

DECEMBER 2023
JANUARY 2024



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

Letter from the Editor

Dear Link Readers

How quickly the seasons pass - here we are again at one of my favourite times of year - Advent and Christmas. By the time you read this my Christmas decorations will be up - including the model train and the Christmas Daschund and my Advent Calendars (that's one for me and one for my horse - Nelson) will be in position. Those who follow my Christmas preparations will be pleased to know I have increased the selection of decorations with the addition of these striking chaps and some new Christmas bunting, and there still more shopping days to go!



There is lots going on locally over Christmas including Carol singing, the joint St Cuthbert's and Friends of Lorton School Christmas Fair, a Christmas Gathering at Loweswater and a Community Christmas Lunch. There are also plenty of Christmas Services over the festive period including the Carol Service at Loweswater on 17/12 and the Crib and Christingle Service at Lorton on 24/12. Details of all the services can be found as usual on the back cover.

Never fear though, the fun doesn't end there as there are plenty of activities happening in January including another Coffee Morning at Lorton, a wine tasting in Loweswater, Garden Club talks and the launch of The Malthouse Club - a new social club at YTH in Lorton.

Full details of all of the above can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful new year.

Rosemary Riley
07885 360353

Our cover picture contributor this month is Roger Hiley - a wintry scene in Loweswater featuring Dylan, Roger's Retriever. We have also reproduced Roger's recipe for easy mince pies on page 11



There is something quite magical about walking down a dark road on a December evening and seeing Christmas tree lights shining in the windows.

This is a time of year when we leave our curtains pulled back so that not only we, but neighbours and strangers alike, can share in this beautiful thing that we've created. Somehow, our towns and villages become more inviting and welcoming places for a few weeks, as we share together in this familiar expression of the approaching Christmas season.

And in a way our Christmas tree lights reflect something of the wondrous event of the birth of Jesus Christ, the person at the heart of our festivities.

It's as if 2000 years ago, God opened the curtains of heaven to share with the world his glorious and wonderful gift for all people: no beautifully lit Christmas tree but the "Light of the World" himself.

Christians believe that the baby laid in a manger in Bethlehem fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned...for to us a child is born, to us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:2).

That first Christmas, God invited people of all walks of life, including shepherds and

wealthy travellers, to come and wonder at his dazzling and beautiful gift. Thirty years later, and people were still being drawn to Jesus in wonder and awe; in him they found healing, forgiveness and the fullness of life they'd been searching for.

But what relevance does the baby laid in a manger have for us in 2023?

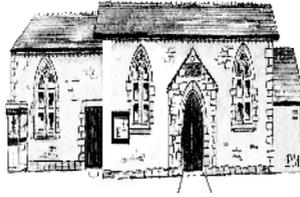
The One whose birth we celebrate on December 25th, is *still* the Light of the World; as he lit up the lives of those he met 2000 years ago, the risen and ascended Jesus longs to bring that same light into our lives and into our often dark and suffering world today. And there is the promise too that one day Jesus Christ will return, bringing the world complete healing and peace. A day when "There will be no more night. People will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light" (Revelation 22:5).

On January 6th the Christmas lights will be switched off. But the Light of the World keeps shining.

May your Christmas be filled with peace, light and joy.

Every blessing,
Andrea Ward

Ullock Village Hall



Saturday 20th January 2024 at 7.30pm

Ceilidh and Supper

With music by Alison Riley

Hot Supper and Homemade Puddings

BYO Drinks

Tickets: £12 - Children (under 16) £6.00

(Booking Essential by Friday morning for catering purposes)

Please call 01946 861458 or 862300

The 2023 Christmas season is fast approaching and we would like to welcome you to join us on a Carol Singing Evening in the Loweswater Valley on Monday the 18th December. Just one event this year, meeting at Keith and Gill McNeil's house at Littlethwaite at the slightly earlier time of 5.30pm, then driving up the valley to Thackthwaite, Oak Bank, Scale Hill, the Kirkstile and ending up with an invitation from Karen and Peter to join them at the Village Hall around 8pm.

If you can't join us for the whole evening, or we are not passing your door, then you would be most welcome to meet up with us on the way around, or at the Village Hall at the end, on what we hope will be very sociable occasion.

Song sheets will be provided, please bring your best singing voices. A door to door collection in aid of NSPCC will be made as usual.

There are no formal plans for Mockerkin Carols. They will probably meet on the green one evening if the weather is nice.



LORTON CAROL SINGING

**WEDNESDAY 13TH
DECEMBER**

**Starts in High Lorton
Meet at Lorton Park Cottage for
mulled wine and mince pies
6pm for 630pm start.**



Saturday
9th
December



Books, CDs & DVDs	Children's Books & Games
Tombola	Hamper Raffle
Christmas Tree Raffle	Plants
Kid's stalls and Games	Cake Stall
Homemade Crafts & Produce	Delicious Refreshments

Lorton Vale Calendars, cards and St Cuthbert's merchandise for sale

Lorton Christmas Fair

at Lorton School 10.30am

Draw for the Grand Christmas Raffle will take place during the Fair



Proceeds in aid of: **St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton
and Friends of Lorton School**

Penny's Piece

All kinds has happened since our last meeting- mainly during half term. It began with storm Babet. The combination of the strength and direction of the wind, combined with an aging cubicle shed equalled minor collapse. The front centre section was found hanging off the front. That wasn't really an issue until we realised it was hanging from the electrics! In trying to secure it back up, one of the uprights holding two of the metal doors started swinging out from the top-rotted away from the cross beam- and neither me nor my husband could decide which bit to hold onto tightest. Three and a half hours later in the gathering gloom we got it sorted. The doors swing better than they have for years, but we will never be opening the centre one again (well I won't) as it is holding the front square.

Then there were issues with animals. The cat I don't own that adopted us over a year ago, does what cats do and brings presents. Finding bits of mice on the front step is not pleasant but is still preferable to suddenly finding a live mouse doing laps of the hallway then nutmegging you and entering the living-room, seemingly, never to be seen again. This has happened twice. To be fair to said mice, as they did not really choose to be in the house, we have humane traps downstairs. Yes, I know I'm going to let it out up the field and the cat, or an owl will probably get it eventually, but I'm giving it a fighting chance. However, we have only caught one. The other turned up in a very strange place. During half term I went to Sainsbury's for some bits and bought a pumpkin for my nephew who was coming to stay the following week for his half term. Imagine my surprise and horror when

I opened my shopping bag on the self-service scales to put the pumpkin in and found a dead mouse (the missing one)! There was a 'what do I do now?' moment where I tried to decide if I should ask the staff member to watch my stuff while I went and emptied the mouse into a bin outside or . . . In the end I opted to keep shtum and put the pumpkin up that end, everything else at the other and transferred the shopping into another bag as soon as I got to the car. Not sure why I didn't tip the mouse in the gutter at this point, but I actually brought it home and presented it to the cat. That bag had been stood in my car boot for over a week!

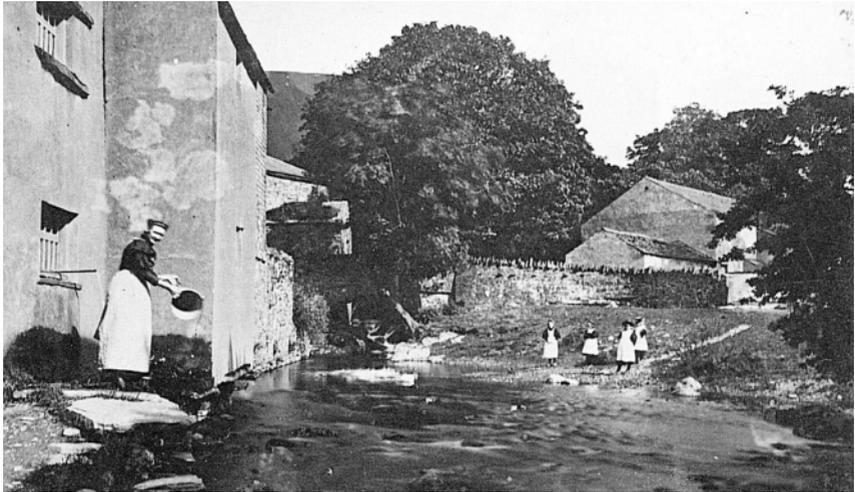
Then there was the sparrow which left a message on my laptop. I assume it got in through the partially open window as it was flapping about and causing a commotion. It flew at the window and seemed to vanish. On closer inspection it had stunned itself and fallen into a ceramic vase. It did come round and flew off after a couple of minutes, so all was well.

I'm hoping this holiday season is less dramatic than half term week. Ofsted came last week, so that 'sense of impending doom' a la Private Fraser in Dad's Army, is no longer there and I can, chill out.

Hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and best wishes for 2024. Penny.

Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

It's still Whit Beck, even though the Ordnance Survey try to confuse us by putting the name on the Explorer map where there is no beck. The Landranger map is right.



Some people have come to believe that that beck in the picture, behind the disused Jennings malthouse, is called Boon Beck, though the girls in pinafore dresses, in the pound in 1898, knew that it was Whit Beck, and had always been so, well almost.

Boon Beck is a place name for the farm behind. It derives from a very local Lorton dialect word 'boon' meaning 'above'. Boon Beck was the farmstead above the beck. The word 'boon' appears with clear meaning in many field names in the 1649 survey of High Lorton, and also on the 1840 Tithe Map, but curiously the farmsteads

formerly known as Above Beck only changed to Boon Beck in eighteenth century records.

Whit Beck appears on maps from 1827, and was commonly thought to mean White Beck, from its appearance when in spate. However, the oldest known name form is from 1247, when

it was the starting point, at the mill, of the division of Derwentfells Forest between two rival lords who could not share the hunting nicely. At that time the beck was called Wythebek, meaning the beck where willows grow, which is no quite so distinctive.

High Lorton Bridge, in the centre, was an important County Bridge in the 1750s, being on the highway from Cockermouth to Keswick. It became quieter when the new turnpike road, the Whinlatter Road, was built in the 1760s, together with the New Bridge.

Derek Denman

Loweswater Village Hall

Christmas Gathering



Thursday December 21st 2.00 to 4.30

**Come and join us for a festive
gathering for all the family**



Santa's List

- Free Entry**
- Children's Activity Table**
- Tombola**
- Quiz**
- Mulled Wine & Mince Pies**
- Christmas Carols**

Proceeds to NSPCC

loweswatervillagehall.co.uk



Lorton Vale Gardening Club



Forthcoming Events at the Yew Tree Hall

Non members welcomed
£4 including refreshments

Herbaceous Borders

Lorton Vale Garden Club will be hosting Allan Gerrard from Holehird Gardens who will inspire our herbaceous borders.

Tuesday
12th December

at 1.30pm

Thursday
1st February

at 1.30pm

Gardening for Nature

Lorton Vale Garden Club will be hosting Heather Birkett from Acorn Bank who will talk about gardening for nature.

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Unbelievably easy Mince Pies

**Makes 18 pies
which willkeep for 3-4 days
in an airtight container
(unless they are eaten first)**

Ingredients

225gm Cold butter (diced) 280gm Mincemeat
350gm Plain Flour 1 small egg (beaten)
100gm Golden Caster Sugar Icing sugar to dust afterwards

Method

To make the pastry, rub the butter into the flour, then mix in the golden caster sugar and a pinch of salt, combine the pastry into a ball – don't add liquid – and knead it briefly. The dough will be fairly firm, like shortbread dough.

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.

- **Line 18 holes of a small flan tin by pressing small walnut-sized balls of pastry into each hole. Spoon the mincemeat into the pies.**

- **Take slightly smaller balls of pastry than before and pat them out between your hands to make round lids, big enough to cover the pies.**

(You can roll out the pastry and use two different cutters if preferred.)

Top the pies with their lids, pressing the edges gently together to seal – you don't need to seal them with milk or egg as they will stick on their own.

Brush the tops of the pies with the beaten egg. Bake for 20 mins until golden. Leave to cool in the tin for 5 mins, then remove to a wire rack. To serve, lightly dust with the icing sugar.

Loweswater Ladies October 2023

Our November meeting was very well attended, and we were delighted to welcome a number of visitors to hear from Michelle from Lakeshore Arts. Michele talked us through the process of creating a decorative fused glass item and many members tried their hand at creating a piece of their own, under her excellent guidance. Michelle brought some of her own creations with her and this provided an opportunity to purchase a few early Christmas presents.

Yes, Christmas is just around the corner. I hope members and their guests have now signed up for the Christmas meal which is at Hundith Hill Hotel on **Wednesday 13 December, 7 for 7.30pm**. Menu choices should have been sent to Jenny by now.

Our first meeting of the new year starts with an evening of slides and stories from Rosamund and John MacFarlane of their travels in the Shetland Islands. The January meeting is on **January 10th at the slightly earlier time of 7pm** to allow for a short AGM before the MacFarlanes talk. The annual subscription of £12 for membership will be collected on the night but as always visitors are welcome (£2.50 per meeting).

Doreen Robertson



Sophie Likeman BSc Hons MCSP HCPC
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HELEN'S CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY LUNCH

at Lorton School

DEC.
11th
£13.00



Served promptly at 1.15pm.
Booking essential

To book your place
call Helen on 07790 459064

Don't miss Helen's renowned special
Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings,
and a glass of delicious mulled wine

Helen generously donates all profits to providing
additional support to children at Lorton School.

Make a note: January Lunch on 8th Jan. 2024



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LORTON NOTES

Once again we held a moving Service of Remembrance on 12th November and again we are most grateful to Clive Barnard who beautifully played The Last Post and The Reveille at the start and end of the 2 minute silence. This is hopefully now a Lorton tradition.

We are now entering the season of Advent when we prepare for the joy of Christ's coming on Christmas Day. As usual we will have an advent wreath in church for the period - this is a circle of greenery with five candles rising from it. There are four candles on the outside that are purple (sometimes one is pink) and the candle in the middle is white. The candles are lit in the same order every Sunday (representing hope, love, joy, and peace) so that by the fourth week, the candles have burnt down by different amounts. (The pink candle can be lit on the third Sunday, known as Gaudete or 'Rose Sunday'.)



The period of Advent will culminate in our services on Christmas Eve (Crib and Christingle) and Christmas Day (midnight eucharist starting at 11.30 on Christmas Eve).

We hope as many children from the area will be able to attend the Christingle Service where we will complete the figures in the crib and hand out the Christingle oranges.

What the Christingle Means

The lit candle represents Jesus being light in the world

The orange represents the world

The red ribbon represents the blood of Christ

The sweets represent all of God's creations

We will be decorating the Church in readiness for Christmas on Saturday 16th December at 10.00. We will welcome any help and flowers/foliage you can provide. As usual refreshments will be provided.

From the Register:

Funeral - 22/10/23 Colin Trafford

Nature Notes - Our Christmas Robin



Of all Britain's birds, none is more closely associated with winter and Christmas, than the robin. But how did this come about?

In the 1900s, Victorian postmen wore red uniforms, as a proud link to the British flag, earning them the nickname 'robin redbreast'. As Christmas drew near people eagerly awaited cards from loved ones, delivered by their local 'robin'. The small bird's fate was sealed, as artists began illustrating Christmas cards with the birds delivering festive letters and cards, and they quickly became a Christmas icon.

It may be suspected that these reasons, alongside the festive red colouration, have led to the robin being featured on Christmas cards and decorations across the land. But the real reason goes back much further.

Legend has it that the robin's redbreast gives it a direct link to Christianity. One fable suggests that when the baby Jesus was in his manger in the stable by the fire; a small brown bird fanned the flames to help keep the baby Jesus warm. Embers from the fire scorched its tiny chest, leaving it red-breasted forevermore. There is also a legend of when a robin rested upon Jesus' shoulder when he was on the cross and sang to relieve his suffering. Blood from Jesus' crown of thorns stained the little bird's chest, since then, all robins were red breasted.

Have you noticed a robin's red-breast is actually orange? The bird was named before the English language had a word for the colour 'orange'. Many things that were really orange were called red instead even though we did have the word for 'orange' as in the fruit. The colour orange was not named as a colour in English until the 16th century. The name for the colour comes from the fruit.

Robins are not the only bird visible at Christmas time and can be spotted all year round. Perhaps we hold a special feeling for them, as other species abandon us for warmer climates in the cold winter months. Their cheerful song is the soundtrack to many a wintery morning – although this cheerful piping tune is actually a male robin's aggressive claim to territory.

Robins evolved as woodland birds, and in mainland Europe this is still their main home. In Britain they prefer gardens, which provide the ideal habitat where they can feed, breed and roost. They also take advantage of the UK's passion for gardening, following residents closely as they dig up hard winter soil to reveal juicy worms. This has made them very tame – even more so when snow covers their food supplies. Cold weather also means robins have to plump up their feathers to trap a layer of warm air beneath, which makes them look portly and even more endearing than normal. Recent mild winters, especially in November and December, mean there is still plenty of natural food available elsewhere, so your garden robin may go missing for a while. But if there is early snowfall, you can be sure a robin will appear at your door in search of much-needed sustenance.

Why not look out for them in January, and take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of the month.

Dave Smith – Member of Melbreak Wildlife Group

“If you go down to the woods tonight...”

Dark Skies Night Walk - Holme Wood

Report back: Heavy rain and wind during the day did not bode well for our night walk on the first of November, but amazingly a weather window opened up long enough for over 30 adults and children to be welcomed to the wood by stars, clouds riding the wild and windy sky, moonlight rippling on the lake, real tawny owl serenades, bats ...and yes, the occasional rain shower!

All enjoyed a companionable dark walk, with warming punch and a bake (thanks to young bakers, Iona and Sam, assisted by Beth) half way round, at the Goblin Glade deep in the wood. There we listened to sounds of the night (fox, owls, deer, pipistrelle), learnt facts about bats from Rosamund, and about Daubenton’s bats by story and original thought-provoking poetry from Stuart Medland. The fantastically talented Quickbeam singers (Arwen, Abi, Ali and Jessie) made the evening very special with their lanterns, light-starred cloaks and umbrellas, and three quite magical songs. The first ever performance of Flittermouse by song and acting was wonderful! Well done Arwen for writing it for the occasion.

Thanks to Mark Astley and Ellie Woods, our local National Trust rangers for expert leading and shepherding us safely, and for fascinating information about the wood – also to NT for permission – and to Carolyn Davies of MC, and to Rosemary Riley of the LINK for helping with advertising. Apologies to those on the wait list who missed out.

Arranged in support of Friends of Lake District Dark Skies Festival.

John and Rosamund Macfarlane, Watergate Barn, Loweswater



Moon flitting through the clouds



Quickbeam singers serenade us under an old tree by the skimming beach
[Check out colour versions on website]



Hearing about bats from Rosamund in the Goblin Glade

Thursday 08 February 2024

7.30pm-9pm

Loweswater Village Hall

Melbreak Wildlife Group presents

Secrets of the Nest Box



An illustrated talk by John C. Callion and Thalia Sparke
on boxes in Loweswater and Lorton

The talk will major on nest boxes in the Loweswater valley, with a particular focus on pied flycatchers. John and Thalia are both BTO-accredited bird ringers, and have extensive experience of erecting nest boxes and ringing offspring in the valley.

All welcome! Teas/coffees & biscuits provided. No charge but donations for future projects greatly appreciated!



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

Advent Sunday is the New Year's Day of the Christian Church heralding the season of expectancy as we await the coming of Christ at Christmas. Parents and children look forward to Nativity plays and opening the doors of Advent calendars.

We look forward to sharing our Christmas services together. As usual these are all detailed on the back page. Following a recent meeting of representatives from our churches we have established a pattern of Christmas services which will continue in subsequent years.

We shall be decorating the church on the morning of Saturday 18th in readiness for the Carol Service on Sunday. As the year draws to a close we would like to thank Margie for her dedicated work keeping the

church flowers in order; also to Sheila and Heather for their beautiful arrangements in the Chancel. Lovely to have someone new helping with flowers at Buttermere. Last but not least thanks to Kath for keeping the church spick and span.

By way of a reminder our first fundraising event of the New Year, the Robinson's wine tasting, will take place on Friday 12th January. More information elsewhere in the Link.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Eleanor Ella

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and art
exhibition



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get
Coffee
BE HAPPY
EAT CAKE
READ BOOKS and
enjoy the pop up display by local
Brigham artist, Simon Wallace.



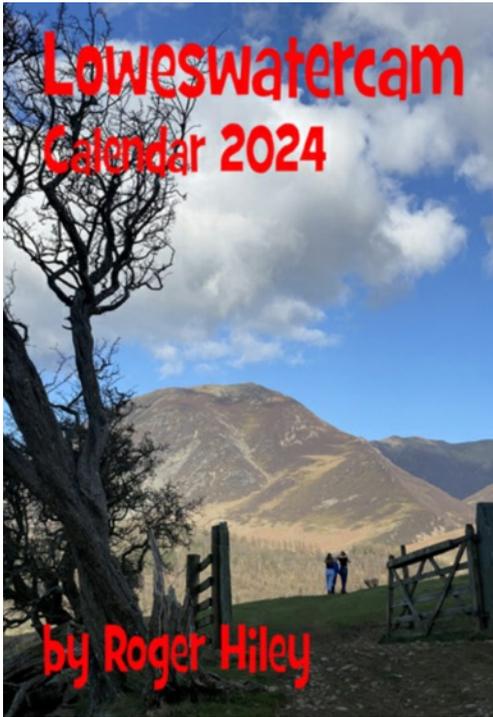
**YEW TREE HALL
LORTON**

**SAT
13
JANUARY
10.30-12.00**



A Melbreak Communities Event





February							Loweswater's Goblin Tree	loweswatercam.co.uk
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
			1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29					

The Loweswatercam Calendar 2024

Quality A3 with appointments, plus twelve fantastic local pictures, all for £12.

Now on sale at Lorton Shop. I can deliver locally or simply post them to you.

Phone me, Roger Hiley, on 01-900-85040 or email to order your calendars today.

£12 collected, UK postage please add £3.

£1 from every one sold goes to Mountain Rescue.

Full details on :

www.loweswatercam.co.uk/2024_Calendar_Offer.htm

Don't forget our special offer "2 for £27"



Lowseswater Village Hall

Invites you to let your hair down for a

Ceilidh

On Saturday February 24th - 7.00 - 10.00

Led by Accordionist Alison Riley

Make a note in your diary

Further details on our website and

Facebook page in the New Year



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MELBREAK WILDLIFE GROUP - CURLEWS



On Monday November 20th Susannah Bleakley, from Curlew Recovery South Lakes, gave a fascinating talk to a large audience in Yew Tree Hall about how their group is working to increase curlew breeding rates in the Lyth valley. I know that many people love to hear the sound of curlews in our valley in the summer months, but Susannah had a clear message – if we don't look after our curlews now, we may lose them from the valley in the not-too-distant future.

With this in mind, a follow-up meeting has been arranged in Yew Tree Hall on **Monday January 22nd**, starting at 7.30, to discuss what steps we can take locally to support our curlews in 2024 and beyond. If you want to continue to see and hear curlews, please put this date in your diary and come along!

Loweswater with Buttermere PCC
100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st November 2023

1st prize of £25	No 85	Leslie Webb
2nd prize of £10	No 8	Elaine Beard
3rd prize of £5	No 21	Jenny Bland

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.

ECO CHURCH/ECO COMMUNITY UPDATE

In a very timely manner there was a meeting of the Grasmoor Mission Community (GMC) Eco Church/Eco Community Steering Group a few days before the Link deadline date which will allow me to give you an update for our 2024 plans.

Let's start with some good news - 4 of our churches are now ready to submit surveys to achieve their Silver award. These are Lorton Street Methodist Church, Cockermouth; St Oswald's Church, Dean; Christ Church, Cockermouth and Brigham Methodist Church. St Bridget's Church, Bridekirk have started working towards Silver. The Carlisle Diocese has now achieved the Bronze Award in the Eco-Diocese category - due in no small part to the wonderful efforts of all the GMC churches achieving their Bronze awards. So a big pat on the back to everyone involved.

Following the success of the Big Green Fair held in the summer of 2023 we have agreed to make this an annual event, but for 2024 we are expanding the scope to encourage all churches in the GMC to hold some sort of Big Green Week event between 8-16 June. These dates coincide with the Count on Nature survey week so it would be wonderful if each church can carry out some sort of wildlife survey. Look out for more details in future editions of the Link and of course on the GMC website, but here are a couple of URLs to whet your appetite:

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

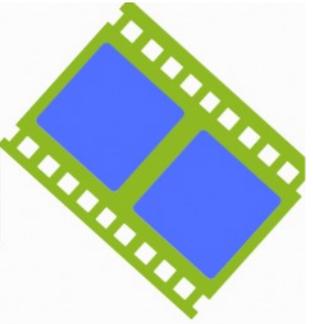
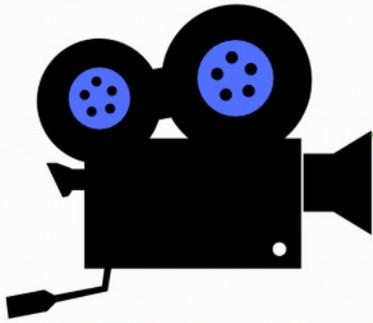
**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK** 

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/get-involved/thanks-for-taking-part-in-love-your-burial-ground-week-with-churches-count-on-nature-2023/>



We are also hoping to increase the amount of our re-cycling. In Lorton Church we are adding a receptacle to collect tablet blister packs as these can be packaged up and sent to be re-cycled in a pre-paid envelope thanks to a partnership between Aldi and Terracycle.





LORTON FILM NIGHT AT YTH

FRIDAY 26th JANUARY

Scottish Double bill

with whisky & McSnacks.

Screening

“Whisky Galore” original 1949 classic

plus

“Local Hero”

Bar opens 630pm Films start 7pm
Tickets must be booked in advance
£12 includes interval whisky and snacks

FOR TICKETS CALL
Eleanor 07497 618364
Polly 07793 495659
Pip 07729 004943





Our season kicked off on 24 October with a presentation by Sally Phillips about her business, Chimney Sheep Ltd. About 12 years ago Sally had the idea that a considerable saving in energy could be achieved in millions of homes if the chimney of an open fireplace could be blocked when not in use. She formed a company to manufacture pads made of Herdwick wool which can be inserted into chimneys when no fire was in the grate. She now has a factory in Workington which manufactures these pads in a variety of sizes, and she has diversified into making other products such as pads to put in slippers to make them warmer when used on cold floors. We all admired Sally's vision and persistence in having the original idea and creating a thriving business.

Our meeting on 14 November nearly didn't happen. We were due to hear a presentation from Mark Lee about his cheesemaking business at Torpenhow. However, he cancelled a few days beforehand, and David Robinson at short notice kindly agreed to give a presentation about his year as the doctor on Tristan da Cunha. But two days before the meeting David had a serious cycling accident which put him in hospital. At almost literally at the last minute Judith Benn stepped in and told us about her childhood in Loweswater. We were in fits of laughter on hearing her stories about taking the family's pet monkey to the dentist in Cockermouth, or the escape of their 35 pet white mice just before the visit of a relative who had a strong aversion to such creatures. All but two were caught in time, even though it subsequently transpired that the remaining two had established intimate relationships with wild mice. The evening concluded when we sampled a range of cheeses which we had purchased from Torpenhow. Fortunately David is now out of hospital and is making a good recovery.

The annual Christmas Party will be held at 3pm on Saturday 16 December in Loweswater Village Hall. Each individual attending is asked to bring a wrapped present for Secret Santa (value approx. £5). We need to know the numbers for catering, so if you didn't sign the list at the November meeting, please give John a call on the number below by **Wednesday 13 December**. Entertainment will be provided by Alte Music, who will play a variety of seasonal music. The party is free to members, and if you haven't renewed your membership for the year you can come and pay your £10 membership fee. Visitors to the area are also welcome, but are asked to pay the full cost, £15 per person.

The first meeting of the New Year will be on Tuesday 23 January at **7 pm** in Loweswater Village Hall when we will be holding a traditional Burns Supper. The cost is £20 per person, and non-members are welcome at this event. Raffle prizes (with a Scottish theme if possible) will be gratefully accepted. We need to know numbers in advance, so if you didn't sign up at the Christmas Party please give me a call by **Friday 19 January**.

Carolyn and John. (01946 861555).

Wine Tasting

7pm Friday 12th January 2024

Loweswater Village Hall

Finger buffet to accompany

£16 per ticket, available from

David Robinson

0190085234 david@loweswater.net



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All the characters displayed above are fictitious.
No identification with actual persons living in
Lorton is intended or inferred.



Inaugural Meeting
Yew Tree Hall, Lorton
Thursday 18 January
at 11.00am

NEW The Malthouse Club!

Join us for Fun, Friends and Community

Come along to the inaugural meeting, and help mould the shape of the proposed Club. It is intended to have a get together on every other Thursday at the Yew Tree Hall.

The format of the Group will be up for general discussion, initially over coffee at the first informal get together on Thursday 18th January.

**If interested
contact Nigel Lee
07827338834 or
nigel.w.lee@gmail.com**

*Please bring your own ideas,
but to start with here are some ...*

- Coffee, tea, cakes, soup and a chat
- Creative Writing
- Cream Teas
- Games, puzzles, dominoes, cards
- Favourite Recipes or holiday photos
- Informal chats from local 'experts'
- Outdoor visits

Master Classes eg I Pad, photography



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- ⚡ Solar panels



Tim Irlam

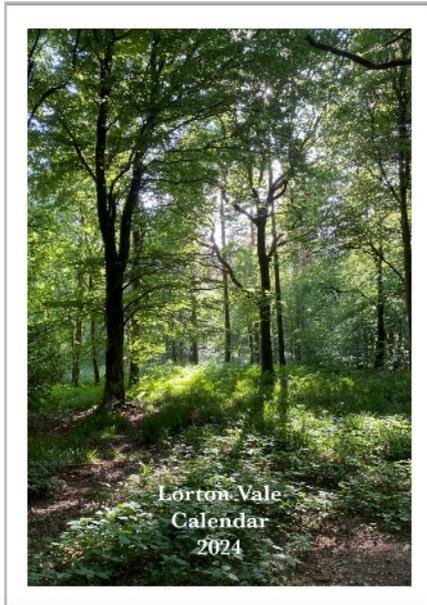
📞 07806 656650

✉ ti.electricaltd@gmail.com

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Our Lorton Vale calendars and christmas cards are now available. We sold a good number at the November Coffee Morning and they will be on sale at the Christmas Fair being held on December 9th at Lorton School. Numbers are getting low - so if you can please ring to reserve your calendars and cards.



Rosemary Riley - 07885 360353

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@grasmoomc.church with your request.

Deadline for February is Friday 19th January - all articles, photos, funny stories to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date. Thank you

DIARY DATES

DEC

- 2 Sat Advent Quiet Day, 10am – 3.30pm, The Vicarage, Loweswater CA13 ORU. See poster for more details
- 5 Tue Buttermere Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm Buttermere Old School
- 9 Sat Lorton Christmas Fair, Lorton School, 10.30am
- 11 Mon Helen's Community Lunch- Special Christmas Dinner. Lorton School at 1.15pm
- 11 Mon Farmers Discussion Group, Christmas Meal, The Kirkstile, 7.30p.m
- 12 Tue Lorton Vale Gardening Club "Herbaceous Borders" YTH at 1.30pm
- 12 Tue Locals Night at the Kirkstile - now fully booked
- 13 Wed Lorton Carol singing see poster
- 13 Wed Loweswater Ladies Christmas Evening Dinner, Hundeth Hill Hotel 7 for 7.30pm (booking reqd)
- 16 Sat 77 Club Christmas Party at LVH at 3pm Entertainment - Alte Music. Bring present for Secret Santa
- 18 Mon Loweswater Carol Singing Littlethwaite (5.30pm) to Village Hall (approx 8pm)
- 21 Thu Christmas Gathering LVH, 2 to 4:30 pm

JAN

- 8 Mon Community Lunch at Lorton School, 1.15pm
- 10 Wed Loweswater Ladies, R & J MacFarlane - Shetland & AGM, early start 7pm, LVH
- 12 Fri Wine Tasting Loweswater VH - courtesy of Dave Robinson
- 13 Sat Coffee & Cakes/ Art Exhibition Lorton Afternoon Book Club YTH at 10.30am
- 18 Thu NEW Malthouse Club meeting at YTH at 11am - see poster in Link
- 20 Sat Ceilidh 7.30pm Ullock vh
- 22 Mon Melbreak Wildlife Group - How do we support curlews locally? 7.30pm YTH (see separate short article)
- 23 Tue 77 Club Burns Supper. Traditional Burns Supper. 7pm LVH.
- 26 Fri Scottish dbl bill Film Night YTH

FEB

- 1 Thu Lorton Gardening Club - Gardening for Nature
- 7 Wed Loweswater Ladies, Birthday Dinner at Kirkstile Inn
- 8 Thu 'Secrets of the Nest Box' talk by John Callion and Thalia Sparke. Melbreak Wildlife Group. All welcome. LVH 7.30. See poster
- 10 Sat The Melbreak Communities Coffee and Cakes YTH, 10.30am to 12pm
- 24 Sat Loweswater Village Hall - Ceilidh with Alison Riley

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 December 2023 & January 2024

Dec 3rd 10.30am	1st Sunday of Advent Holy Communion	Loweswater
Dec 10th 10.30am 3.00p.m	2nd Sunday of Advent Morning Worship Holy Communion	Lorton Buttermere
Dec 17th 9.00am 6.00pm	3rd Sunday of Advent Holy Communion (Said) Carol Service	Lorton Loweswater
Dec 24th 10.30 5.00pm 11.30pm	4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eucharist Crib and Christingle Service Christmas Eucharist	Buttermere Lorton Lorton
Dec 25th 10.30am	Christmas Day Christmas Eucharist	Loweswater
Dec 31st 10.30am 3p.m	1st Sunday of Christmas Holy Communion Informal Carols	Lorton Buttermere
Jan 7th 10.30am 3.00pm	1st Sunday of Epiphany Holy Communion Evensong	Loweswater Buttermere
Jan 14th 10.30am	2nd Sunday of Epiphany Holy Communion	Lorton
Jan 21st 10.30am 3.00p.m	3rd Sunday of Epiphany Morning Worship Holy Communion	Loweswater Buttermere
Jan 28th 10.30am	4th Sunday of Epiphany Holy Communion	Lorton