

**JUNE 2025**



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

**£7.00 PER ANNUM (LOCAL)  
£15.00 PER ANNUM (POSTED)**

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Link Readers

As I write this May is coming to a close and with it, the end to some beautiful weather. I have thoroughly enjoyed the sunshine but am rather relieved that the relentless watering of the garden is coming to an end. Most plants seem to have survived - including the Sweet Peas - and for some reason the potatoes are thriving. I'm trying some Chillis and Aubergines this year so I hope they make the most of the warm weather too.

We have two Nature Notes this month as one slipped through the net last month, as well as a talk about Red Squirrels and another informative talk about Hedgehogs.

We have updates about both the Yew Tree Hall Improvement Project and the Crummock Water development plans.

There is information about the 77 Club Summer Outing as well as a posters for Cockermouth Live and the Buttermere Camino, Open Farm Sunday and a Coffee morning.

You will see that there is a splendid centre-spread of the VE Day celebrations at LVH. Roger Hiley has asked me to say that after the successful weekend celebrations he has posted a few extra photos of the day which can be found at [www.loweswatercam.co.uk](http://www.loweswatercam.co.uk) (VE Day plus 80' link)

Rosemary Riley



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The front-page photo by John Macfarlane is of Fell ponies on Sandy Yat beach, Crummock



Nearly two years after the retirement of Bishop James Newcome, it has been announced that the Bishop of Penrith and Acting Bishop of Carlisle (the Rt Rev Rob Saner-Haigh), has been nominated as the 68<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Carlisle. I'm sure there will be many people across Cumbria who shared the tremendous sense of joy that I felt on hearing of his appointment as our new Diocesan bishop, and we look forward to hearing confirmation of the date of his Service of installation.

In his recent letter to the Diocese, Bishop Rob, speaking of our partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ, wrote, "All of this, of course, must be rooted in, shaped and sustained by prayer. We are (or at least I am!), too quick to turn to our own resources and activity to make things happen. Each day, we need to return to the Lord and see what only He can do."

Our need to be rooted in prayer rather than relying on ourselves and our own resources and activity is an important reminder, at any time, for those trying to live the Christian life. But it's particularly apt as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>). On this day, Christians remember how, following Jesus's Ascension, God sent the Holy Spirit upon the

disciples and empowered them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations. On that day, a group of timid people were transformed into bold witnesses for Christ. Importantly, in the days in between Jesus ascending to heaven and the day of Pentecost, the disciples didn't try to make things happen in their own strength, by preaching or attempting to heal people, for example. Instead, we're told in the Bible that they prayed together and waited for the promised Spirit to come. And throughout the days of the fledgling church, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, we hear how they constantly returned to prayer as the foundation for their ministry. They knew they needed God's power, guidance and wisdom in all their work for him.

As Christians, it is very tempting to rely on our own gifts, experience, wisdom etc. But good and important as these are, if we want to see God at work, then we need to root ourselves in prayer, seeking his wisdom and learning to rely on his infinitely greater resources and power. "Each day, we need to return to the Lord and see what only He can do."

Pentecost blessings!

Andrea Ward

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

## LORTON NOTES

Some of you may remember that as part of the National Great Big Green Week last year we ran a Big Green Week culminating in a Big Green Fair. We are rather resting on our laurels this year, but there is still a Big Green Week running from Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th June and at St Cuthbert's we will be holding a Big Green Sunday Service on the 8th which I hope many of you will attend.

This month also sees us celebrating Pentecost - the Church of England website tells us that the Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end. It is a major feast of the Church's year when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations. Jesus had promised his followers that, although they would not see him after his Ascension, they would receive the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire them.

The Acts of the Apostles describes how the crowds gathered in Jerusalem – representing many nationalities and speaking many languages – were able to hear the disciples preaching in their own language.

'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.'

Acts 2, Chapter 2

I'd like to draw your attention to the Buttermere Camino on the 26th July. This pilgrimage begins at St Cuthberts and finishes at St James' Buttermere having taken in St Bartholomew's en-route. It is always an inspiring day and attendance numbers are growing every year - do come along.

We want to start work on the Lorton Vale calendar and Christmas cards early this year so do please remember to send in your photos. We are especially looking for wintery scenes for the Christmas cards. Please note that sales of the calendar will be by pre-order only so that we are not left with any. A preview of the calendar will be available at our Coffee Morning in November - when the Christmas cards will be for sale.

Rosemary Riley

From the Register:

Marriage

3rd May - Rachel Smith & Douglas Willet

P.S. - some of you may remember Ray Leigh who lived at Lorton for a good while in 1970-90s - who has sadly passed away. An obituary was published on The Telegraph's website on 25th April

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# Melbreak Wildlife Group



Presents

## How to Help Red Squirrels

A talk by Josh Adams, Cumbria Wildlife Trust's Red Squirrel Ranger

"Join me, Josh, Cumbria Wildlife Trust's Red Squirrel Ranger for a short presentation on what's being done in the South Lakes for our resident red squirrel populations. Here we will discuss what a day in the life of a ranger entails, what's it like to be a red squirrel in Cumbria in 2025 and how you can help our reds going forward in your area. "



## Thursday 5 June

Yew Tree Hall, Lorton, CA13 9UL

7.30pm-9pm

£3.00 entry, teas/coffees on arrival.



# All welcome!



Melbreak Wildlife Group is part of 'The Melbreak Communities' initiative. [www.melbreakcommunities.wordpress](http://www.melbreakcommunities.wordpress)

# *Penny's Piece*

I hope you have been enjoying the continued warm weather. At time of writing, we are in desperate need of some rain as some things are burning up. At school we are trying to grow some simple salad ingredients in science which we will then use in our food unit of design technology when they make their own salads. However, it appears I have been privy to some information other staff had no clue about- the location of an outside tap near to the raised beds. People have been lugging buckets of water 50m from the main building when there is a tap 5m away on the back of the cabin. There is also a hosepipe, and the tap is the kind that the pipe fits (unlike the one outside the boiler house!). One note on the staff briefing and I revolutionised everyone's gardening experience.

The hot weather has also meant that the visitor numbers remain high and crazy parking is reaching its peak. My condolences to everyone in the Buttermere valley where parking is often more of a suggestion/ road- block. Some people seem to operate a stop and get out technique. They have in no way pulled over, are probably at a slight angle making it worse and if you were behind them at the time of the stop decision, you would have had no indication this was about to occur! And that's without those parking in passing places or in pinch points meaning the bus gets stuck so everyone else is too. At our end of Loweswater, there are people parking further and further down the verge as they assume the layby is full but don't drive by to check. I won't mention the rubbish- thanks Fred Whitton cyclists! On the plus side, lots of super weather for dry washing and no need to put lights on until late- in the hope the leccy bill is more understandable.

There also seem to be many more insects this year than we have had in a while. And I have seen more butterflies too- still not tens of varieties but more than recently. The pink peril is popping up- balsam- for those that are interested. If I am walking, I try to pull up bits here and there as I go to make a start. I was

hoping the dry weather would upset it but apparently not.

Since I last wrote I have re engaged in a hobby I did from about 4 or 5 until I went to university- ballet. I have been trying for years to find a group and have now found one. The day after my first session I had definitely rediscovered muscles I have not used in nearly 30 years. I ached all over. The 3 weeks since have not been as bad, I made it worse by falling flat on my back (the importance of your supporting leg being right under you) and landed on my right arm. At first it felt ok, but by the time I had driven home, it was not great. Cue a Friday evening in A&E to get it x-rayed. All things considered; I think 2 hours was a good turn around. I may have been lucky though as I was possibly fortunate to be in the 'it's not what you know but who you know' camp. Once I got out of triage and the waiting room (they need to do something about being able to hear what's wrong with everyone and personal details. I could have collected names, addresses, dates of birth and phone numbers from everyone who came in after me) I was spotted by a parent who is a doctor who enquired if anyone had seen me. I then had my arm x-rayed by another parent. Thankfully, it is not broken, but aches doing certain movements and I struggled picking up a 4pt of milk. I have discovered I am very right-handed. The worst thing is pushing the doors at school as they are all fire doors and are heavy. I automatically go to use my right hand. I'm sure many of you have had similar experiences.

Next weekend a friend is having an 80s themed 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. She intends to provide 80s party food- cheese and pineapple hedgehogs and vol-au-vents. I suggested arctic roll for puddings and someone else piped up Viennetta. Worth going just for these blasts from the past. I expect we will be hearing Rick Astley and there could be an attempt at the Thriller dance. There is an option to dress in 80s gear but given I was under 10 for most of the 80s I do not have any lingering bits still in the wardrobe. Might be able to hint towards Adam Ant. Take care. Penny



A Melbreak Communities Initiative



Melbreak  
**Hedgehog**  
Recovery Project

**Homes  
and  
Highways**

This session will focus on everything you need to know about placing nest boxes and hedgehog highways in different locations in your garden or land within our local area.

We are currently looking for suitable sites across the Melbreak area to place hedgehog boxes and willing volunteers to help us monitor and records populations using wildlife cameras.



If you'd like to help please come along - or simply join us to find out more!

£3 suggested donation

Teas and coffees provided on arrival

**Thursday 19th June**  
**Yew Tree Hall 7.30-9pm**

please park responsibly, thank you

<https://melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com>

Loweswater with Buttermere PCC  
100 Challenge Club

**The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st May 2025**

1st prize of £25	No 88	Dorothy Richardson
2nd prize of £10	No 101	Joan Head
3rd prize of £5	No 66	Harriet Davies

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



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## The story of Phileas Fotherington - yet another Lorton eccentric!

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

In the 1860s, Lorton was a psychedelic swirl of green and gold, and no one added more colour than part-time farmer and full-time philosopher, Phileas Fotherington, a man who considered himself less a farmer and more of a "Botanical Bard". He whiled away the hours "communing" with his barley, engaging in lively debates on the existential concerns of earthworms. His wife Josephine, a fellow connoisseur of the quirky, expressed her devotion to agriculture by knitting teeny jumper for her favourite barley stalks, and at the Agricultural Show boldly entering bales of hay in the "Craft Category."



Phileas Josephine

*'All dressed up for Saturday's Dance at the Hall'*

Phileas, in his relentless pursuit of agricultural enlightenment, nourished his fields with a "secret" concoction of seaweed, sheep droppings, and the complete works of Wordsworth, pulped into a slurry to "enrich the soil with pure, unadulterated romantic vigour!" Forget ploughs, Phileas employed a crack team of highly trained snails to aerate his land. He swore they possessed a "delicate touch," a "refined palate" for the choicest earthworms, and, crucially, an unparalleled ability to follow complex choreographed routines. This is definitely something the Lorton Gardening Club should try, I've dabbled myself, and my rhubarb is something to behold!



Reginald

One day John Jennings stumbled upon Phileas in full conversational flow with Reginald, his head scarecrow. A lopsided chap sporting a bowler hat and the air of a disgruntled undertaker, "do you reckon yon cumulus has the heft for a proper downpour, or is it just showing off its fluffy bottom?" Reginald, offered only the strong and silent treatment, Phileas interpreted this as profound agreement and possibly a request for more intellectual stimulation. Ah, those were the days, when Lorton was a playground for the delightfully deranged!

John Jennings, initially struck dumb with a mixture of bewilderment and the urge to check his own sanity, was profoundly impressed. He recognised a kindred spirit in Phileas, a fellow eccentric and offered him a job at the Maltings. Embracing his new role with characteristic gusto Phileas introduced revolutionary techniques like "malt massage" (gently caressing the barley with badger-hair brushes while whispering sweet nothings). His colleagues, initially convinced he'd finally lost the plot, were forced to admit that, against all odds, the malt quality did improve. Apparently, happy barley makes for happy beer. Who knew?

**Phileas Fotherington, much like every other farmer in Lorton, was inextricably linked to the land- its rolling fells, its sparkling streams, and its ancient traditions. The Yew Tree Hall?, wasn't just a building; it was the beating heart of their wonderfully weird community, a place where the bounty of the earth and the beautiful oddity of its inhabitants were celebrated with equal fervour.**

## Nature Notes - The Magic of Merlin

A couple of years ago, we were walking down near the Pump House by Crummock Water, when a loud rasping sound came from a nearby patch of blackthorn scrub. I had no idea what it might have been other than a cricket or a cicada on steroids, and it wasn't that. I listened carefully, and puzzled for a while, but eventually forgot about it.

Then last year I signed up for a Dawn Chorus Walk in Holme Wood. "There are phone apps that can help you identify the bird song", I was told, "and this is the best." And although it sounded a bit of a cheat at the time, I downloaded Merlin, and he's been a revelation. Even better, he was free.



Developed by some very clever people at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Merlin listens and then flags up what he's hearing. While I was idly looking out for birds in Whinlatter Forest last year, a cockerel crowed across the valley. 'South Asian Jungle Fowl', flagged Merlin, to my astonishment. But then I realised he was right, that's where chickens originally came from, and where they still are, in the wild.

The other morning, early, I was outside the house, enjoying the still loud dawn chorus that had woken me hours earlier. I could identify a few distinctive notes, but over a period of a minute or less Merlin told me that I was actually listening, in no particular order, to: Song Thrush, Linnet, House Sparrow, Wren, Chiffchaff, Chaffinch, Robin, Garden Warbler, Willow Warbler, Blackbird, Blackcap, Wood Pigeon, Crow, Jackdaw and, from across the valley, a Cuckoo. To be honest, I'm not sure about the Linnet, even Merlin can be fallible on occasion, but I can vouch that all the others are certainly around. Less a dawn chorus, more a sublime symphony.

Which brings me back to that loud rasping sound. I heard it again a month or so ago, and again down near the Pump House. This time, instead of puzzling and then forgetting, I quickly called up Merlin, and he, without hesitation, told me it was the song of a Grasshopper Warbler, a bird of which I was quite unaware. My book tells me the Grasshopper Warbler is a 'rare and local summer visitor, living in tall grasses, scrub, brambles, and reed-beds', that it is 'secretive, creeping, and skulks in dense vegetation', and that it sounds 'more like a loud freewheeling bicycle than an insect', well, maybe. I've heard more since, by Park Beck and near Thackthwaite. It looks like they might be expanding their range in the valley.

So, if you hear a cricket on steroids, or a loud freewheeling bike in the middle of a dense patch of scrub, it's probably neither of those, but, thanks to the Magic of Merlin, I can tell you it could well be a Grasshopper Warbler.

Peter Battrick

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**Sunday 8th June**

**11am - 4pm**

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## The 'Buttermere Camino' - Saturday, 26th July

Calling all pilgrims!

Grasmoor Mission Community will be holding its annual mini Camino (pilgrimage) from St Cuthbert's, Lorton to St James, Buttermere, via St. Bartholomew's, Loweswater on Saturday, 26th July.

Starting at Lorton church at 10am, there will be times for prayer and reflection as well as fellowship whilst we walk, finishing with a short service at St James' church. The walk is about 11 miles and we hope to arrive in Buttermere at 4pm. There will be an opportunity to join or leave the walk at Loweswater at 1pm.

We recommend sharing lifts, arranging pickups from Buttermere or leaving cars there, as the buses finish at 5.00pm and are likely to be busy. Please bring a packed lunch!

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





Entrance

Photo: John Macfarlane

VE Day Lunch

Loweswater Village Hall

5th May 2025

# COFFEE <sup>£4</sup> MORNING

and a Raffle

**Saturday 14th June**  
**Yew Tree Hall, 10.30-12noon**



**LORTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB  
WILL BE SERVING UP SOME DELICIOUS CAKES**

please park responsibly, thank you



A Melbreak Communities Event





## CHRISTIAN AID – THANK YOU

The final sum is yet to be confirmed.

Many thanks to all the collectors who worked so hard and gave their time to deliver and collect and to all who donated so generously.

Jan Collins-Webb

Lorton Valley Organiser – 19.5.25

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## Nature Notes – Wildflowers in our local lanes through the year

In the lanes of Lorton valley we are fortunate to have a wide ranging flora, easily enjoyed on even a casual stroll. Around one hundred species of wild flowers have been recorded, appearing from February to September. The earliest, perhaps most eagerly awaited as a sign of spring, are the snowdrops soon followed by shining yellow celandines and delicate primroses. A closer look reveals the bright green leaves and tiny flower threads of highly poisonous dog's mercury and in certain sheltered spots the small mauve common dog violet.



As spring advances we see bluebells and banks are full of the white stars of stitchwort. Then throughout the summer there is a succession of flowering plants of numerous species:

Yellow flowers of the Compositae family, starting with the common dandelion, include the various hawkweed and hawkbit lookalikes, hard to identify without a key, the tiny nipplewort and much coarser sow thistle. Umbellifers are well represented too with great swathes of white cow parsley, the later and sturdier hogweed and small delicate pig nut and wild carrot. Sweet cicely is similar to cow parsley with an aniseed scent used in cooking. Bright pinkampions and foxgloves are familiar to most and in nooks and crannies the paler pink, ferny leaved herb robert. The latter was called after St Robert, a mediaeval French monk and herbalist. Peaflowers are represented by five species: common and bush vetch which have purplish flowers, brighter blueish tufted vetch, straggly yellow vetchling and low growing common bird's foot trefoil as well as red and white clovers. Later in the summer the lanes become more overgrown. The coarse leaves and cream flower spikes of meadow sweet grow up amongst pink willowherb and brambles and occasionally the elegant valerian.

The common names of our wild flowers are often related to animals and birds and to their widespread use in the past for culinary and medical purposes. Many plants now regarded as mainly interesting or decorative were a daily larder or pharmacy for our forebears, and are still familiar to herbalists. Dandelions are mentioned in most of recorded history for food and medicine and were taken to America by the Pilgrim Fathers. Nettles are still used for soups and beer although thankfully the custom of flogging with nettles for relief of rheumatism has died out. Meadowsweet had myriad uses, for sweetening and flavouring mead (hence the name), strewing in church for weddings and making bridal garlands, as an antacid for stomach complaints and was the plant from which salicylic acid for aspirin was first extracted. Culpeper describes valerian as 'of great service in malignant fevers and pestilential distempers', so a panacea for all ills though now used mainly as a sedative.

To walk around our lanes and enjoy our wildflowers is a privilege we still have but as threats to the natural world grow it is important to monitor what is growing where. Records can be kept on a personal basis or finds reported to Melbreat Communities Wildlife Group or on the app i.naturalist.

Christine Walmsley

Lorton & Derwent Fells Local  
History Society

***Names in the Landscape. The  
history of place-names in the  
Lake District***

**Thurs 12 June, 7.30 pm at YTH**



This talk by Professor **Angus Winchester** will explore the history of place-names. Names give places a cultural meaning: once coined, they pass down the generations, acting as a bridge linking us with past generations who experienced those same places many centuries ago. They are part of our communal memory. Angus will look at the names of villages, farms, fields and becks, of fellsides, crags and tarns,

asking when they were named, by whom and what the names signify.

Many of you will know Angus Winchester as the author of *The Language of the Landscape: a journey into Lake District history* (2019), his personal exploration of the landscape history in the Lake District which focuses on the Cocker valley. His research falls under two headings: landscape and environmental history, particularly of upland areas; and the local and regional identity in northern England, especially Cumbria. He is the author of many scholarly publications and, among other things, the President of the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society. His talk will be preceded by a very short AGM.

Everyone is welcome, visitors pay £4 cash incl. refreshments, or they can join our society and take advantage of the half-year subscription available on the day of £6 per person (or £10 for two people at the same address). This would include the talks remaining this year and a subscription to our periodical the *Wanderer*.

*Lena Stanley-Clamp*



We enjoyed an excellent evening at Loveswater Village Hall this month, when we were entertained by the Whitehaven Male Voice Choir. One of its members was Chris Mills from Lorton and it was as a result of his suggestion that we had such an enjoyable musical evening. The Choir, under the conductorship of Colin Hoodless and their chairman Chris Parrish, we listened to an excellent evening of song, some with the full choir and some as solos or as a quartet of four choir members. Consequently the singing varied from country and western to ballads, from Sinatra's "My Way" to Ragtime. They "Raised us up" and certainly gave us an "Enchanted Evening".

June this year is our **Annual Summer Trip** and members and friends are invited on an excursion to Coniston. The date is June 10<sup>th</sup> and the day out includes a sail on the National Trust 'Gondola', lunch at Brantwood and chance afterwards to stroll around Ruskin's Brantwood house and gardens. Meet up at Mitchell's Auctions for a 9am departure. The cost, made possible by group booking rates all round, is just £40. All entry fees and lunch are included in the price. Please bring cash on the day to make accounting easier. The cost of the coach will be met from Club funds.

**Loveswater 77 Club**

**CONISTON  
SUMMER OUTING**

**Tuesday 10th June**  
Departs Mitchells Auction at 9am

The Club has organised a coach to Coniston, a morning sail on the Gondola Steam Yacht and a visit to Brantwood House in the afternoon.

Brantwood House.

Cost £40 - includes the coach, Gondola trip, lunch and tour of Brantwood

This will be the last event of the season and we re-start on the third Tuesday of October 2025. Don't panic, you don't need to be 77 or live in this end of the valley, just come along and join in with Loveswater's wonderful Social Club. If you wish to join us for our Coniston Day Out and haven't yet booked your place, please do so as soon as possible with Roger Hiley, on 01 900 85040 or 07740 461059

# **YEW TREE HALL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

## **PREFERRED DEVELOPMENT OPTION**

### **POSTPONEMENT OF GRAND AUCTION ON 21ST JUNE**

**Feedback from the recent open meeting at Yew Tree Hall on four scheme proposals is currently being collated and considered by the Development Team and Yew Tree Hall Trustees. The level of interest in the project has been fantastic and we are very grateful to everyone who has contributed.**

The form of the preferred development option is critical to the success of the project as we need to secure support from the LDNP Planning Authority for our design and potential funders to meet their grant eligibility criteria. This all has to be weighed against the aspirations of the wider community and Yew Tree Hall Trustees. It is a fine balance, but one we really need to get right.

With this in mind, we feel that it would be prudent to take a little more time in producing the preferred option. We wish to present the community with a costed scheme that we are confident will succeed and can be supported through fundraising and continued donations.

**We are still excited about holding a grand auction and have already got some fabulous lots donated to us from various local individuals and businesses. This is now planned to take place in November, when the summer is over and we all need cheering up as the dark nights draw in. It should be lots of fun and we are also planning to have live music at the event.**

**In the meantime, there will be an opportunity to buy redundant items of furniture from the Yew Tree Hall basement, at the coffee morning on 14th June.**



# Cockermouth

3 - 6 JULY 2025 **LIVE!**



**Cockermouth Live! 2025 takes place from Thursday July 3rd to Sunday July 6th with events all over the town throughout the weekend.**

Ticketed events include Thursday night's show which is a two part spoken word event featuring West Cumbrian comedian Steph Bradshaw and poet Emma McGordon. Friday night's concert at the Kirkgate features young master musician and Glastonbury emerging talent winner, N'famady Kouyaté.

And Saturday sees versatile jazz collective Oppgard at the Kirkgate as well as an electrifying night in store with Manchester based 9 piece Stax of Soul.

Saturday evening's picnic concert at Cockermouth Castle features Cockermouth Mechanics Brass Band; and the Cockermouth Community Orchestra's annual festival finale concert is at Christchurch on Sunday evening.

Tickets for all of those can be found at [www.kirkgateartsandheritage.org.uk](http://www.kirkgateartsandheritage.org.uk) .

But of course, throughout the weekend, what makes Cockermouth Live! so special is the hundreds of local performers putting on free shows in over 20 pubs, shops and cafes. The Castle will again host a varied daytime programme on both Saturday and Sunday as usual. And there will be strolling minstrels and other family friendly events all over town too. More info at [www.cockermouthfestival.org](http://www.cockermouthfestival.org)



### **Loweswater Village Hall**

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, and helped with, the **VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch** on Bank Holiday Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Red, white & blue flags and bunting decorated the hall, along with local records and memorabilia from the 1940s, providing a traditional atmosphere for a sumptuous “bring and share” lunch, which included such period delights as Spam sandwiches, bread & butter pudding and Union Jack decorated deserts. Lunch was followed by a rousing 1940s Sing-Along brilliantly led by Cath & Emma. For those attending who added to the atmosphere by dressing in 1940s style, there was a prize for the best-dressed man and woman. Thanks to everyone who supplied the fascinating memorabilia. A photograph of the Lorton/Loweswater Home Guard, taken in 1942, which had been donated to the hall by the late Tommy Coulthard, was kindly reproduced, framed and presented to the hall by Chris Spencer.

The group photograph of everyone celebrating the event features as the centrepiece of this edition and is by kind permission of John Macfarlane, who is also preparing a framed copy to hang in the hall. If anyone would like a digital copy of this photograph please email [andyburrconsult@gmail.com](mailto:andyburrconsult@gmail.com).

An advanced diary note for our **Arts Out West** performance this Autumn, on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**, when we will be delighted to present a musical performance of **Around the World in Four Seasons** by the **Lantivet Duo and Joy Baker**. Further details to follow in the Link and on our Facebook page and website, [loweswatervillagehall.co.uk](http://loweswatervillagehall.co.uk)



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# Loweswater Ladies May 2025

We were blessed with a fine sunny evening in May for our annual stroll down to the lake. By the time we returned to the village hall Margi, Judith and Lyn had the buffet supper all set out. As usual the table was laden and we had a very pleasant evening partaking of some tasty food and a lot of chat. Our thanks go to Margi, Judith & Lyn for hosting the evening and to all who helped at the end with the clearing up. Jenny is now taking names for our summer outing to Levens Hall & Gardens on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Cost £31 for members; £35 for non members.

We are hosting Cream Teas on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June in Loweswater Village Hall from 2 pm

until 4pm (but this may have taken place by the time this copy of the Link reaches you.) Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7.15pm in LVH**. Ros Dowling will be speaking to us about Cotton in Cummersdale.

Doreen Robertson

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

What an extraordinary run of hot, sunny and dry weather we have experienced for all the month of May. This will have changed by the time the Link is published as rain is forecast for the Bank Holiday weekend, a great relief for farmers and gardeners alike if not so much for families on their half term break.

Our APCM took place in May with no change to the body of the PCC and the re-election of Jan Collins-Webb and myself as Church Wardens. We will be admitted at a service in June at St.John's church in Keswick.

In terms of the church year we are still in the 40 days of Easter as we approach the feasts of Ascension and ten days later Pentecost commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and other followers of Jesus marking the beginning of the church.

This month we held our third Bluebell service at Rannerdale this year being dedicated to the late Raymond Beard. It was

good to see Elaine and many members of the family in attendance. We were lucky with the weather again. Our thanks to Cockermouth Mechanics Band, the Castlegate singers and all who came and contributed to the success of the day.

The wedding season has started in our churches. We had two weddings at St.Bartholomew's in May in near perfect weather. We wish both couples much happiness in their marriages and look forward to seeing them in the future.

Eleanor Ella

Marriages from the register

10th May David Cowan and Nina Halligan

17th May Luke Eatough and Luna Strotter



**COMMUNITY LUNCH**  
Served promptly at 1.15pm

**MONDAY JUNE 9TH**

Held at Lorton School  
Everyone is welcomed

**£7.00**

**Booking essential  
call Helen on 07790 459064**

## **Crummock Water**

United Utilities has written to the planning authority to ask that its application in relation to Crummock Water is put on hold. It did so after local meetings on 8 May – one with Mike Milner and me on behalf of the parish councils, the other with Friends of Crummock. Its letter to the LDNPA said:

“We are preparing our response to the points raised by the various consultees including the Environment Agency. This will take a number of weeks and require further discussion with statutory consultees, customers and the parish councils etc.

We would therefore request an extension of time to the decision making process such that all involved have sufficient time to fully consider the proposals.”

That extension of time was granted by the LDNPA and it has said that “Any further information received will be subject to full public consultation”.

Since then, the Environment Agency has clarified that it continues to support the aims of the project, and that “there is no indication that UU cannot ultimately submit the necessary information to address our concerns [about flood risk]”.

All three of the above letters are on the LDNPA website with the rest of the planning documents.

Harriet Fear Davies  
Chair, Buttermere Parish Council



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## DIARY DATES

### 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
- 8 Sun [Open Farm Sunday](#)
- 9 Mon [Community Lunch](#), Lorton School at 1.15. Please see poster
- 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
- 14 Sat [Coffee Morning YTH](#) - hosted by Lorton Table Tennis Club. 10.30- 12.00
- 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

### JULY

- 2 Wed Lorton Parish Council meeting 7.30pm YTH
- 3 Thu Loweswater Parish Council LVH 7.30pm
- 3 Thu [Cockermouth Live](#) - to 6<sup>th</sup> July
- 8 Tues [Loweswater Ladies Summer Outing to Levens Hall](#)
- 17 Thu [Chat & Crafternoon](#). LVH 2-4pm. All welcome. Suggested donation £3.
- 26 Sat [Buttermere Camino](#), starting from St Cuthbert's Lorton at 10a.m

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.

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

# The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

## Church Services June 2025

1 <sup>st</sup> June 10.30am	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Holy Communion	Loweswater
8 <sup>th</sup> June 10.30am 6pm	<b>Pentecost</b> Big Green Week Service Holy Communion	Lorton Buttermere
15 <sup>th</sup> June 10.30am	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> Holy Communion	Loweswater
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 10.30am 6pm	<b>Trinity 1</b> Holy Communion Evensong	Lorton Buttermere
29 <sup>th</sup> June 10.30am	<b>Peter and Paul, Apostles</b> Holy Communion	Lorton

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 July/August is Friday 20th June - all articles, photos(especially for the front cover), funny stories, letters to [lortonvalelink@gmail.com](mailto:lortonvalelink@gmail.com) by this date. Thank you