

# MARCH 2024



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

**£5.00 PER ANNUM (LOCAL)  
£12.00 PER ANNUM (POSTED)**

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Link Readers

Ha - beat you all this time. I had so many contributions that I was sure I was going to have to add 4 more pages - I even obtained approval from the Link Committee - but no! I've squeezed it all into the new normal - 32 pages. See if you can all do better next month.

The Vicar's letter is now back in its rightful place on Page 2, along with contact details for the church if you need pastoral support. Congratulations to those of you who have already paid your link subscription but I thought it was worth repeating the plea for these - which can now be found on Page 3.

There are all sorts of exciting activities coming up, some of them quite innovative. For example there is a new exercise class in YTH targeted at the over 50's and a proposed trip to Cartmel Races as part of the newly formed Malthouse Club. Please put your name down for this as I will be very disappointed if it doesn't go ahead.

As we approach Easter we have 2 Lent lunches planned - in YTH on the 6<sup>th</sup> March and in LVH on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The soup is always delicious so do come along if you can. You can earn Brownie points from your mother or grandmother by taking them along for afternoon tea at LVH on Mothering Sunday and find out all about successful vegetable gardening at the next Lorton Garden Club talk.

You'll be in a dilemma on the 16<sup>th</sup> March - are you a Grease fan or a lover of The Canterbury Tales - the former at YTH and the latter at LVH. Will you be wearing pedal-pushers or a wimple?

As a member of Lorton PCC I feel duty bound to give a plug for the John Denver tribute Concert at St Cuthbert's on 26<sup>th</sup> April. Tickets are selling fast so get your name down ASAP.

For the more creative amongst you we have a collage making workshop and a creative writing workshop coming up during March - again places will be limited so register as soon as you can. There are a number of educational talks scheduled from red squirrel conservation to cider making and for the more athletic among you there is the Lorton School 10k run. As Easter approaches don't miss the Easter themed coffee morning in YTH on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

If you haven't already bought your 100 Club numbers you will find the form on page 15.

Now the Link has been put to bed for the month I'm off the carry on with my intensive spring cleaning - no spider or cobweb is safe - and that includes the garden shed (even the floor gets swept with a dustpan and brush). Some of you may remember my passion for sweet peas - they will be planted in the next week or so, so keep your eyes peeled for news of the usual bonanza. Narcissi and Snowdrops are in full bloom now with daffodils not far behind and the first camellia bloomed today. Let's hope Spring is really on the way.

Rosemary Riley  
07885 360353

Our cover picture contributor this month is Roger Hiley - Catkins breath new life into the Valley. Budding photographers out there - do feel free to send in your own contributions for the front cover



As I write this month's letter we are well into the season of Lent. As a Christian, Lent is the time when we are preparing for Easter. A time for focusing our hearts and minds and preparing our souls for the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a time when we make sacrifices, to be penitent, prayerful and be charitable towards others.

But why forty days?

Forty is deeply scriptural: In the great Noah flood, God sent rain for forty days and forty nights. Moses spent forty days on Mount Sinai with God. Before gaining the Promised Land, the children of Israel, wandered in the wilderness for forty days and Jesus fasted for forty days and nights after being led into the wilderness by the spirit. Here he was tested and tempted by Satan before he began his ministry.

In many Lent courses a common strand or message is of hopefulness. This is an element which enables us to look forward to a better future and an essential part of our life together. Hopefulness enables us

to deal with despondency and the uncertainty of the present moment and to look beyond them.

The disciples of Jesus in the weeks before the first Easter, saw the tide of public opinion turn against their leader. They saw people in powerful positions use that position to ridicule Jesus. The disciples saw what represented the dark side of human nature seemingly triumph, and for that one dark weekend, they were convinced that it had. But then the new life and hopefulness that Jesus brought to them transformed their gloom. Suddenly there was a future. Suddenly there were new opportunities and a regeneration of spirit and from its energy a conviction that life was good.

“Hope is being able to see that there is light, despite the darkness “ Desmond Tutu.

Revd Barbara Robinson

For anyone wanting to receive home communion or in need of pastoral support, my contact details are:

Revd. Barbara Robinson, 01900 85234 or 07961902075. Please leave a message and I will get back to you asap. If your need is urgent please contact Revd. Jane Charman, Mission Community Leader on 01900 828028



## THE LINK STILL NEEDS YOU TO PAY

Our Treasurer has been away for a few weeks visiting his family in New Zealand so we're not sure how well subscriptions are going, but wanted to remind you that- **THESE ARE NOW DUE**. Please note that if we have not received your subscription by the end of March we will assume you no longer wish to receive The Link and we will remove you from the distribution list in order to reduce printing costs.

If you do wish to continue with the Link this year (10 issues) , please note that the rate for postal subscribers is still £12 pa and £5 for the copies distributed locally.

Please use the envelope provided to send your subscription to the treasurer, David Walmsley, The Old Police House, High Lorton, Cockermouth. CA13 9UL; or give the envelope to your distributor. **Please write your name and address on the back of the envelope** so that we can track subscriptions and pay in cash or by cheque payable to 'The Benefice Link Account'

For electronic payments to our Cumberland BS account then the account name is The Benefice Link Account, sort code 16-52-21, account no. 54167346, **please identify the payment with your surname and address**, again so that we can track subscriptions.

Thank You. The Link Committee

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**DATES FEB-MAY 2024**  
Lunches held at Lorton School

**February 19th    April 22nd**  
**March 11th      May 13th**

**All profits go to providing additional support to the  
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# 50+ EXERCISE CLASS



**Build balance, movement and strength with this fitness program**

## Move to Improve

Expert tuition from Liz Hunter



*You're invited to a Taster Class*

**TASTER SESSION £1**

**Wednesday 13th March  
Yew Tree Hall at 11am**

**These classes are designed to help you improve mobility, strength, balance/fall prevention and to provide advice.**

- ★ Exercises tailored to your needs, flexible class with appropriate level of exercise for each individual.
- ★ Exercises: Free standing, sitting or chair for support.
- ★ All attendees will need to have completed health screening/consent forms. Liz Hunter's been a physio for 36 years, runs fall prevention clinics and led a Parkinson's mobility class.

Costs will depend on numbers attending, and discussed at taster session. Interest is expected to be high, if you think you may attend please email Nev Mills at -  
**neville mills@googlemail.com**

*thank you*

**Taster Session: charge of £1 is to cover hall hire cost.**

**Clothes: Please wear comfortable clothing and footwear.  
Preferably layers of thin clothing with a warm top.**

## *Penny's Piece*

I was about to start with 'the problem with the M6 is' but then I realised the M6 is the problem. I went down to Stoke to collect my nephew for half term and getting down was grand. Got up and set off as though I was going to work and got there by 10am. The return journey was not so smooth. First, it was Saturday at the start of half term and all the people who had not got up early, were now on the move. Then I had forgotten another main event on a Saturday- football. Unfortunately for me Stoke were playing at Blackburn. It took longer than usual to get back to the motorway as the city emptied to head north. I passed fifteen coaches of Stoke supporters. Then there were other supporters headed to the Liverpool vs Burnley match. Throw into the mix a section of not very smart motorway, a 50mph average speed zone and a broken-down caravan and it was great fun. Everyone had largely disappeared by Lancaster so that was a bonus.

While trying to occupy a four-year-old during a wet half term, we went to the aquarium again. I do quite like it, and they have a little sheet for kids to tick off certain creatures when they have spotted them. The ticket also includes a go on the crazy golf. I need to see someone who can play golf, play crazy golf. A large percentage of the game seems to be chance rather than skill, but they might prove me wrong. Admittedly if we had cleared some of the bark chips off some of the holes it might have been easier but whatever the outcome (fired off the end and into the bushes or rolled back to the start.) we had a great laugh. Hands needed washed before getting an ice cream- compulsory at the seaside. Some of you will have noticed that there are several types of taps being used in

venue toilets. They range from the fully automatic to traditional turners and push paddles or push down taps. At the aquarium they are the push down ones. But not the ones that helpfully stay on for 15 seconds, the ones that need held down. It's not easy to wash your hands effectively one handed. A member of the group (not me) decided that to get round this, the forehead could be used to push the tap so both hands could be washed. This seemed like a great idea until a blob of soap was dispensed onto the back of the head by the automatic dispenser! Genius. Yes, there was much laughing all the way home.

I see Gladiators is back. I mean, some of the contenders have no chance against some of these new gladiators, they are enormous as well as fit. I think it would be more fun to have challenges that more of us could have a go at- fastest to eat a donut and down a brew. Fastest to hang out a basket of washing- especially a duvet cover on a windy day. You could have putting on a duvet cover inside the Chrystal Dome from the Chrystal Maze- complete with fans. Packing shopping bags to keep up with the cashiers in Lidl and Aldi. As it is, I think the Gladiators should at least come out and cheer the contenders on for the eliminator at the end. The contenders cheer each other on. If I did it (which I wouldn't) there are two points where you would be waiting a long time for me to get round. The rope at the start and then the travelator at the end. It looks to be even steeper than it used to be. No thanks. See you soon. Penny

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### Loweswater Village Hall

Places are still available for the **Mother's Day Afternoon Teas** on **Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>** – a hugely successful event last year, which we are very pleased to repeat.

On **Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>** we are delighted to welcome back **Arts Out West**, with a one-man performance of **Chaucer's Canterbury Tales**. – A series of bawdy, funny and sometimes shocking short stories which paint a picture of English society in the middle-ages. "Experience a journey down the foul and fetid footpaths of fourteenth-century England, told with the usual, wit and silliness! Expect naughtiness, nonsense and medieval swearing! It's rude! It's ribald! It's ridiculous! Let's party like it's 1387!"

Suitable for adults and older children (12+).

**For full details of how to book either of these events, please see the posters in this issue, or visit our website, [loweswatervillagehall.co.uk](http://loweswatervillagehall.co.uk) or visit us on Facebook.**

**We look forward to welcoming you.**

## Lorton Lent Lunch

(Money raised is in aid of church funds)

**Wednesday 6th March  
at the Yew Tree Hall**

Enjoy homemade soup  
with bread, followed  
by cheese and biscuits.  
**Served 12-2.00 pm**



**Please come and enjoy a simple  
meal in the company of friends**

# Fancy a Day at Cartmel Races?



Join us on an exciting day out at Cartmel Races on Monday 27th May. It's a unique opportunity to visit one of Britain's most beautiful and laid back racecourses, next to the wonderful village of Cartmel.

The day includes:

- Transport by return coach from Lorton
- Course tickets for the Paddock
- Mini gazebo in Paddock with tables/chairs
- Time to explore Cartmel village

*Enjoy a picnic!*



## To reserve your place

If you wish to book a place, or for further information, please contact Cathy Lee by 7th March. The cost per person, based on 30 people, approximately £62.

If you can't make 27th May but are still keen on coming, please let Cathy know as other dates are available

(A Malthouse Club Event)

[cathylee1003@gmail.com](mailto:cathylee1003@gmail.com)



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**Loweswater Village Hall**



# Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

**Sunday March 10th, 2.00 to 4.00**

# Surprise Mum on Mother's Day

and make her day extra special with

# Afternoon Tea at Loweswater Village Hall

**Adults - £15; Under 11s - £8**

**Advance Booking Only**

**To book your table, please contact Lyn Furniss on 07970 218239**

**or [alloyslyn@btinternet.com](mailto:alloyslyn@btinternet.com)**



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## Loweswater Ladies February 2024

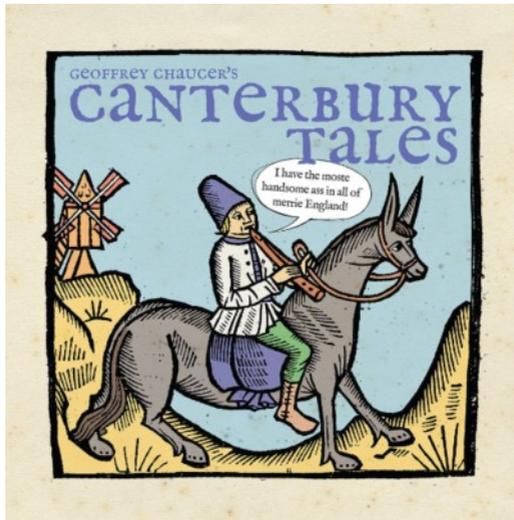
Fifteen members of our club enjoyed an evening of excellent food and company at The Kirkstile Inn, celebrating the seventeenth birthday of Loweswater Ladies. Although the numbers were slightly depleted due to members other commitments, the evening still proved to be a huge success with much chat and laughter.

The raffle was won by Margie Mawson.

Thanks must go to the staff at The Kirkstile for their patience and professionalism.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7:15pm at Loweswater Village Hall where we will be attempting to conjure up some "Strictly Come Dancing" moves with the help of Val Bell. Feel free to come along as a guest at £2:50 or join as a member at £12 for the year.

Jenny Burr



In association with Arts Out West:  
The Canterbury Tales

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 7:30pm at Loweswater Village  
Hall

For tickets email: [loweswaterevents@gmail.com](mailto:loweswaterevents@gmail.com) or call  
01946 862200.

Suitable for 12+. Prices: £12, £6 for u18/ students, £25  
for family. Light refreshments available during interval.



## **Lorton Vale Gardening Club**



Talk by

**Lynn Barnes**

# *Vegetable Growing in Cumbria*

and the Vista Veg Scheme

**Thursday  
7th March**

**YEW TREE HALL**

**at 7.30pm**



Vista Veg is a small grower's co-operative based in the village of Crosby Ravensworth near Shap. Growing high quality, responsibly grown vegetables for people who care about where & how their food is produced.

Non members welcomed-£4 including refreshments

## LORTON NOTES

I though Easter was early last year, but it's even earlier in 2024 - the last week of March. 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, 24th March, at Lorton and we are holding two further services at Lorton in Holy Week, Compline on Monday and Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. I hope many of you will be able to attend.

The Easter Day service this year is at Loweswater and both churches will be decorated on Saturday 30th. At St Cuthbert's we will start at 10.00am.

Lent of course is the period leading up to Easter and this year we are holding a Lent Lunch on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March in YTH. See the notice on page 9 for further details.

Rosemary Riley

P.S We are currently scheduling a meeting of the Lorton Eco Church/Eco Community Committee so expect a full update next month



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# 100 Challenge Club

## To all members of our community and friends of Loveswater and Buttermere Churches

Whether or not the Church occupies a special place in your life, or is somewhere that you turn to when in need or on special occasions, St Bartholomew's and St James's are part of the fabric and culture of the beautiful valley where we live. We know that many people are glad that the churches are here, and we hope that you will continue to help us secure their future.

The 100 Club is in its eleventh popular and successful year during which time the total annual profits have been consistently between £700.00 and £1000.00 after deducting administration costs (license fee and prizes). This is a much appreciated contribution to Church funds while also, we hope, being a bit of fun. Thank you for your continued support.

For £12.00 per year, paid in advance, each participant receives a personal number for that year. All the numbers are entered into a monthly draw and cash prizes of £25.00 1st prize, £10.00 2nd prize and £5.00 3rd prize are awarded to the first three numbers drawn. Members can buy more than one number!

The winners receive their prizes as soon as possible after each draw at the start of each month and their names are published in *The Link*.

The next Challenge Club year starts on 1st April 2024

Please complete the form below and return to me, Jan Evans, as early as possible and no later than mid-March so that I have time to send you your new numbers for 2024.

Your personal data will be treated as strictly confidential in accordance with the Privacy Policy of the United Benefice of Lorton and Loveswater with Buttermere (obtainable on request).

Good Luck!!

-----  
**Loveswater with Buttermere PCC 100 Challenge Club**

To Jan Evans, (Promoter) Palace How, Loveswater, Cockermouth, CA13 9UX  
(tel 01900 85458)

I wish to join the '100 Challenge Club' at £12.00 for 12 months from April 2024

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

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

Name(+title).....Tel.....

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# Animal Collage

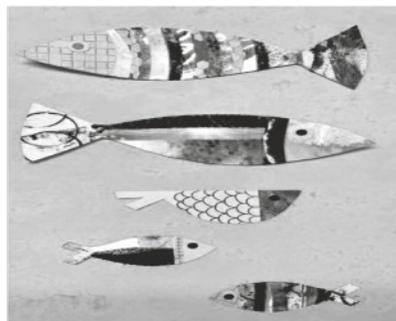
with Chrissie Baker

“drawing with scissors”

Tuition including all materials £10

Join me for another collage workshop, this time taking inspiration from animals. Whether a pet dog or cat, fish or garden bird.

See the examples of collage I've done myself.



**Monday 8th April**  
**Yew Tree Hall 7-9pm**

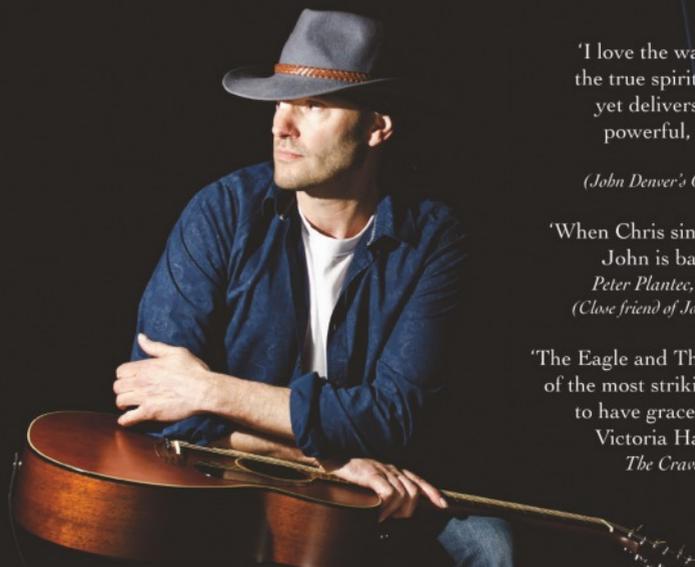
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'When Chris sings it's almost like John is back with us again'

*Peter Plante, Snowmass Colorado  
(Close friend of John's for over 20 years)*

'The Eagle and The Hawk was one of the most striking performances to have graced the stage at the Victoria Hall in many years'

*The Craven Herald & Pioneer  
(September 2015)*

FRIDAY 26TH APRIL 2024 · 8.00PM

**St Cuthbert's Church · Tickets £15.00**

CHURCH LANE, LORTON, COCKERMOUTH CA13 9UN

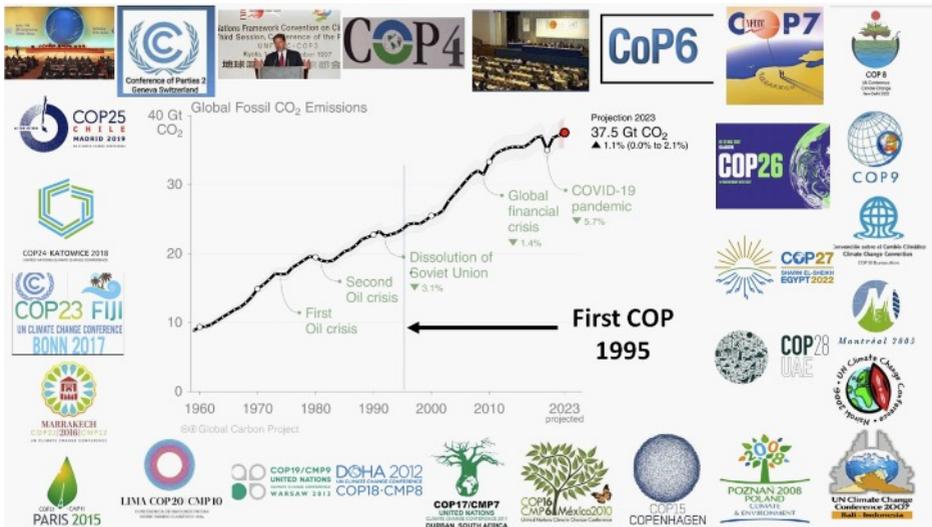
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## GOOD COP, BAD COP?



Graphic courtesy of Mike Berners-Lee, University of Lancaster

Despite there having been 28 COPs (Conference of the Parties to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change), you might wonder what they've been doing to limit CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the above picture - this shows the never-ending rise in annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions burning fossil fuels alongside logos from all the COPs since 1995. Maybe it isn't that surprising given that fossil fuel reduction has, rather mind-bogglingly, taken a back-seat before last year when, at last, the official final communique calls on all countries to "transition away" from fossil fuels.

George Mallory made his famous remark "because it's there" about why climb Everest and you might say the same thing about digging up fossil fuels, as we now have much better, and sometimes cheaper, ways to generate heat and power. The UK has been very successful in reducing fossil fuel use at its power stations, but we mustn't forget the emissions associated with imported goods and services. These would add about 40% to the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions so it's worth noting that, with so many imports from China, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (per kWh) from its own power stations are over double the UK's.

Although rather difficult to believe, we need to remember that we are in an interglacial period that will last for at least another 50,000 years or so (assuming that the human race lasts that long given the way that we're behaving in so many ways), future generations may be grateful if we left a decent quantity of existing fossil fuels for them to use and let the released CO<sub>2</sub> warm the future Earth up a bit in a way that might then be beneficial.

Leslie Webb, Damson Ghyll, Loweswater ([les@damsonghyll.co.uk](mailto:les@damsonghyll.co.uk))

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

As we approach the first day of spring we look back on two exceptionally wet months albeit on the whole mild. Signs of spring are all around with snowdrops and narcissi in abundance and the churchyard a splendid sea of purple crocuses.

We are now in the season of Lent a period of discipline and renewal; it is also an opportunity of sharing both in study and lunches with the emphasis on simplicity. We are all grateful to the people who give of their time and do the hard work - cooking, clearing up and hospitality and help us support the church in so doing. Loweswater will be having their Lent lunch on 20th March details below.

Progress is being made in our refurbishing work in St. Bartholomew's. Both churches and Buttermere Old School were surveyed this month and work will be going out to tender at the beginning of March. The vestry, organ loft and west end are the first priorities.

We have recently started a new visitor book at Buttermere. I have enjoyed reading so many appreciative remarks, sanctuary, peace, beauty,

favourite place on earth, to name a few from the numerous visitors from countries from around the world Sao Tome to Kurdistan, China to Latin America not to mention all European countries represented. Comments include "35 years ago ago I slept on the floor of the 1st pew during a stormy night" and one of my favourites "God is in the small quiet places".

The climax of the Church's year, Easter, is early this year. We shall be decorating the churches on Easter Saturday as usual. During Holy Week Compline will be taking place in our 3 churches as per usual pattern, see back page. We are very fortunate to have the Archdeacon the Ven Richard Pratt officiating at our services during Holy Week and celebrating Easter with us at Loweswater. This is especially significant as he retires at the end of March. We are all invited to his service of farewell - see diary dates - with refreshments afterwards.

Wishing everyone the joy of Easter

Eleanor Ella

## Loweswater Village Hall LENT LUNCH



Enjoy homemade soup  
with bread, followed  
by cheese and biscuits.  
Served 12-2.00 pm

**Wednesday 20th March**  
(Money raised is in aid of church funds)

Please come and enjoy a simple  
meal in the company of friends

## Nature Notes - The Mad March Hare



*Boxing clever under mad March stars,*

*The hare springs. Moon struck, heart hammering.*

*The race is on.*

Catherine Hyde: *The Hare and the Moon*. Zephyr Press 2019

*In that direction... lives a Hatter, and in that direction...lives a March Hare. Visit either you like: they're both mad."* The Cheshire Cat

Lewis Carroll: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* 1865

I have a special affinity for hares. They seem such noble and intelligent creatures. They are particularly associated with the month of March, my birth month, so perhaps that's why. But I'm not the only one, the mystery and myth that is associated with the hare goes back through the ages.

Hares do not burrow underground; instead they crouch in 'scrapes', small dips in the earth. They can seem to simply disappear when they run (in fact, beautifully camouflaged, they just dip down into a scrape). Ground-nesting birds, such as lapwings, were once common, and in those days when people came close to the site of a scrape they might find the nest and egg of one and believe it to have been left by the hare. So the myth of the 'Easter Bunny' or the 'Easter Hare' leaving eggs for children to find was born.

Their ability to 'disappear' also led to hares being associated with witches, who were thought to be able to transform into hares to flee impending trouble. And the hare's 'mad March boxing' seemed unnatural to onlookers, a witch's dance.

The Cheshire Cat's description of the March hare as 'mad' comes from the behaviour you're most likely to witness this month, right in the middle of the hare's breeding season. You might see furious chases (with their long back legs hares can run as fast as 40mph when they put their feet down) and violent 'boxing', with two hares up on their back legs punching each other with their front paws. But these are not 'mad' hares, they are mating hares. The boxing was commonly thought to be between two males battling over the favour of a female, but it's now interpreted to be an unreceptive female fighting off a male's advances. March is the traditional month associated with this activity, but you're just as likely to see it anytime between December and April.

Like so much wildlife, hares are in decline in the UK, by more than 80% in the past 100 years. Intensive farming, mono-culture, the use of pesticides and the loss of hedgerows have all contributed to a significant loss of the hare's natural habitat. The good news is that conservation bodies are working with farmers and landowners to try to ensure that land is managed in the best ways for wild hares to flourish.

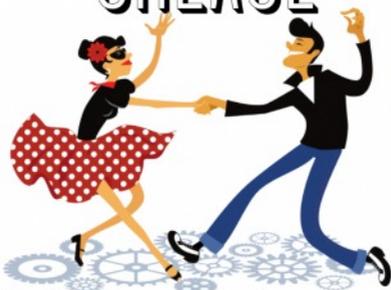
Although I've yet to see any boxing here, I regularly watch hares loping around on my walks in the Lorton valley. Long may that continue, and long may they prosper.

Peter Batrick – Member of the Melbreak Wildlife Group



**FILM NIGHT AT YEW  
TREE HALL  
SATURDAY 16TH  
MARCH**

**"SING A LONG A  
GREASE"**



**Come watch the film, sing along to the original  
soundtrack (subtitled lyrics)  
Includes American diner snacks.**

**£12 ENTRY - BOOKING ESSENTIAL  
BAR OPENS 7PM  
FILM STARTS 730PM**

**COME DRESSED TO SING AS YOURSELF,  
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POLLY 07793 495659  
PIP 07729 004943**





## Lorton School 10K. Fundraising Road Race

**Saturday 27th April 2024 at 10.00am**

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

**Details and entry forms via Facebook  
Lorton School 10K 2024**

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## **Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society**

**'Secrets of Muncaster Castle: Protecting the Tate Collection during World War Two'** will be the subject of the illustrated talk to our society by Dr Rob David on Thursday, 14 March at 7.30 pm at the Yew Tree Hall.

The Tate Gallery was a vulnerable target during the Second World War because of its central location and proximity to the Houses of Parliament. Before the war broke out, plans had been drawn up for the evacuation and safe-keeping of the Collection. Suitable storage locations for works of art were identified in nearby underground stations and private country houses. However, the bulk of the Collection, filling five railway containers, was dispatched in secrecy to three country houses, accompanied by members of staff to look after the works. One of the destinations was Muncaster Castle.

Works by Constable, Van Gogh (including the famous Sunflowers), Degas and Utrillo were packed into crates and sent by train to Ravenglass, and then by lorry to Muncaster Castle.



**Muncaster Castle by Alexander P Knapp**

In his talk Dr Rob David will explain the nature of the planning that took place, who was responsible, what happened to the pictures while they were stored at Muncaster Castle and will reveal the stories behind some of the priceless pictures which were safeguarded there.



**Sunflowers, Vincent Van Gogh, 1888, the National Gallery, London**

Rob David's books include *In Search of Arctic Wonders: Cumbria and the Arctic in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries* (2013). He was President of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society from 2017-2020.

All are welcome, £4 includes refreshments and is payable by cash at the door.

*Lena Stanley-Clamp*

*Melbreak Wildlife Group invites you to*

# **Red Squirrel Conservation**

**Monday 11 March 7.30pm**

**Yew Tree Hall, Lorton**



Image: West Lakes Squirrel Initiative

## **Talk by West Lakes Squirrel Initiative**

Join us to hear the latest on red squirrel conservation in the local area. West Lakes Squirrel Initiative are a team of volunteers who are actively controlling the spread of grey squirrels in the West Cumbria area. The group is one of 16 who are working together with one common goal: Save our red squirrels!

**All welcome!**

*No charge - but donations appreciated to help fund projects*

[www.melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com](http://www.melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com)





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#### **S MCADAM GARDEN SERVICES**

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Facebook: S McAdam Garden Services

Mockerkin Educational Foundation invites applications for financial grants in line with its aims in "promoting the education (including social and physical training) of persons under the age of 25 years who are resident in Loweswater Parish ....have been resident for not less than 2 years and are in need of financial assistance."

Applications, with a short explanation, can be submitted by email to [graeme.sparke@talk21.com](mailto:graeme.sparke@talk21.com) or by letter to Graeme Sparke, Mockerkin Educational Foundation, Tarn View, Mockerkin, Cockermouth, CA130ST.



On January 23 we held our Burns Supper. Alistair Smeaton said the Selkirk Grace and then we sat down to consume traditional fare for the event. After Cock-a-leekie soup the Haggis was brought in. Alistair played the pipes, John Angus carried it on a platter, and it was then toasted and cleaved in timeless and amusing manner by Ken Williamson. Alistair, Ken and John were all in their Scottish dress. The main course, not surprisingly, was Haggis, warm reeking, rich wi' Champit Tatties and Bashed Neeps and that was followed by Cranachan. There then followed the traditional speeches and toasts. Pete Ward gave *To the Immortal Memory*, Keith McNeil gave *To the Lassies*, and Chris Judd replied with *To the Laddies*. Sue Ritchie recited Burns's poem *To a Mouse* and Dave Hulme followed with an amusing take on it. The evening concluded with an ear-splitting rendition of *Auld Lang Syne*. Although most of us are not Scottish, we consider ourselves to be honorary Scots on an occasion like this, and we are grateful to the true Scots among us for helping us celebrate in style.

On 20 February we heard an interesting talk *Taking a Closer Look at Lakeland* by Donald Angus. Donald was born in Thelkeld and has lived and worked in the area all his life. His talk made the point that ever since humans first settled in Lakeland there has been constant change. From the Stone Age craftsmen who made axes for export, to modern day farmers, with miners, charcoal burners, bobbin makers and many others along the way, most have left their mark on the landscape. Donald's slides showed that the evidence of their activities is often visible in the landscape today.

Our next event is on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Please see separate notice for details.

John and Carolyn.



# Loweswater 77 Club

## Cider Making in Mosser

A talk by Mark Evens



Mosser Cider

Orchard Belles - Dry Cider

Vintage 2010  
Made from 100% extra pressed from apples at our orchard at Mosser

Mosser Cider is the result of combining a passion for great cider (and apple juice of course), with a desire to make a truly unique local product

**Loweswater Village Hall**  
**Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm**  
Guests are welcome at £2.50



THE OLDER I GET,  
THE MORE I BECOME  
AN APPLE PIE,  
SPARKLING CIDER  
KIND OF GUY

Loweswater with Buttermere PCC  
100 Challenge Club

**The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st February 2024**

1st prize of £25	No 36	Harriet Davies
2nd prize of £10	No 3	Hugo Thomson
3rd prize of £5	No 53	Jackson Hope

*Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.*

**NOTICE**  
**APPLICATION FOR A VARIATION TO A PREMISES LICENCE**  
**LICENSING ACT 2003**

Loweswater Village Hall Committee has applied to Cumberland Council for a Variation to the Premises Licence for Loweswater Village Hall, Loweswater, CA13 0RU to allow the sale of alcohol, to vary the times of the holding of Regulated Entertainment on Sundays and to allow the holding of additional Regulated Entertainment to include the showing of a film, and late night refreshment, between the following hours:

Monday to Saturday: 10:00 to 01:00; Alcohol to 00:00. Premises to close at 01:00.

Sunday: 12:00 to 23:00; Alcohol to 22:00. Premises to close at 23:00.

Any person wishing to make relevant representations on this application may do so in writing by not later than 2 April 2024 to Licensing Department, Cumberland Council, Allerdale House, Workington, CA14 3YJ or by emailing [licensing1@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:licensing1@cumberland.gov.uk)

The full application can be viewed at Allerdale House, Workington, CA14 3YJ between 10.00am and 4.00pm, Monday to Friday.

**IT IS AN OFFENCE**, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application for which you may be liable to a fine of up to Level 5 on the standard scale on summary conviction.

**A Yew Tree Hall Production**

An Easter themed

# Coffee & Cakes <sup>£3</sup>

**Saturday 23rd March  
10.00am-12.00pm**



*I wandered lonely as a cloud  
I gazed and gazed with little thought  
And trampled on the daffodils*

## Get creative

**Easter Bonnets  
Small Spring table arrangement  
Decorated hard boiled eggs  
Fantastic prizes for the best in category**  
(full details in The Link article)



*Jill, glad you made it  
before Picasso over there  
got creative!*



A Melbreak Communities Event



The Easter coffee and cakes is a 2 hour special! There'll be Easter Egg prizes for:

- Creating and wearing your best Easter bonnet
- Making and showing a small spring flower table arrangement
- Painting and decorating a hard boiled egg

Just turn up with your creations for a fun packed Easter eggstravaganza!



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# MELBREAK COMMUNITIES

TASTER WORKSHOP 12TH MARCH, 12.30-2.30pm

## Creative Writing

at Loweswater Village Hall



Join this friendly class to

- ☐ Experience stimulating, creative, mindful and FUN activity
- ☐ Take away three or four unique pieces of writing, stimulated by a given focus
- ☐ Structured and informal with Annie Wilson, an experienced practitioner. No experience necessary but all is valued.
- ☐ £12 for first Taster workshop on 12th March INC TEA AND BISCUITS. Later workshops CHARGES depend on numbers, but hopefully no more than £14 on other dates

**FURTHER WORKSHOPS ON  
19TH MARCH, 26TH MARCH AND 2ND APRIL**



**To book your place or  
further information contact  
Glenis Postlethwaite at**

**[glenis@borderhydro.co.uk](mailto:glenis@borderhydro.co.uk)**

## DIARY DATES

### MAR

- 4 Mon Loweswater (Farmers) Discussion Group End of Season Diner, 7.30pm Kirkstile
- 5 Tue Buttermere Parish Council Meeting, Buttermere Old School, 7.30pm
- 6 Wed Lent Lunch, YTH, 1200-1400
- 6 Wed Lorton Parish Council meeting and village AGM YTH 7.30pm
- 7 Thu Loweswater Parish Council meeting and village AGM, LVH 7.30pm
- 7 Thu Lorton Garden Club talk, YTH, 7.30pm - see Poster
- 10 Sun Mother's Day Teas at Loweswater, LVH 2 - 4 pm. £15 Bookings essential (see advert)
- 11 Mon Community Lunch at Lorton School. 1.15pm. Booking essential call Helen on 07790 459064
- 11 Mon Melbreak Wildlife Group - Red Squirrel Conservation talk by West Lakes Squirrel Initiative. All welcome. YTH, 7.30 pm (see poster)
- 12 Tue Melbreak Communities Creative Writing (Taster), LVH, 12.30-2.30pm - see poster
- 13 Wed Exercise Class for 50+ Taster Session, TYH, 11am - see poster
- 13 Wed Loweswater Ladies, Ballroom Dancing, LVH, 7.15pm
- 14 Thu Secrets of Muncaster Castle: Protecting the Tate Collection during WW2, Lorton History Society, YTH, 7.30 pm
- 16 Sat YTH Film club "Sing-a-long Grease" PRE BOOK TICKETS NOW - see poster
- 16 Sat Arts out West at LVH: The Canterbury Tales (humour suitable 12+). 7:30 start. (See poster)
- 17 Sun Archdeacon Richard Pratt, Farewell and Retirement Service, St Mary's, Harrington, 6pm
- 19 Tue 77 Club talk by Mark Evens of Mosser Cider and Apple Juice, LVH 7.30pm
- 20 Wed Lent Lunch, LVH, 1200-1400
- 21 Thurs The Great Exhibition and the Establishment of the V&A Museum, The Arts Society Cumbria, Hundith Hill Hotel, 2 pm.
- 23 Sat YTH Committee Easter themed Coffee Morning, YTH, 1000-1200noon. Bring your Easter bonnets

### APRIL

- 8 Mon Melbreak Workshop, Animal Collage with Chrissie. At YTH 7.00-9.00pm
- 10 Wed Loweswater Ladies, Visit to Calvert Trust, nr Keswick
- 22 Mon Community Lunch at Lorton School 1.15pm. Booking essential call Helen on 07790 459064
- 26 Fri Chris Banister Concert, St Cuthbert's, doors open 7.15pm
- 27 Sat Lorton School 10k run - see poster

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 March 2024

3 <sup>rd</sup> March 10.30am 3pm	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Holy Communion Evensong	Loweswater Buttermere
10 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent &amp; Mothering Sunday</b> Holy Communion	Lorton
17 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am 3pm	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Morning Worship Holy Communion	Loweswater Buttermere
24 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Holy Communion	Lorton
25 <sup>th</sup> March 7pm	<b>Monday of Holy Week</b> Candlelit Compline	Lorton
26 <sup>th</sup> March 7pm	<b>Tuesday of Holy Week</b> Candlelit Compline	Loweswater
27 <sup>th</sup> March 7pm	<b>Wednesday of Holy Week</b> Candlelit Compline	Buttermere
28 <sup>th</sup> March 7pm	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Holy Communion	Lorton
29 <sup>th</sup> March 12 noon - 3pm 2pm	<b>Good Friday</b> The Three Hours Devotional Service	Loweswater Loweswater
31 <sup>st</sup> March 10.30am 6p.m	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Holy Communion Festal Evensong	Loweswater 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@grasmoomc.church](mailto:gmcoffice@grasmoomc.church) with your request.

Deadline for April is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - all articles, photos(especially for the front cover), funny stories to [lortonvalelink@gmail.com](mailto:lortonvalelink@gmail.com) by this date. Thank you