

# JULY & AUGUST 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

I'm looking forward to having a month off so I can concentrate on the gardening.



The sweet pea harvest is now underway along with new potatoes, all sorts of beans and lots of salad stuff (and of course - weeds!). The tomatoes and cucumbers in the

greenhouse are looking very promising - I think the latter will be ready in about a week. As I was given some free plants I am trying aubergines and chillis again this year. The aubergines have been plagued by greenfly - so we will see, but I have my fingers crossed for the chillis.

As we are covering 2 months in this edition there are lots of events to look forward to - 2 coffee mornings, the Buttermere Camino, Loweswater Show (early in September), a Community Lunch, the Yew Tree Hall AGM and prior notice of another Supper on the Hoof on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

General interest articles include the usual Nature Notes - this time about the treasures to be found in July, a fascinating article about the origins of Jennings Ales and an update about the transport survey. As the Patronal Festivals for Buttermere and Loweswater fall during July and August the centre-spread tells us a little about the lives of the two Saints - St James and St Bartholomew.

Rosemary Riley



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The front-page photo by Trev Mason shows a Great Spotted Woodpecker trying to coax one of its chicks out of the comfort of the nest hole - this was taken very near the Whinfell Caravan Park



Fans of Oscar Wilde may recognise this little snippet from his comedy play 'Lady Windermere's Fan'.

Cecil Graham: What is a cynic?

Lord Darlington: A man who knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing.

Cecil Graham: And a sentimentalist, my dear Darlington, is a man who sees an absurd value in everything and doesn't know the market price of any single thing.

What value do we place on human lives and why? It's a topical question as our legislators wrestle with moral dilemmas around subjects such as late term abortion, assisted dying, access to the benefits system, and the tactics of warfare. In the past our cultural norms were decisively shaped by the Christian belief in the sanctity of all human life. The bible teaches that 'God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them'. We also read that God cares not just for humanity as a whole but for each of us individually. We are 'fearfully and wonderfully made' by God's own hand who knows all the secrets of our hearts. For this reason we are commanded to treat one another with justice, mercy and loving kindness including those who are

different from us and even those who may have done us wrong.

But these Christian beliefs do not grip and hold our society quite so tightly as they did in the past. Other beliefs and approaches are gaining ground. It's surprising how different the world looks if you believe that human beings are just a blip of biology rather than beloved children of a creator God. Money talks too, as we assess the economic advantages of this or that course of action, usually with reference to our own interests. It all leads to a chillier moral climate in which we can no longer rely on society to value us as perhaps it did before. You don't have to be a Christian to wonder sometimes what we are becoming.

As we seek for wisdom to live by let's not neglect the treasure trove of scripture in which are to be found nearly all the ideas and beliefs that prioritise the value of human beings over the price of material things.

With God's blessing.

**Jane Charman**

**Grasmoor Mission Community Leader**

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 have just passed the longest day of the year and entered Summertime proper (with a mini heatwave) it was very appropriate that on 8th June we held our Big Green Week service with an interesting talk about why christians should care about climate change. Appropriately, in the coming months we will be re-visiting our Gold Eco church credentials and determining what more we can do.

At a very recent PCC meeting we reviewed the findings of the Archdeacon's visitation and will be planning any necessary actions over the coming months - so watch this space.

As a result of the Quinquennial Inspection and a recommendation to carry out remedial work on the Tower we have now received a quote for a minimum of £30,000.00 for those works, and it is likely to be more. I do hope, therefore, that many of you will be able to attend our Supper on the Hoof, on 12th September, to help raise funds for this work.

Rosemary Riley



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and a Raffle

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**Saturday 9th August  
10.00-12.00**

please park responsibly, thank you



A Melbreak Communities Initiative



# *Penny's Piece*

To update you on the 80s themed party; there were roller skates, and one man had really gone to town and grown his hair and a beard, cut and sprayed it to make an excellent Mr T from the A-Team. There was a little too much pink Lycra and leg warmers for my liking, but it was all good fun.

We have entered festival season and the season which is a nightmare if you don't like certain sports or sport in general. I suppose it starts with the boat race, Grand National and London Marathon and goes from there. Does anyone watch the Marathon to actually watch the whole elite race? I mainly tune in to see the end of the elite race and the then normal people and crazy people in fancy dress. Running is bad enough without strapping a fridge to yourself or dressing as a bus but at least they are easier to see. I like to watch the Trooping of the Colour but also watch for the horse that wants to go sideways and the unfortunate fainting guardsman. The music festivals have got underway, and I like the fact that each genre has its own event. In my experience the trouble only starts when the crowds are mixed- like football matches. Keep the dance enthusiasts away from cheesy pop lovers and the metal crew and all will be well. Despite rock and metal having the outward appearance of being loud and aggressive, I have always felt them to be the safest crowds to be in. There are unwritten (but sometimes yelled from the stage) rules: if someone goes down, you pick them up. The 'old guard' of rockers will naturally form a barrier round a circle pit to stop the over excited youth causing damage outside the circle. If they get out of hand, there is always at least one huge bloke (the one that usually stands in front of me) who will casually stick an arm out and stop them with a moderately friendly slap round the head. I might not be able to see through him, but he has just become a hero. Then there are festivals for pastimes and hobbies be it books, wool, pottery, or flowers. There are also the more unusual sporting events. I'd love to know how the chasing of a wheel of cheese down a ridiculously steep hill came about. Presumably, a cheese made a bid for freedom once and everyone took off after it. It then became a reenactment before someone started

placing bets and here we are. 2025 and people are running after cheese! There are also bed races which can be just as dangerous. Can you imagine racing beds down the hill past West Cumberland Hospital? Do you aim for the roundabout at the bottom, or do you have to try to steer round it? Through my visits to pot-fest (pottery not drugs), I have also discovered the best way to make money from sheep. Make them knee-high and from pot. One of those for the garden will set you back a grand. One sheep. . . a grand!

I have also made a couple of discoveries linked to theme parks and other tourist amusements. I am typing this after my school trip to Lowther Castle. The weather was fabulous and there was hardly anyone else there. Scottish schools haven't broken up yet and we basically had The Lost Castle to ourselves. Bonus. At the last Bank Holiday, I went to Alton Towers. I was not look forward to it as I expected it to be heaving. Nope. The longest wait for any ride all day was 25 minutes. Most were 10. The reason? A lucky combination of dubious weather forecast and the weekend being during half term so lots of people had left the country. Remember that if you fancy going. Also remember to book before you go as it is nearly £30 cheaper to prebook than just turn up on the day. During the drive back from Alton Towers I got a stone chip in my windscreen which quickly developed into a 5-inch crack, so I've had a new windscreen. I had hoped that it might fix my footwell, footbath issue but was assured by the fitter that there is no way the water was leaking round that windscreen (the old one or the new). Looks like I'll have to keep parking facing downhill to be safe.

My little pink friend (balsam) may not be blooming yet, but I have already begun pulling it out in various places. Anyone who wants to know where it is to lend a hand- my email is on the Show Help notice. Have a good summer- I hope to finish painting the windows- and I will see you at the Show on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Penny



## Yew Tree Hall & Gift Aid

***Have you made a donation to Yew Tree Hall in the last four years – e.g. at the recent Jennings talk? As a registered charity, Yew Tree Hall can benefit from an additional 25% to any donation you've made, i.e. 25p for each £1 donated. If you haven't already completed a gift aid form, please complete the following, indicating the approximate amount you've donated. It'll make a huge difference to our fundraising. Thank you very much.***

If you are a UK taxpayer, we will need you to fill in the form below. If you do this at a Yew Tree Hall event, hand the completed form to one of the organisers. Or you can cut out this page and post it to Catherine Armstrong, Treasurer, Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton, Cockermouth CA13 9UJ. You can also email your declaration to [ythlorton@gmail.com](mailto:ythlorton@gmail.com); please copy the wording below into your email or take a picture of the completed form and email it. There's also a downloadable form on the Melbreak Communities website.

### **Gift aid declaration**

I want to gift aid donations I make from now on, **or have made in the past 4 years**, to Yew Tree Hall. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on **all** my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Approximate amount of donations over the last 4 years:

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Please notify Yew Tree Hall Management Committee if you want to cancel this declaration, you change your name or address, or you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay income tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations.

Loweswater with Buttermere PCC  
100 Challenge Club

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

1st prize of £25	No 8	Christine Walmsley
2nd prize of £10	No 33	Chris Judd
3rd prize of £5	No 14	Richard Kahane

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



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## Loweswater and Brackenthwaite Show

HELP WANTED. The show is on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September and as ever we are looking for volunteers to help out with parking or directing traffic on the gate.

If you are willing and able to help for an hour (or two) please contact Penny on 01946 862200. If I don't answer, do leave a message. Please leave name and number so I can get back to you. Or email [penny.lecksta@gmail.com](mailto:penny.lecksta@gmail.com)  
Penny



# COMMUNITY LUNCH

Served promptly at 1.15pm.

**MONDAY JULY 14TH**  
**MONDAY SEPT. 8TH**

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(No lunch in August, school holiday)

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Everyone is welcomed

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## Nature Notes – The Treasures of July



This month, nature's special places are buzzing and blooming with noise and colour. It's time to discover July's treasures.

Our nesting seabirds and their fledglings will be leaving the cliffs and heading out to sea until they return next year. Cuckoos will have left for their African winter grounds, but there is still plenty to spot. Many osprey chicks have fledged, but they stay near the nest well into August, honing their flying skills and accepting fish from their parents.

Social gatherings of swifts include breeding pairs and non-breeders, as the August migration approaches. Now is a good time to go out looking for owls, because many owlets will be in the final stages of fledging and increasingly mobile. The fledgling birds in the garden and woodlands now have lost most of their juvenile plumage and are starting to look more like small adults.

Dragonflies and damselflies are out in force and wherever you find freshwater you could be rewarded with the magical sight of shimmering wings and fast flight. One dragonfly you're unlikely to miss is the Emperor, the UK's bulkiest dragonfly. Different species favour different habitats, so look carefully at rivers, bogs, ditches and ponds.

You can see a variety of butterflies, including the Comma, Meadow Brown (pictured), Common Blue, Large Skipper, Painted Lady, Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, and Speckled Wood. You may also find species like the Gatekeeper, Large White, and Meadow Brown. Look out for moths, as many are now on the wing. Most moth species are nocturnal, but there are plenty of day-flying moths to look out for. In fact, there are actually more day-flying moths than butterflies in the UK. July is a good month for bees, wasps, flies and hoverflies. Check out small excavations for our mining bees and sand wasps.

Long, summer evenings are an ideal time to look for bats. Two of the most common, the Common Pipistrelle and the Soprano Pipistrelle, are often seen near rivers or ponds, where insects are abundant.

Hedgehogs are also out and about looking for earthworms. The small mammal breeding season is at its peak, making July a good month to see mice, voles and shrews.

There can be few sights more startling than a grass snake expertly swimming across a pond, lake or canal on a July day. The amphibian world is also busy at the moment, with many frog and toad tadpoles having metamorphosed and left the pond. If you see a lizard, it's likely to be a common lizard.

Wildflower meadows are now at their summer best and buzz with life as flowers blossom and insects flit from plant to plant. One plant to look out for and a favourite with bees and butterflies is Common Knapweed. July is also a good month for orchid-spotting.

Enjoy July!

Dave Smith

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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)



## THE LIFE OF ST JAMES - Feast day 25th July



St. James, also known as James the Great to distinguish him from the other disciple James, was one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus. James, born into a family of fishermen, was a cousin of Jesus and one of the first disciples to join Jesus with his brother John. They, along with Peter, were the only Apostles Jesus allowed to be present on 3 specific occasions during his ministry - the raising of Jarius' daughter, the transfiguration and Jesus's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

James was the second of the Apostles to die, the first to be martyred, beheaded by Herod Agrippa in 44 AD in Jerusalem and the only Apostle whose martyrdom is recorded in the New Testament. His followers carried his remains (relics) to the coast of Galicia (whence his symbol the scallop shell) and onward overland to Santiago de Compostela for burial.



The traditional pilgrimage to his shrine known as the "Way of St. James" has been the most popular Catholic pilgrimage since the Middle Ages and has had a huge modern revival in popularity with almost 300,000 pilgrims received in 2010.

The painting of St. James on a white horse depicts a legend that he appeared to fight for the Christian army against the Moors at the battle of Calvino.

Eleanor Ella

## THE LIFE OF ST BARTHOLOMEW - Feast day 24th AUGUST



St. Bartholomew, also known as Nathanael, was one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus who appears in the Gospel of John. In the Gospels he appears as one of Jesus' closest disciples, along with other disciples witnessing Christ's appearance after the resurrection. After Pentecost Bartholomew set out on an extensive missionary tour to many areas of the Middle East and India. He left a copy of the Gospel of Matthew whilst in India.

Bartholomew, together with fellow Apostle Phillip, is reputed to have brought Christianity to Armenia in the first century; it became the first state in history to embrace Christianity officially. Both saints became patron saints of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Accounts of St. Bartholomew's death vary but it is thought he was martyred in Armenia in 71 AD following the conversation of the King which provoked the wrath of the Pagan priests who captured him and he was flayed alive before being beheaded. His relics have travelled variously to Lipari an island off the coast of Sicily, Rome and Baku in Azerbaijan. Bartholomew's gruesome death inspired many great artists particularly in the 16th century. He is depicted in Michelangelo's Last Judgement on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel as seen here.



St. Bartholomew is Patron Saint of leather workers, butchers, tanners and shoemakers trades that use knives. Echoes seen in Medieval heralding demonstrate this in his shield flaying knives with silver blades and gold handles on a red field.

Eleanor Ella



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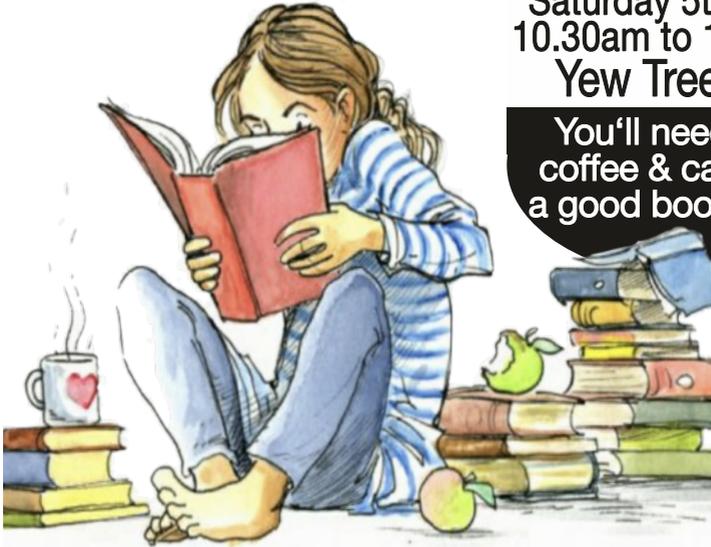
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# Coffee Morning

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**A Melbreak Communities Initiative**



## Yew Tree Hall - AGM

### Notice of Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Yew Tree Hall will be held at the Yew Tree Hall, Lorton at 7pm, Monday 14 July 2025 to transact the following business:

#### AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the previous meeting held 25 July 2024
3. Matters arising
4. Trustees' Annual Report – Chair
5. Trustees' Annual Report – Treasurer, accounts y/e 31 March 2025
6. Notification of Representative Members
7. Election of six Elected Members
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the coming year

Notified by YTH Charity Trustees

Adam Baker, Chair

30 June 2025

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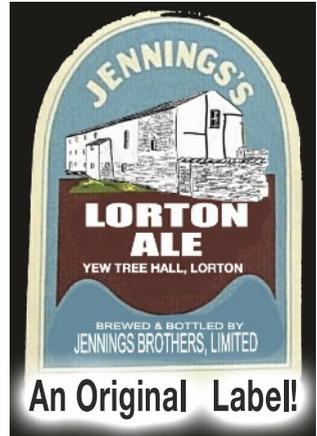


# Lorton's Liquid Gold

(AN UNOFFICIAL HISTORY)

- Nev Mills

The Jennings brothers, John and Thomas, were ambitious, but their first foray into actual brewing was, shall we say, a touch experimental. For instance one of their most successful brew-masters Montgomery 'Malty' McNugget, ever the innovator, insisted that the brewing yeast needed "philosophical encouragement," which mostly involved the humming of Gregorian chants to the fermenting vats. Malty's other contribution was a series of "lucky charms", which he'd periodically tossed into the brew, including crusty rabbit's feet, faded socks, plus the odd turnip. In a moment of inspired (or perhaps just confused) genius, he accidentally tipped an entire sack of hops, rather than the prescribed handful, into the boil.



The air immediately turned so bitter, even the laid-back Herdwicks grazing nearby began to twitch their noses in alarm. Barnaby "Bumbles" Bottomley, the village constable, who was investigating a "suspiciously frothy puddle" near the maltings, chocking on the fumes and declared it "a chemical attack by rogue delinquent red squirrels. Days turned into weeks, and the bubbling, gurgling concoction produced an aroma that was to say the least challenging. It smelled vaguely of damp socks, burnt toast, and something the cat had brought in and left under the bed.... yes me too! The Jennings brothers, peering nervously into the vats, and began to question their life choices.



**The first brew  
"High Lorton Wobbler"**

The first test brew was locally dubbed "High Lorton Wobbler", but what to officially call the brew - Herdwick Haze, Honister Hangover, and Ye Olde Lorton Giggler were suggested. However, sanity prevailed in the shape of the blacksmiths daughter, Catherine, who in a moment of clarity shouted "Lorton Ale" you load of ..... Who was to predict that such a rich, colourful and successful future lay ahead from such chaotic beginnings.

Finally, the day of reckoning arrived. John Jennings, ever the optimist, decided that the only way to gauge Lorton Ale's success was a grand village tasting session. Everyone was invited to the unveiling of "Lorton's Liquid Gold!" which was claimed to even improves one's grasp of Einsteins concept of 'Gravitational Lensing' - you know the theory predicted by his theory of General Relativity - so what was not to like, a drunken genius in the making!

# Lorton's Liquid Gold (AN UNOFFICIAL HISTORY)

- Nev Mills

Every villager was at the Yew Tree Hall tasting. Miss Araminta "Minty" Muddlefoot, who insisted on examining every jug of ale under a magnifying glass, searching for "hidden botanical energies". The Reverend Bartholomew Blackwood, a man usually known for his strict temperance, made a rare appearance, murmuring something about "the sacramental duty of community spirit."

The first few sharing jugs were poured and drunk. The initial reactions were... varied. Mrs. Higgins, took a dainty sip and promptly coughed so hard her experimental false teeth flew out, forming an unusual centre piece on top of a nearby Lemon Drizzle Cake. But then, a strange thing happened. Another jug. And another. The unique, hoppy bitterness began to mellow, or perhaps the villagers' palates simply acclimatised. Soon, laughter filled the hall, and the initial shock turned into boisterous appreciation. And the Reverend was spotted discreetly refilling his jug, muttering about "medicinal properties."



First Jug of Lorton Ale



Hungover the following day

As the beer flowed, so too did the good cheer. The tasting session seamlessly morphed into an impromptu dance at Yew Tree Hall. Silas "Slippery" Slidebottom, having liberally applied his special powder to the floor, became a dizzying blur of spins and slides, narrowly avoiding a collision with Cuthbert "Cuppa" Kettlethwaite, who was attempting to "malt massage" anything he could lay his hands on.

That night, Lorton Ale truly saw the light of day. It wasn't perfect at first, but it was gloriously, it was hilariously, it was Lorton. And as the last villager stumbled home under the watchful eye of the silent fells, one thing was clear: Yew Tree Hall had witnessed the birth of a legend, a brew as eccentric and beloved as the community that called it home. LORTON ALE WAS BORN.

**Oh, the glorious tale of Lorton Ale! It wasn't just a beer; it was a testament to village stubbornness, accidental genius, and the sheer, unadulterated chaos that could only brew in Lorton Vale.**

**GOING FORWARD:** We are fortunate that the new owners, Kurt and Rebecca Cranfield, are mindful of the rich Jennings history, the Lorton Community looks forward to future joint initiatives. The appointment of Chris France as MD, Buster Grant as Head Brewer and Phil Tattershall augurs well for the future, no doubt they'll become legendary in their own right?



## The Loweswater 77 Club Summer Outing Report

The 77 Club filled a 23 seater coach and headed out for Coniston in the South Lakes, where we enjoyed a boat trip on the Steam Yacht Gondola, lunch at Brantwood and still had plenty of time to look round Ruskin's Brantwood House and gardens. The weather gods came up trumps with a fine sunny day and a calm ride on the lake.

An extra bonus on the return trip was to take the coach to High Nibthwaite at the foot of Coniston Water, to see a little known Andrew Gormley "Iron Man" statue, a single sculpture along the lines of the multiple iron statues of the artist set in the sands at Crosby Beach. Surprise and delight I think was the most used adjectives for the closing part of this delightful Summer Trip 2025.

Pictures to extend your delight, can be found at [www.loweswatercam.co.uk](http://www.loweswatercam.co.uk)

The Club now has our summer break but will return with a full season of events at the Loweswater Village Hall on the 'third Tuesday of the month' starting in October. Those new to the club in recent times are very welcome to join at that time.

If anyone has ideas as to who they would like to hear a talk from, or what subject they would lie a talk on, then please contact me now so we can try and include it in our Autumn / Winter programme.

Enjoy the summer break and feel free enjoy the pictures of your 77 Club Summer Trip, now on line at the address above.

Roger Hiley 01 900 85040



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# SUPPER ON THE HOOF

Friday 12th September 6.30pm start

Drinks and Canapes at 6.30pm St Cuthberts Church

Main Course provided at different homes in Lorton

*(if you are a main course guest please remember to take along a bottle of wine)*

Puddings (on hosted tables) and Coffee in the Yew Tree Hall

*(Raffle to conclude evening)*

**PRICE:**

£20 per person if not cooking

£15 per person if providing canapes/pudding

£10 for main course hosts



This fun evening is likely to be very popular, so tickets will be allocated on a first come basis.

Volunteer cooks for main course welcome. Prizes for raffle gratefully received.

Please contact Rosemary Riley 07885 360353 for tickets/further details

**(Raising funds towards the cost of renovating the tower at St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton)**



## Transport for locals - update

*Melbreak Communities Carbon Net Zero Project*

Thank you to everyone who filled in the **Transport for Locals survey** that went out in the May issue of The Link. In case you missed it, the survey was produced by the Melbreak Carbon Net Zero Group who identified some opportunities that could:

- reduce the number of individual car journeys up and down the valley by lift sharing; so reducing cost and carbon emissions
- provide transport for those who need it.
- strengthen our community resilience.

We had almost 40 completed surveys - over 11% response rate! There was a very positive response to the idea of a Community Transport Whatsapp group where lifts could be offered and asked for. There was some interest in hiring the local school minibus to go on a regular trip to Cockermonth, with Keswick as a slightly less popular destination. There were also plenty of useful comments on problems of transport in our valleys and suggestions as to how it could be improved. A full summary of the results will be put on the Melbreak Communities website during the next month. <https://melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com/community-issues/general-services/transport/>

### **Action**

The Net Zero group were encouraged by the response and as a first stage, have decided to set up a Community Transport Whatsapp group as a pilot to see how it works - called **Melbreak Wheels**. All those who responded will be invited to take part - **please look out for emails with instructions on how to participate**. If you do not have a way of using Whatsapp, don't worry: you will be given a contact 'buddy' - someone you already know in the community - and they can request lifts for you on the system and keep you informed.

The Minibus idea will be developed later once Melbreak Wheels is up and running .

If you have not taken part and would like a survey , would like to join Melbreak Wheels or have questions, please email Debbie Watson [beech.lane35@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beech.lane35@yahoo.co.uk)



### **Loweswater Village Hall**

The village hall committee, in conjunction with **Arts Out West** are delighted to give advanced notice of a performance of **Around the World in Four Seasons** by the **Lantivet Duo and Joy Becker** on **Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.30**. Their performance is based around Vivaldi's Four Seasons, whilst their eclectic, genre-defying music originates in classical, folk, jazz, pop and funk! Hailed by Classic FM as "one of the best things to see", the **Lantivet Duo** captivate audiences with a spellbinding blend of traditional and original pieces. **Around the world in Four Seasons** showcases expressive vocals and virtuosic violin, viola, guitar, piano and trumpet playing, and will take you on an immersive and moving journey. "Uplifting, haunting, funny, beautiful, occasionally barnstorming, and unlike any Four Seasons you will have heard before!"

To sample their music, why not visit <https://www.lantivetduo.com/>, and make a diary note for **October 25<sup>th</sup>**. Further details to follow in the Link and on our Facebook page and website - [loweswatervillagehall.co.uk](http://loweswatervillagehall.co.uk).

### **Loweswater (Farmers) Discussion Group Summer Trip 2025**

This year's summer trip for the group has been organised for Tuesday July 8th and members and friends are cordially invited.

The plan is to visit the Carlisle area, with a morning visit to a Limousine Cattle Farm and an afternoon look around the "Porridge Museum" to hear all about the wartime munitions factory on the banks of the Solway. It's an all day trip including refreshments as usual along the way.

If you wish to join the bus then please contact William or Richard Vickers direct to book your place. Their phone numbers are:

Richard 07769 945301 William 07748 846062

# Loweswater Ladies June 2025



In June we welcomed Ros Downing back to Loweswater for a presentation entitled "Cotton in Cummersdale". Cummersdale was not a location that many of us were familiar with, but it transpires that it is on the southern outskirts of Carlisle, on the banks of the River Caldew. It is this location that led to the establishment of a variety of mills and other commercial activities that required a water source. Since at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century various companies ran dye works, cotton mills and printing works here but from 1835 Stead McAlpin have operated their printing and dyeing works in Cummersdale. They gradually rented, then bought over the other premises and businesses. Today they run a specialist printing and dyeing business producing high quality furnishing fabrics, mainly from customers' own designs. Over the years they have produced fabric for royalty, the Titanic and Winston Churchill and have worked with top designers such as Lucienne Day, William Morris and Henry Wearne. The longevity of

the business is in no small part due to their willingness to embrace new technology. Starting as hand block printers then using copper roller printers, screen printing and other new methods until today digital textile printing accounts for about 40% of their production. As always Ros provided us with a well researched and interesting insight into the history of this local endeavour. The Cream Teas at the start of the month were well attended and we are grateful to all our bakers, helpers and customers for making it such a success. Our next event is our summer outing to Levens Hall and Gardens on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Some places are still available. (Bookings to Jenny Burr, 01900 85980) Cost £31 for members, £35 for non-members; to include admission to House and Gardens, travel, a light lunch and raffle ticket. Payment in cash on the day. Please meet just after 9am at Mitchell's Outdoor Auctions for 9.15am departure.

Doreen Robertson

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

This year seems to have flown by and it's hard to believe we are approaching summer holidays writing this on the summer solstice.

This month the centre pages celebrate our Patronal Saints as we approach their Feast days in July and August.

Many will have noticed our churchyard wall at Loweswater has been repaired. It's been a long wait but the result looks very good. Fortunately, the memorial stones beneath have sustained little damage. We are planning a small area of refurbishment in the church at either side at the front of the church just before the chancel. This work will take place over the summer months.

The news from Buttermere is not so good. Unfortunately, a substantial section of plaster has fallen from the roof at the back

of the church following last weekend's storm. We have had to close the church for safety reasons whilst we await the results of the loss adjustor's report and seek further advice. To this end there will be an extraordinary meeting of the PCC this week to discuss how we proceed. There will be no services in the church for the immediate future but we shall be discussing other venues for services. Prior to this it was sad to see the nest of our regular swallow visitor in the porch has been destroyed. The swallow arrived and appeared to be looking for their nest but have now gone. So few nesting sites remain with barns being converted into houses.

Hoping all have a lovely summer and enjoyable holidays.

Eleanor Ella

# BURROW



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[burrow-environmental.com](http://burrow-environmental.com)



## COCKERMOUTH HARMONIC SINGERS

Media Release: 1 June 2025

### Music From The Movies

You will often hear classical music used in films, particularly at memorable moments in the story. As a change from our usual programmes Cockermonth Harmonic Singers will be performing a selection of music from films at a concert on 19 July 2025.

Music from *West Side Story*, *Schindler's List*, *Excalibur*, *Babe*, *Saving Private Ryan* and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* will be featured at this special occasion. You will know many of the special songs, and this concert promises joyous and reflective moods.

The concert starts at 7.30pm on Saturday, 19 July, and takes place at Christ Church, Cockermonth.

Ian Wright will conduct the choir and accompanying musicians.

Suitable for all the family, tickets will cost £15, with accompanied u-16s free.

Tickets are available from Billy Bowman's music shop in Cockermonth, 01900 826708, or from choir members.



### CHRISTIAN AID

A final sum of £973.40 has been banked, with more to come when gift-aid has been claimed - this is a great effort, despite world uncertainties. My thanks again 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 – 21.6.25

## DIARY DATES

### 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  
5 Sat [Coffee Morning](#) Lorton Afternoon Book Club YTH 10.30-12.00 noon. Please see poster  
8 Tues [Loweswater Ladies Summer Outing](#) to Levens Hall  
8 Tues [Loweswater Farmers Summer Trip](#) to Carlisle & the Porridge Museum  
14 Mon [Community Lunch at Lorton School](#). Please see poster  
14 Mon [Yew Tree Hall Committee AGM](#) 7pm at YTH  
  
17 Thu [Chat & Crafternoon](#). LVH 2-4pm. All welcome. Suggested donation £3.  
19 Sat [Cockermouth Harmonic](#) 7.30pm, Christ Church C'Mth

- 26 Sat [Buttermere Camino](#), starting from St Cuthbert's Lorton at 10a.m

### AUG

- 9 Sat [Coffee Morning](#)- Lorton Tennis Club. YTH 10.00-12noon. Please see poster.  
21 Thu [Chat & Crafternoon](#). LVH 2-4pm. All welcome. Suggested donation £3.

### SEP

- 2 Tue Buttermere Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm. Buttermere Old School.  
3 Wed Lorton Parish Council meeting 7.30pm YTH  
7 Sun [Loweswater Agricultural Show](#) at New House Farm  
8 Mon [Community Lunch at Lorton School](#)  
10 Wed Loweswater Ladies, A Countryside Classroom, LVH, 7.15pm  
12 Fri [Supper on the Hoof](#), Lorton - See poster  
18 Thu [Chat & Crafternoon](#). LVH 2-4pm. All welcome. Suggested donation £3. Long  
18 Thu Meg Stone Circle and Birdoswald Roman Fort, L&DFLHS, YTH, 7.30 pm

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 July/August 2025

6 <sup>th</sup> July 10.30am	<b>Trinity 3</b> Holy Communion	Loweswater
13 <sup>th</sup> July 10.30am	<b>Trinity 4</b> Holy Communion	Lorton
20 <sup>th</sup> July 10.30am	<b>Trinity 5</b> Morning Service	Loweswater
27 <sup>th</sup> July 10.30am	<b>James the Apostle</b> Holy Communion	Lorton
3 <sup>rd</sup> August 10.30am	<b>Oswald King of Northumbria</b> Holy Communion	Loweswater
10 <sup>th</sup> August 10.30am	<b>Trinity 8</b> Morning Service	Lorton
17 <sup>th</sup> August 10.30am	<b>Trinity 9</b> Holy Communion	Lorton*
24 <sup>th</sup> August 10.30am	<b>Bartholomew the Apostle</b> Holy Communion	Loweswater*
31 <sup>st</sup> August 10.30am	<b>Trinity 11</b> Holy Communion	Loweswater

\*Note change to normal pattern of services

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 Septmber is Friday 22nd August - all articles, photos(especially for the front cover), funny stories, letters to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date. Thank you