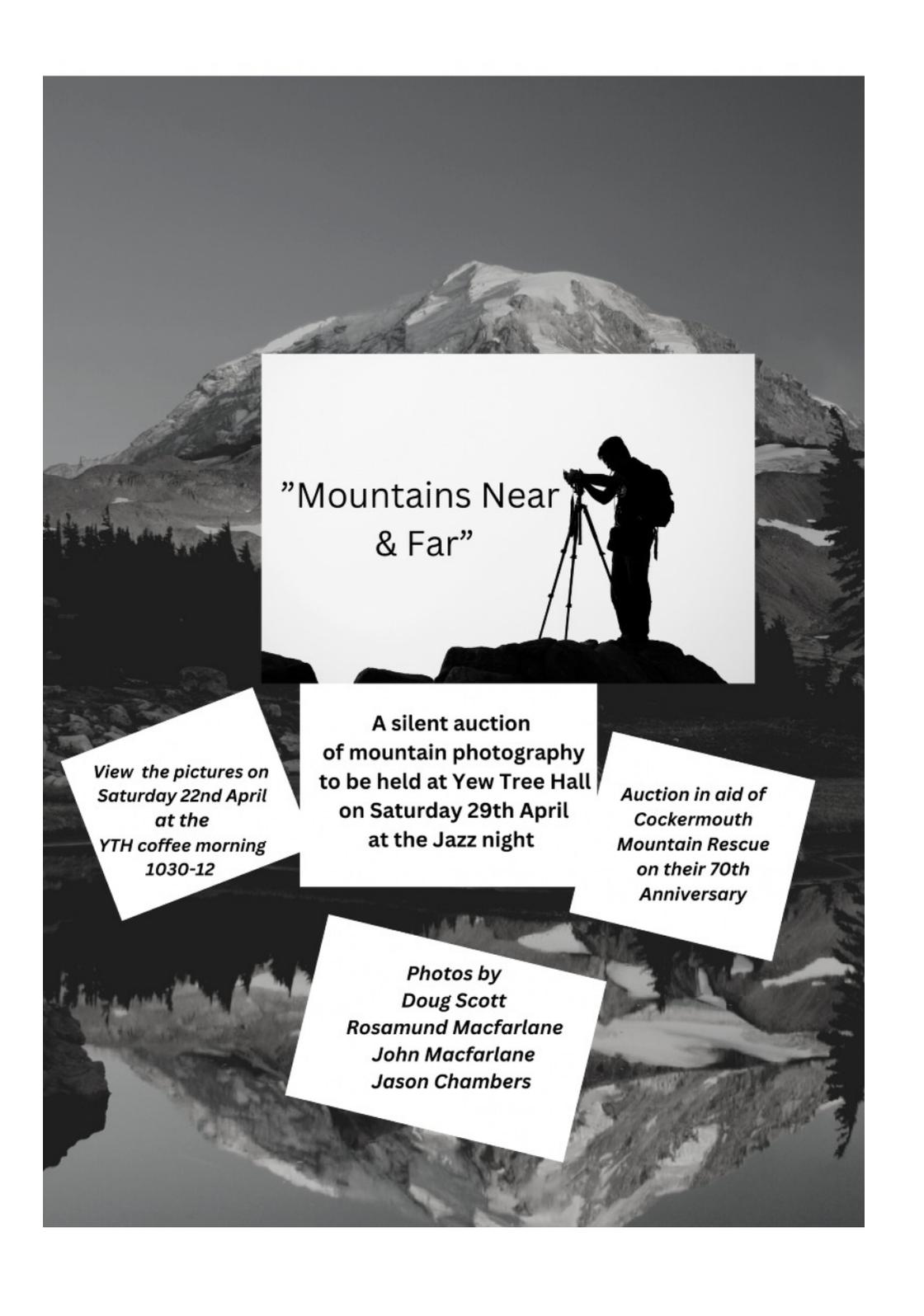


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**"Mountains Near
& Far"**

*View the pictures on
Saturday 22nd April
at the
YTH coffee morning
1030-12*

**A silent auction
of mountain photography
to be held at Yew Tree Hall
on Saturday 29th April
at the Jazz night**

*Auction in aid of
Cockermouth
Mountain Rescue
on their 70th
Anniversary*

*Photos by
Doug Scott
Rosamund Macfarlane
John Macfarlane
Jason Chambers*

Penny's Piece

Well, don't know about you, but I've spent about a fortnight not knowing what to wear or have with me in case of extreme weather. One minute I'm in 4 layers and have wellies and waterproof trousers in the car in case of snow, the next I've stripped off to a t-shirt. The only thing for certain is that despite it getting much warmer, that does not mean the snow is done. The snowy Friday reminded us that school has far too many paths and the yard is huge. There was a lot of shovelling and reacquainting myself with muscles I'd forgotten I had. The really tedious thing was that by 10 am it had all melted so all the hard work at 7:30 felt pointless. Then the following Tuesday it was snow roulette. Are we going to get snowed in? Oh, no, it's melted. Then it would start again.

I was definitely wearing the wrong clothes on Red Nose Day. I dug out the pom-pom jumper and put a long-sleeved top underneath. Totally forgot we were going to be running a mile (around the school paths) for Comic Relief. The whole thing was introduced in assembly by Gary McKee- the man from Cleator Moor who ran a marathon everyday last year and raised thousands for charity. As you know, I don't do running. You don't run when there is a fire so there's no need to run when there isn't one (the only exception is in case of imminent demise i.e., approaching vehicle or a tonne of beef running at you)! However, the kids were very excited and so, rather than marshalling along the route (to stop the kids escaping up the steps into the estate or off the end of the field to the playpark) I joined them. I was lapped by at least 2 of my class- they are 6 turning 7! I was a beetroot coloured, sweaty mess. The day after, my legs hurt in places I had again forgotten about. After school the kids could run a slightly different route with their parents to do a mile. There were some very surprised grandparents who had clearly been dropped in it by their own offspring accompanying some grandkids who thought it was hilarious nanna and grandpa was running 5 laps of the building and yard with them. At the other end of the scale, there were 2 toddlers, one in our nursery and one younger than that, who were unstoppable. They just kept going, huge smiles on their faces as red-faced mothers tried to keep up and eventually stop them. Apparently, the kids are doing a mile every day from now on. Oh joy. I feel I may suddenly be in a series of meetings or need to be in charge of

the inhalers.

As you may already know, the cinema at Dunmail Park has been taken over, refurbished and reopened. We went this weekend. Wow. I would still recommend buying your snacks in Asda first but to be fair, the staff did not try to push you to upsize your snacks for 50p more. The carpet, currently, feels plush and the seats are amazing. All of them are electronic recliners and have their own cup holder and tray table. There are also charging ports for your phone! The recliners go back and there is still room for someone to walk in front of you, without moving. Not sure about the gents but the ladies looks very smart. There is even a chaise longue in there. Not sure why. Who is going to be sitting waiting in there when there are recliners in the cinema? The whole thing looks great and long may it last. Not sure what it will look like after a kid's film though. I wonder how many people will pay for a film and then miss it because they have fallen asleep on the recliner. Do they have a person employed to wake up those still asleep after the film has finished? What is the etiquette if the person next to you has fallen asleep and is snoring loudly? Do you nudge them? Un-recline them in the hope the action wakes them up? This could be a new dilemma.

So, have you got yourself a Verisure alarm? Nah, me neither. It has to be one of the most annoying adverts around. If it falls into the same ad break as the On the Beach holiday one to the Xmas song, the tv is going to need all the luck it can get, not to get hurled out of the window. Dreadful. Though I'm not sure if it is the product itself or the terrible script/acting. Thinking about it, I can't recall a recent ad that has made me want to buy the product. Which I'm sure slightly defeats the object. I did notice a number of ads using music by Elvis and Bowie which made me think about how some artists work endures, long after they have gone. Not sure there are many current musical artists who will fare the same. There are some novelty ones which will live in the memory of those around at the time, but following generations will have no clue. So, on that note I feel duty bound to leave you with an earworm or two. Something ridiculous like Barbie Girl or Baby Shark. If you've missed this one, you've done well!

Penny

The Story of the Lorton Ponds - Part 2

by John Temple of Cragg House Farm

In October 2021 we added a further 2 ponds at the top of our land and a Sand Martin box at the bottom pond.



At the end of October the River Cocker broke its banks and filled the whole area with around 8 foot of water taking about 10 days to start dropping



The Story of the Lorton Ponds - Part 2 (cont)

Before the flood we had shoals of Minnows at the inlets of the stone drains which disappeared around Christmas time, which i think went up the drains, and after the flood plenty of small Trout/Salmon in the two bigger ponds.

Dragonflies moved in rapidly but the only ones I can reliably identify are, Golden Rings, Broad Bodied Chasers, Common Darters, Banded Demoiselle. The Damselflies confuse me the more I try to positively identify them!!

We are seeing Kingfishers regularly on the ponds at Lorton now. Two Little Grebe (a first for the farm) arrived on the 5th of August and are seen most days now, with up to eight Teal from 18th of August . We are now up to seeing 64 species since the ponds were completed. We have added to our list this year: 57. Woodcock 58. Mute Swan 59. Jack Snipe 60. Red-breasted Merganser 61. Tufted Duck 62. Curlew 63. Skylark 64. Little Grebe.

The bird boxes in 2022 had the following Pied Flycatchers 23, Blue Tits 22, Great Tits 18, Redstarts 1, Nuthatch 1. More boxes had Pipistrelle bats in earlier this year, possibly due to the hot weather. I have also built a small hide and will soon get some Kingfisher perches put into the ponds so may even get some photos when I get time!

'There is no public access to the ponds, but the top pond can be seen from the road near New House Farm'



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LORTON NOTES

As I write this the clocks are about to change and the evenings will lengthen - has Spring finally Sprung? Certainly my garden is full of spring flowers with the daffodils and narcissi in particular making a spectacular show. Easter is also about to 'spring' into action as it falls early in April this year. This is the most important event of the Christian Calendar and so, as usual, we will be marking it with special services leading up to the climax on Easter Sunday

The first service is on Palm Sunday at Loweswater and we are holding two services at Lorton in Holy Week, one on

Monday and one on Maundy Thursday. I hope many of you will be able to attend.

We are also holding the service on Easter Day and we shall be decorating the church on Saturday 8th at 10.00am. St. Cuthbert's must be resplendent for the Church's most important day of the year.

Our APCM takes place on 23rd April after the service. The church officers will be elected and the annual reports reviewed.

Happy Easter to you all

Rosemary Riley

Loweswater Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who supported and assisted with the hugely successful **Mother's Day Afternoon Teas** in the Hall on Sunday March 19th. The event was a sell-out and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We hope to repeat it again next year.

On **Friday April 14th at 7.30**, we are delighted to present an **Arts Out West Concert and Ceilidh** by popular Cumbrian band **Striding Edge**. In the interval there will be a **Ploughman's Supper** available, (please book in advance). Striding Edge have a very keen following in the county, so book early to avoid disappointment, (loweswaterevents@gmail.com).

On **Sunday May 7th from 12.30 to 3.30**, we are very pleased to welcome all members of the community to a **Celebration Lunch for the Coronation of King Charles III**. This will be a free event, where everyone is invited to bring along a buffet-style main course or desert to share. Food allergies/preferences will be accommodated. **Places must be booked in advance.**

For full details of how to book both of these events, please see the posters in this issue, or visit our website, loweswatervillagehall.co.uk or visit us on facebook.

THE FUTURE OF THE VALLEY LAKES



Crummock Water was first dammed in the 1880s with timber structures which were then replaced with the current stone/masonry ones in 1904. This raised the water level by about 1.6m and the surface area by 2-3%. In 1912, a 200m section

of Park Beck was canalised, preventing natural hydro-geomorphic processes and reducing biodiversity over this short stretch.

With the completion of the new pipeline from Thirlmere to West Cumbria (ending the need for Crummock Water to be used for public water supply), United Utilities has recently held drop-in sessions to tell everyone about their future plans. There's not enough space here to describe in any detail UU's initial proposals to reverse this process and re-naturalise Crummock Water and its shoreline. All the material shown at the drop-in sessions is now on the UU website (<https://www.unitedutilities.com/Crummock/>). There's also some interesting visualisations over time of the Crummock landscape done by the University of Newcastle in collaboration with United Utilities in an open-access paper published in [Landscape and Urban Planning 2022, 221,104372](#). There's no definite plans yet for what might be done in Ennerdale



In 2020, I wrote an update about the work of West Cumbria Rivers Trust (through its Loweswater Care Programme). Since then, we have continued our monitoring of the lake and its feeder becks and have completed a long-standing goal of naturalising a previously-canalised section of Dub Beck above the lake. 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of when we started practical work in the DEFRA-funded project "Improving water quality in Loweswater", so we will be

holding a local meeting in Loweswater Village Hall on Wednesday 17 May in the evening to tell everyone about what we have achieved over this time. More on this in the May Link. Sorry but nothing about the other valley lake Buttermere on this occasion (probably a good thing).

Leslie Webb, Damson Ghyll, Loweswater (les@damsonghyll.co.uk).

LORTON VALE GARDENING CLUB

It seems a long while ago now, but back at the end of Feb, we had an excellent talk from Ian Jack, retired Head Forester on the Lowther Estate. He talked about all the myriad reasons that we need woodland - both for products and for recreation and conservation. His mantra was "right tree, right place, for the right reason". In other words, not on large areas of CO2 conserving peatland, for tax advantage! He was keen that we source our trees locally, thus avoiding bringing in new pests and diseases to add to those we've already got. Incidentally, he said that current advice was not to fell trees with ash dieback, but to leave them to see if they pull through, in which case, cuttings from them should have some immunity. You can recognise ash dieback by the diamond shaped lesion on the trunk. Various beetle baddies seem to originate from China..... Then we got diverted on to red squirrels. He agrees with Steve and Peter from West Lakes Squirrels, that if the reds are to have a chance of survival, the Forestry Commission must abandon its no shooting policy.

The next event was the rescheduled "Growing vegetables made easy" talk by Jim Robinson. However, we did notice that there was a ? at the end of the title, and Jim was clearly a very hard working expert grower! He started by saying "grow what you like to eat", but confessed he grows an enormous range of veggies. All you need to get started is a pot, some sieved compost, a spoon to level off the compost, and some vermiculite to cover your seeds. 60-70 degrees is the ideal temperature for germination. When pricking out, tip out the whole pot and handle by the leaf, not the stem. A Ph of 6.5 is about right for most plants. He uses a lot of home made net protection. Lots of tips: put greens into salted water to sort out slugs, don't be tempted to pull off seed cases on young tomato seedlings, when you have chitted your potatoes, thin down the shoots to 3 and gouge the rest out with a sharp knife etc. etc. Try to sow thinly rather than thinning out. Earth up your potatoes in the evening when the leaves turn up. Jim has obviously won lots of prizes for his vegetables, and his final pic was a gorgeous display at one of the summer shows. Even potatoes come in a beautiful range of colours!

I can't conclude without mentioning the sad news that we've all been struggling with - the death of Sheila Mills, on March 21. She was a wonderful gardener, and amongst lots of other services to the community, she was our Treasurer for many years. We held our Summer Social in her lovely garden at least twice. We are all thinking of you, Nev.

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Loweswater Ladies March 2023

We were delighted to welcome Roz Dowling to the group again. It had been some time since her last visit in 2014 when she spoke about St Bega. Her topic this visit could not have been more different -British biscuits. We were taken on a culinary journey from the unappetising hard tack ship's biscuits of the 17th century to the sweet confections we find so tempting today. Sweet biscuits were not initially widely available to the masses as they were made in small quantities by confectioners and therefore expensive. It was not until JD Carr come up with the idea of mass producing biscuits in a factory that sweet biscuits become affordable for ordinary people. And so started Carlisle's long association with the manufacture of biscuits. The Caldewgate factory opened in 1837 and by the 1920's Carr's employed nearly 3000 people. By 1929 there were 120 biscuit manufacturers in Britain. Clearly the price was now right and the masses took to eating sweet biscuits with some relish. We were reminded of names from the past- Huntly & Palmers, Peek Freans and MacFarlane Lang to name but a few. Today, after years of mergers, many of the formerly British biscuit manufacturers are part of a global food conglomerate owned by a Turkish company.

We were reminded of the great "cake or biscuit" debate that raged a few years ago with regard to Jaffa Cakes. Is the Jaffa Cake actually a cake or a biscuit? Who cares I hear you ask, just enjoy eating them. It does apparently matter because a chocolate covered biscuit attracts VAT whereas a plain biscuit or a cake does not. The makers of Jaffa Cakes, McVities, argued that cakes harden with age whereas biscuits go soft. As Jaffa Cakes harden over time they must be cakes. McVities won their argument and a Jaffa Cake is officially a cake in the eyes of the tax man although it is still to be found in the biscuit aisle of the supermarket. A fascinating and entertaining talk followed by some very tasty biscuits.

At our next meeting we will be hearing from the author Ruth Sutton who is based in Cumbrian and sets her stories in West Cumbria. As well as murder mysteries Ruth has written a trilogy, *Between the Mountains and the Sea*, which follows the life of a young West Cumbrian woman in the first half of the 20th century. The books are full of historical references to real events as well as engaging stories about the fictional life of the lead character. This promises to be another very interesting evening.

You can hear Ruth's talk on **Wednesday 12th April at 7.15pm in Loweswater Village Hall**. As always visitors are most welcome (£2.50).

Doreen Robertson

HELEN'S COMMUNITY LUNCHES £6.50

at Lorton School

Lunch dates early Summer-

Monday 17th Apr	Monday 22nd May	Monday 12th June.	Monday 10th July.
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Served promptly at 1.15pm.

To book your place
call Helen on 07790 459064

Please support your local community. Helen generously donates all profits to providing additional support to children at Lorton School.





Lorton School Link

Each month pupils from years 4-6 will use this column to report on life at Lorton School.



“Some surprising things have been happening this month like the snow and ice cancelling the Lorton School 10k race, which is now happening on 29th April. Excitingly, we have had our school trips announced for this summer. Years 3 and 4 are going on a residential to Hawse End Centre for two nights in June and then Years 5 and 6 are going to go for three nights later in the summer.

We have installed a bookcase at the Wheatsheaf Inn with both children’s and adults’ books to raise money for FOLS plus, after a hiatus over the winter, Helen’s Herbs is coming in to do some gardening and cooking sessions with us. We are going to be doing a performance to mark King Charles’ coronation and a lot of us were a bit sceptical about doing dance as our topic in P.E., me included, but it seems to be actually quite fun.

In Year 6, we are going to be making some Viking themed moving toys as it is what our topic has been about this term. Another thing that lots of people will be excited about is the annual Duck Race now set for 10th June.”

Reuben, Year 6



**Loweswater with Buttermere PCC 100 Club
Winners; April 2022 – March 2023**

April 2022

- 1 88 Hugo Thomson
- 2 31 Miles Davies
- 3 72 Mark Elliott

May

- 1 12 Raymond Beard
- 2 10 Carol Priestley
- 3 16 Loes van Cappellen

June

- 1 36 Christine England
- 2 2 Ann Beebe
- 3 33 Kathryn Mitchell

July

- 1 16 Loes van Cappellen
- 2 62 Judith Hope
- 3 92 Beth Kerslake

August

- 1 66 Mrs M Jessop
- 2 13 Elaine Beard
- 3 82 Alex Harper

September

- 1 12 Raymond Beard
- 2 40 Sue Hulme
- 3 43 Nancy Fearon

October

- 1 36 Christine England
- 2 64 Ann Hayton
- 3 12 Raymond Beard

November

- 1 64 Ann Hayton
- 2 2 Ann Beebe
- 3 32 Walter Head

December

- 1 7 Richard Kahane
- 2 46 Edna Vickers
- 3 37 Christine England

January 2023

- 1 27 Marjorie Hopkins
- 2 95 Sheila Thompson
- 3 92 Beth Kerslake

February

- 1 51 Betty Coulthard
- 2 67 Keith McNeil
- 3 28 Jim Mills

March

- 1 27 Marjorie Hopkins
- 2 60 Diane Hayton
- 3 91 Meleri Evans

There's still time to subscribe, we need your support!!!

TO Jan Evans, (Promoter), Palace How, Loweswater, Cockermouth, CA13 9UX
Tel; 01900 85458

I wish to join the 100 Challenge Club at £12.00 for 12 months from April 2023.

I wish to have..... additional numbers at £12.00 for the same period.

I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to Loweswater with Buttermere PCC 100 Challenge Club.

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Mayday! Mayday!

THE WHINLATTER WHISTLERS



are tuning up, ready to surprise and delight you



at Lorton Pound
1st May
from 12noon to 2pm

Bring Your
Picnic Lunch
and something to sit on
(opposite the Yew Tree Hall, beside Whit Beck)



If the weather lets us down we'll
see you in the Yew Tree Hall

NOTES FROM ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S AND ST JAMES'S

March has been a bleak month in terms of weather snow, sleet, high winds the odd sunny day and very, very wet. As ever the usual encouraging signs of spring arrive undeterred crocuses, daffs, celandine in hedgerows and new life with the lambs. Many reasons to smile and be cheerful. I particularly look forward to the blossom of April especially the cherry tree outside my bedroom window.

April is a busy important month as we reach the climax of the Christian year at Easter. We shall be having our usual services of Compline in our 3 churches during Holy Week, the Three Hours at Loweswater on Good Friday followed by Easter Communion at Lorton and Festal Evensong at Buttermere. Times and details on back page as usual! Please note Buttermere services

have returned to the 6pm slot. We will be decorating the church on the Saturday morning.

Our church architect visited both churches this month and has confirmed that Buttermere will need a new roof. It is anticipated that the earliest this work could take place would be late summer.

At our recent PCC meeting we welcomed Laura Hamilton as our new treasurer taking over from Hugo Thomson. Advance notice of our APCM which will take place on 21st May at 12 o'clock following the service. This is an occasion for the election of church officers and a chance to read the annual reports; all are welcome.

Wishing everyone the joy of Easter.

Eleanor Ella

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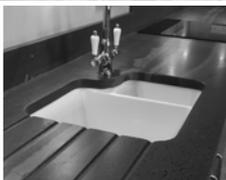
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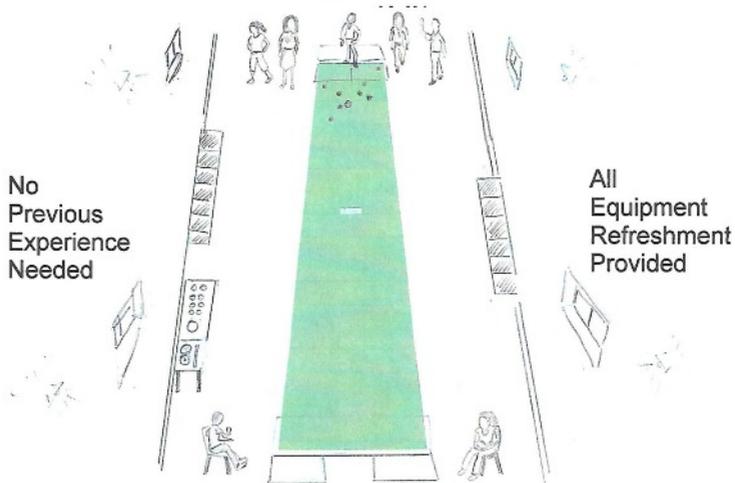
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NEW SEASON STARTING

Monday April 17th 2023

Yew Tree Hall in High Lorton
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Starting Tuesday evening 18th April 6.00 to 7.00

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In Association with **Arts out West**

The Mystery of the Blue Moon Saloon

Friday 5th May at 7.30pm
Tickets £10 Adult: £5 under 18: £25 Family of 4 (2+2) **B.Y.O. drinks**

A comic radio play presented live on stage with the assistance of the audience.

An American Wild West town 1870. A travelling English Theatre company are performing Scenes from Shakespeare when lone gunslinger The Wanderer comes up against a gang of outlaws. When the gun smoke clears Mrs Speakwell lies dead. But who killed the English actress?

This daft and entertaining show gives the audience the chance to make the sound effects and take part in scenes as they are recorded in a special edition of the play. There's a part for everyone in...***The Mystery of the Blue Moon Saloon***. Or just sit back and enjoy this amazing play.

Tickets 01946 862300 or email margaretperry@hotmail.com
Online bookings: kirkgateartsandheritage.org.uk



Photo: Phil Thorogood



Restoring the Balance

A **free**, online talk by David Ramsden, MBE, from the

Barn Owl Trust

19:30 Tuesday 18th April 2023

For Melbreak Communities Wildlife Group

<https://melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com>

Email davidj.gardiner@btinternet.com by 14th April to request meeting login details

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On March 14 we were due to have a presentation from Mark Lee on his cheese making business at his farm at Torpenhow. However, at lunchtime there was a fall of snow, which started to melt in the afternoon, but then more snow fell in the early evening. I was to chair that meeting (John was away), and after hurried consultations between committee members, we took the decision to cancel. We were all disappointed, but we look forward to hearing Mark (and tasting his cheeses) at a future meeting.

The next meeting is the lunch party on Tuesday April 18, 12.30 for 1.00pm, at Hundith Hill Hotel (not Hunday Manor as originally intended). The speaker will be Ingrid Hall, who grew up in Loweswater and who subsequently had a very successful career in the Army. Anyone who wishes to come and has not yet signed up for the meal should ring John on 01946 861555 by April 12 to book a place and record their menu choices. The cost of the lunch is £24 including £2 gratuity. Non-members are welcome to join us (at no additional charge on this occasion).

Carolyn Davis

Hosted by St Cuthbert's Lorton

Yew Tree Hall 10.30 - 12.00noon	Saturday 22 April
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...and now a prayer for the Roof Fund

**COFFEE
MORNING**



A Melbreak Communities Event

Loweswater with Buttermere PCC
100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st March 2023

1st prize of £25 No 27 Marjorie Hopkins
2nd prize of £10 No 60 Diane Hayton
3rd prize of £5 No 91 Meleri Evans

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.

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Save the date! Lorton School will be hosting a Coronation Celebration on Thursday 4th May. Lorton Parish Council will be presenting Coronation Mugs to all the children at the school, and their younger siblings.

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Lorton School 10K. Fundraising Road Race

Saturday 29th April 2023 at 11.00am

**Minimum Age: - 15. All levels of runners
welcome**

**Details and entry forms via Facebook
Lorton School 10K 2023**



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ECO CHURCH UPDATE

On Wednesday 22nd April we held the first meeting of the Grasmoor Mission Community (GMC) Eco Church Steering Group. We had 4 main agenda items:

1. Finding another member to join the group
2. Plan for a Green Fair
3. Plan the Cockermouth Toilet-Twinning Award
4. Enhance our presence at Loweswater show

We have a few names in the frame for item 1 and made progress on the the remaining 3 as follows:

Green Fair:

- Work in conjunction with Christ Church who are already planning a Big Green Day event on 10th June 2023
- Planning meeting to be held on 5/4/2023 at 7.30pm
- Venue - Church and Church Rooms and possibly Fairfield playing field
- Target to get remaining 3 churches attaining their Bronze Eco Church awards before the fair (ideally by the next Gathering Day on Saturday 13 May as this will be a year on from when we made this commitment) so remaining certificates can be presented

Toilet Twinning:

- Request the Town Council to twin their own toilets and the public toilets
- Tell as many people as possible about Toilet Twinning - Have a stand at the Green Fair and deliver Eco Collective Worship at all local schools
- Target local business, charities, community organisations, schools etc to twin their toilets using posters and leaflet drops
- Get as much publicity as possible
 - Finalise publicity material - leaflets and posters
 - Contact the Times and Star
 - Publicise in Staying Connected

Loweswater Show:

- Increase our presence with a bigger stand (and banners) publicising Eco Church, Toilet Twinning and the GMC in general
- Hand out service sheets from the stand prior to the service
- Have a sound system for the service

It is early days yet, but we feel we have started to make progress.

SHEILA MILLS

(The photo of Sheila below was taken at her sister's wedding in 1985)

It is with great sadness that I tell you that my friend Sheila Mills, from Scales Farm High Lorton has lost her fight against cancer and passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday 21 March. Sheila was a true friend in every sense of the word, supporting me during some of the darkest times of my life.

When Nev and Sheila moved to Lorton she immediately got involved in village life and became friends to people not only here but the much wider community. Her sense of humour and willingness to get involved was infectious. She joined the WI, quickly taking on roles on the committee, her organisation skills were invaluable.

She led me astray many times going windsurfing at Ullswater, playing darts, rounders and keep fit plus other things.

Sheila was not only a member of the garden club but on that committee also. A garden club visit always involved a pub lunch and much fun.

She was part of the walking group but she also took to the fells on her own going up Hopegill Head and onto Whiteside telling me she could see me in the garden and waved at me.

Sheila was at her happiest outside, either working in her lovely garden or stonewalling. Her and Nev loved to entertain and many of us enjoyed their hospitality.

I know that Sheila's friends will rally round to support Nev in what must be the worst time of his life.

Thank you, Judith Benn



Barbara Robinson has sent the following details about a service for Sheila:

A Memorial Service to celebrate Sheila's life will be held at St. Cuthbert's Lorton on 21st. April at 11:00.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Nev and Sheila's family at this time.

Sheila will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

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A show about roots and romance, family and community.



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Kirkgate Arts Charity no 1126492

Loweswater Village Hall

Friday 14th April at 7:30pm

Tickets £10, £5 (u18/students), £22 (family)

Tel: 01946 862200 / 07766888102

Email: loweswaterevents@gmail.com

Online: www.kirkgateartsandheritage.org.uk



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Ploughman's Plate.
£6 including drink

Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

Due to the adverse weather forecast, our talk by Ian Francis on Lake District geology had to be streamed by Zoom only. We apologise for any inconvenience, though very many people did see and enjoy the presentation. Our next talk, on 11 May, is on the Loweswater burglary of 1816.

The oil painting below is of Mary Hutchinson, 1769-1852, of Shatton Hall, Embleton. She was Mary Dodgson, the younger sister and eventual heir to her elder brothers.

John Dodgson built the house at Lorton Park in about 1828. Lancaster Dodgson was curate of Loweswater and Embleton, then vicar of Brough.

She married Joseph Hutchinson, of Liverpool, who died in 1825. Their daughter Eleanor married Richard Harbord, who created Lorton Park from arable land. Mary Hutchinson became a wealthy landowner, and was the grandmother of William Lancaster Alexander.

Derek Denman,

derekenman@btinternet.com



Loweswater Village Hall



Coronation Lunch

Sunday May 7th, 12.30 to 3.30

**All are welcome to join this community
celebration of the Coronation of
King Charles III**

**You are invited to bring along a buffet-style
main course or dessert to share**

Or

**If you have any allergy concerns, you can
bring and eat your own food**

Bring your own drinks

Advance booking only for this free to all event

**There will be a raffle for a Coronation Hamper
to cover running costs**

**To book your place and confirm main course or
dessert, please contact Lyn Furniss on 01900
85147 or alloyslyn@btinternet.com**

loweswatervillagehall.co.uk

DIARY DATES

APR

- 12 Wed Loweswater Ladies, Cumbrian Author Ruth Sutton, 7.15pm LVH
- 14 Fri AoW at LVH: Striding Edge, musical entertainment followed by a ceilidh 7:30pm
- 17 Mon New season of the Bowls Club, 7p.m, YTH
- 18 Tue Loweswater 77 Club Lunch. 12.30 for 1.00. Hundith Hill. Speaker Ingrid Hall. All welcome.
- 18 Tue Online talk by David Ramsden from the Barn Owl Trust. 7.00 See poster in Link. Email davidj.gardiner@btinternet.com if you wish to attend
- 20 Thu Film Night, 7p.m, YTH
- 22 Sat Coffee and Cakes, YTH, 10.30-12 noon
- 29 Sat Lorton School 10k run, 11a.m.
- 29 Sat Jazz and Jambalaya, YTH 7p.m - SOLD OUT

MAY

- 1 Mon Whinlatter Whistlers, 12 noon, Lorton Pound
- 3 Wed Lorton Parish Council meeting 7.30pm YTH
- 5 Fri Aow Show The Mystery of the Blue Moon Saloon Ullock VH 7.30pm
- 7 Sun Coronation Lunch, 12.30, LVH
- 10 Wed Loweswater Ladies, Cookery demo by Toral Dhanaliya, 7.15pm LVH
- 11 Thu The Loweswater Burglary of 1816 and its aftermath, illustrated talk by Ray Greenhow, Lorton & DF Local History Society, 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome (£4) YTH
- 17 Wed Update on Loweswater, West Cumbria Rivers Trust, LVH, 7pm.
- 18 Thu Zurbaran and the Prince Bishops of Durham, The Ats Society Cumbria talk by Robert McManners, Hundith Hill Hotel, 2 pm, visitors £8
- 18 Thu Melbreak Communities Wildlife Group. YTH 7.00. Update on current projects and future activity planning. Everyone welcome

Please note that Table Tennis takes place in YTH every Wednesday from 7-9p.m. unless otherwise notified. There are Keep Fit sessions in LVH every Monday 9.00-10.00a.m and every Friday 5.30-6.30p.m. These will not be listed every month in Diary Dates but can be found on the Melbreak Communities diary page - <https://melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com/diary-of-events/local-events/>

The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

Church Services April 2023

2 nd April 10.30am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion	Loweswater
3 rd April 7pm	Monday of Holy Week Candlelit Compline	Lorton
4 th April 7pm	Tuesday of Holy Week Candlelit Compline	Loweswater
5 th April 7pm	Wednesday of Holy Week Candlelit Compline	Buttermere
6 th April 7pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion	Lorton
7 th April 12 noon - 3pm 2pm	Good Friday The Three Hours Devotional Service	Loweswater Loweswater
9 th April 10.30am 6pm	Easter Sunday Holy Communion Festal Evensong	Lorton Buttermere
16 th April 10.30am	2nd Sunday of Easter Holy Communion	Loweswater
23 rd April 10.30am	3rd Sunday of Easter Morning Worship	Lorton
30 th April 10.30am 6p.m	4th Sunday of Easter Holy Communion Evensong	Lorton Buttermere

Service information for the Grasmoor Mission Community and news of other events is published weekly on a Friday in our Staying Connected news sheet. The sheet is available on the GMC website or if you would like it sent directly to your inbox please email Sue Lake on gmcoffice@grasmoormc.church with your request.

Deadline for May is Friday 21st April, all articles, photos, funny stories to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date. Thank you