

# APRIL 2025



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

**£7.00 PER ANNUM (LOCAL)  
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# Letter from the Editor

Dear Link Readers

You may consider yourselves lucky (or not, depending on whether you enjoy my missives) to receive a letter this month. Last week my horse accidentally clonked me hard on the head and since Friday I've been suffering from vertigo. Saturday was a write-off but things are slowly improving. However, I am going to keep this short.

Wildlife features large this month with notices about hedgehog events, tree planting, penguins, flowers and bees, gripes about Himalayan Balsam, a rabbit-themed Easter Coffee morning and pests in forestry (might feature rabbits again).

There are various social events in the offing too - in addition to the aforementioned coffee morning we have another Lent Lunch, the monthly Community lunch (May is the next one) a cream tea and a VE Day celebratory lunch.

I'm sure you will all be thrilled to hear that my gardening efforts are going better than last year - the most important thing being the germination of the sweet peas. The picture of burgeoning seed trays last month was a library picture - but this is my greenhouse today featuring tomatoes, chillis and Verbena bonariensis.



Don't forget to pay your Link subscription - but thanks to the many of you that have already done so.

Rosemary Riley

The front cover image is of the Mosedale Holly Tree and was taken by a new contributor - Tim Brown. Tim has recently moved to Loweswater and has a passion for photography. You can find out more here - <https://www.photographyat55.com/>



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.

The colour Purple is the liturgical colour used during Lent as this symbolises penance, repentance and preparation; reflecting the solemn nature of the season and the suffering of Jesus during his passion and crucifixion. It is also a reminder of how the soldiers dressed Jesus in a purple robe, mocking him as 'The King of the Jews'. Purple being the colour of royalty at that time.

In the benefice, we are continuing our Lent Journey through the Church of England publication of Living Hope. Hopefulness is an element which enables us to look forward to a better future and an essential part of our life together. It enables us to deal with despondency and the uncertainty of the present moment and to look beyond it. What would life be without hope? I look at this as a Christian, that God gives us a confidence in the future based upon our present experience of His love. We do not know the precise details of what the future

holds, nor do we need to know. But we have the assurance that God is at work in our lives, and that one day His purpose will be fulfilled

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.

Blessings

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

As we approach Easter we have a number of special services, the first one being Palm Sunday, 13th April. Following the normal pattern of services this Sunday would usually be a service of the word, but given the importance of the day we will be holding a Holy Communion Service. At Lorton we are holding two further services in Holy Week, Compline on Monday and Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. Full details of all services can be found on the back page as usual.

The Easter Day service this year is at Loweswater and both churches will be decorated on Saturday 19th. At St Cuthbert's we will start at 10.00am.

St Cuthbert's also has the Archdeacon's visitation this month - the reasons for it are clearly explained by Eleanor in her St Bartholomew and St James notes on page 28.

Last month I promised you an update on how my Carbon Fast was going. My first challenge was to avoid buying anything deemed non-essential (so we were allowed to eat). Overall I was successful as my only purchase was a set of seed trays. This could be questioned as truly essential - but my sister-in-law inadvertently had her own plug plants delivered to me (it's a long story) and if I hadn't bought the emergency seed trays the plants would have perished. The seed trays are recycled and re-usable.

The second challenge was to use less energy and water. Apparently in the UK, home energy is responsible for approximately one-fifth of our national carbon footprint. We were urged to unplug appliances not in use (guest room TV); wash clothes at a lower temperature (dial set to 30 degrees) and avoid tumble drying (thank goodness the

weather allowed me to use the washing line); taking shorter showers (try to limit time to under 5 mins - my record was 30 seconds); turning down your heating thermostat by a couple of degrees (and putting on an extra layer if you feel chilly!). Thank goodness for my wide selection of woolly pullys! I even sacrificed my weekend treat of a soak in the bath.

I haven't received my email yet but the 3rd challenge looks at transport. I'll update you again next month, but if the vertigo mentioned in the Editor's letter hadn't curtailed my activities I would have walked to church today - and new tyres are being fitted to my bike so watch out for me whizzing round the local lanes next week - I do have a bell!



Happy Easter to you all, Rosemary

WILDLIFE GROUP



A Melbreak Communities Initiative



# Hedgehog Recovery Project



Introductory talk by Tanya St Pierre

Thursday 3rd April at Yew Tree Hall, 7.30-9.00pm

If you want to help hedgehogs in your area please come along!



looking at ways we can all get involved in doing something positive for hedgehogs, focusing on a strategic approach to their recovery.

all welcome

**£3** suggested donation (refreshments provided)

please park responsibly, thank you

<https://melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com>



## Lorton Vale Gardening Club



Talk by  
Alex Baines

# Pests, Diseases in Forestry

non-members £4

YEW TREE HALL

Thursday 10 April

at 7.30pm

Pests and diseases in forestry are becoming more problematic due to the changing climate.

Please park with consideration



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# *Penny's Piece*

Fashion seems to be at it again- being odd that is. I went to good old Marks and Spencer for some new underwear and, having bypassed the adapted bunting style underwear, I had to do a double take. There were lots of massive pants. I don't mean widthways. They were so tall they would come well above the bellybutton. In-fact, if anyone with a larger chest wore them and the elastic went, it would not be a bother. They would be held up. I have never been a fan of underwear purposefully showing out of the top of trousers etc. However, when I then went into New Look, I saw the need. On the one hand, knitted tanks tops are back. On the other, only if they stop just above the navel. Big pants could be very useful in this case to avoid a horrible draught. I do not really like clothes shopping and am often accused of walking round shops just so I can 'tut' at things. Clothes at the moment either seem to be either shapeless bags, loosely gathered in the middle (potato sack) or so fitted you can practically see someone's breakfast. Some seem to be wider than they are long. Others look great on the hanger but then have so many zips, buttons, straps and ties to maintain the shape they are impossible get on. You end up stood in the changing room with arms pinned somewhere above your head in that moment of panic where you fear you may need to call for help. I'm not sure if this ever happens in men's changing rooms? At least most women's trousers and now some skirts and dresses have pockets so that's something. I do enjoy a good film. Old or new, it doesn't really matter. A little bit of escapism or sometimes what can be referred to as action packed rubbish. Recently, I have noticed a strange thing. I'm not really sure what an executive producer does but there seem to be more and more of them appearing in titles. I can understand more prominent actors being involved but recently I counted more executive producers than cast in the film. Not sure how that works.

Many of you reading this are good cooks and bakers and have developed that expertise in knowing what you can add into a recipe or what to leave out. You can vaguely follow the recipes outlined by the vast variety of tv chefs and bakers, adapt it and still arrive with something presentable and palatable- unlike me. My drive home at the moment, coincides with a feature on Radio 2 a bit like Ready, Steady Cook. Someone says 3 ingredients they need to use up and a chef suggests a recipe. As usual it turns into one of those where you need the entire herb and spice aisle of Sainsbury's to be able to complete the recipe and is not easy to make at all. They also sound like you need to use more pans than you should have to for 3 main ingredients. Chefs have someone washing up for them. Us mere mortals have to decide just how much we can be bothered washing up or loading into a dishwasher. Our ancestors cooking over fires knew a one pot stew was the way to go. On a different tack: Does anyone know when knickerbocker glory spoons stopped being called as such and became latte spoons?

In a couple of weeks, I am going to see poet John Cooper Clarke perform in Manchester. I have discovered we share a liking for a little bear from Nutwood- Rupert. Mr Clarke used to read it in the Daily Express as child and seems to understand there are different levels of story. The pictures, the written story and the rhymes under the pictures which also tell the story. I have been getting a Rupert Annual at Xmas every year since. . . . well, always. I have also collected backwards consecutively to 1948. I have always only ever read the rhyme. I suppose my liking of poetry might have started with Rupert. If anyone has any older editions they want to go to a good home, give me a shout. Penny.



A Melbreak Communities Initiative



Make your own  
**Hedgehog**  
Feeding Station

The feeding station needs to protect the food you offer hedgehogs from the weather, and deter other animals from accessing the food. It is important that hedgehogs are allowed to dine in peace!

Learn how to make your very own hedgehog feeding station, to take away with you.

You don't have to be a master craftsman

Spaces limited, to book contact [tanya.stpierre@outlook.com](mailto:tanya.stpierre@outlook.com)

**£3** suggested donation (refreshments provided)

Saturday 26th April, Loweswater Village Hall 10am-12pm



<https://melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com>



## Lorton School 10K. Fundraising Road Race

**Saturday 5th April 2025 at 10.00am**  
**Minimum Age: - 15. All level of runners**  
**welcome**

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



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*The first recorded public donation in 1893 for Hall improvements*

# **'Boogie' Butterfield 1798-1910**

(AN UNOFFICIAL HISTORY OF LORTON'S ECCENTRIC CHARACTERS - Nev Mills)

Barnaby "Boogie" Butterfield was just one of Lorton's many eccentric, but loveable characters. His wardrobe, a chaotic symphony of paisley, tie-dye, and the occasional sequined waistcoat, was rumoured to be visible from Rogerscale. Boggie had a real affection for Lorton and its newly erected Yew Tree Hall (1829), and as a big mate of John Jennings was appointed one of its first brewmaster's



Boggie's hair, a gravity-defying jumble, seemed to have its own weather system, often contained stray feathers, an occasional bat, and on one memorable occasion, a small, bewildered robin. His infectious laugh, could be heard echoing across the valley, often accompanied by the rhythmic clanging of his collection of vintage cowbells

His garden at Tenters was less a garden and more a jungle funky rave, complete with solar-powered disco lights and wind chimes that played a surprisingly accurate rendition of "Shake It off". A composition recently made popular again by Taylor Swift. A performer who admittedly I greatly admire, and whose rendition was a stand out performance at my very own 80th party some 9 months ago.

By 1908 the village needed a meeting place and without hesitation Boogie with a wink and a shimmy, pulled out a wad of brightly coloured bills from his sequined waistcoat. Declaring, "Let the good times roll, baby! This hall's gonna boogie all night long!" And promptly renamed the malting kiln as the Yew Tree Hall.

Boggie Butterfield was absolutely made up and will be long remembered as one of the first "Friend of the Yew Tree Hall" It's rumoured that a Blue Plaque will shortly be commissioned detailing his generosity.

Over the years many members of the village community have played significant roles in the Hall's development, promoting a myriad of new activities. *They are the unsung heroes of the Hall, making it what it is today THE HUB OF COMMUNITY.*

**YEW TREE HALL**  
**Rooted in Community**  
**Growing for the Future**



Hopefully Boggie's generosity of spirit will prove to be the blueprint for the next round of Yew Tree Hall fund raising.

The Yew Tree Hall Committee

**COFFEE MORNING** £4

**Saturday 19th April  
10.00-12.00**

Raffle

1st prize Cumbrian hamper  
drawn at 11.30am

EASTER COMPETITIONS and RAFFLE

Best Easter Bonnet

Decorated hard boiled egg

Spring Flowers table arrangement

(Max. size footprint 12"x8")

Children's bonnet making stall  
Judging at 11am

Please park responsibly

hippety...  
hoppety...  
whatever.



A Melbreak Communities Event



Loweswater Village Hall



# VE Day Lunch

Followed by a 1940s Sing-Along with

## Cath and Emma

Bank Holiday Monday May 5th - 12.30 to 4.00

**Tickets £5 each**

You are invited to bring along a buffet-style main course or dessert to share, or if you have any allergy concerns, you can bring and eat your own food

**Licensed Bar**

**Advance booking only for this event**

There will be a prize for the best dressed lady & gentleman in 1940s style



**1940s Raffle**



To book your place and confirm main course or dessert, please contact Lyn Furniss on 01900 85147 or [alloyslyn@btinternet.com](mailto:alloyslyn@btinternet.com)

[loweswatervillagehall.co.uk](http://loweswatervillagehall.co.uk)



YEW TREE HALL  
1909

**EVENTS: Friends of Yew Tree Hall**

**MAY CEILIDH**

**Saturday 24 May**



**It's a date- put it in your Diary now**  
Tickets and more details available shortly

**LIVE BAND Yew Tree Hall**

contact Clare Round at: [clareroundlorton@gmail.com](mailto:clareroundlorton@gmail.com)

**Advanced Notice**

**DROP-IN-EVENT**  
**Improving the Hall**



Join Yew Tree Hall Development Group at an open day on 21st May, between 4-7pm at YTH to look at options for improving the hall.

St James' Church, Buttermere  
3rd

# Bluebell Service

At  
Rannerdale Knott



**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm**

Service of Songs and Praise

Free carparking, Bring a chair or rug



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**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."

The Foundation would welcome applications for smaller and larger value grants, up to c. £2,000, for more substantial projects or education skills support which still meets the aims detailed above. Such larger applications would need to demonstrate a significant impact and/or a legacy within the Loweswater Parish.

Applications, with an initial 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.



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# COMMUNITY LUNCH'S

Served promptly at 1.15pm.

## DATES IN 2025 APR-JULY



Lunches held at Lorton School

Everyone is welcomed

<b>April</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>12th</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>14th</b>

£7.00

**Booking essential**  
call Helen on 07790 459064

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

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**St Bartholomew's Church at  
Loveswater Village Hall  
12.00 -2pm Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

We Invite you to our Lent Lunch,  
a chance to catch up with friends and enjoy  
our delicious home-made soups,  
followed by assorted cheeses and biscuits,  
washed down with Tea or coffee.

All profits to the maintenance and repair of  
our beautiful church.

We look forward to seeing you.

**Churchwardens**

**St Bartholomew & St James Churches**

## ***An Eye for an Eye: replanting the Pheasant's Eye Holme Wood, Loweswater 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025***

Extensive felling took place in Holme Wood during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wars. In the 1950's the wood was replanted in the shape of a pheasant, designed by Johnston Edwards MBE, former Forester to the Queen. The **eye** was formed with larch to provide vibrant and contrasting autumn colours.

Sadly, larch *phytophthora* infection required the **eye** to be clear felled in 2024. The plan was made to replant the eye with **aspen** – that iconic tree that trembles, flutters, and shimmers with colour.

On a (fortunately) dry and sunny day, 17 keen local volunteers, largely Mockerkin Mob and Melbreak Wildlife Group members, arrived bright and early at Watergate to join 7 National Trust rangers and foresters, and 2 dogs, for a full day of planting 800 european aspen (*Populus tremula*), a similar number of locally grown primroses, wild garlic, bluebells, anemones and water avens, and some Scots Pine. Climbing up and down, and working with hammer, stakes and spades on very steep fell slopes was tough but everyone coped admirably, helped by coffee breaks, cakes and bakes!

Thanks especially to Mark Astley, NT area ranger, Ellie Wood, NT ranger and Ian Griffiths, NT Assistant Trees and Woodland Advisor, for their help in arranging the day and keeping us safe, Anthony, Bob and Tim (NT foresters), and also the valiant volunteers (John, Judy, Joan, Kathryn, Roger, Pip, Chris, Debbie, Graham, Paul, Vince, Sue, Hugh, Peter, Carolyn, Beth, Rosamund and John) who did the community proud!

John and Rosamund Macfarlane



Roger Hiley kindly sent in an action shot photo of the tree planting which we've found room for.



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On the March 11th we heard a talk from Jade Allen of the National Trust about Borrowdale National Nature Reserve. All the land comprising the Reserve is in National Trust ownership, and is England's largest temperate rainforest. Temperate rainforests are found in places that have high rainfall and humidity and a low annual variation in temperature. Once abundant in the UK, this rare type of habitat now covers less than 1% of England's surface, and the designation in 2024 of Borrowdale as a National Nature Reserve was an important step in nature conservation. The conditions found in Borrowdale create a uniquely biodiverse habitat rich in lichens, mosses and liverworts.

As well as safeguarding these species, the new nature reserve will conserve and restore the ancient oaks, birches and ferns and will also support important upland birds such as redstarts, pied flycatchers, tree pipits. In addition it will offer protection for iconic red squirrel, for which the woodlands are a stronghold. The nature reserve comprises 721 hectares, but exists at present as individual patches of woodland separated by farmland. The Trust is working with its tenant farmers to encourage and support environmentally friendly practices, and the ultimate aim is that the entire area will comprise a unified and enlarged nature reserve. Jade is the Officer in charge and learnt her trade via the Cumbria Wildlife Trust and then here in Loweswater under Mark Astley's tutorship. We wish her continued success in leading this important new Borrowdale project.

Our next meeting is the lunch party, which will be on Tuesday April 15 at Hunday Manor Hotel, Lillyhall – 12.30 for 1.00pm. After lunch we will hear a presentation by Stan Leigh of Cockermouth. Stan, a local historian, will talk about the history of Carlisle, and his presentation will be illustrated by slides taken during his walks around the city. Advance booking is essential and if you did not sign the list and record your menu choices at the March meeting, please give Roger a call on 07740 461059 by Friday April 11th. Payment in cash on the day most appreciated. Non-members welcome.

## Lunchtime Meeting Hunday Manor Hotel followed by Carlisle History Talk

**Tuesday 15th April**  
**Meeting at 12.30pm for lunch at 1.0pm**

**Lunch and menu choice must be pre-booked**  
*Please phone Roger Hiley on 07740 461059*

**2 course meal with  
tea or coffee at £27  
per head. Payment  
in cash if possible**

## **CARLISLE** HISTORY TOUR Stan Leigh





### Loweswater Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who joined the sell-out audience on March 8<sup>th</sup>, to enjoy the high energy, foot-stomping experience of Old Baby Mackerel, brought to us by Arts Out West. A lively crowd appreciated the unique opportunity to hear renowned bluegrass musicians at the very top of their game.

In recognition of the events surrounding VE Day in May 1945, we are delighted to invite the whole community to a celebratory **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VE Day Lunch on Bank Holiday Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**. Everyone is asked to bring along a buffet-style main course or dessert to share. Food allergies/preferences will be accommodated. Lunch will be followed by the return of **Cath & Emma**, with songs of the 1940s. There will be a licensed bar. Tickets are £5.00 each. **Places must be booked in advance.**

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

**If you have any 1940s photographs or memorabilia, we would be delighted to display them on the day.**

The village hall committee held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the chairman's report has been posted on the village hall website. Unfortunately, the village hall's caretaker, Karen, with husband Peter, has decided to move on. We would like to thank Karen and Peter for their contribution to the smooth running of the hall over the last eight years, and wish them well for the future.

Karen's departure creates a **vacancy for the position of caretaker**, which comes with a **live-in flat** at the hall. If you would be interested in taking on this position, or know of anyone who might, we would be pleased to hear from you on [info@loweswatervillagehall.co.uk](mailto:info@loweswatervillagehall.co.uk) or on 0190085980.

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A stylized green line graphic resembling a mountain range or a wave, positioned above the text.  
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## Nature Notes - What is the problem with Himalayan Balsam?

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries the upper classes used to undertake a grand tour around Europe and in some cases around the world. Many would bring back interesting flora and fauna to show in their grand houses and gardens. This was all very well until they escaped or worse, deliberately released. Himalayan Balsam could be considered the plant equivalent of the grey squirrel.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act in England and Wales it is an 'offence to plant or otherwise cause Himalayan Balsam to grow in the wild.' Easier said than done.



Himalayan Balsam is highly invasive, choking out native plants and choking up waterways- its preferred environment. It is also very cunning for a plant. It often aligns with other less favourable plants like thistles, nettles and briars to make its removal more complex and hazardous. Balsam can be identified by this smooth (not hairy) pinkish stem which is watery when broken and a pointed sun shape of leaves at the top before flowering. The flowers are mainly pink, sometime white and the plant can grow taller than four feet.

Himalayan Balsam also has a faultless seed dispersal system. Each seed pod can hold 4-16 seeds, and each plant can produce up to 800 seeds. When the pod bursts the seeds can travel up to 7m. Being near or in water helps the seeds quickly spread far further- it is now into the wood on the roadside side of Loweswater Lake. The seeds themselves have an incubation period of 2 years. Meaning you think you have cleared an area, and the following year looks good but then on year three you have as much as year one. Hard frosts are helpful here as they freeze and split the seeds.

Some of you will have seen crops of balsam alive with bees. But this is not as positive as it seems. A study in Scotland by the University of Lancaster suggests that, if bees feast on balsam rather than seeking wider forage, it can restrict their diet and reduce the pollination of other plants nearby.

Balsam generally pulls up easily. Twisting it to break the stems and then piling it up in huge heaps makes it rot away. If cutting it/ using a strimmer, you need to get a low as possible- below the lowest node. If you don't, it just sprouts several more flower heads from the top. All that needs to be done before seed pods start to form. Once you have seed pods it is too late. The only way then is to take a bag, put the flower head in the bag and then snap it off- seeds in the bag- burn it.

Balsam flowers from June to October and seeds from August to October. Local balsam bashing sessions will be taking place for all those willing and able to join the fight. All you need are wellies and probably a pair of gardening gloves. Strimmers welcome.

Penny Leck

The Malthouse Club presents a Community Open Meeting



# The Poate's go Polar **SOUTH GEORGIA**

illustrated talk by Derek Poate



**Cash Bar/ Coffee/Tea available**

**Doors open 7pm - for 7.30pm start**

**Thursday  
17th April  
Yew Tree Hall**

An 8,000 miles adventure to South Georgia, embraced by Chris and Derek Poate in February 2024

**No charge, however donations for Yew Tree Hall appreciated.**

for details please contact Nige Lee 07827 338834

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Loweswater with Buttermere PCC  
100 Challenge Club

## The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st March 2025

1st prize of £25	No 70	Dorothy Taylor
2nd prize of £10	No 59	Christine England
3rd prize of £5	No 18	Eleanor Ella

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

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ULLOCK VILLAGE HALL

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May

## Flowers and Bees in Ullock

**Plant sale** from 6.45pm including Helen's Herbs with her selection of herbs, perennial and annual flowers and vegetable plants

**Talk about Bees** by Derek Roberts our village beekeeper

Marion's **botanical cards** to buy

Followed by light sweet and savoury **refreshments** and a cuppa

Tickets £5

Margaret Trotter 01946 861458 Jacqui Wilson 07824 534708

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(1) MARTIAL ARTS

## Raymond Beard 1939 - 2025

Raymond started life in Sheffield. He left school when he was 14 and for a few months worked for his grandad in a small steelworks, but he hated working indoors. He joined an organisation called British Boys for British Farms, and after a few placements around Yorkshire he was sent to the Lake District. He arrived at Cockermouth Railway Station with the clothes he stood up in and a battered brown suitcase, which he kept all his life. He was picked up by Jim Chamley from Watergate Farm, Loweswater and so began his life in Cumbria. When winter came Jim couldn't afford to keep him and so luckily he got a job at Croft Farm, Buttermere working for Robbie Jackson. It was 1955 and he stayed there until 1965 when he married Elaine. After a couple of years of moving around to other farms the new owner of Croft Farm, Professor Coles, asked him to go back, and back he went. He then applied for his own farm with the National Trust – Cockely Beck in the Duddon Valley.

Life was a challenge, but he did very well. He only had a horse and cart to start with and the horse had no reverse gear, which made unloading loose hay into the barn very difficult. Eventually he purchased an old grey Fergie tractor – its number plate was JRM, so obviously Raymond called it Jeremy! In 1979 the National Trust purchased Rannerdale and came to Cockley Beck to ask him to take it on giving him two weeks in August to decide. He couldn't resist the lure of Buttermere again. In September, Elaine and the children moved to Rannerdale while Raymond worked his tenancy out until 26 March 1980. He lived like a hermit and loved it. He would take a large log in every night into the small sitting room, prop it up into the fireplace and set it alight, and then at bedtime take it outside. The next night do the same again. Bliss.

In early March prior to the relocation he planned to walk his herd of Highland cows over the fells to Buttermere. It was meant to take 3 days with 2 overnight stops. Alan was 12 and accompanied him; they had dropped fodder off en-route for overnight stops and carried a tent. The first day went well and they safely got to Wasdale where the Naylor's offered them a bed for the night. Next morning there was a blanket of thick snow, which had then frozen. It was impossible to get the cows over the fells and down Scarth Gap into Buttermere and so they had to abandon their walk. It was very disappointing. A wagon was arranged and Gowie Graves drove up the snowy road to collect them from Wasdale and transported them to Buttermere.

Raymond loved Rannerdale; he worked hard and did well. He purchased several pieces of land, including Hen Comb and land at Fouslyke, which looks right up Crummock Water to Rannerdale. He graduated from a push bike to a quad and would regularly be seen on the road with a red dog – Ned, sitting on his back seat. They went everywhere together and quite often finished up bogged down together.

His road signs became world famous once appearing in the National Geographic magazine. They were lovingly hand crafted and with his finger dipped in black paint literally hand painted 'Tek Care Lambs Ont Road' and latterly 'Leuk Oot Yows Aboot'.

Passionate about the Lake District and its heritage, his beloved dogs, his birds, and the wild flowers (he often carried a flower book in his coat pocket), and of course the Rannerdale bluebells.

He loved every bit of his life, almost to the end.

# Loweswater Ladies March 2025

Our March meeting saw members & guests enjoy an evening of line dancing. Many thanks must go to Sandra Staunton who managed to get us all moving in unison to the left & right & all facing the same direction, in time to the music. We managed to find our inner Oti Mabuse wiggle & even attempted some bhangra dancing. Whilst we may not win any prizes, there was much laughter & lots of concentration!

A very welcome cup of tea afterwards finished the evening on a high note.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday April 9th where we will have Seated Games with Val Bell. Hope to see you there. All ladies welcome.

Jenny Burr

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

Writing these notes on the spring equinox we have all been revelling in a week's near perfect weather and the extra daylight hours are so very welcome. Consequently there has been an eruption in spring flowers.

The last week in March we are expecting Archdeacon Stuart Fyfe's visitation. This occurs every 5 years and the purpose is to discuss how things are going in our churches; specifically, to inspect all registers, records held in the parish, the inventory log book, accounts, safeguarding policies and review progress in work on church fabric and offer support.

All Holy Week and Easter services are listed on the back of the Link. The Holy Week services follow the now established pattern. We shall be decorating the church on the morning of Saturday 19th in readiness for Loweswater's Easter Day Eucharist following which there will be an Easter egg hunt!

Services continue at Buttermere without the organ but with tuneful singing of hymns

nonetheless. All services now take place at 6pm.

Two reminders - our Lent lunch takes place at Loweswater Village Hall on 9th April. Please return electoral roll forms to Lorna at The Grange.

Advance notice of our APCM to be held in Loweswater church on 11th May all welcome to attend.

We offer a warm welcome to Janet and David Paterson and their family as they prepare to move into Gillerthwaite. How lovely to have a family join us.

Wishing all a joyful Easter

Eleanor Ella

From St. James's Register  
Funeral  
6th March Raymond Beard

# Loweswater Ladies Cream Teas

At Loweswater Village Hall

Sunday June 1st

2.00pm 'til 4.00pm

Cream Tea - £4.00

Cake to Take Away - £2.00/slice

Cash Only

A Melbreak Communities Event



## Crummock Water

The clerk to Buttermere Parish Council was informed on Thursday 13 March that the planning application for Crummock Water had been submitted to the Lake District National Park that day. He was told "It is likely to be a week or so until it's validated and on the LDNPA website and once this is done, we will look to update our United Utilities website to include a link to this". At the time of writing, it is not yet on the LDNPA or UU website.

Harriet Fear Davies, Chair, Buttermere Parish Council



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## DIARY DATES

### APR

- 3 Thu Melbreak Hedgehog Recovery Project. Introductory talk by Tanya St Pierre  
YTH 7.30pm-9.00pm All welcome
- 5 Sat Lorton School 10K Race 10am
- 7 Mon Melbreak Curlew Recovery Project - Planning evening for Curlew Survey  
Day. 7.00 YTH. All welcome
- 9 Wed St Bartholomew's Lent Lunch, LVH, 12 noon - see poster
- 9 Wed Loweswater Ladies, Seated games ,7.15pm, LVH
- 10 Thur Lorton Garden Club YTH at 7.30pm "Pests, Diseases in Forestry - Alex Baines
- 15 Tue 77 Club April Lunch Meeting plus Speaker 1pm - please reserve the date.
- 17 Thu Chat & Crafternoon. LVH 2-4pm. All welcome. Suggested donation £3.
- 17 Thu The Malthouse Club: Derek Poate talk trip to Antarctic YTH . Doors open  
7pm. See Poster
- 18 Fri Curlew Survey Day. Meet at YTH at 09.30am for short briefing.
- 19 Sat Easter Coffee Morning YTH. 10am- 12noon. Lots going on please see poster  
in Link
- 26 Sat Melbreak Hedgehog Recovery Project - Making feeding stations. LVH  
10.00am -12.00

### MAY

- 5 Mon VE Day Celebrations, LVH, 12.30 till 4pm (see poster)
- 7 Wed Lorton Parish Council meeting inc AGM 7.30pm YTH
- 8 Thu Chat & Crafternoon. LVH 2-4pm. All welcome. Suggested donation £3.
- 9 Fri Talk on Bees at 6.45pm, Ullock Village Hall
- 14 Wed Loweswater Ladies, Walk (6.15pm) and Buffet Supper (7.15pm) LVH
- 15 Thu Countess Ossalinsky and the Thirlmere Dam, L&DFLHS, YTH, 7.30 pm
- 21 Wed YTH Improvements Open Day, 4-7pm, YTTH
- 24 Sat Friends of YTH Ceilidh, YTH
- 27 Tue Buttermere Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm. Buttermere Old School.

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 - [www.melbreakcommunities.org.uk](http://www.melbreakcommunities.org.uk)

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

# The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

## Church Services April 2025

6 <sup>th</sup> April 10.30am	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Holy Communion	Loweswater
13 <sup>th</sup> April 10.30am 6pm	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Holy Communion Evensong	Lorton Buttermere
14 <sup>th</sup> April 7pm	<b>Monday of Holy Week</b> Candlelit Compline	Lorton
15 <sup>th</sup> April 7pm	<b>Tuesday of Holy Week</b> Candlelit Compline	Loweswater
16 <sup>th</sup> April 7pm	<b>Wednesday of Holy Week</b> Candlelit Compline	Buttermere
17 <sup>th</sup> April 7pm	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Holy Communion	Lorton
18 <sup>th</sup> April 12 noon - 3pm 2pm	<b>Good Friday</b> The Three Hours Devotional Service	Loweswater Loweswater
20 <sup>th</sup> April 10.30am	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Holy Communion	Loweswater
27 <sup>th</sup> April 10.30am 6p.m	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Holy Communion Evensong	Lorton Buttermere

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

Deadline for May is Friday 18th April - all articles, photos(especially for the front cover), funny stories, letters to [lortonvalelink@gmail.com](mailto:lortonvalelink@gmail.com) by this date. Thank you