

JUNE 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

It's been a hard slog this month - not quite enough material for 32 pages but slightly too much for 28! We got there in the end with a bit of jiggery pokery.

The main event to highlight is the Big Green Week from 8-16 June featuring the Big Green Fair on Saturday 15th June. We also hope many of you will test your nature knowledge at 2 events - the wildlife survey in St Cuthbert's church yard on Saturday 8th and at the Quiz in LVH on Tuesday 11th. See the posters elsewhere in the Link for additional information.

There is lot's more going on during the month including 2 coffee mornings, the Duck Race, the local History Society presentation and the 77 Club Annual coach trip.

We also have a number of local initiatives - a new Oil Group for Loweswater, an appeal for volunteers and speakers for the Lorton After School Club and a plea to keep the local events diary up to date on the Melbreak Communities website.

In the April Editor's letter I mentioned that the Link Committee had agreed to use some of their reserves to include colour photographs of our 3 churches to celebrate their patronal festivals. This month we are featuring St James' at Buttermere. Their patronal festival is actually in July but as this is a combined July/August edition and Loweswater

celebrates their Saint in August we have decided to celebrate St James this month. We are very grateful to Rosamund & John Macfarlane and Roger Hiley for providing the photographs and to John for creating the splendid montage for the centre spread.

Wonderful as this is it means I haven't been able to use a photo from our newest contributor - Trev Mason - for our front cover, but here is a beautiful photo he took of a Goldcrest. Keep your eyes peeled in October for one of his images on the cover.



Rosemary Riley

Centre page montage of Buttermere church prepared by John Macfarlane, including additional images kindly provided by Roger Hiley and Rosamund Macfarlane. Front cover image by Rosamund Macfarlane



Ordinary Time/Pentecost

The church has now begun the resumption of Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is part of the liturgical year which is any time between Easter and Advent and between Christmas and Lent. It is the longest season of the Church lasting nearly six months. The colour used for Ordinary Time is green because green symbolises life, hope and anticipation.

Prior to Ordinary Time there was The Day of Pentecost: there is a bit of confusion about where exactly Pentecost belongs and fits into the calendar of the Church's year. The altar frontal is changed to red, from the white of the last seven weeks of Easter. Red is the liturgical colour symbolising The Holy Spirit. Red is also traditionally the colour of fire, so there is an echo of those flames that play about the heads of the apostles in that upper room. Red also suggests that something vital is going on, there is energy in the air.

Pentecost is not the beginning of a new season. Rather, it is the culmination of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, where the additional Alleluias continue; and the Pastoral candle is kept alight in the chancel until the end of the Day. The Day of Pentecost being the fiftieth day of Easter, when we recall that God sends his Holy Spirit to empower the Church to perform the mission which Jesus had entrusted to it. Pentecost celebrates both the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian Church. Jesus is no longer present in the Church in the body of his flesh; the Church is now to be the new body of Christ, filled with his life through the gift of the Spirit.

So, this is the end of a season; and yet, no end is just that: an ending. Each ending is also the beginning of something else. May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Barbara Robinson

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

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

LORTON NOTES

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place in May and Pete Ward and Rosemary Riley were re-elected as Church Wardens and will be officially admitted at a service at St.John's Church Keswick in July.

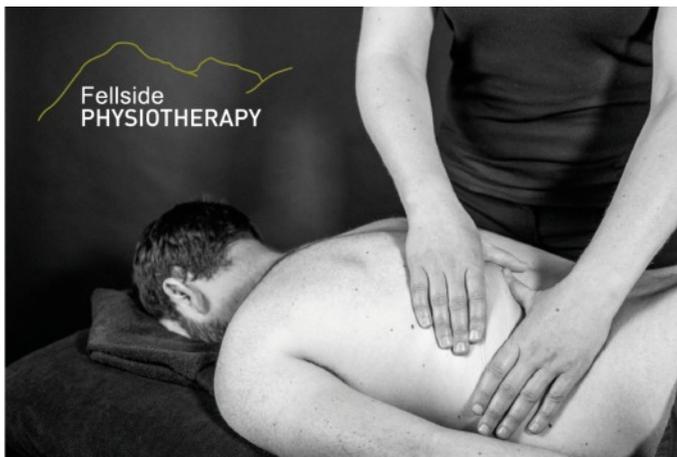
As described in the Vicar's Letter from Barbara we are now entering what is known as a period of Ordinary Time. Bizarrely June this year feels like extra-ordinary time as across the Valley we are running the Big Green Week and Lorton is hosting the Big Green Fair on June 15th. There is plenty of information about that, and the other activities in the valley to mark the Big Green Week, elsewhere in this edition. On the day of the Fair we will be handing out maps showing the locations of the various events and a timetable of talks being given in the YTH between 10.30-15.00. Also don't forget the community picnic at 12.30.

We will be holding our Eco Service on the 9th June in St Cuthbert's at 10.30. During the service we will consider and pray for the effects of climate change and express our concern about the impact of indifference to

the state of the planet as well as celebrating the miracle of creation. The care of creation is integral to our mission and I hope many of you will attend this important service.

Now onto important future news - **Hold the date - we are having a Progressive (sometimes known as a Safari) Supper on Friday 19th July.** Pre-dinner drinks and canapes will be served in St Cuthbert's Church at 7p.m. We will then disperse to various houses in Lorton to partake of a main course and then re-convene in the Yew Tree Hall for puddings - each pudding table to be hosted. It is imperative to have enough cooks so if you'd be interested in hosting a main course (for either 6 or 8 people including the hosts) or providing a pudding or canape then please contact either Pete Ward - 07739414232 or myself - 07885 360353. Even if you can't cook then please let us know if you'd like to attend as the organisation of the event depends on knowing exactly who is attending. Further details will appear in the July/August Link.

Rosemary Riley



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FRIENDS OF LORTON SCHOOL

COFFEE MORNING & DUCK RACE

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2024

COFFEE MORNING 10AM AT
YEW TREE HALL

DUCK RACE AND BBQ FROM 11.30 AT
BOON BECK

DUCKS £2 EACH
CASH PRIZES!!!

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Loweswater Village Hall

For those who get their Link delivered early, our next community social event will be on Friday May 31 st when you are warmly welcomed to enjoy an evening of Abba music with local musicians and vocalists Cath and Emma, (8.00 'til 10.30). If you haven't already got your ticket, (£10), you can pay at the door – cash or card. For full details see our website & Facebook page.

Another date for your diary is Sunday July 14 th – Men's Final Day at Wimbledon. We will be showing the entire televised coverage of the Men's Final, live, whilst serving strawberries & cream and Prosecco. If you're a tennis fan, this is an afternoon not to be missed. For full details please see the poster in this issue of Link or on our website & Facebook page.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to invite entries for the Magnificent Melbreak Showcase - on Friday November 1 st . If you can play a musical instrument, sing, dance, act or perform, either on your own or with a group of friends or class mates we would love to hear from you. This is not a competition, but simply an evening of performances, each lasting 3 to 5 minutes, by members of the community of any age. It doesn't matter if you are a new starter or a seasoned performer, it would be great to hear from you. Please contact Val Bell on 07918 882175 for further details.

The Village Hall Committee is working hard to maintain a programme of enhancing the facilities available for its hirers and are pleased to announce that the hall now has a ceiling-mounted projector and a 2.5m x 2.5m screen, enabling any picture and sound output from a laptop to be displayed in the hall – ideal for meetings, presentations, live links using the hall's WiFi etc. In addition, the hall has now been awarded a licence for the sale of alcohol, which means that hirers no longer have to apply for their own Temporary Event Notice in order to serve alcohol, and we will, where appropriate, be serving alcohol at community events.

**BEGINNERS CLASSES
ENROLLING NOW**

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HARRINGTON
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Penny's Piece

So, after a three-day trial trying to get a doctor's appointment and failing, and then being unable to get on Patient Access or the NHS site, I have reluctantly joined the 21st century. Yes, I now have a smartphone complete with ludicrous contract and accompanying accounts and jargon. I failed at the first attempt as my husband rang me and I couldn't answer it. I mistakenly assumed you just tap the green answer symbol. How was I supposed to know you should swipe it? Who reads the instructions? Especially when the English ones are somewhere between Deutsch and Espanol. Anyway. I'm getting the hang of it, and it is nice to be able to take my own photos. I may revise my ability to be contacted as residential season is upon us and as the Educational Visits Coordinator, if the proverbial starts to happen, it will be me they ring. Joy!

We are approaching Summer's windy rain as opposed to Winter's rainy wind which is something to look forward to. At least it means I won't have to water the veg we have planted at school. The tap is outside the boiler house and the furthest bed is around 40m away from there. Even with creative arching and waving, the hosepipe isn't long enough, and water will not get there. It take six trips with a reasonably large watering can, to water them.

I am typing this during the Fred Whitton cycle race, and we are now at peak cyclist flow past here. A car going the other way clearly had supporters in as they were hanging out of the windows ringing cow bells at them- that's a new one.

TV adverts are at it again with the crazy wording and 'it sounds made up' scientific words. One that is confusing me greatly is the 2000 calorie mascara. Why would my eyelashes need calories and why would they need my recommended daily allowance of calories? It makes me wonder if there are some people around who on the days

they use this mascara, are not eating. Then there's the lamellar shine thing for my hair. It makes it sound like we are now meant to individually coat each hair- like nail varnish- to make it shine. I'll stick to just washing it, I think. When did fitted sheets, stop being a rectangle with elastic at the short ends and start being a square with elastic right round? They are even more impossible to fold than the old ones and a bit of a nightmare on the bed. There now seems to be a permanent saggy bit across the middle where the bed is narrower which can end up as an uncomfortable fold under you. I do however think it would make a reasonable parachute or could be converted into a sack for presents or be filled as a huge floor cushion. If you have a smaller car, you could stretch it over as a cover to protect from fly poop or tree sap if you have to park under a tree. Basically, use it for anything other than putting it on a bed!

I attended the recent concert in Lorton Church and went armed with not one but two cushions in a bag. One to sit on and one for the back. The problem with lack of bodily padding is that pews are even more uncomfortable than they already are for everybody and being in discomfort really detracts from the music. I wonder if any of the fabulously talented sewers who have made all the kneelers in our churches would consider making thin padded runners for the pews? Just a thought- I don't mean with the cross-stitch bible references. That would be like reproducing the Bayeux Tapestry. Notice I am not volunteering. I cannot sew and anything I produced would be an embarrassment. Perhaps those new fitted sheets could be more useful here. Hmmm.

Balsam season has already begun so if you see me wading about, bent over in a bog somewhere, that's what is occurring. Feel free to come and join me. Penny

Nature Notes - Hedgehogs Part 1: Ecology and behaviours



The European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* photo: Alexas_Fotos

Hedgehogs are extraordinary creatures. They are Britain's only spiny mammal and one of our most popular and easily recognised wild creatures. Evolving around 15 million years ago, they are one of the oldest mammals on earth, and have adapted to a nocturnal way of life like many early mammals.

Members of the family Erinaceidae, hedgehogs are distant ancestors of shrews, but are not related to porcupines or echidnas. There are 14 different hedgehog species worldwide, here in the UK we have one native species, the European hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*.

Adult hedgehogs have 6,000-8,000 spines, which are in fact modified hairs, and are its main mode of defence and protection. When threatened, the purse string muscle that runs around the 'skirt' of the hedgehog contracts, enabling the animal to curl into a tight, almost impenetrable ball. The spines can move directionally, so can be targeted to point at the aggressor, if necessary.

Contrary to popular belief, slugs and snails are not high on the hedgehog menu - the majority of their diet consists of beetles, caterpillars, earthworms and earwigs. They have an acute sense of smell and excellent hearing, but poor eyesight. They have surprisingly long legs, around 10cm in length. These are hidden under the spines, and usually only visible when a hedgehog is running, and is said to be 'pulling up its skirt'!

Hedgehogs follow their food and like to live in woodland edges, hedgerows and suburban habitats, visiting gardens, parks and farmland. They tend to stay away from intensely farmed arable land, which has fewer food sources. Travelling around 1 to 2 kilometres per night, hedgehogs often using the same daytime nest for a few days before moving on. This means that they need a large, accessible area of suitable habitat.

The hedgehog life cycle revolves around winter hibernation. They breed from April to September, but young born later in the year are less likely to achieve the weight needed to survive hibernation. Mothers give birth to litters of 4 or 5 young and raise them alone. Hedgehogs hibernate from around November until Easter, depending on the weather. Average lifespan is only 2 years, due to high mortality in the first year of life, but they can live up to 6-8 years in the wild.

In recent times, hedgehogs have definitely had the odds stacked against them. Their numbers have plummeted by more than 90 per cent within the last 50 years, and fewer than a million are thought to exist today. The long list of reasons for the decline include loss of habitat and habitat fragmentation, intensified agricultural practices, inbreeding, road traffic accidents, lack of biodiversity and suitable nest sites in residential gardens, badger predation, and poisoning. Increasingly many rescue centres are now citing dog bites, strimmer injuries and entanglement as a cause of hedgehog injury and mortality.

Watch out for the second instalment 'Melbreak Hedgehogs Part 2: How to help hedgehogs', coming soon...

In the meantime, if you are concerned that a hedgehog may be injured or sick call The Hedgehog Preservation Society for advice: 01584 890801 or Tanya St. Pierre, Melbreak Hedgehogs on 07816 475486.

Tanya St. Pierre, Melbreak Wildlife Group

ECO CHURCH/ECO COMMUNITY UPDATE

ECO CHURCH/ECO COMMUNITY 8-16TH JUNE

BIG GREEN WEEK EVENTS



<http://www.grasmoormc.church/lortonvaleBigGreenWeek2024>

Big Green Day, Lorton - a drop in environmental awareness day
15th June 10am-4pm

Big Green Fair at the Yew Tree Hall

Variety of stalls, displays and talks -

Cumbria Waste

Lee Jackson - updating us about the climate emergency

Let's Eat Slow (seasonal, local, organic, waste-free)

Cumbria Rivers Trust

Cumbria Master Composters

Big Green Swap Shop at Lorton School

Bring along your unwanted items (to be dropped off between 8-10am) and discover new ones for your home.

Wildlife display and family nature activities at St Cuthbert's

There will be a community picnic on the Parish Field between 12.30-2.00pm- please bring your own picnic.

Parking available on field adjacent to St Cuthbert's

Additional events will take place during the week including a wildlife survey at St Cuthbert's on Saturday 8th June 2-4pm and a Big Green Quiz at LVH on Tuesday 11th June at 7.15. See other posters for more details. Activities are also taking place with the local schools.

Funding gratefully received from Cumbria Action For Sustainability and the Melbreak Communities

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK**

Let's swap together for good



What's a Swap Shop?

It is a free and local exchange where members of the public can pass on things they no longer want, in exchange for something they need. Many people describe it as a kind of cashless bring-and-buy sale, or bring-and-take. Participants do not need to bring anything in order to take away goods, and vice versa.

Swap shops recognise that things no longer wanted by someone, might be another person's treasure. By reusing things we cut down on the amount of waste that goes into landfill and reduce the amount of resources that we use in manufacturing of new products. And it saves money!

Items suitable to bring to a swap shop, most household items-

(items should be of good quality and suitable for reuse, thanks)

- Books • DVDs and CDs
- Kitchenware • Pictures,
- Tools, • Gardening items,
- Curtains and other soft furnishings,
- Children's toys • Baby items.
- Ornaments
- Clothes • Shoes
- Small items of furniture
- Large items of furniture can be shown on a photo-board rather than brought along.
- Unopened cosmetic items



Items not suitable to bring to a swap shop

- Electrical items
- Paints and any other hazardous materials

Swap shops are great fun!

Everyone enjoys getting something for nothing as well as doing their bit for the environment. Enjoy the day and let as many people as possible know why you are doing it

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WILDLIFE SURVEY

St Cuthbert's churchyard
8th June 2-4pm

"Come to St Cuthbert's church yard to carry out a wildlife survey and record what you see."

Come along and join in the fun

What you see and where you see it is important and it's also a great opportunity to explore your local church yard and commune with nature"

To find out more please visit
<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/things-to-do-in-burial-grounds/>

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

Let's swap together

- ⚡ EV charger installations
- ⚡ Testing & Certification (EICRs)
- ⚡ Fuse board changes
- ⚡ Home batteries
- ⚡ Solar panels

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QUIZ

11th June at 7.30pm
Lowswater Village Hall



The Big Green Quiz

Come along and join in the fun

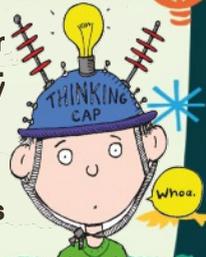


Entrance -support your local GREEN WEEK.

A fun quiz evening in Lowswater to test your nature knowledge. Entertainment from Wild Chorus/Sing Owt community choirs.

Green prizes for the top team

Light refreshments provided, plus a bar to buy drinks.



**PART OF
THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK**

ECO CHURCH/ECO COMMUNITY

Let's swap together for good

8-16TH JUNE

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**St. Bartholomew's Church,
Loweswater**

Friday July 5th at 7.30 pm

Presents an Organ Concert:

"Tuneful music for a summer's evening"

We welcome back Alan Wilson,
"Emeritus Organist and Director
of Music at St. Mary-le-Bow Church
and Queen Mary College, London"



Admission:

£12.50 Including Interval Refreshments

Tickets obtainable: from PCC Members, Lorton Shop & "Billy Bowman"

Music shop Cockermouth or Tel. 01900 85609

Profits to Church funds

ORGAN CONCERT

St. Bartholomew's Loweswater Church presents an Organ Concert on Friday July 5th, at 7.30pm.

The Organ Concert is entitled "Tuneful music for a summer's evening."

We welcome back Alan Wilson, "Emeritus Organist and Director of Music at St. Mary-le-Bow Church and Queen Mary College, London". The music for the evening is inspired by the life of social historian and travelogue enthusiast, Fred Kennington, who sadly died recently.

Alan and Fred have performed together at St. Bartholomew's on several occasions and the music chosen for this memorial concert is motivated by the life and music Fred loved - that delight of simulating creation's utter beauty and loveliness.

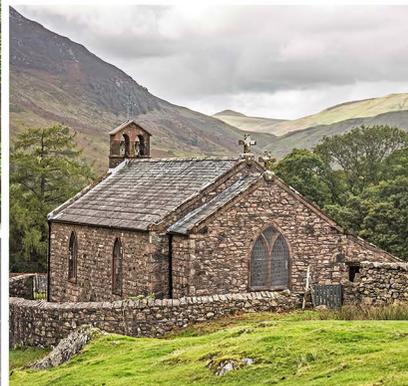
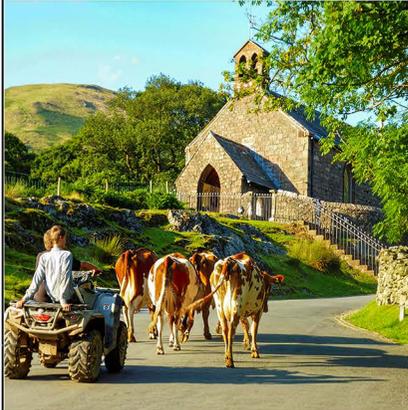
Please join us in welcoming Alan Wilson back to St. Bartholomew's for what is sure to be a wonderful occasion.

Admission of £12.50 Includes Interval Refreshments.

Tickets obtainable: from PCC members, Lorton Shop & "Billy Boman"

Music shop Cockermouth or Tel 01900 85609

All Profits to Church funds



DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK - SEE SEPARATE FILE FOR CENTRE-SPREAD

George is the name,
I'm organising

NEV'S 80TH BIG BIRTHDAY BASH AT SCALES BARN



Attention all fantastic friends of the fabulous Nev! Mark your calendars and pamper your purrs – it's time to celebrate. Nev, the panther of panache, the sultan of snuggles, is hitting 80 on June 15th.

**SATURDAY
15TH JUNE
6.00PM TO LATE**

I'm throwing an open birthday bash for the lad and his friends, so please do come along. Lorton's Premier Sommelier, after months of exhaustive tastings, has sourced an amazing range of eclectic drink so definitely no need to bring any bottles. Nor bags of gold or presents.

Come to think of it a morsel of food wouldn't go amiss, complementing the 'culinary delights' promised by Lorton's Barbecue Specialists. Vegetarian food I'm told will be available.

**BARBECUE FOOD
NO PRESENTS
SMALL FOOD PLATE
PARKING IN FIELD
GARDEN CHAIR
DRESS OPTIONAL**

Parking's a breeze, just pull right up in the field. Feel free to bring a folding chair and sprawl out in the sunshine.

In the unlikely event of rain we'll decamp to the atmospheric charm of the barn, glitter balls at the ready. Myself, I'll be busy chasing all those rabbits in the field. SO ENJOY!

OK Nev, where are those treats you promised?

Loweswater Ladies May 2024

12 ladies or “Loweswater Lassies” turned out for our evening walk last month. Taking place a month earlier than usual, we were fortunate to have a lovely sunny evening for our annual stroll around Loweswater. After the walk a further 10 members and one guest joined us for a buffet supper in the village hall. As usual the tables were amply supplied with both food and convivial chat. Thanks are due to Judith, Margi and Chris G for setting up and hosting the evening, Betty for running the raffle and to the many members who assisted with the clearing up at the end.

Jenny is now taking names for our Summer Outing which is on Thursday 11 July. This year we are heading to Farfield Mill near Sedbergh, with a stop at The Pot Place Garden Centre en route. As always non-members are welcome to join the trip.

At our next meeting we will find out about the work that goes in to restoring antique wallpaper. We are grateful to Allyson McDermott for allowing us to visit her studio to hear about this fascinating process. The meeting will be on **Wednesday 12th June at 7.15pm at Kirkhead, Loweswater**. Please book your place with Lyn before 5th June. Cars can be parked at the village hall. There is limited parking at Kirkhead for those with mobility issues.
Doreen Robertson



Loweswater with Buttermere PCC
100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st May 2024

1st prize of £25	No 23	John Scadding
2nd prize of £10	No 92	Joseph Edmunds
3rd prize of £5	No 85	David Walmsley

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.



Loweswater Village Hall

Anyone for Tennis?

Wimbledon Men's Final



Screened Live



& "served" with

Strawberries & Cream with Prosecco,

(or alternative) - included in the ticket price

Sunday July 14th

From 1.30pm 'till "Game, Set & Match"

Large 2.5m x 2.5m screen



Licensed Bar

Tea / Coffee / Soft Drinks

Tickets £7.00



To order your tickets please contact

Lyn Furniss on 07970 218239 or alloyslyn@btinternet.com

For catering purposes, advance booking by Thursday July 11th will be appreciated

loweswatervillagehall.co.uk

Charity No. 526856

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

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place in May. The make up of the PCC remains unchanged with Jan Collins-Webb and Eleanor Ella being re-elected as Church Wardens and will be officially admitted at a service at St.John's Church Keswick in July.

The second Bluebell service took place in May perfectly timed with the Rannerdale bluebells at their peak. We were fortunate to have a dry, if windy, day and the occasion attracted over 150 people - a great success. Thanks go to the Beard family for allowing use of their field, the Cockermouth Mechanics Band for the music and the Castlegate Singers.

A memorial service was held celebrating the life of Ros Lucas who spent many years as a regular visitor to her Loweswater cottage at Waterend always attending church here. Her extended

family and her friends from the valley heard tributes to her full and varied life.

A reminder that a Big Green Quiz will be held in LVH on Tuesday 11th June at 7.15pm as part of the Eco church's Big Green Week more details of which appear in this edition. There will be a small admission charge and refreshments available.

Writing this as the Bank Holiday weekend approaches I hope for good weather for our visitors particularly after the prolonged wet spell which managed to flatten a number of flowers in my garden.

We send our best wishes to Lorna Meadley as she recovers from her recent operation.

Eleanor Ella

COMMUNITY Lunches in Lorton £7.00

2 course meal at Lorton School, cooked by Chef Helen
Served promptly at 1.15pm. Everyone welcome

Dates: June 10th
July 8th

All profits provide additional support to the children at Lorton School

Booking essential
call Helen on 07790 459064



Lorton School After School Club..... We need you!

We're excited to tap into the wealth of talents, interests, skills, and hobbies within our local community. We are reaching out to see if anyone would like to join us in enriching the lives of our children by bringing their talent, interest, skill or hobby to after school club sessions. We're open to all ideas, whether it's a one-time event or a series of sessions each week, we'd love to hear from you. Rest assured, all sessions will have our regular staff on hand.

If you wish to discuss further, please contact Olivia Harrison using the email below or ring on 01900 85919

headofschool@lorton.cumbria.sch.uk

Melbreak Communities Local Events Diary

This list is drawn from The Link list and mostly just covers the next month's events. We would like to extend this coverage into the future, up to about a year in advance. This should help with scheduling and avoid the clash of events. Can I encourage anyone who wants to add, delete or amend an event to email me at melbreakcommunities@gmail.com. The minimum details I need are: Name of event, date, time. But feel free to add other information, location, attachments etc as they become available. Groups and societies are especially asked to let me have their annual programme if it is available.

FORMATION OF OIL IN LOWESWATER CLUB (O. I. L. CLUB)

Following the response to last month's entry in the Link, a meeting will take place in Loweswater Village Hall on Tuesday June 4th at 5pm for anyone interested in joining this club for bulk purchasing of heating oil in the Loweswater, Mockerkin, Brackenthwaite and Buttermere areas.

Liz Roberts, who set up and runs the Lorton Oil Group, will also be there to outline the principles of the club with myself.

If you are interested in joining the club but are unable to attend, could you please contact me by email: alloyslyn@btinternet.com or tel: 07970218239

Lyn Furniss



You know what they say, “*The early bird catches the worm.*”

Now that the breeding season is upon us and the birds are at their busiest, it was a perfect opportunity to join wildlife enthusiasts John and Rosamund Macfarlane for a **MWG Dawn Chorus Birdsong and Breakfast** walk in Holme Wood. We were very lucky to have John Callion join us; an expert ornithologist whose enthusiasm began after finding his first Robin’s nest over 70 years ago! John was excellent company, sharing many insightful facts from his fountain of knowledge.

As the sun rose over Loweswater, red squirrels appeared on cue, like us, enjoying the warm weather. We made a *swift* start being greeted by a symphony of bird song; a Black Cap first, followed by the ever-pleasant melody of the Chiffchaff, and the trickling sound of the Willow Warbler. Binoculars tried to follow the monochrome flash of the smart male Pied Flycatchers.

In the distance, Blackbird whistled from the tree tops, Chaffinches chased through the leaves, and Cuckoos ... well... cuckooed! The watchful Robin followed us as we wandered around his patch, and the Tawny Owl eyed us silently from its perch. Overall, we recognised **25** different bird songs and calls, and caught sight of most.

A very enjoyable morning, topped off with coffee and excellent breakfast in the garden, to the singings of Garden Warblers and Siskens. A huge thank you to John and Rosamund Macfarlane for organising and hosting, to John Callion, also Stuart Medland for helping me to lead one group, the National Trust, and of course, a thank you to all who came along.

Report by Ellie Wood

“Keep your eyes peeled and ears open, you never know what you’ll find!”

Cockermouth

5 - 7 JULY 2024

LIVE!



It's hard to believe, but Cockermouth LIVE!, our very own local music festival, is in its fifteenth year, and this year will be bigger and better than ever.

Following the success of extending the festival by an extra day last year, the 2024 festival will again last three days, from 5th to 7th July, and there will be events throughout the town all weekend.

Friday night's headline concert at the Kirkgate Centre, where Blazin' Fiddles will be performing, is almost sold out, but there are still tickets available from Billy Bowman's music shop on Lowther Went for Saturday evening's Brass on the Grass (a unique and varied picnic concert in Cockermouth Castle by Cockermouth Mechanics Brass Band to mark national Brass Band Week) and the Cockermouth Community Orchestra's concert at Christchurch on Sunday evening.

There will be strolling minstrels and other family friendly events in town throughout the days, performers in pubs and coffee shops, and the Castle will host a varied daytime programme as usual.

If you'd like to steward or help out in other ways, there's still time to get involved as a volunteer helper - contact Clive Barnard (07920703775) and he will pass your details on and let you know more



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The 'Buttermere Camino' - Saturday, 27th July

Calling all pilgrims! Grasmoor Mission Community will be holding its annual mini Camino (pilgrimage) from St Cuthbert's, Lorton to St James, Buttermere, via St. Bartholomew's in Loweswater on Saturday, 27th July. We will begin at Lorton church at 10am.

There will be times for prayer and reflection as well as fellowship whilst we walk, finishing with a short service at St James' church. The walk is about 11 miles and we hope to arrive in Buttermere at around 4pm. There will be opportunities to join or leave the walk at Loweswater at 1pm. We recommend sharing lifts, arranging pickups from Buttermere or leaving cars there, as the buses finish at 5.00pm and are likely to be busy.

For more information please visit www.buttermerecamino.org
[If you plan on coming, please e-mail us at info@poiema.org.uk](mailto:info@poiema.org.uk)



Lorton School 10K. Fundraising Road Race

Thank you all for your help on Saturday 27th April at the Lorton School 10K. A glorious day with a number of the time records broken. We have raised £2,253 which would not be possible without the continuous support of the local community.

**We have a date for next year:-
Saturday 5th April 2025**



On May 16 we had one of our largest attendances ever to hear David Robinson talk about his year on the isolated South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha. He was there from 1984-5, and as a young doctor was in sole charge of the medical services on the island. He gave a memorable description of island life, and as he said afterwards the year he spent there was the experience of a lifetime.

Our next event is our summer trip on Monday June 24. Details are given below (thank you again, Nev, for the artwork). Over half the spaces on the coach are already taken, so if you want to join the trip please give John a phone on 01946 861555 as soon as possible.

Summer Trip 24th June

Places must be reserved in advance, phone John on 01946 861555
Total cost per head £35, pay by cash on the day



Coach departs Cockermouth 9am
Coach to Motor Museum at Newby Bridge, with **soup and sandwich lunch** at museum cafe. In the afternoon a ride on the Lakeside and Haverthwaite steam train.



Followed by a visit to the aquarium near the end station (Lakeside).
No doubt along on route we'll have time for an ice cream.

Back in Cockermouth at 5pm approximately

EXTRA MEETING, OPEN TO ALL (Charge to non-members £2.50)

The summer trip usually marks the end of our season, but this year we are having an extra meeting on Wednesday July 3 at 7.30pm in Loweswater Village Hall. The speaker will be the well-known author Hunter Davies, who owned a house in Loweswater for many years, and stayed there in summertime with his late wife, the writer Margaret Forster. Hunter sold the Loweswater house after Margaret died, but is making a brief return visit to the area and has kindly offered to give us a talk, called *Letters to Margaret*. This is also the title of Hunter's forthcoming book, which describes the times he and Margaret spent in the area. The talk will be based on some of the material in the book and will include illustrations from it. We are making this a special event, and we are taking advantage of the fact that Loweswater Village Hall now has an alcohol licence. Wine will be on sale, as will cider and non-alcoholic apple juice produced by Mark Evens at Mosser. It was Mark who gave us a memorable talk in March on his business in Mosser, producing "real" cider and apple juice using fruit from his own orchard in Mosser.

Carolyn and John.

Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

‘John, Jane, Dorothy, and William: creating the Marshall Estates in Northern Lakes’ will be the subject of the illustrated talk to our society by Dr Derek Denman on **Thursday, 13 June at 7.45 pm** at the Yew Tree Hall.

The life-long friendship between Dorothy Wordsworth and Jane Pollard was the key relationship in the above quartet. Without it, John Marshall, the Leeds millowner who married Jane in 1795, would not have created the Lake District estates, many of which would later come to the National Trust.

From 1810, and with assistance from the Wordsworths, John Marshall built his seat on Ullswater, and purchased extensive estates for himself and his sons on many lakes. The talk will discuss the curious relationship between John Marshall and William Wordsworth during their unlikely co-operation in building the Marshall estates around Buttermere, Crummock, Loweswater, and Derwentwater before 1845.

Dr Derek Denman has been part of L&DFLHS for many years, and has researched the Marshalls at Lancaster University.



Jane Marshall, née Pollard (1770-1847), Dorothy Wordsworth's best friend.

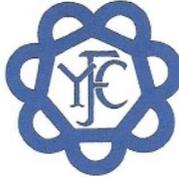
The Society's short AGM will take place at 7.30 pm before Derek Denman's talk. Charles Lambrick is standing down as Chair and will be proposing to Members that Andrew Chamberlain is elected in his place. Sandra Shaw, who has acted as Secretary for the past two years, will also be stepping down, and Lena Stanley-Clamp will stand for election in her place. Gloria Edwards has come forward for election to the committee. Derek Denman and Fiona Lambrick will be continuing as committee members. The committee is always happy to hear from Members who would like to help to run the Society, and there are vacancies on the committee that need to be filled.

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

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/>

GREYSOUTHEN YFC COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 6th
July, 10-12
Lorton Village
Hall



**Raising
Money for
Charity**

(more details will follow)

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We will also have some stalls and children's games
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DIARY DATES

JUNE

- 4 Tue Loweswater Oil Group, LVH, 5pm
- 8 Sat Coffee morning and Duck Race. Coffee Morning, 10am, YTH. Duck Race and BBQ, from 11.30am at Bon Beck - see poster
- 8 Sat Wildlife Survey, St Cuthbert's Churchyard, Lorton, 2-4pm
- 10 Mon Community Lunch at Lorton School 1.15 pm. To book your place contact Helen.07790 459064
- 11 Tue Big Green Quiz, LVH, 7.15pm
- 15 Sat Big Green Fair, Community picnic, Swap Shop and Wildlife displays, around Lorton, 10am-4pm
- 12 Wed Loweswater Ladies, Restoring Vintage Wallpaper, Kirkhead Studio, 7.15pm (booking required)
- 13 Thu AGM and 'John, Jane, Dorothy and William: creating the Marshall Estates', Dr Derek Denman, Lorton History Society, YTH, 7.30 pm
- 24 Mon 77 Club Trip. Lakeland Motor Museum, trip on steam railway and visit to Aquarium

JULY

- 3 Wed 77 Club host 'Letters to Margaret', a talk by Hunter Davies, LVH, 7.30pm
- 3 Wed Lorton PC meeting YTH 7.30pm
- 5 Fri Organ Concert, St Bartholomew's, Loweswater, 7.30pm - see poster
- 8 Mon Community Lunch at Lorton School 1.15 pm. To book your place contact Helen.07790 459064
- 11 Thur Loweswater Ladies Summer Outing
- 14 Sun Anyone for Tennis, 1.30pm, LVH - see poster
- 19 Fri Progressive Supper, various venues in Lorton, 7-10p.m
- 27 Sat Buttermere Camino, starting from St Cuthbert's, Lorton at 10am

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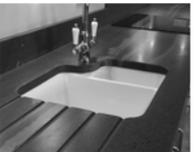
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The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

Church Services June 2024

2 nd June 10.30am	Trinity 1 Holy Communion	Loweswater
9 th June 10.30am 6p.m	Trinity 2 Morning Prayer - Big Green Week Service Holy Communion	Lorton Buttermere
16 th June 10.30am	Trinity 3 Holy Communion - Big Green Week Service	Loweswater
23 rd June 10.30am 6p.m	Trinity 4 Holy Communion Evensong	Lorton Buttermere
30 th June 10.30am	Trinity 5 Holy Communion	Lorton

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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 July/Aug is Friday 21st June- all articles, photos(especially for the front cover), funny stories to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date. Thank you