

MAY 2025



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

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£15.00 PER ANNUM (POSTED)**

Letter from the Editor

Dear Link Readers

Here is another packed edition with a wide variety of articles and posters. Firstly I'd like to draw your attention to the fact that instead of a Vicar's Letter this month we have a piece written by our newly appointed Community Chaplain - Lois Sparling - describing her new role.

As the breeding season for Curlews gets underway you will see that they feature large this month - on the front cover, the centre-spread and an article on page 18. There is also lots of news about events supporting the Yew Tree Hall Improvement Project - the Ceilidh run by Friends of Yew Tree Hall, a Malthouse Club talk about the history of the brewery and the hall, details of an Open Day to peruse the various improvement options and another amusing 'story' from Nev Mills.

Social events include a coffee morning run by the gardening club, a film night, Local History Society talk, the 77 Club and Loweswater Ladies meetings, the community lunch, the Cockermonth Mechanics Band Anniversary Concert, the

VE Day celebrations and cream teas early next month. I would also like to highlight that, as per the Church Services back page, the Bluebell Service is definitely on the **4th May**, not the 11th as advertised in other publications

I'd also like to draw your attention to the request from the Melbreak Communities Steering Group for a Secretary and a poster designer, information about Christian Aid Week as well as the update about the Crummock Water project. Also included in The Link this month is a separate flyer - a survey about local transport. Do please complete this and send it back as described.

I apologise for using Editor's privilege to include quite a lot of information about the Calvert Trust Stables (a cause close to my heart). There is an update about the sponsorship of one of their ponies by the money raised at St Cuthbert's Harvest Supper as well as a plea for volunteers. Finally there is a poster advertising their Open Day - which I hope many of you will attend.

Rosemary Riley

The front-page photo by John Macfarlane is of a female curlew feeding in a field near Lorton in April. Females are larger and have a longer beak than the males.

The centre page colour montage was created by John Macfarlane, using images by John and Rosamund, Christian Proctor, Thalia Sparke and other members of the Curlew Recovery Group



(RE)LICENSED TO SERVE *our local communities*
Lois Sparling - Cumbria's first Community Chaplain
– introduces her new role



Back in the December/January issue of Lorton Link, I was invited to write the 'Vicar's Letter' for the first time, and I shared with you the huge joy I felt at being licensed as a Reader to the Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere last November. I gave my article the title 'Licensed to Serve'.

Since then, I have had another licensing, from Bishop Rob via our Archdeacon Stewart Fyfe, to a brand new role. This is entirely separate from my role as Licensed Lay Minister.

This licensing took place at the March meeting of the Grasmoor Mission Community (GMC) Leadership Group, and was again, for me, an occasion of great excitement. At last my church life and my work life – as a volunteer manager and community worker working with and for vulnerable and marginalised people (in homelessness, addiction and poverty) – have come together, and in my favourite part of the world, too!

The role of Community Chaplain is a brand new one, which the GMC – our group of 15 churches, across 7 parishes and 3 denominations in and around Cockermouth, from Clifton and Bridekirk down to Buttermere – is effectively piloting for Carlisle Diocese. It's about inspiring, equipping and enabling our churches to serve their local communities, and particularly the most vulnerable in those communities, to the best of their abilities – because that is what, as Christians, we are called to do.

Among the things we hope to be able to offer individuals in local communities and community groups are resources (volunteers, buildings, fundraising), connections (to one another, to funders, to statutory services) and pastoral support. Many churches in our area are doing some of these things already (with food shares, community lunches, initiatives like Linking Lives and the Comfort Café) – but I know that there is more that we can do, and more inclusively. We are already having discussions about new initiatives on community transport, mental health and digital inclusion (it may sound dull – but it's so important in our increasingly online world).

This work has to start with meeting and listening to the people we want to help – particularly those who are not heard through 'the usual channels', and those who have no connection with church. That's easier said than done, of course, and in my first couple of months, I've been meeting and learning from church people, local leaders and representatives – people who know their communities well and can give me introductions and point me in the right direction. It's going to take time to get this right – anything worth doing and long-lasting must.

I'm so grateful to all those in Lorton Vale who've already spent time with me, invited me to meetings and made suggestions – please don't stop. And if you haven't spoken to me yet, and would like to, I would love to hear from you.

You can contact me on 07415 693012 or community.chaplain.gmc@gmail.com but please be aware that I'm trying to stick to 21 hours a week, mainly between Tuesday and Thursday, so I may not reply immediately. If you're on Facebook, you can also read more about the people I'm meeting week by week on the GMC Facebook page.

Thank you!

Lois

LORTON NOTES

By the time this edition of The Link goes to the printer Lent and Holy Week will be over and we will have celebrated Easter. As usual the Candlelit Compline Services were moving and the service at Loweswater on Easter Sunday a celebration of the Resurrection.

Of course because Lent is now over - so is my Carbon Fast - so here is the final update. As I mentioned last month the 3rd challenge was to reduce the use of transport. Despite the new tyres I didn't get a chance to use the bike, but I did share the car as much as possible and also caught the bus to Lanthwaite Green - walked around Crummock to the Kirkstile and then walked all the way home again. One might argue that wasn't much of a hardship!

The 4th challenge was to eat lower down the food chain by reducing or cutting out meat and/or dairy from our diet, and eating more pulses, fruit and vegetables. We were also asked to commit to use up leftovers and minimise the amount of food we throw away. Apart from not being vegetarian I started this challenge from a strong base as I'm already dairy free and my lunches do tend to be meat free. On the downside I do love an avocado (despite what Alan Titchmarsh says) but I've recently started buying them from an initiative called Crowdfarming - which encourages small, independent farmers in Europe and ships everything by sea rather than air - take a look here - <https://www.crowdfarming.com/en>. Because we plan our menus in advance and think about what we already have in the fridge food-waste in the Riley household is low - and everything that can't be eaten goes on the compost heap.

Challenge number 5 was to learn more about the climate crisis, and to speak up about it. Increasing our knowledge about climate change and what we can do about it equips us for both conversation and action. Why? Understanding more about climate change gives us the confidence to talk to others about it, and the tools to take action on both a personal and public level. Loving our global neighbours means caring about climate justice; we can play our part in this in our homes, our churches, and beyond.

There are lots of fantastic resources to help us speak up for the climate - <https://www.climatestewards.org/resources/books/>:

It was also suggested we could:

Commit to pray daily this week for all of God's creation, including people harmed by environmental injustice - the Lent course helped here

Consider writing to your MP to share your concerns about the climate crisis, or joining a local climate and environment campaign group.

Help your church get started or achieve a higher level with EcoChurch - the GMC and the whole Carlisle Diocese is doing well here. The GMC now has 1 Gold, 5 Silver and 8 Bronze award churches. I'm also helping numerous churches across the diocese achieve their Eco Church awards.

The final challenge was to step away from devices and social media and instead go out with friends, read a book or play a board game. I can't say I was that successful moving away from devices - but I do read books, get out in the garden and go for walks. The lovely weather during April certainly helped with this challenge.

All in all I've found the Carbon Fast encouraging, inspiring and challenging - I'll be doing it again next year - perhaps we should do it as a church community.

Rosemary Riley

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Lorton Vale Gardening Club



Coffee Morning



£4

YEW TREE HALL
Saturday 17th May
10.30pm-12 noon



please park responsibly, thank you

and a Raffle



A Melbreak Communities Event



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Penny's Piece

In the last couple of months there have been some notable events happening in the heavens. Namely a lunar eclipse and a partial solar eclipse. Not that any of us here will have seen anything as the mere mention of something like this causes the immediate formation of an impenetrable cloud barrier. So, I saw neither. Well done if you did.

I have had my first visit to the Coop Live Arena in Manchester. It is massive. The event we attended was on National Poetry Day. This meant we were only seat in the end of the stadium. I think we were only in a quarter of it. I know it is new, but we did encounter a few issues. Firstly, the symbols on the toilets are remarkably similar if you are not paying attention. There were people getting it wrong sober so it will be carnage at a music gig with some booze on board. Then finding our seat was not as easy as it should be. We found our section and row ok but then it got tricky. At the good old AO Arena (formally MEN) they have the row number on the step than some indication as to which numbers are on which side of the step and an arrow. Not so at the COOP. Then the seat numbers are just engraved into the metal and are the same colour, so you have to get down to eye level to see the number. There isn't a lot of room but on the plus side they have cup holders and the glasses they give at the bar do fit them! In our usual style we were up on God's Doorstep with our own postcode and clearance from air-traffic control. The woman that came and sat next to me asked when they were going to drop the oxygen masks. I think I would have preferred the security of a parachute. I also needed binoculars. At music and comedy gigs they usually have screens so those at the back or on the roof can see something. They were sadly missing from the poetry night. I could tell by his general demeanour and way of talking, his hat and shades and way of walking that it was Dr John Cooper Clarke, so all was ok. Unfortunately, we also attracted the venue's weirdo who was sat behind us and kept talking. He also tried to heckle but that was pointless when he was quarter of a mile away from Dr John. In usual English style we just sighed loudly and others turned to glare at him and tut loudly. I heard someone say 'shut up' but that seemed to be more to themselves than the bloke. At the end we got out of the car park ok but

I'm not sure I want to be there when the stadium is full. Also, it is right next to the Etihad so if City are playing you won't be able to park for the gig. Not helpful.

I took advantage of the lovely weather in late March early April to help get the barn doors and windows and the storm side of the house painted and water-tight before the next onslaught. A couple of the windows have been around a long time, and one brought back a few memories. At one point lots of farms seemed to have their buildings' doors and windows and the occasional gate painted in battleship grey. I have never quite understood if this was because it was cheap in general or it was cheap because the navy were getting rid of a lot of paint. Whatever is in that paint, it is good stuff because it is still there. Even if other layers of paint have come off, it stops at the battleship grey. That probably means it is full of ingredients you aren't allowed to put in paint anymore, like lead.

Recently I have been joining in some online, yoga for sleep. It is fairly simple and does the same exercises each night. But what it also keeps telling me to do is breathe regularly and occasionally normally. I've been around a few years now and think I might have just about mastered the breathing thing, but cheers for the reminder. It does make me sleep well, but it also makes me swear more and make a wide variety of those exclamations of effort: aah, urgh, oof, ooh, etc. I am definitely getting worse for that.

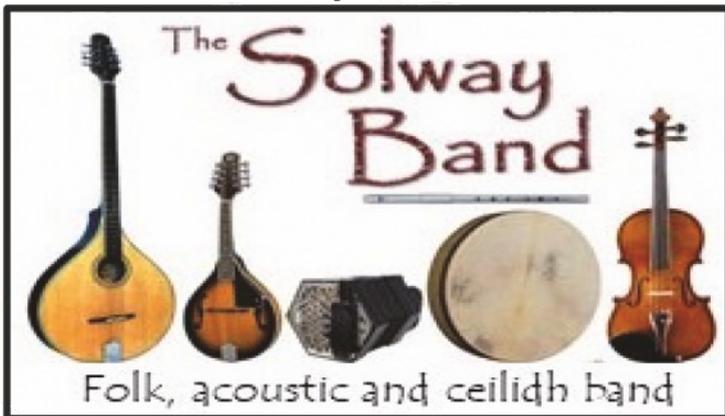
If the lovely weather returns (I am blaming whoever it was who openly announced they would have a barbeque. Never announce, only vaguely infer), remember to keep hold of Pringles lids. They fit nicely over the top of pint glasses and therefore any other and help prevent you finding some wildlife doing the backstroke or drowning in your drink. You don't want to waste your booze.

Penny

ceilidh

Saturday 24th May
Yew Tree Hall

Please join us for a lively community
ceilidh, everyone's welcome



Dancing 7.30-10.30pm

BAR : LIGHT BITES

TICKETS £15

Clare Round clareroundlorton@gmail.com
Peter Deeks peter.deeks@gmail.com

Lee at Village Shop

Doors open 7.00pm



YEW TREE HALL
1909

Friends of Yew Tree Hall Event
Raising funds for hall redevelopment

Loweswater with Buttermere PCC
100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st April 2025

1st prize of £25	No 75	Betty Coulthard
2nd prize of £10	No 15	Judy Hudson
3rd prize of £5	No 91	Hayden Thompson

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.



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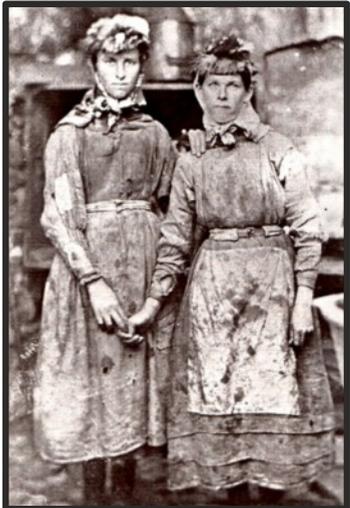


The Great Malt Mayhem of '56

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

In the sweltering summer of 1856, Yew Tree Hall, then a bustling malting's owned by the Jennings family, was a hive of activity. But not the orderly kind. Oh, no. This was Lorton, after all. John Jennings was convinced he could revolutionise the malting process. His grand scheme? "Aromatic Aeration," a system involving giant bellows, a chorus of harmonising pigeons (don't ask), pipes from the church's organ, and bits of Boogie Butterfield's rhythmic cow bells.

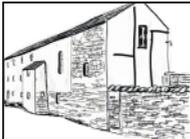
The chief engineer, Beatrice "Gears" Bottomley, tasked with keeping the bellows operational. Her method involved a complex system of levers, pulleys, and a particularly stubborn donkey named "Bartholomew". While the hall's malt master, the ever-enthusiastic and loveable Cuthbert "Cuppa" Kettlethwaite, whose passion was "malt meditation," often sat cross-legged amidst the barley, attempting to commune with its essence. This often resulted in Cuppa falling asleep and waking up covered in sprouting grains.



Gears and her deputy, emerged relatively unscathed from the Great Mayhem of 1856!



Cuppa



Bartholomew

One fateful Tuesday in 1856, at around 10.46am, the "Aromatic Aeration" system was set in motion. Gears, after a brief argument with Bartholomew the donkey, firmly cranked the levers. The harmonising pigeons, startled by the sudden gust of air, took flight, creating a whirlwind of feathers and malt dust. Cuppa, awakened from his malt meditation, mistook the swirling barley for a celestial vision and began chanting loudly. The pipes began to vibrate, emitting a low, mournful drone. The hall began to shake, and the barley began to dance, creating a chaotic ballet of grains. Cuppa, convinced he had witnessed the barley gods' wrath, began performing an impromptu interpretive dance. Meanwhile John Jennings, covered in barley and donkey drool, was ecstatic and declared the experiment a resounding success.

Despite the barley-coated chaos and pigeon-feathered pandemonium of that fateful Tuesday, Yew Tree Hall, much like the resilient spirit of Lorton itself, emerged unscathed. The Jennings family, though perhaps a little more cautious - abandoning some of their more experimental endeavours, continued to use the hall. Its sturdy walls echoing with the sounds of malting, laughter, the occasional donkey bray and the gurgling emanating from the sampling of the latest Jennings Brew. (Honest, it's all true!)

This incident, far from deterring the villagers, became a cherished local legend, a testament to the hall's ability to withstand even the most outlandish of schemes. It proved that Yew Tree Hall was more than just a building; it was a place where the community's eccentricities, passions, and unwavering spirit came together. And it was precisely this blend of chaos and togetherness that, over time, cemented the hall's place as the vital, beating heart of Lorton. A place where memories were made, stories were born, and the occasional malt-infused mishap was taken in good stride with a knowing smile.

Uncover the fascinating story of
the enduring legacy of the Jennings
Family and the role of Yew Tree Hall



Malthouse Club presents

An illustrated talk by Phil Tattershall

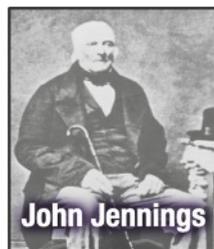
(a tour guide at Jennings Brewery for over 15 years)



*From Barley to Beer
to Community Hub*

There will also be an opportunity to
see the Vaults in the hall's basement

Tea/coffee will be available



**Yew Tree Hall Thursday 29th May
Doors open 7pm Starts at 7.30pm**

No charge, however donations for Yew Tree Hall appreciated.

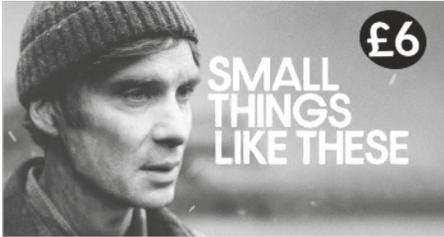
for details please contact Nige Lee 07827 338834

LORTON FILM CLUB

at Yew Tree Hall

Thursday 22nd May

Bar opens 7pm - Film starts 7.30pm



Starring Cillian Murphy
and Emily Watson.

Adapted from the novella
by Claire Keegan



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The Melbreak Communities

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

Would you like
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Community Projects



we currently need help with two roles

Steering Group Secretary

(meeting minutes, events diary
and publicity)

Poster Designer

(release your creativity)

For more information and a chat please contact Glenis
(Chair of The Melbreak Communities)

glenis@borderhydro.co.uk

CALVERT TRUST STABLES

Last October St Cuthbert's held their annual Harvest Supper and one of the charities we raised money for was the Calvert Trust Stables. I'm pleased to report that the money we raised was sufficient to sponsor one of the ponies for a year - Frankie. He is a cheeky little chap as you can see from this photo:



As part of the sponsorship package we are given the opportunity to visit the Stables and meet Frankie - if you are interested in doing that then please email the Link at the usual address.

I volunteer at the Stables and as well as offering riding for the disabled the establishment is also open to the general public - both locals and holiday-makers and offers riding opportunities for the whole of the local community. You can have a riding lesson, go for a hack, or have a well-being session. There is also a Pony Club for the youngsters as well as more general Kid's Clubs. If you'd like to know more then come along to our Open Day on May 26th - see the poster on the following page.

The paid staff at the stables is small so we rely on a wonderful band of volunteers - if you think that might be of interest then take a look at the poster also overleaf

Calvert Stables

Old Windebrowe, Keswick, CA12 4NT

OPEN DAY

Monday 26th May 11am-3pm

FREE ENTRY

Come and visit our lovely horses and learn about what we offer at the stables



There will be:

- Meet the ponies session
- Demonstrations on the yard & indoor arena
- Trap driving demo
- Buy a T-shirt with your favourite pony on
- Quizzes
- Tombola
- Fudge & Frankie's book will be on sale with the author signing copies
- Find out how you can become a volunteer
- Free Refreshments



For more info please contact Lou at
stables@calvertlakes.org.uk



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COULD YOU VOLUNTEER AT THE CALVERT TRUST STABLES?

The Lake District Calvert Trust Stables is a Riding Centre on the outskirts of Keswick at Old Windebrowe, Keswick. CA12 4NY. We are part of the Lake District Calvert Trust which is a residential centre offering challenging outdoor activity courses for people with disabilities.



Here at the Stables we have a very small team so to offer either riding or trap driving sessions to those with a disability **we need 75 local volunteers each week** - that is up to 6 per session!



There are all sorts of way you can help by volunteering - you can lead ponies, support riders, help with trap driving, help groom & prepare ponies or help with events. But volunteering doesn't have to involve the ponies - you could do some gardening for us, or paint the stables or carry out some basic maintenance.

If you do want to work with the ponies you don't necessarily need experience as we will provide full training, but an interest in horses and working with people with disabilities are essential.



For more information contact our Stables Team on 017687 72250 or email to stables@calvertlakes.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 270923



THE CURLEWS RETURN!

Isn't it wonderful to hear the bubbling call of the curlews once more and celebrate their return to the Cocker Valley for their spring breeding season!

There was a tangible atmosphere of excitement when the first curlews were heard around the valley on 8th March and local volunteers and visitors have since been reporting sightings and sounds via sightingsatmelbreakcurlews@gmail.com and on the Canvis mapping app <https://canvis.app/cocker-valley-curlews>

The Eurasian curlew is Britain's largest wading bird, returning to valleys, farmland and moorland to breed. They are ground nesting, secretive birds and nests are difficult to locate. Curlews lay four eggs in April/ May. Hatching after four weeks, chicks fledge 32-38 days later. Due to low breeding success, largely caused by loss of habitat, loss of biodiversity and an increase in predators, the curlew is in rapid decline and with a 60% loss of population since the 1980's, it is listed as vulnerable to extinction.

But, while the curlews were overwintering around coastal areas and estuaries, where food is plentiful, the Melbreak Curlew Recovery Group has been working hard to be in the best position to save even more nests this year. With further funding from FiPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes), the group purchased extra equipment to enhance and expand its work to increase our local curlew population.

Members attended a Northern Skill Sharing Day in Nidderdale with other curlew conservation groups from across the north of England and Wales. This provided a valuable opportunity to share expertise and best practice and link with other conservation groups, farmers and landowners, as well as ecologists and entomologists, to help boost the impact of curlew conservation in the north.

A volunteer evening, in Lorton, attracted over forty new members to the project. Training was given to best equip volunteers for the planned Survey Days in April, to locate the returning curlews and, later, nest sites. Some volunteers prefer to work from home, collecting data and monitoring nests remotely. Others liaise with the farmers and landowners on whose land the curlews nest and whose cooperation is invaluable.

The Fencing Team has been practising and training new volunteers, so that temporary solar powered electric fences and other equipment can be erected, installed and maintained quickly and efficiently, with least disturbance to nesting birds, which is so important. One member is training to ring birds with Thalia Sparke, of the British Trust for Ornithology, who rings the hatched curlew chicks.

With everything ready, let's hope the weather is kind, many more nests are located and protected and chicks successfully hatched, ringed and fledged. Look out for an update in October!

Karen Batrick

If you would like to be involved with the project, please contact David Gardiner dauid.gardiner@btinternet.com

The Melbreak Curlew Recovery Project has been funded by FiPL and is part of the Melbreak Wildlife Group, an initiative of the Melbreak Communities.





Lorton & Derwent Fells Local
History Society

***Countess Ossalinsky and the
Thirlmere Dam***

Thurs 15 May, 7.30 pm at YTH



In this talk, the author Ian Hall will tell the life story of Mary Jackson of Armboth, Thirlmere, once described in the local newspapers as the richest heiress-at-law in the North of England. She was married off at a young age to Count Ossalinsky, ostensibly a Polish nobleman, who charmed and then scandalised Keswick society. Forty years later, Countess Ossalinsky found herself under the spotlight again when her fight with the

Manchester Waterworks Committee over the Thirlmere Dam fascinated the whole country. The talk will also deal with the wider opposition to the dam, the first such nationally organised campaign.

Ian Hall is the author of *Countess Ossalinsky and the Thirlmere Dam*; *Thirlmere before and after the Dam* and other books on local history.

Everyone is welcome, visitors pay £4 cash incl. refreshments, or they can join our society and pay the annual subscription of £12 p.a. (or £20 for two people at the same address). This would include the remaining talks this year and a subscription to the *Wanderer*.

Our talk on 12 June following a short AGM at 7.30 pm, will be given by Professor Angus Winchester who will speak on the history of place-names in the Lake District. His talk will look at the names of villages, farms, fields, becks and tarns, and explore what they signify.

Lena Stanley-Clamp



The Club held a successful lunchtime April meeting at the Hunday Manor Hotel, now under new management and undergoing significant renovations and improvements. Our after lunch speaker was Stan Leigh, who with his wife Frances organises the Cockermonth Striders Walking Group. He gave us an illustrated talk on Carlisle, its old buildings, railways and its heritage, a talk which included the Blank Wall Assassins Group who have painted wonderful murals all around the city. Many thanks Stan and Frances for the talk and to the hotel for a lovely meal. Stan's photos can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/100048687@N05/albums/>

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th May, 7.30pm, when Chris Mills of Lorton will bring along the Workington Male Voice Choir for an evening of musical entertainment in Loweswater Village Hall. Tea and coffee will be served as usual, BYO if you prefer an alternative. Raffle gifts would be appreciated on the night.

The last meeting of the season will be our Summer Trip, provisionally planned for 10th June, so keep the date free. The Club will be subsidising the bus as we venture a little further than normal for a full day out. The planned trip is to Coniston for a boat trip on the steam launch Gondola and then lunch and an afternoon at Ruskin's Brantwood House. Non members welcome as ever.

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www.lakelandslate.com info@lakelandslate.com**



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - May11th to 17th 2025.

As you know Christian Aid was founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees after the Second World War. Back then, we worked with partner churches to alleviate suffering by raising the equivalent of £3 million plus in today's money.

And now Christian Aid work with local partners and communities on the ground to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

The work includes helping people to:

- become more resilient to shocks and disasters such as drought, climate change and hurricanes
- make the most of opportunities, such as being able to sell their produce for a fair price.

This year, Christian Aid Week is focusing on how the climate crisis is ravaging the farms of Indigenous communities in Guatemala. Can you help fund vital agricultural training, so someone like Amelia can protect her children from hunger like so many are faced by many people around the world. Christian Aid partners are supporting farmers and their families with a resilient crop that can help defend against drought and other dangers of climate change. This Christian Aid Week, please help fund essential agricultural training and tools, so farmers like Amelia in Guatemala, can feed their family. We supported, equipped and enabled, partner churches in mainland Europe to provide what people needed. Nearly 80 years later, we are doing the same.

We believe in life before death". Let's act again now, to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home. If you pay income tax, may I ask you to consider making your donation gift aided to enable the charity to reclaim; for every £10 you give, they can claim an extra £2.50, making your gifts worth more to the communities Christian Aid supports. As some of our collectors have retired in our Valley and Mockerkin, if you are able to help in collecting it would be much appreciated.

THANK YOU - Jan Collins-Webb - Lorton Vale Organiser

YEW TREE HALL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – OPTIONS

OPEN DAY 21st MAY, 4PM – 7PM

Work on drawing up feasible and achievable options for improving the Hall is progressing well and we'll be ready to present them to everyone at an open meeting at Yew Tree Hall, Wednesday 21st May, between 4pm and 7pm.

Members of the Development Group and architect Cal Williamson will be on hand to explain the features of each option so you'll have plenty of opportunity to examine each proposal in detail. We're aiming to take feedback on the day.

There are four scheme proposals and each will show a different way in which the Hall can be improved to meet the requirements of the whole community. The design elements in each scheme will be costed and are interchangeable to an extent, so ideally we'll need feedback on which overall scheme you prefer and also on what particular features of a scheme you like or don't like. If anyone is unable to attend and wishes to see the proposals, please contact Cathy Lee at ythlorton@gmail.com, and we'll make sure that you'll still have the opportunity to be involved.

Next Stages

Once the community feedback has been considered, a preferred development option will be produced, costed and presented to the Yew Tree Hall Trustees. It will form the basis of a planning application to be submitted, hopefully later in June.

The preferred option, together with its estimated cost, will be displayed in the supper room at Yew Tree Hall and will be updated to show how the fund raising is progressing against a target amount. Fortunately we have already received a number of significant donations in this respect and we are extremely grateful to have a bit of a head start!

Friends of Yew Tree Hall are looking at opportunities for fundraising throughout the year, which will include various community events.

A major fundraising event is planned for Saturday 21st June – a GRAND AUCTION (many original items from YTH). Further details on this event will be available soon. In the meantime, if you have anything you would like to contribute to the auction catalogue please contact Nigel Lee at nigel.w.lee@gmail.com



YEW TREE HALL DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS

This is Your Opportunity to Express
Your Views on the
Future Development of the Hall



Come and let us
know your thoughts!

VOICE

YOUR

MATTERS!

DROP-IN-EVENT

Wednesday 21st May, between 4-7.00pm

YEW TREE HALL GRAND FUNDRAISING AUCTION

Many exciting and unique items on offer
(Auction Catalogue to follow)

SAVE
THE
DATE

Grand Auction
Wine, Cheese/Ham
and Surprises

More
information
coming
soon!

Saturday 21st June at 7.30

1825-2025

COCKERMOUTH MECHANICS BAND

200th anniversary concert

Saturday 17th May 2025

7.30pm

Christchurch, Cockermouth

Let's celebrate together!

Tickets available at
Billy Bowman's shop
or: 07443 229071
£10 adults; Free U16s

1825-2025



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Lorton Vale Gardening Club



Regular meetings kept our gardening interests alive over the winter months, with a diversity of talks ranging from the importance of wildflower wildlife corridors and the decline of the rare small blue butterfly, to how Biochar, produced by burning wood at extremely high temperatures, helps to improve soil health. We learnt about water in gardens, from grand design water features in historic stately house gardens, to creating and planting garden ponds. An expert on dahlias gave a colourfully illustrated talk and tips on growing, and members were able to buy a wide variety of dahlia tubers.

The winter social was a great success, as ever, with a delicious buffet, wine and an entertaining musical quiz, as well as a more challenging horticultural one.

As spring approached, we were shown how and what to prune at this time of year and what jobs to do in the garden, along with advice on which hardy plants are best to grow in Cumbria!

The final talk was about pests and diseases in forestry and sadly, most of these are brought in on imported wood. It is heartening to know that even commercial forestry is moving, albeit slowly, towards more biodiversity, sustainability and future proofing.

This year's Summer Programme includes some intriguing gardens which have only recently opened to the public and we look forward to enjoyable and hopefully, fair-weather visits in the coming months!

The eagerly anticipated Summer Social is arranged for midsummer and there are some practical and creative workshops planned for members in May.

Our annual Coffee Morning is on 17th May at YTH. There will be a seed swop, with plants and seedlings on sale, so do bring along any spares you have. There will also be a raffle for a fabulous basket of garden goodies. We look forward to seeing you!

Karen

The annual club subscription is £12 and new members are always welcome. For further information please contact Fiona Lambrick fionalambrick@btinternet.com tel. 01900 85710

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Don't Forget the VE Day Lunch

Followed by a 1940s Sing-Along with

Cath and Emma

Bank Holiday Monday May 5th - 12.30 prompt to 4.00

Licensed Bar

To book your place and confirm main course or dessert, please contact
Lyn Furniss on 01900 85147 or alloyslyn@btinternet.com

loweswatervillagehall.co.uk



Open Farm Sunday

Visit a farm & discover the world of farming!

Cumbria Farmers

Low Netherscales Farm, Embleton, CA13 9YP
(Width.Conductor.Chops)

Join us for the first time or come and see what has changed. There will be tours and activities around the farm, meet the animals, and expert advice on composting and market gardening.

Visit our Farm Shop, food and drinks available!



Sunday 8th June

11am - 4pm

Scan QR code for booking or visit
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ERYB>

info@cumbriafarmers.co.uk

www.farmsunday.org

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Loveswater Village Hall

The Mother's Day Afternoon Teas in the village hall has become a well-supported occasion in our calendar, and on March 30th families gathered to celebrate the very special day for several generations of Mothers, with a classic afternoon tea. Thank you to everyone who supported the event. In line with the village hall committee's ongoing commitment to enhance the facilities available to hirers, we are pleased to report that the refurbishment and redecoration of the gents toilet has been completed, and that baby changing facilities are now provided in the ladies toilet. It's only a few days away, but places are still available for the 80th Anniversary VE Day Lunch, followed by Songs of the 1940's from Cath & Emma, on Bank Holiday Monday, May 5th. For full details of how to book this event, please visit our website, 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.

Loveswater Ladies Cream Teas

At Loveswater Village Hall

Sunday June 1st

2.00pm 'til 4.00pm

Cream Tea - £4.00

Cake to Take Away - £2.00/slice

Cash Only



Loweswater Ladies April 2025



Our April meeting was led by Val who always provides us with an entertaining and active evening. She has had us doing country dancing, ballroom dancing and keep fit sessions in the past. This time it was seated games. First, we played a version of curling which used “stones” which ran on ball bearings then we played Bocce. The latter a variation on French Boule played with soft balls. The skill level varied but the room was filled with laughter as everyone threw themselves into the endeavour. As the final match approached there was some friendly rivalry emerging between the teams led by our President and our Treasurer. Who would be the stars of the night? After a nail-biting final game, Lyn and her teammate Harriet reigned supreme. Well done to everyone, especially Val, for making this a really fun evening.

Our next meeting will be our annual Walk and Buffet Supper. Meet on **Wednesday 14th May, 6.15pm for walkers, 7 for 7.15pm for supper at LVH**. Everyone is asked to bring either a sweet or savoury dish for the buffet. Walkers can drop their food items off in the kitchen at the village hall before setting off.

On Sunday 1st June we are hosting Cream Teas in the village hall, 2-4pm. If you are unable to commit to baking or helping on the day, feel free to come along for tea and cake with your friends and family.

Finally, a date for your diary – our summer outing will be on Tuesday 8th July to Levens Hall, nr Kendal. More details at our next meeting.

Doreen Robertson

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NOTES FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S AND ST JAMES'S

This year I am in the unusual position of writing May's notes before we have celebrated Easter. We experienced glorious sunny weather for the latter part of March and early April which must have been a bonus for lambing. Now some much needed rain has arrived.

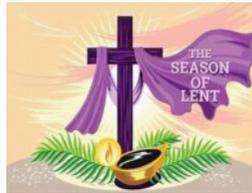
The VE celebrations this month necessitate the bluebell service being held rather earlier on 4th May. As usual there is plenty of parking available in the field. Perhaps the bluebells will flower early following the sunny weather?

This year the service is dedicated to Raymond Beard who died in February and dearly loved his bluebells and kindly let us use his field.

Our APCM will be held on 11th May at 12 in St.Bartholomew's church. All are very welcome to attend.

It is good to see large numbers of visitors arriving who will help support local businesses despite the frustrations of irregular parking! I hope all are enjoying the Easter break.

Eleanor Ella



Thank you to everyone who came to our lunch and enjoyed delicious homemade soups and cheeses, particular thanks to the Volunteers who helped to make it a success. The numbers were down, due partly I think to beautiful weather, people were out on the fells ! We made £183.60. Jan Churchwarden



COMMUNITY LUNCH

Served promptly at 1.15pm.

MONDAY MAY 12TH

Held at Lorton School
Everyone is welcomed

£7.00

**Booking essential
call Helen on 07790 459064**

Crummock Water

The application to dismantle the weir and associated works is now live on the Lake District National Park Authority website. Notices posted by the weir give 30 days for comments from the date of the notice, which was 1 April, so the deadline is unfortunately around the time you will be reading this. Buttermere and Loweswater Parish Council are both official consultees, and have requested and been given an extension to this deadline. They have no influence over the planning authority's general consultation period. It seems the authority is working to the timescales set out in statute for making a planning decision and intends to consider the application at its planning committee in early July with a decision soon after that.

We noticed on 16 April (just as we were going to press) that the Environment Agency has objected to the application as it is not satisfied at present that the development would not increase flood risk elsewhere. We have asked United Utilities about this, and they say that they are looking to submit an updated Flood Risk Assessment in early May, which the Environment Agency would then comment on, and they are not looking to withdraw the planning application in the meantime.

We have also queried with UU the timeframe for works starting as this is set out inconsistently in the application. It's worth noting that planning permission is not the only approval United Utilities need to obtain - there are other aspects which still need to be consulted on and approved, including in relation to rights of way. They have said: " If we got approval (Planning, Landowner, Highways, Public Right of Way Diversion) in a timely manner, we would expect that we would look to do the enabling works as identified, towards the end of this year / early 2026 which would allow us to keep to the programme as set out in the Method Statement. In the event of any delays, the worst case would be the potential for the programme to slip 12 months. We will of course keep the website updated as the project progresses".

Harriet Fear Davies

Chair, Buttermere Parish Council (with the agreement of Loweswater, Lorton and Blindbothel Parish Councils)

DIARY DATES

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
- 12 Mon Community Lunch, Lorton School at 1.15pm See Poster
- 13 Tue 77 Club Musical Evening - Workington Male Voice Choir - 7.30pm LVH.
- 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
- 17 Sat Coffee Morning at YTH 10.30-12.00noon. Garden Club, Plant & Seed stall
- 17 Sat Cockermouth Mechanics Band 200th Anniversary Concert, 7.30pm, Christchurch, Cockermouth
- 21 Wed Drop in event 4pm-7pm at YTH improvement project - redevelopment options - see poster and article
- 22 Thu Lorton Film Club: "Small Things Like These". YTH at 7.30pm. Bar 7.0pm. See Poster
- 24 Sat Ceilidh at YTH(Friends of the YTH event)7- 11pm. Live Music 'The Solway Band'. SEE POSTER
- 27 Tue Buttermere Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm. Buttermere Old School.
- 29 Thu Malthouse Club presents Talk by Phil Tattershall "The legacy of the Jenning Family and the role of YTH" 7.00pm at the YTH - also an opportunity to view the vaults. SEE POSTER

JUNE

- 1 Sun Cream Teas, 2-4pm LVH, Loweswater Ladies
- 5 Thu Melbreak Wildlife Group. Northern Red Squirrel Project talk by Josh Adams from Cumbria Wildlife Trust. YTH 7.30. Entry £3. All welcome
- 10 Tue 77 Club Summer Trip. The popular full day out. Meet at Mitchells Auctions at 9am
- 11 Wed Loweswater Ladies, Cotton in Cummersdale, 7.15pm LVH
- 12 Thu Names in the Landscape (history of place names in the Lake District) and AGM, L&DFLHS, YTH, 7.30 pm
- 19 Thu Chat & Crafternoon. LVH 2-4pm. All welcome. Suggested donation £3.
- 19 Thu Melbreak Hedgehog Recovery Project. Hedgehog homes and highways. YTH 7.30pm-9.00pm Entry £3. All welcome
- 21 Sat Grand Auction fundraising event for YTH improvements. YTH 7.30pm

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

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

The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

Church Services May 2025

4 th May	3rd Sunday of Easter	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater
3pm	Bluebell Service	Rannerdale Knott
11 th May	4th Sunday of Easter	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton
18 th May	5th Sunday of Easter	
10.30am	Matins	Loweswater
6pm	Holy Communion	Buttermere
25 th May	6th Sunday of Easter	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton

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

Rev. 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 Rev. Jane Charman, Mission Community Leader on 01900 828028



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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 June is Friday 23rd May - all articles, photos(especially for the front cover), funny stories, letters to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date. Thank you