

DECEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY 2025



**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

You are going to have plenty of reading material and plenty to do over the festive period with this double edition of The Link. We start off with the Reader's (Vicar's) letter from a new contributor - Lois Sparling, who also features on the front cover. You can also read about plans to improve the facilities at Yew Tree Hall, an update from the Link Management Committee about some changes next year, a report about a special service held at Buttermere Church (with associated colour centre-spread) and a Melbreak Wildlife Group article about the importance of nesting boxes. Finally test your IQ (or in my case lack of) by taking part in the Brain of the Benefice quiz.

There are lots of events to attend - from a Melbreak Chat and Crafternoon and a talk about water gardening to the 1st Responders Mulled Wine and Mince Pies evening and the New Years Eve party at YTH. Not forgetting 2 carol singing events (one followed by a Christmas Gathering), a couple of coffee mornings, a talk about saving Curlews, a wine tasting and the all-important Lorton School and Church Christmas Fair. If that isn't enough for you all there is also the Christmas Community

Lunch to look forward to, as well as the Burns Night Supper later in January. I'd suggest that no-one asks for bathroom scales as a Christmas present - you may not enjoy the result! There are at least going to be two exercise classes to choose from in 2025.

So, having put this bumper edition of The Link to bed I'm off to put up the Christmas decorations. If you're passing this way the Christmas Dachshund has been joined by a string or two of outside lights - keep your eyes peeled as they are way up the garden on the greenhouse.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all - I'm sure you'll keep me on my Editorial toes during 2025.

Rosemary Riley

The front cover image, taken by Tim Thornton, is a lovely shot of one of our local worship leaders, Lois Sparling, after her licensing service at Carlisle Cathedral on Saturday 16 November. In Lois' own words "Licensed to the Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere - supported by dear friends from many different seasons of my life (and with a wonky surplice from all the hugging!). Lucky, lucky girl. Can't stop smiling". Lois has also written the Vicar's Letter this month so we've called it Reader's Letter!



Licensed to serve

On Saturday 16 November, at Carlisle Cathedral, I was admitted as a Reader in the Church of England and licensed to the Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere.

It still gives me goosebumps to write that, although it doesn't capture the huge joy and excitement of that afternoon at all, and it may well be gobbledegook to many of you with no experience of, or interest in, the workings of the Church of England.

To tackle the first point first. From about 7am on Saturday morning, when a friend from Cockermonth wrote in a group email that 'our own Lois Sparling' was being licensed 'today', I started to well up. Tim and I fell in love with Lorton about 8 years ago now and we have felt so welcomed from the very beginning, from our first Safari Supper through every morning walk or cycle to get supplies from LVS or a Sunday paper from Catherine at the crossroads, and, for me, at every service at St Cuthbert's. Our dream of moving to Lorton is now in sight and we can't believe our luck.

And by the service in the afternoon, supported by church and non-church friends from all over the county, I felt so affirmed and blessed in the ministry that I am about to embark on, at the end of what one music-loving friend called a 'long and winding road', that tears of joy streamed down my smiling face from start to finish. (The hymns were great, too, but it's hard to sing and cry at the same time!)

So what is Reader ministry all about? Well, because it's an unpaid role, often carried out by people in full-time work, it's different things for different people, according to their context and their gifts. In the Grasmoor Mission Community we (now) have 5 readers, one of whom runs an extremely busy business, and I will continue to work 3 or 4 days a week. We will all preach and lead worship. It was leading worship for the first

time during Covid (a little less scary to dip a toe in online for me) that inspired me to apply for the Reader training. But we may also offer pastoral visits and support, run study groups, lead funerals or take school assemblies. (I have shared leadership and activities at Paddle School a couple of times already and it was SUCH a joy.)

As Readers we commit to being 'workers for Christ, for the good of his Church and for the spiritual welfare of all people'. It's quite the brief. And it's all about service.

For the Church, the season of Advent that has just begun is all about waiting and preparing to welcome Christ into our hearts again so that, with him and through him and in him, we can bring joy to the world at Christmas and beyond. Serving God and serving our neighbours as we are all called to do with renewed passion and energy.

And it's nicely summed up by the Readers' Prayer, which I had the privilege to share with a crowd of other Readers at the cathedral on that unforgettable November afternoon.

Creator God

In serving you we want to love sincerely

Respecting our neighbours as ourselves

Let us take your word to those who seek you

Strengthen our minds and hearts for that task

Let our actions, guided by you, reach out to those in need

Sharing the message of your grace, mercy and love

Keep us humble in service

In Spiritual oneness with Jesus Christ

And faithful to the Holy Spirit

Amen

Lois Sparling

LORTON NOTES

I'd like to start these Notes by offering congratulations to Lois Sparling - who has recently been admitted as a Reader in the Church of England and licensed to the Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere. We look forward to her taking some services in Lorton soon.

You will see from the back cover that we have the usual pattern of Services over the Christmas period with the Crib and Christingle Service at 5p.m on Christmas Eve and the midnight Christmas Eucharist starting at 11.30p.m on Christmas Eve.

We will be decorating the Church in readiness for Christmas on Saturday 21st December at 10.00. We will welcome any help and flowers/foliage you can provide. As usual refreshments will be served.

I wrote last year about the period of Advent and the meaning of the Christingle. As these Notes cover January as well as December I thought this year I'd include something about Epiphany. Epiphany - also known as Three Kings' Day - is a Christian feast day which falls on 6 January. It is a special date for many Christians as it's when people celebrate how a star led the Magi - also known as the Three kings or the Wise Men - to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born.



'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world. This is why you might hear people say they've had an epiphany, when they've just realised something.

I'd like to close by thanking everyone who helps at St Cuthbert's throughout the year, by reading, leading the intercessions etc. Special thanks go to all who act as Responsible Sidepersons at each service which greatly helps myself and my fellow Church Warden - Pete Ward.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year to you all.

Rosemary Riley

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

MELBREAK CHAT & CRAFTERNOON

Thursday 9 January 2025

Thursday 13 February 2025

Thursday 13 March 2025

1:30 – 3:30pm – Loweswater Village Hall



Something to think about for January, February and March, when we all spend more time inside – come and join us on the second Thursday of each month at Loweswater Village Hall for a **Melbreak Chat & Crafternoon**, 1:30 to 3:30pm. Bring your own project, craft, or mending, or just come along for a chat, tea and cake. If you want to sit quietly and listen to others, that's fine too. You might be inspired by a project or craft that someone else is working on, or perhaps you've got stuck on something, or don't know where to start – help might be at hand!

Our inaugural Chat & Crafternoon was in November – between us we embroidered, wound some yarn, knitted, thought about painting some jam jars but were so busy chatting that that didn't happen. New introductions were made, and a wide range of topics were covered. Delicious cake, courtesy of Glenis, was enjoyed.

All are welcome. There is no charge (not even for the tea and cake) although if you feel able to make a donation to Melbreak Communities that would be appreciated. If you could let one of us know if you might make it, that would be helpful for catering purposes, but if you just want to turn up, that's also fine. We hope you will join us.

Glenis Postlethwaite & Harriet Davies
glenis@borderhydro.co.uk hfdrann@gmail.com



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Lorton Vale Gardening Club



Design, planting and maintenance advice on how to incorporate water features and ponds into our gardens.

Talk by
Shelagh Todd

Water Gardening”



Tuesday 10th December

at 1.30pm

YEW TREE HALL

Shelagh has over 40 years experience in the horticultural industry. Her most recent role was as Head of Horticulture and Garden Design at the School of Horticulture based at Lowther Castle.

Prior to this she was Head of Horticulture, Forestry & Floristry and a horticultural & garden design lecturer at Newton Rigg College, Penrith, Cumbria

Please park with consideration

Penny's Piece

Welcome to silly season! Does anyone else plan their shopping trips (not the weekly food shop!) round where you're going to eat? Any mention of weekend shopping in Cockermouth and apparently, we'll brunch in Beatfords. In Workington you must go to Superfish, The Old Keswickian in Keswick or in Carlisle it's off to the Tobey Carvery. We were in Carlisle last week so went to the carvery. This means I have accidentally, technically, already had one Christmas dinner. I have one in school, the work Christmas do and then actual Christmas dinner. It all becomes a little bit Vicar of Dibley. Though thankfully I am not having them all on the same day. Can you imagine that many sprouts in one day?

How good are you at wrapping? I have always known some people are better at it than others, but have only recently found someone who is in a league of their own. Admittedly the task was not straight forward: cover a banana box. (Each class has a colour or theme, children bring donation and each 'hamper' is raffled off during the school plays.) The first lot of paper went in the bin as it was cut too small to start with. I re cut the paper, gave some suggestions, modelled how to get a nice corner and stood back to allow the TA to complete it. It is covered, but one side is baggy and the other has lots of Sellotape on it holding together some sections that were cut again in error or ripped when pulling smooth. This is now the back. If this was a present, I have found that foil bows etc come in very handy. Or stick the name label over it. Someone else I know seems to use a whole roll of tape per present and they are virtually impossible to get into. They are not the only type of present which is tricky to get into. People who have been to the: Rowan Atkinson in Love Actually, school of wrapping are just as bad: tape, ribbons and

bows etc. Especially if you have elderly relative round who insist you have to untie ribbons not cut them as it is bad luck. It is even more frustrating if you undo a bow and find it is not part of the fastening just an added decoration. When I was little, a relative used to buy lots of little bits and pieces and wrap each one separately. We would still be opening things when the Queen's Speech came on. Bless her. It showed she cared and taught us patience.

The snow may have missed us for the time being but at least the cold has meant some brightness and dryness. I, as usual, have been wrapped up in 4 layers anytime I needed to be on playground duty. And yet there have still been children trying to get outside without a jumper never mind a coat. They clearly have that in-built glow that Ready Break used to allude to. Anyone who has been up high during these cold days (top of Mockerkin Howe was enough) will have seen some beautiful views. Not only across our valleys but across the Solway to Scotland and out to the Isle of Man. Today from my classroom I could see the snow on Snaefell. I have also seen photos online from the Isle of Man showing the snow over towards Scafell Pike. I wonder if they had as good a view across to Ireland from the other side of the Isle of Man?

I still seem to be suffering the after affects of the clock change in October. This has not been helped by my kitchen clock. It sings birdsong on the hour. When the hands went back, the birdsong did not. I have a blue-tit that sounds like a blackbird and a wren that sound like a barn owl. On the plus side there are actual barn owls and tawny owls around in the shed and trees behind me and they get noisy around 10pm. Time for bed then. Hope you have a lovely Christmas and Best Wishes for 2025. Penny

YEW TREE HALL IMPROVEMENT – PROJECT UPDATE

Our new Development Group, comprising members of the Yew Tree Hall Management Committee and Lorton Parish Council have been working on some great ideas for the improvement of Yew Tree Hall. This is in response to the community's preference to explore re-development of existing buildings before other options are considered.

Yew Tree Hall is a grade II listed building. Formally a malt house, built by the Jennings brewery family in 1828, its listing reflects the prominent role brewing played in the industrial development of Lorton. The basement still houses valuable industrial heritage features from its original brewing operation, such as the vaults and kiln structure.

Bearing in mind the heritage value of the Hall and the need to improve the existing facilities, particularly in terms of accessibility for all, we have produced a project plan with the following vision and objectives:

Vision

To build upon Yew Tree Hall's history and redevelop it to ensure it continues to provide a valuable, useable asset for the local community.

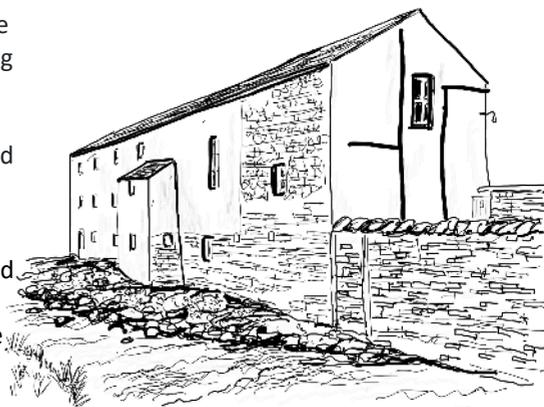
Key objectives

The redevelopment will:

- Ensure the hall is accessible to all and has facilities that can be used by all including toilets
- Create a safe, welcoming space that can be used by the whole community for a wide range of activities and events
- Improve the energy efficiency and environmental sustainability of the building

- Enhance the historic elements of the hall and explore opportunities this presents
- Continue to be able to accommodate up to 100 people
- Improve the physical relationship between the hall and surrounding public space

The group is very keen to ensure that members of the community have every opportunity to contribute to the project and are fully aware of what is proposed. We intend to hold events to provide updates and listen to ideas. Regular updates will be provided via The Link, Melbreak Communities website, Parish Council magazine, and dedicated leaflets.



At the YTH Coffee & Cakes 14th December, a few of the team will be around to talk through where we are up to and discuss some very preliminary working drawings and ideas. We hope to see you there!



Loweswater Carols 2024 – in aid of NSPCC -



We will be doing our usual “round the houses” of Loweswater this year on **Tuesday December 17th** but please note that the start venue has changed from previous years.

Please meet up at Loweswater Village Hall car park, ready for a 6pm start (by doing so it will make it easier to share transport). We are hoping to visit Penny's house at Waterend, then back to Oak Bank, Scale Hill, the Kirkstile and houses in between. Finally, we have an invitation to end the evening as guests of the Loweswater Village Hall, where I understand there will be seasonal light refreshments on offer.

You are invited to join us for a fine night of carols, house-to-house, or if this is difficult for you then feel free to join us any of the venues on the way round, or at the Village Hall from 8pm onward. For full details please contact myself, Roger Hiley on 01—900-85040 or 07740-461059

Wrap up warm, bring a torch and feel festive again on this fun, fund raising evening.



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Melbreak Wildlife Group

All welcome

An illustrated talk
by David Gardiner



Halting Curlew Decline in the Cocker Valley

7.30pm Monday 20th January
Yew Tree Hall, Lorton

Refreshments provided', but
donations very welcome to
help fund projects'

(Please park with consideration)

An initiative of the Melbreak Communities

<http://www.melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com/>

Loweswatercam Calendar 2025



by Roger Hiley

Loweswatercam Calendar 2025 Quality A3 size with appointments

Your last minute
Christmas Present problem
solved ...

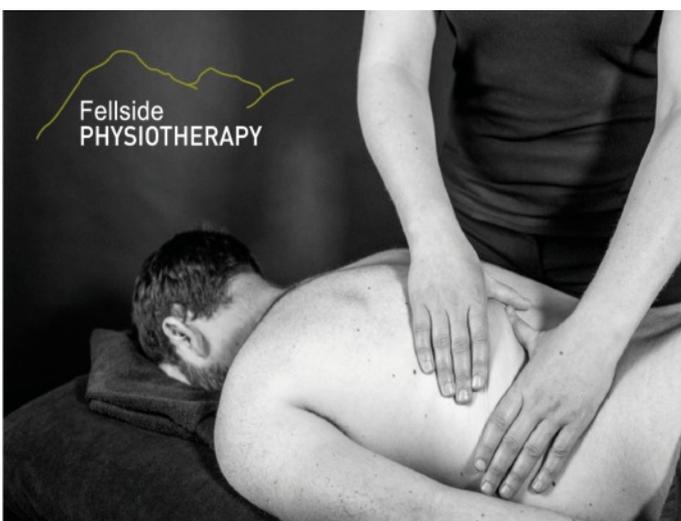
Full details on
www.loweswatercam.co.uk
Roger Hiley



October The Viewing Platform on Sarnon Crags 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	30	31		

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CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY LUNCH

Served promptly at 1.15pm.



**MONDAY
9th DECEMBER**

£13.00

Booking essential
call Helen on 07790 459064

Lunches held at Lorton School

JAN-MARCH 2025 DATES



Everyone is welcomed

January 13th

February 10th

March 10th

£7.00

All profits go to providing additional support to the
children at Lorton School

Brain of the Benefice ***2024***

TanDem's Grand Tour

The Vale's foremost, annual word search returns for the 29th year!

30+ things found in or on a car...

'Tanner and Demelza set off on their chari ___ ___ _ponse bike ride! Part of the 'Reduce Car ___ ___ _work of initiatives, the village gave them a big ___ ___, ___aping and cheering...'

 ***Cup for the winner*** 

Only £2 - available at the Christmas fair, coffee morning and in the village shop



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Loweswater with Buttermere PCC
100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st November 2024

1st prize of £25	No 11	Jenny Bland
2nd prize of £10	No 34	Bethany Meadley
3rd prize of £5	No 17	Chris Poate

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.

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A warm welcome from all...
THE YEW TREE HALL COMMITTEE



All the characters displayed above are fictitious. Identification with actual Lorton residents is purely intentional



**Christmas
Coffee Morning** 🎁

with a Grand Christmas Raffle

YEW TREE HALL
DECEMBER
14
SATURDAY 10.00-12noon
please note earlier time

See the ideas for developing the hall!

*A big thank you for supporting
Yew Tree Hall Events in 2024*

(Please park responsibly)

ADAM BAKER Chair



A Melbreak Communities Event



St James' Church, Buttermere. 19th November 2024.

Early in 2019 the late Gwyn Evans, Hugo Thomson and myself discussed the lack of a Memorial to those killed on Red Pike in June, 1944. It was decided that a memorial plaque should be created and mounted on the wall, opposite the Wainwright Window and looking out towards the crash site on Red Pike.

Covid intervened and at the beginning of 2024 the operation was set in motion to create the Memorial Tablet, obtain the necessary Church Faculty and proceed to manufacture with the Honister Slate Company.

Rob Jones and his team from Honister came up with the design and size of plaque required. This was approved, duly manufactured and securely mounted in St James'.

The Reverend Barbara Robinson designed the service. It was suggested that as one of the crew was of the Jewish Faith we should have, as one of the hymns, one which he may have sung in Synagogue as a young man and would have recognised. Hence "Now thank we all our God – a Hymn common to both faiths.

H.M. Deputy Lieutenant for Cumbria, Dr Jim Cox unveiled the Plaque and read the names inscribed thereon. The Plaque was then Blessed by The Rt. Rev. Rob Sainer-Haigh, Suffragan Bishop of Penrith.

The Kohima Exultation was read, Last Post and Reveille sounded and the Kohima Epitaph given.

On exiting the Church we witnessed a RAF Fly Past in Honour of those lost on Red Pike.

Our thanks to Bishop Rob, Rev Charles Hope, Revd Canon Jane Charman, Rev (Sqn Ldr.) Paul Sweeting and supporting Mission Community Clergy and to Mr. Keith Oaks for a superb rendition of Last Post and Reveille. Our thanks also to Baroness Sue Hayman, Brigadier General Kevin Cotten (Rtd) late Commandant of the Canadian Forces College, the Deputy Mayor of Cockermouth, Jan Evans and Harriet Fear Davies. Last, but not least; the Organist, Choir and Church Wardens. My apologies to anyone that I may have omitted.

Heartfelt thanks to Reverend Barbara and all those who helped on and prior to the day to make this event happen and to have been so special.

Jim Mills.

24th November, 2024.



IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE CREW OF WELLINGTON BOMBER HZ715 WHO DIED ON RED PIKE, ABOVE BUTTERMERE, AT 13:35HRS ON FRIDAY, 16TH JUNE 1944.

PILOT OFFICER ALBERT DIGBY COOPER RCAF. AGED 25
PILOT (INSTRUCTOR)

FLYING OFFICER FREDERICK ALLEN DIXON RCAF. AGED 26
PILOT UNDER INSTRUCTION

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT EMIL UNTERSEHER RCAF. AGED 28
PILOT (PASSENGER)

FLYING OFFICER DANIEL TITLEMAN RCAF. AGED 25
NAVIGATOR

SERGEANT GEORGE MCCRIMMON ANDERSON RCAF. AGED 29
BOMB AIMER

FLYING OFFICER ROY EDWARD SIMONSON RCAF. AGED 23
WIRELESS OPERATOR/AIR GUNNER (INSTRUCTOR)

WOI GEORGE RICHARD COATHUP RCAF. AGED 23
WIRELESS OPERATOR/AIR GUNNER

SERGEANT CAMPBELL MCRAE HODGES RCAF. AGED 34
AIR GUNNER

LEST WE EVER FORGET THESE BRAVE MEN OF CANADA WHO GAVE THEIR ALL THAT WE MAY BE FREE
PER ARDUA AD ASTRA



Photographs from the Memorial Service for Canadian Airmen, Buttermere, 19/12/2024

Support your local First Responders



COME AND JOIN US AT
THE YEW TREE HALL
Thursday 19th December 6-8pm



Meet the team
and learn about
what we do.

Christmas Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

£5 - cash only please

with entertainment
from the
Whinlatter Whistlers



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Nature Notes – A Roof over one’s head



Having a roof over one’s head makes a huge difference in life and so it is for some of our native wildlife. So far The Melbreak Communities Wildlife Group has supported installation of pied flycatcher, swift and owl boxes. Here at Armaside Farm this year we successfully fledged six flycatcher chicks from a new box numbered 13. We have had pigeons in the owl boxes and sparrows in the swift boxes. It is all interesting and good fun.

Our bedroom this year was used (unsuccessfully) by pipistrelle bats as a nursery. We will install a couple of bat boxes on the OUTSIDE of the house next year. One has to draw the line somewhere.

The Melbreak Communities has joined with the Cockermonth branch of the charity, Linking Lives, which aims to address loneliness and runs a befriending scheme – see <https://linkinglives.uk/about/> for more information. Terry Peate is the Cockermonth Co-ordinator and he makes amazing wildlife boxes. So we’ve teamed up. Armaside Farm provides planks from our own trees, Terry makes the boxes, and sale proceeds are equally divided between The Melbreak Communities and Linking Lives.

We have for sale various bird boxes (and can customise the access holes to suit the type of bird), and also swift, barn owl (inside and outside), tawny owl, bat and hedgehog boxes and hedgehog holes. You can find out more from our website and Facebook page. Or email glenis@borderhydro.co.uk. I think we rival Rightmove with our choice of housing stock!

The boxes are exceptionally sturdy and make excellent Christmas presents. They are available now, benefitting much more than just the person receiving the gift.

I’d like to encourage people living in The Melbreak Community parishes of Lorton, Loweswater, Buttermere and Blindbothel to use our website, melbreakcommunities.org.uk. We are in the middle of upgrading it but it is a good source of local information. You can also find us on Facebook at ‘The Melbreak Communities’ and for the wildlife information, ‘Melbreak Wildlife Group’ This will keep you up to date with all things wildlife and our Curlew Recovery project in particular. Join in and you will receive notifications of any new postings.

We will be hosting Coffee and Cakes at The Yew Tree Hall, Lorton on the 11th January 2025. Come along for some excellent fare and ask about our various projects. You can also tell us about any ideas you may have.

Glenis Postlethwaite Chair for The Melbreak Communities.



Our sturdy, natural boxes looking for new occupants.

Happy Christmas to the whole community from everyone involved with





On 12 November we enjoyed a Pie and Pies supper. After the meal we heard a talk from Steve Bober, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, who retired from West Cumberland Hospital in 2013. He explained that he regretted not taking a gap year when he was younger, so he decided to seek a similar opportunity on his retirement. He was accepted by Médecins sans Frontières, and he made many trips to Africa over the ensuing six years. He also worked for the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, lecturing in both Liverpool and a number of places in Africa. His illustrated talk was accompanied by images of bonny babies and happy and grateful mothers. Sadly, with some hospitals serving huge areas, it occasionally happened that pregnant women with serious complications presented too late, and it was impossible to save them. But it was clear that Steve and others working for MSF made major contributions in the areas in which they worked. A great talk Steve.

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 7th December in Loweswater Village Hall, starting at 3pm and includes afternoon tea. Entertainment will be provided by "Sing Owt" who will perform a variety of seasonal songs and hopefully get us all in the spirit. The Party is free to members and new members are welcome at a cost of £10 (which will include bonus free membership for 2025). Everyone bring a wrapped gift as we'll be holding a "Secret Santa Draw" on the day. See the Poster below for full detail.

The first meeting of the New Year will be on Friday 24th January at 7pm in Loweswater Village Hall, when we will be holding our traditional **Burns Supper**. The cost will be £20 per person and non-members are also welcome to join us. Scottish themed raffle prizes will be gratefully accepted. Again, see the Poster on facing page for full detail.

JOIN US FOR A
**CHRISTMAS
PARTY**
77 Club
Loweswater Village Hall
Saturday 7th December at 3pm
Entertainment by Sing Owt

The Party includes full afternoon tea, free to Members, £10 to non-members. Each person attending is asked to bring a wrapped present (value approx £5) for the Secret Santa Draw.

We need to know numbers for catering, so if you haven't signed up yet, give John a call on 01-946-861555 by Wednesday Dec 4th.

77 Club
Burns Night
Loweswater Village Hall
Friday 24th January at 7pm



Cost is £20 per person for a traditional Burns Supper
Non members welcomed.

A Raffle will be held.
(Please bring a Scottish themed prize for the raffle)



SOME HAE MEAT
AND CANNA EAT
AND SOME WAD
EAT THAT WANT IT
BUT WE HAE MEAT
AND WE CAN EAT,
SAE COME AND JOIN
US ON BURN'S NIGHT



We need to know numbers for catering, so if you haven't signed up yet, give John a call on 01-946-861555 by Tuesday 21st January.



VILLAGE HALL

loweswatervillagehall.co.uk

Loweswater Village Hall

A huge thank you to everyone who performed at, and supported, our very successful **Magnificent Melbreak Showcase** on November 1st. A very appreciative audience thoroughly enjoyed two hours of very entertaining performance art from fellow members of our community. Who knew there was so much local talent. Some performers are already planning for a repeat Showcase next year! After the **carol singing** around Loweswater on the evening of **Tuesday December 17th** we would like to invite members of the community to join us for some seasonal food and drink at a **Christmas Gathering, from 8.00pm**. Whether you are carol singing or not, we will be delighted to see you. There is no entry charge – donations to the NSPCC are encouraged. For full details, please see the poster in this edition of the Link.

A NOTE FROM THE LINK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Link Management Committee held a Special General Meeting in November to review the finances. The Link has been operating at a loss for the last few years and what we charge does not actually cover the cost of printing. We do have some reserves, but these will not last for ever. We have therefore decided to increase the cost of the magazine to **£7.00** per annum for those who have the Link delivered by our marvellous band of distributors and **£15.00** per annum for those who have the Link posted. We will continue to fund special colour pages whenever we can. I hope you all understand and will continue with your subscriptions - due as usual in February.

At the same meeting we were sad to hear that after many years of service our Treasurer, David Walmsley, has decided to stand down. We thank him very much for his valued support over the years. This does of course mean that we are looking for another Treasurer and very much hope that someone will be willing to volunteer. Here is a short job description but if you are interested then David is happy to discuss the role in more detail (davwal76@gmail.com or 01900 85013):

The treasurer's role probably entails 4 or 5 hours during January/February and at most an hour or so each other month. Most subscriptions are received during February and March, either by bank transfer directly into our Building Society (BS) account or by post to the treasurer in cash or cheque; they are all recorded and the latter paid into the BS. The dozen or so advertisers are invited during December to continue their advertisements. They are invoiced during January and most pay promptly.

Payment of invoices from our printer are made monthly. Activity in our BS account is recorded using a simple book-keeping app and monthly BS statements are reconciled as they arrive. Annual accounts are produced in January and passed to an examiner before being presented to an AGM of our managing committee in February/March

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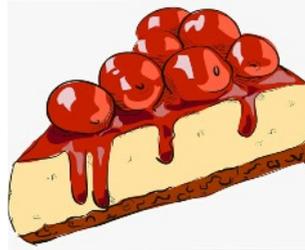




SAT
11
JANUARY
10.30-12.00

Coffee and Cakes

hosted by The Melbreak Communities
at the Yew Tree Hall



The Melbreak Communities are actively involved, on your behalf, in numerous environmental and community activities.

Everyone welcome. Please come along and support your local community

**PLEASE NOTE forthcoming Melbreak events—
Melbreak Communities AGM in February
Melbreak Wildlife Group Coffee Morning Saturday 8th March**

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Spaces are available, if interested please contact Liz at info@cockermouthphysio.co.uk



Loweswater Village Hall

Christmas Gathering

Tuesday December 17th from 8.00pm

After the Carol Singing in Loweswater

Whether you have been carol singing or not, please come and join us for some complimentary seasonal cheer and a few more carols

Warming Festive Food and Drink

No entry charge - Donations to the NSPCC

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LORTON CHRISTMAS FAIR

at Lorton School 10.30am

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

**Saturday
7th
December**



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

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Children's Books & Games
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Delicious Refreshments

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

**HIGH LORTON
CAROL SINGING
In aid of the NSPCC
MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER**

Starts at Lorton Park Cottage for mulled wine and mince pies 6pm for 630pm start

Please come along to sing.



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Loweswater Ladies November 2024

During lockdown normal life came to a standstill. We couldn't see our friends and family or go about our usual business. Life was tough for many people. However for some it provided an unexpected amount of free time to indulge in neglected hobbies or to explore new interests. Gail Hailes used the time to develop a candle making business. At our November meeting she shared the evolution of "Fellside Candles" with us. It began with a great deal of experimentation with different types of wax, wicks and fragrances. More complicated than you would think. Different waxes have different attributes which goes some way to explaining the wide variation in the cost of a scented candle. The most common wax used is paraffin wax. This is cheap and holds the fragrance very well but can create some soot when burnt and as a product of the oil industry is not considered very eco friendly. Soy wax and beeswax are considered more eco friendly than paraffin wax but still have issues. The melt and setting times can vary widely from hours to days. Wax made from coconuts is a newer product. As coconuts are a high yield and sustainable crop, coconut wax is regarded as more eco friendly. It also holds fragrance and colour well and burns more cleanly. Fellside Candles are made from rapeseed and coconut oil and the fragrances used are paraben free. Samples of the final product were available and quite a few friends and family are going to find a lovely scented candle in their Christmas stockings this year.

On 4 December we are heading to Hundith Hill Hotel for our Christmas meal. Bookings and menu choices should be with Jenny now. Please gather at 7 for 7.15pm and bring payment in cash (£35 a head).

As the year draws to a close we have Lyn and Jenny to thank for what has been a very interesting and varied programme of meetings. The 2025 programme will be issued at the AGM in January. Annual subscriptions will be due then and remain at £12.

Our first meeting of the new year will be on **Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7pm in Loweswater Village Hall**. In addition to the AGM, Roger Hiley will be talking about Walks and Websites.

Doreen Robertson



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NOTES FROM ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S AND ST

The season of Advent is upon us heralding the start of the church year; a time of expectancy as we await the coming of Christ at Christmas.

The long awaited Service of Commemoration for the Canadian Airmen who died on Red Pike in 1944 took place in November. This was the culmination of several years in the planning by Jim Mills together with Gwyn Evans and Hugo Thomson . The service included the unveiling of the Honister slate memorial by Bishop Rob and the Deputy Lieutenant Dr. Jim Cox. The congregation was well represented by the aforementioned, representatives of the Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team, Baroness Sue Hayman, members of the Mission Community Clergy and Revd. Barbara leading who was responsible for so much of the organisation. We were delighted that Brigadier General Kevin Cotten (of the Canadian Army) and his wife joined the congregation resplendent in uniform. It was altogether a splendid and moving occasion. We are very grateful to John Macfarlane for providing us with a wonderful pictorial record of the occasion seen in the centre pages.

Our Christmas services will follow the pattern of previous years. The Carol Service

takes place at 6pm on 22 December, Christmas Eve Holy Communion at Buttermere 12 midday, Christmas Day HC 10.30 Loweswater and Informal Carols with sherry and mince pies at Buttermere 3pm on 29th. Not forgetting celebrating Epiphany on the first Sunday of January.

As the year draws to a close thanks are due to many people whose help enables the smooth running of our churches: Sue Ralph and John Scadding for the music, Margie for her dedicated hard work looking after the church flowers, Heather for decorating the chancel and replacing all the light bulbs in St.James in time for the commemorative service, Joan for assisting with flowers at Buttermere and Kath for keeping Loweswater spick and span and others too numerous to name.

We will be decorating the church on the Saturday morning before the Carol Service. With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

From St.Bartholomew's Registers from previous months
28th July Marnie Ann Bland, Baptism
28th July Fern Mary Sandwith, Baptism

Eleanor Ella



William Keith Campbell
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Wine Tasting

7pm Friday 10th January 2025

Loweswater Village Hall

Finger buffet to accompany

£16 per ticket, available from

David Robinson

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Proceeds to Loweswater and Buttermere churches



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DIARY DATES

DEC

- 3 Tue Buttermere Parish Council, Buttermere Old School, 7.30pm
- 4 Wed Loweswater Ladies Christmas Meal. Hundeth Hill 7pm
- 7 Sat Lorton Christmas Fair Lorton School 10.30 am - see poster and flyer
- 7 Sat 77 Club Christmas Party, with local singers "Sing Owt" LVH 3pm
- 9 Mon Community Christmas Lunch, Lorton School, 1.15pm
- 9 Mon High lorton Carol Singing - see poster
- 10 Tue Garden Club YTH 1.30pm (please note start time) "Water in Gardens". Talk by Shelagh Todd
- 11 Wed Kirkstile Inn Locals Night , in aid of Cockermouth MRT
- 14 Sat YTH Christmas Coffee Morning 10am to 12. Update and ideas for developing the hall.
- 15 Sun Mockerkin Mob Christmas walk and lunch, Loweswater.
- 16 Mon Loweswater Farmers Group Xmas Meal Kirkstile, 7 for 7.30.
- 17 Tue Loweswater Carol Singing Evening - ending up at LVH - see poster
- 19 Thu First Responder Mulled Wine Mince Pies Evening, YTH All welcome
- 31 Tue New Year's Eve Party at the YTH. 8.00pm to 12.30am. Tickets from Nige Lee - see poster

JAN

- 8 Wed Loweswater Ladies, AGM & Walks and Websites, 7pm, LVH
- 9 Thu Melbreak Chat and Crafternoon, 1.30pm, LVH
- 10 Fri Wine Tasting Evening LVH. Tickets from Dave Robinson.
- 11 Sat Coffee & Cakes, 1030-1200, YTH
- 13 Mon Loweswater Farmers Discussion Group, Kirkstile, 8pm.
- 20 Mon Melbreak Wildlife Group. 'Halting Curlew decline in the Cocker valley' talk by David Gardiner. 7.30pm YTH. All welcome
- 24 Fri 77 Club Burns Supper 7pm LVH. Tickets and details from John Hudson
- 27 Mon Loweswater Farmers Discussion Group, Kirkstile, 8pm.

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/>

WHEN ATTENDING EVENTS AT THE YEWE TREE HALL PLEASE ENSURE YOU PARK RESPONSIBLY

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.

The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

Church Services December 2024 and January 2025

1 st December 10.30am	Advent 1 Holy Communion	Loweswater
8 th December 10.30am 3p.m	Advent 2 Morning Service Holy Communion	Lorton Buttermere
15 th December 10.30am	Advent 3 Holy Communion	Loweswater
22 nd December 10.30am 6.00pm	Advent 4 Holy Communion Carol Service	Lorton Loweswater
24 th December 12 noon 5.00pm 11.30 pm	Christmas Eve Christmas Eucharist Crib & Christingle Service Christmas Eucharist	Buttermere Lorton Lorton
25 th December 10.30am	Christmas Day Christmas Eucharist	Loweswater
29 th December 10.30am 3.00pm	Christmas 1 Holy Communion Informal Carol Service	Lorton Buttermere
5 th January 10.30am 3p.m	Epiphany Holy Communion Evensong	Loweswater Buttermere
12 th January 10.30am	1st Sunday of Epiphany/Baptism of Christ Holy Communion	Lorton
19 th January 10.30am 3p.m	2nd Sunday of Epiphany Morning Service Holy Communion	Loweswater Buttermere
26 th January 10.30am	3rd Sunday of Epiphany Holy Communion	Lorton

Deadline for February is Friday 24th January - all articles, photos(especially for the front cover), funny stories, letters to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date. Thank you