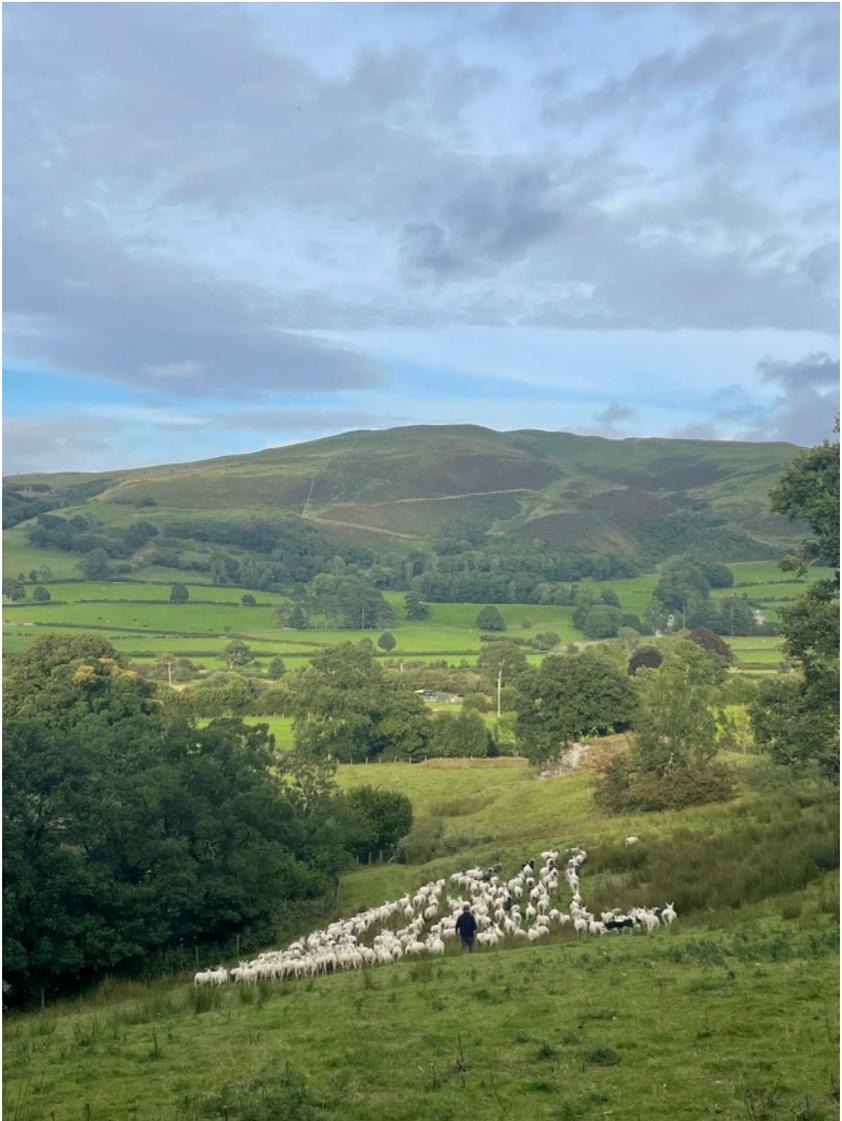


# SEPTEMBER 2025



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

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# Letter from the Editor

Dear Link Readers

I hope you have all had a good Summer and are soaking up the sunshine on the remaining sunny days before Autumn sets in. The dry weather we've been enjoying has not made gardening easy but I did have a bumper crop of potatoes and the runner beans are now doing well. Note to self - after a few anaemic cucumbers I realised I was over-watering them - better results now.

Anyway - so much for having a month off - I've now been bombarded with 36 pages of content - that has to be a record. This edition could have a sub-title of 'YTH Development plans supplement' as we have 10 pages of content referring to that, ranging from an update on the preferred option, a request for funds, another of Nev's fun articles and a piece about the heritage of the hall to a poster for a fund raising event and the Chairman's Annual Report. I'm sure we would all like to see the YTH made a more accessible and usable facility so do please make sure you read all of the information.

Coming a close second in terms of content is details about the Apple and Harvest week happening early in October. With this copy of The Link you will have received a flyer advertising all of the events and giving more detail about the

Apple Day itself. There is more detail to be found in Lorton Notes about the Harvest Festival and Lunch. One of the supporters of the Apple Day is the Mosser Cider orchard and you will find an article about Volunteer Days there on page 8.

As referenced in the front cover caption below - don't forget it is Loweswater Show on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September - I'm sure I'll see lots of you there.

We have a few other events scheduled for the next couple of months, including a coffee morning at LVH and a Hedgehog talk as well as a Quiet Day at Poiema and a Local History Society presentation.

To make access to our medical records easier the NHS is keen for us to use their App, so if you have a Smartphone and are feeling tech savvy you will find instructions about how to download it on page 34. You will also find, on the back page, an update from Jan about our contribution towards the work of Christian Aid.

I'm now off for a lie down.

Rosemary Riley

Our front cover photo this month is from Adam Baker - showing our local farmer, Gordon Graham, herding sheep - perhaps practising for Loweswater Show on 7<sup>th</sup> September!



This September I and my family are heading off to Switzerland for a week among the mountains. Maybe we'll take a trip up the cog railway to the Jungfrauoch and get up close and personal with a glacier or two at an altitude of 3454 metres. If we're brave enough we could ride a cable car to the summit of 'Piz Gloria' with its revolving restaurant and museum, famous as the setting for the James Bond film 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service'. Less strenuous options might include a tour of the Lindt Chocolate Factory in Zurich and the possibility of bringing home some delectable souvenirs.

Of course, not all of us will be travelling this year. While some like to go away and see new places, others will prefer to visit family or simply enjoy some leisure time at home, free from the demands of work. For those who cannot leave home there may still be ways of taking a break from regular routines. Whichever way we do it, we know that a change of gear of some kind is good for us and with any luck we'll be refreshed, better tempered and more productive as a result.

The challenge as always is to preserve that sense of wellbeing once we return to our daily rounds. An inbox full of emails waiting to be answered can quickly elevate our stress levels again. For those seeking some tried and

tested wisdom to address this perennial problem the Rule of St Benedict is a good place to look. Written around 530 AD as a guide for his own monastic community, it contains much common sense on how to live a balanced life. The Rule divides each monastic day into times of worship, work, rest and leisure. You don't need to be a monk to follow this good advice. St Benedict even thought that if you did this faithfully you shouldn't actually need a holiday but perhaps we need not take him too literally on that!

Many prayers are attributed to St Benedict or to the Benedictine tradition but here's one that may be helpful to us as the summer begins to draw to a close and Autumn approaches. 'Heavenly Father, I pray for peace and stability in my life and the lives of my loved ones. Through your Holy Spirit help me to live wisely and well, shower your blessings upon me, and lead me toward a life filled with harmony, unity and serenity. In Jesus' name. Amen.'

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

September sees our Patronal Festival and to mark this event we have a centre-spread detailing the life of St Cuthbert, illustrated with pictures of the wonderful kneeler we have in Lorton Church depicting scenes from his life. Here is a picture of a statue of him.



we'd love as many families as possible to attend and for the children to bring their harvest gifts up to altar rail during the Service. The Service will be followed by the Harvest Lunch at 1pm which will culminate in the ever-popular auction of produce. If you've taken part in the Apple Trail during the previous week then do come along - as the prizes will also be handed out during the lunch. Families are especially welcome. Lunch will comprise of home-made Tattie Pots followed by apple pie. There will be a licensed bar.



We are still short of numbers for the Supper on the Hoof on 12th September so if you are interested do please get in touch - more details can be found on the poster on page 21.

You will have seen the separate flyer about the Apple Day, Apple Trail, Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch (a departure from the supper of past years). Harvest Festival takes place at 10.30 on Sunday 12th October and

Rosemary Riley

From the register

Marriages

14/7/2025 Michael Roger Hague and Zoe McAndrews

16/8/2025 Stephen Neil Watson and Lydia Francesca Murgatroyd

Funeral

15/7/2025 Dr Brian Herd

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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.

The pictures of the very enjoyable 77 Club Summer Trip 2025 to Coniston, are now on line at [https://www.loweswatercam.co.uk/250610\\_77\\_Club\\_Summer\\_Trip.htm](https://www.loweswatercam.co.uk/250610_77_Club_Summer_Trip.htm)

Roger Hiley 01 900 85040

**SAVE the DATE**

Yew Tree Hall  
Sunday 18 October  
2-5.00pm.

The Malthouse Club presents

**Afternoon Tea and Live Music**

Raising funds for Hall Redevelopment

The Hearts of Uke Band are appearing for free, playing a range of Ukulele music including blues, jazz, and classic pop

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## *Penny's Piece*

Here's an interesting fact you didn't know you needed to know. The noise that Nokia phones (used to) make to for text alerts (du, du du, duuuu, duuuu, du, du, du) is morse code for SMS. So next time you can't remember which are the dots or dashes for SOS, think Nokia SMS alert and add a third dash in the middle. As promised, I have been doing some balsam bashing. One day ending in my embarrassment and surprise for a passing cyclist as I fell out of a hedge into the road. I was getting over the fence and had my hands full. I didn't quite manage the step over I had on the way in and caught my trousers on the barbed wire. I can't work out why I didn't/ couldn't drop whatever I was holding but I did some odd manoeuvre with my standing leg and freed myself. This caused me to over balance and land on the edge of the road. Luckily, there was nothing coming on my side and only a startled cyclist coming the other way. To be fair he did ask if I was ok. I blamed limb failure. At least he had a story to tell when he got home.

I have seen lots of swifts recently. However, not in this country. In Madeira. Such a lovely place but I am glad I didn't go before the runway was lengthened. It's only 2.7km now and even with that you know you have landed, and the brakes are on. I can't imagine what it was like when it was only 1.4km. Maderia is a small island but there is so much to do and see. Something for everyone. Lots of bars and places to eat if that is your thing. Lots of water-based activities: diving, snorkelling, kayaking and tours- we saw dolphins. Lots of different ways to tour round the island. We didn't hire a car but were advised by a guide on a tour, that if we did to make sure it had a decent size engine. Some of the smaller hire cars haven't got enough power to get up some of the hills. Also don't hire a car on Maderia if you can't do hill starts. It is similar to here in that respect. You can't go anywhere without it involving some kind of hill. There were some lovely gardens to visit both in town and a little further out via cable car. We also felt it compulsory to take the toboggan ride down the hill. You are sat in a wicker basket on runners and are steered down the hill to an end point. The guys on the back have special boots to help

with braking and steering. Most of it is normal road and there are cars between the different baskets as you go down and the road has been worn to a shine. I wonder how easy it is to drive on when it is wet. Thankfully, there is now a truck and a bus to get the toboggans and the men back to the top. They used to have to carry them back up. All over the island I also noticed that things were clean and tidy. They have a small charge to walk on the Levada (trails next to the water/ irrigation system) and clearly use this to keep it clean. But there were also large recycling bins on all the main car parks. Even in the middle of nowhere in particular there were gangs out digging the gullies out and strimming the sides of the roads. All jobs seemed to be a man and a tool no big machines. In the last 35 years they have been upgrading all the main roads. I would love to know what proportion of these are on the surface of the island. There are tunnels through the mountains everywhere and lots of the main roads seem to be on concrete stilts, so how many are on the ground? Well worth a visit/ revisit and I was so pleased that this year I could see the sea and get into it! I have also been to Liverpool for a few days which cost more than expected. If you can, by some miracle, find a cheap rail ticket, I would recommend going on the train. The advantages to this are: no M6 and no £25 a day parking charge! Our hotel discount meant we got it for £15 a day but by the time we'd paid £20 each to the various Beatles things you're closer £200 that you wanted to be. And you haven't bought an ice- cream yet. I remember on my first day at Cockermonth School we had been given a card to make a little name badge and mine had sort of folded up so you could see Penny L. A second year kid (I remember he was ginger) came up to me and asked if I was called Penny Lane. Nope, but I am pleased I have now been to Penny Lane, but the Cavern Club was my favourite. The Front Page in Carlisle missed out- unless it was called the ABC on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1963 when The Beatles played in Carlisle. Were you there? See you at the Show. Penny.

You may be aware of the '**Mosser Cider**' orchard which is owned and managed by Mark Evens, who supports the Lorton Apple Day. The apples mostly are pressed into juice and cider for local sales. For various reasons, it has been a bit of a struggle keeping on top of it this year. It has been suggested that he could host some 'volunteer weekends'. These



would help to get the picking and pressing done faster and the volunteers would have an opportunity to get hands-on tuition (if wanted) and experience in a range of orchard activities – picking, pressing, scything and pruning.

The idea is that (weather permitting – see below) volunteers could come on either or both of specified weekend days and take part in whatever activities were happening. Those coming for both days could pitch a tent in the orchard overnight, if they wish (probably not necessary for Mellbreak residents, but available nonetheless).

Mark and his wife Alison would provide coffee, tea and lunch plus as much juice or cider as you can (reasonably) drink plus apples to take away. Cider

drinking is off-limits if you are using sharp objects or machinery afterwards! Overnighters would also get dinner and breakfast.

Hopefully the weather will provide sunshine or at least not too much rain. Pressing takes place under cover but the other activities are all outdoors. The proposed weekends are September 13/14, September 20/21 and October 11/12. These might be subject to alteration due to weather. If these events are a success then we could hold further events during the autumn.

Bookings for the first weekend are now available. There will be a limit on numbers so first come, first served

If you are interested or have any questions, please email Mark at [mark@mossercider.co.uk](mailto:mark@mossercider.co.uk)



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Lorton & Derwent Fells Local  
History Society

**Clouties and Mud: Long Meg  
Stone Circle and Birdoswald  
Roman Fort**

**Thurs 18 Sept, 7.30 pm at YTH**



*Bruce Bennison takes a break.*

Separated in time by over 3,000 years, the stone circle Long Meg and Her Daughters, and the Roman Fort at Birdoswald are two of the best-known archaeological sites in Cumbria. The archaeologist and Cumbrian historian **Bruce Bennison** will talk about his personal experiences of these very different sites, recounting some of the stories behind the important

discoveries and fresh insights from recent excavations and surveys. He will share with us the particular excitement of archaeological excavation which he describes as long periods of tedium interspersed by short bursts of high drama. Bruce Bennison studied archaeology at university and went on to work in field archaeology and museums for much of his career. He pursues his passion for archaeology in retirement.

Everyone is welcome, visitors pay £4 cash incl. refreshments. They could also take advantage of this special opportunity to join our society. This would entitle them to attend for free one more talk this year and to receive one issue of our periodical the *Wanderer*.

*Another date for your diaries:*

On 13 November at 7.30 pm, Dr Penny Bradshaw of the University of Cumbria will give a talk to our society on 'The Great Enchantress: Ann Radcliffe's 1794 tour of the Lakes'.

*Lena Stanley-Clamp*

- ↑ EV charger installations
- ↑ Testing & Certification (EICRs)
- ↑ Fuse board changes
- ↑ Home batteries
- ↑ Solar panels

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# YEW TREE HALL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

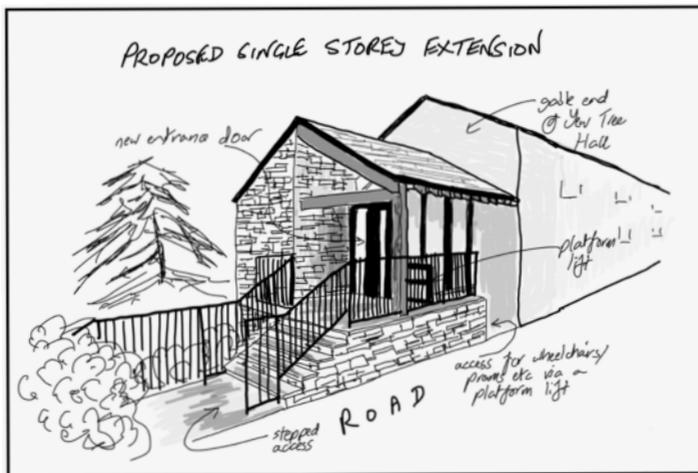
## LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN

### Preferred Option

The preferred option is based on a single storey extension, encompassing:

- Accessible toilet and level flooring throughout the building
- Area for the storage of prams, bicycles and mobility equipment
- Platform lift and steps to access the building at the gable end (Jubilee garden)
- New servery style kitchen
- Improved acoustics and an integrated audio visual system
- Improvements to the exterior of the hall, particularly the river facing elevation
- Access down to the heritage basement via a new internal staircase
- Better physical relationship between the garden and the hall

It is a fully comprehensive improvement scheme, with an estimated cost of around £700K inc VAT. Obviously we would love to implement all elements of this scheme, however this really depends on the availability of funding.



### Funding

The Heritage Lottery is the only large lottery grant available to us and we have been invited to submit an application for the up to £250K fund. They are particularly interested in funding projects that connect people to places, focussing on heritage. Part of our plan is to develop an oral history project and create exhibition space which will help meet the requirements of this funder (please see separate article).

In addition to the Heritage Lottery Fund, there are a number of smaller grants available from an array of funders all with their own specific priorities and eligibility criteria. We are able to split the scheme into different 'chunks', if necessary, to meet various funders requirements. All funders need planning permission and Listed Building Consent in place before they will consider an application.

## Our Community Donations

We have already received over £130K in donations from people in our community. This is an incredible amount and means that we will be able to undertake prioritised work to the hall, no matter how successful we are in attracting monies from external funding bodies. It also acts as match funding and demonstrates to funders how committed our community is to improving our village hall.

Bearing in mind the limited availability of funding from other sources, our initial target amount for donations from the village is £300K. Obviously, the more money we receive, the quicker the project can happen and the more control we have over the components, extent and detail of the development.

Ideally, we really need donations sooner rather than later as we have to plan how to manage the project based on available funding. There's an opportunity to select a particular element of the development, for example the platform lift, or some of the audio visual equipment if that option appeals.

Please contact us on [ythlorton@gmail.com](mailto:ythlorton@gmail.com) if you would like to discuss making a donation or funding a particular element.

## Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent

Members of the Development team are currently liaising with planners from the Lake District National Planning Authority to try to reach an agreement on an acceptable scheme based on a single storey extension. It is hoped that these applications will be submitted next month. Once a planning application has been submitted, we'll really need letters of support from as many people as possible.

## Our Village Hall

After leasing the hall from Jennings for almost 10 years, the hall was purchased by the village for £150 in 1918. It has been in the ownership of the community ever since and is managed on everyone's behalf by the Trustees. It is one of the first village halls in the UK and we all own it.

## Personal Message

I believe in this community, we look out for each other and have multiple clubs and societies. We have a village hall that is Listed due to its significance in the industrial history of Lorton and was actually purchased by villagers who thought, as that time, that Lorton was in need of a village hall. It has been the beating heart of the village ever since. However, the building has been functioning as a village hall for over 100 years now and is showing its age. Unfortunately some people in our village are excluded from using it as they struggle with the current access arrangements. Additionally the poor acoustics make it very difficult for people to hear each other as well as whatever presentation is going on at the time.

It is very clear from the consultation that our community want a comprehensive development scheme, so that we are not excluding our fellow villagers from using the hall. Obviously a project like our preferred option comes at a cost.

From searching through many and various funding bodies, it is clear that public funding is limited and the competition for it continues to increase.

So my message to everyone is, please donate to this project so we can make it happen together, for the benefit of the whole community and move this improvement project forward at pace.

Cathy Lee  
Chair - YTH Development Group

## **Yew Tree Hall Improvement Scheme – Heritage Project**

Alongside the planned physical improvements for the hall, we wish to showcase the hall's unique history, both as a malthouse and as Lorton's village hall. This is an exciting project, and we would like to involve as many people as possible in it.

### **Basement exhibition**



The basement still houses the original vaults and kiln from the malting process, and we want to make the most of these features by creating a form of 'living' exhibition. There is the potential to form an atmospheric space that recreates the smells and sounds of a malthouse. Brewery artefacts, such as old barrels and malting tiles, could be incorporated into the overall design to enhance it further.

### **Oral history – a community project**

At this initial stage we're gathering information and ideas, covering everything from potential interviewees and interviewers; the range of topics we might focus on; audio and recording equipment and expertise; and how to display the material we collect. This last point could include boards and interactive screens as exhibits within the hall, linking with displays in the basement describing the malting process. This project builds on, and will complement, the 1999 Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society 'Three Valleys Oral History Project', which yielded more than forty recordings.

If you would like to get involved in any way with this project, please contact me on 07947 748816 or at [isumisu@gmail.com](mailto:isumisu@gmail.com).

Ian Smith

## Please support the Yew Tree Hall redevelopment project

Would you like to become a Friend of Yew Tree Hall? All you need to do is help in any way you can to raise money for the redevelopment of the Hall. While the committee will be applying for grant funding, we'll also need to raise significant sums from the community.

You can become a Friend and support the Hall by making a one-off donation or a regular monthly donation, attending or helping with fundraising events, or even leaving money in your will.

If you'd like to donate by standing order or one-off bank transfer, our bank is **HSBC**:

**Payee: Yew Tree Hall Committee Sort code 40-18-03 Account 81114794**

If you'd like any further information on being a Friend of Yew Tree Hall or about gift aid, which will increase the value of donations by 25% if you are a taxpayer, please

- email [ythlorton@gmail.com](mailto:ythlorton@gmail.com) or,
- ask any of the organisers at a Yew Tree Hall event, or,
- fill in the gift aid form on the back of this page



*Any remaining donations after the completion of the redevelopment will be used for future maintenance to the improved Hall.*

A huge thank you to everyone who's donated so far. Up to 31 March 2025, we've raised an additional **£4622** as a result of the gift aid scheme. Well done everyone, keep it going and let's get it done!



## Yew Tree Hall & Gift Aid

Thank you for your interest in donating to Yew Tree Hall, a registered charity.

If you are a UK taxpayer, Yew Tree Hall can claim 25p for each £1 donated (including cash as well as bank transfers). 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.

Full name

Address

Postcode

Date

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.

Poiema Community & Retreat House

## Quiet Day

*“For we are God’s handiwork”*



This Quiet Day will explore how growing in understanding of our God-given identity, his unique handiwork, liberates us to live more fully and wholly for Him. The day will include short times of led input interspersed with times of quiet to reflect and pray.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Time: 9.45am – 3.30pm

Venue: Poiema, The Vicarage, Loweswater CA13 0RU

Suggested donation: £15-20

**Please bring a packed lunch / Tea & coffee will be provided**

For more information and to book your place, e-mail us at:

[info@poiema.org.uk](mailto:info@poiema.org.uk)



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## The story of **LORTON LADIES** — Nev Mills

### (AN UNOFFICIAL HISTORY OF LORTON'S ECCENTRIC BUT LOVEABLE LADIES)

My apologies Ladies, since rather late in the day I've just realised that the contribution of Lorton Ladies has been rather neglected in my unofficial histories saga. Its often said that behind every great man is a great woman. In Lorton, however, it's more accurate to say that behind every sturdy brick of the Yew Tree Hall and great pint of Jennings's there was a formidable group of ladies. Possessed with wit, wisdom, and an alarming proficiency for getting things done.

**Let's start with the Jennings family and beer making.** You might imagine a scene of serious, mustachioed Jennings brothers discussing hops and barley, muttering about specific gravities and fermentation temperatures. You think, Phileas Fotherington their brewmaster, with his penchant for talking to the yeast. But the secret ingredient that gave Lorton Liquid Gold its legendary kick and distinct flavour, wasn't just in the malt. Oh no. It was in the meticulous work of women like **Agnes "The Alchemist" Plummett** and her formidable daughter, **Prudence "Pint-Sizer" Plummett** - and let's not forget the Ladies of the Jennings household who first perfected "home brewing" at Scales Farm.

Agnes Plummett, whose glare could curdle milk, was the unofficial Head of Quality Control. Her nose, a remarkable instrument, could detect a spoiled batch from twenty paces. It was Agnes who would stride into the brewery, sniff the bubbling vats, and declare, "Too much faffing about with the fenugreek! Needs more... oomph!" And "oomph" she would provide, in the form of a secret blend of herbs locally gathered - the ale certainly benefited.



Then there was Prudence Plummett. While Phileas was away with the fairies Prudence was the marketing genius. In an era where "marketing" meant shouting "Ale's good!" at passers-by, Prudence quietly innovated. She was the one who realised that if the brewery cat, "George," sat on a certain barrel, that batch sold out faster. She also pioneered the "Ale for Ailments" campaign, convincing half the village that a pint of Jennings was a cure for everything from bunions to bad moods. "Got a touch of the melancholies, Mrs. Higginbottom?" she'd inquire.

And let's not forget **Maud "The Mighty" Murgatroyd**, if a batch of ale wasn't up to scratch, Maud wouldn't hesitate to inform Phileas, in no uncertain terms "this tastes like something the cow ..."! Her no-nonsense approach ensured that standards, despite Phileas's eccentricities, remained exceptionally high. The official history might credit the men with the brewing, but the Plummetts and Maud ensured Jennings was truly "liquid gold."

**Lorton's Yew Tree Hall.** The official records will tell you it was a community effort, spearheaded by gentlemen. But I've dug a little deeper and discovered the true architects of its success were the women.

Take **Eliza "Estimator" Eglantine.** While the men debated the precise dimensions of the main hall, Eliza, armed with nothing but a measuring stick and an uncanny ability to eyeball a room, was already calculating how many people could dance without tripping over each other, and, crucially, how many benches would be needed for the inevitably long speeches. She'd quietly point out - "That window, gents, is too high for keeping an eye on the kids playing outside" Her practical observations, often delivered with a sigh of long-suffering wisdom, saved countless architectural blunders.

Then there was the formidable **Daughters of Durability**, led by **Constance "Concrete" Craggs.** While the men were discussing foundations and beams, the Daughters of Durability were organising the community "Bring and Buy" sales, the "Bake-Offs for Bricks," and the legendary "Lorton Ladies' Lottery," Constance, ensured that every shilling raised was meticulously accounted for, declaring "that's another nail in the new roof!"



And the actual physical labour? While the men largely did the heavy lifting, it was the women who kept them going. **Prudence "Provisions" Ponsonby**, a woman with an enormous will, ran the unofficial "construction site canteen," distributing her famous spicy "Pick-Me-Up" ginger biscuits. Many a weary builder owed their renewed vigour not to the foreman's shouts, but to Prudence's biscuits. She was the one who noticed when Nev, the carpenter, was struggling with a beam, quietly handed him an extra strong biscuit and cuppa. Transforming old Nev into a "Greek Adonis" with a 6 pack to match! What a sight to behold.

**So, the next time you raise a glass of Jennings's or step inside the Yew Tree Hall, remember the unsung heroines. Without their wit, their grit, and their ginger biscuits, Lorton's history would be a far less successful and colourful.**

**Fast forward to today, the ladies of Lorton have taken up the mantle of their illustrious forebears, tirelessly dedicating their time and energy to an endless array of clubs, committees, and events. Together with the help of the more able menfolk the Lorton Community is flourishing.**  
**THANK YOU ALL**

## The life of Saint Cuthbert 634-687

As seen on the kneeler made by Jane Allday, St. Cuthbert's Church, Lorton



A Northumbrian Englishman ...as a lad tending sheep on the hills over Leader Water he had a vision, Bede tells us, of angels conducting the soul of St Aidan to heaven. Later he became a monk under St Eata at Melrose.



The time came when he undertook long journeys for years & years, on foot & horseback, into the remotest parts of the country between Berwick & Galloway.



He was known to have visited St Herbert at his island hermitage on Derwent Water. (They died on the same day: 20<sup>th</sup> March 687). In 664 he accompanied St Eata to Lindisfarne, & extended his work southward to people in Northumberland & Durham



Yet by nature he was a solitary, & in 676 he retired to the desolate islet of Farne, where he lived until 684 – when he became Bishop of Hexham.



Almost immediately Cuthbert exchanged his See with Eata for that of Lindisfarne, & as Bishop there he continued to be "the same man as he was before".



Cuthbert was buried, with great honour, on the south side of the altar at Lindisfarne.



In June 793 Viking invaders reached Lindisfarne, burning the settlement & killing many monks. In 875 the monks fled from the monastery taking with them their precious holy relics, the body of St Cuthbert, the skull of King Oswald, some of St Aidan's bones & the Lindisfarne Gospels. In 1069 they returned, & in 1070 St. Cuthbert's body was taken to Durham where it has rested ever since.

Loweswater with Buttermere PCC  
100 Challenge Club

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

1st prize of £25	No 45	Christine England
2nd prize of £10	No 58	Liz Polkey
3rd prize of £5	No 9	Christine Walmsley

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

1st prize of £25	No 76	Betty Coulthard
2nd prize of £10	No 70	Elaine Beard
3rd prize of £5	No 3	Roger Hiley

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



## Farm Shop

**Saturday 10am – 1pm**

**Wednesday 3pm – 6pm**

Low Netherscales Farm, Embleton  
Cockermouth, CA13 9YP

[info@cumbriafarmers.co.uk](mailto:info@cumbriafarmers.co.uk)

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Apple Juice



# 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)**



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## Dr. Brian Herd

Brian died on June 29th in the care of the outstanding and compassionate nurses of the Hospice at Home - the charity which he himself founded. Margaret, Andrew and Richard would like to thank all their friends who sent cards and letters, even a delicate passion flower. It is some comfort to read again how much Brian was respected, appreciated and admired by so many of his patients and friends.

Brian was born and brought up in Liverpool, apart from two war years evacuated to Keswick. After graduating from Cambridge (maths + physics) he taught for a year 'out' to finance medical school at the Middlesex hospital from where 'house jobs' followed, in Carlisle, Shropshire and Hawick. Brian eventually settled in Cockermouth with Dr Tom Fletcher of the renowned, local medical family, perhaps unwittingly influenced by his early days in the Lakes. During this time, several holidays were spent as medical officer accompanying walking groups on high altitude treks. So he visited the Himalayas, Ethiopia, Peru ...

At home, Brian became interested in end-of-life care and took a sabbatical from the practice to visit residential hospices up and down the country. It became apparent to him (endorsed by a poll among his own patients) that the relatively widespread population in West Cumbria was too scattered to support a traditional, residential hospice. So he dreamt up the idea of hospice standard of care brought into a patient's home with all the comforts and support appropriate. Of course, the rest is history - an early dream becoming a world-wide movement. It is fitting that his own last weeks were patiently and cheerfully overseen by the quite exceptional care provided by the Hospice at Home nurses.

Following retirement from general practice, Brian obviously continued his involvement with the Hospice but found time to indulge a love of the theatre and acting. The resurgence of a local amateur group, renamed the Tethera Valley Players, provided a springboard into professional acting - but also a partial escape from the tragic loss of his daughter. Later, he was wryly amused to be stopped by old patients who were complimentary - and thrilled - to have seen him in different roles on television - but rarely a word about the 30 odd years he had spent caring for their families! Sic transit gloria Mundi !



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### **Loweswater Village Hall**

Loweswater Village Hall is delighted to be, once again, hosting the Melbreak Communities Coffee Morning on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> between 10.00 and 12.00am. As well as offering a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours, there will be the usual tea/coffee and delicious cakes available, all of which will be complemented by the opportunity to view and buy the ever popular cards, prints and 2025 calendars from Rosamund and John Macfarlane.

The village hall committee, in conjunction with Arts Out West, is delighted to invite you to 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 music originates in classical, folk, jazz, pop and funk! Hailed by Classic FM as "one of the best things to see", the Lantivet Duo captivates audiences with a spellbinding blend of traditional and original pieces. Why not visit <https://www.lantivetduo.com/>, to sample their music. There will be a licensed bar and refreshments will be served at the interval. Further details to follow on our Facebook page and website - [loweswatervillagehall.co.uk](http://loweswatervillagehall.co.uk).

### **OIL IN LOWESWATER (O.I.L. ) CLUB UPDATE**

Thank you for all your support in the Club's first year.

The average savings for members was 3.97p per litre. Some members also took advantage of a 10% discount offered on boiler servicing.

The new year starts on 1st September 2025, with the first order deadline on 27th September. An annual donation of £20 per member is given to Loweswater Village Hall.

All details are available on the Melbreak communities website and local noticeboards or by contacting me.

Lyn Furniss - [oilinloweswaterclub@gmail.com](mailto:oilinloweswaterclub@gmail.com)

# Loweswater Ladies Summer Report



20 members headed to Levens Hall and Gardens for our summer outing. Visiting a garden is always nerve racking for the organisers because the day is greatly enhanced if the weather is fine. No amount of forward planning however can control this aspect of a trip. Thankfully we were blessed with a lovely sunny day in which to wander around these gardens and admire the topiary and flower beds. So warm in fact that rather a lot of ice cream was purchased. Quite how we had room for this after a truly excellent lunch I am not sure. The gardens are the main

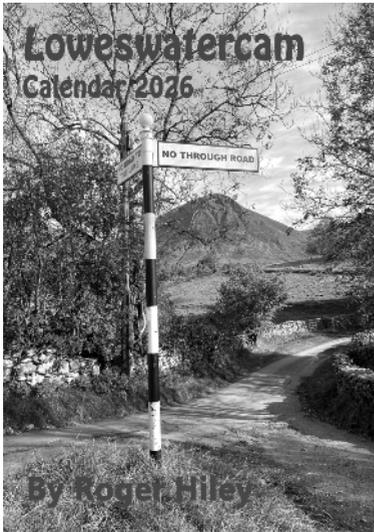
Around

feature of the property, but the hall itself was equally fascinating. Although originally a Pele tower much of the present building dates from the Elizabethan era with some later additions in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Among the many interesting artefacts are a surprising number linking the former occupants to the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon.

Our activities recommence on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7.15pm** in the village hall with a talk about Strudda Bank Farm and their Countryside Classroom.

Following our talk from Ros Downing in June about the printing and dyeing industry in Cummersdale and the history of Stead McAlpin, members might be interested to know that Cumbria Life had a feature article on the company in their August edition.

Doreen Robertson



It's that time of year again . . .

Yes ... the world famous

## *Loweswatercam Calendar*

is on sale the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Let it adorn your kitchen wall,  
keep track of your appointments,  
or to send to family and friends  
to remind them of the area.

On sale from myself at the First Responders  
Tent at the Loweswater Show,

on-line at

[www.loweswatercam.co.uk/2026\\_Calendar\\_  
Offer.htm](http://www.loweswatercam.co.uk/2026_Calendar_Offer.htm)

or from Lee and Arwen at the Lorton Shop.  
**£ 12.99p (plus postage if required)**

Size A3, 12 full colour pictures, plus space for  
notes or appointments

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

13School summer holidays are drawing to a close. As I write we are enjoying another burst of glorious sunshine on the August Bank Holiday.

We are pleased to say that Brad O'Leary has completed the repairs to Buttermere Church ceiling and roof. Together with the recent electrical repairs on the organ we are able to resume services in September. We were lucky to use Buttermere Old School for services in the interim.

The event of the year in the valley, the Loweswater Show, takes place on 7th September. We will be holding our usual service on the field at midday.

Jim Mills, who did so much work on the Buttermere Canadian Airmen Memorial, will have a stall of merchandise and will be handing out leaflets promoting the restoration appeal for St.James.

Subsequently the leaflets will be distributed widely in the community and beyond.

The Bank Holiday teas in the village hall were very successful; the proceeds amounted to an impressive £688.85. Many thanks to all who helped and baked so many delicious cakes.

This year has seen a welcome return of a summer wedding season at St.Bartholomew's and we wish all our couples much happiness in the coming years.

From St.Bartholomew's Registers  
Marriages

26.6.25. Christopher Thompson and Rebecca Sanderson

12.6.25. Sebastian Wilson and Saoirse Jennings

9.8.25. Joseph Ellis and Ellen Seed  
Funeral

14.8.25. Tracy Walker Park

# BURROW



**Septic Tank Owner?**  
**Fully funded upgrades are now available in Cumbria**  
**Register your interest online today!**

Due to the nutrient pollution of river catchments in Cumbria, we are replacing septic tanks with modern treatment plants that cut down on phosphates. This ongoing upgrade project is being funded by local planning authorities, so you can have a positive impact on the environment, free of charge.



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



## Yew Tree Hall AGM 14 July – Chair report

Quite a year in the history of our hall. The committee is in excellent shape and has gone from strength to strength – unbelievable progress has been made, effectively from a standing start, on the redevelopment. More on that shortly.

The year started off with the trustees needing to find £10,000 for a fire alarm system and electrical upgrades. It wasn't something that we could put off but we were fortunate to be awarded a grant of half the amount from the Cumberland Council Lakes to Sea Community panel Fund to whom we are very much obliged – especially Jill Perry our local (green) County Councillor. We also had some funds in reserve specifically for things like this.

Our social events programme remains healthy with a number of events and coffee mornings taking place – thank you to Melbreak Communities for their continued support with the coffee mornings and the contribution to the replacement water geyser. We've also introduced a 'drop-off zone' so drivers can stop by the door to drop off anyone with mobility needs. Particularly of note in events were the Race night and New Year's Eve event which went down an absolute storm. These events take a lot of organising and if it wasn't for the hours of work and organising put in by trustees and volunteers alike, they simply wouldn't happen. But they are so worth it, to have 80 people here having a great time is part of the whole point of the hall, that's what our forebears foresaw in 1909 and I'm sure they'd be absolutely delighted that the hall was still rocking 115 years later.

Hires and occasional events remain stable while our social and sporting groups continue to flourish and meet regularly. While U3A Bowls has recently consolidated their activity in Cockermouth, we have Gardening, History, Wildlife, Karate, Table tennis, Film Club, Move to Improve and The Malthouse Club. Our income from hires etc. is healthy and the modest hourly hire increase last April meets our ongoing maintenance commitments - Catherine will speak to the finances shortly.

We're all acutely aware of the dire need for a complete overhaul and redevelopment of the Grade II listed hall – borne out by the parish council questionnaire, while retaining its heritage, character and feel – all the qualities we love so much and why there is community determination to protect it, preserve it and promote it.

Working with Lorton Parish Council, the trustees' set-up a new Development Group, ably led by Cathy Lee. We quickly established very effective ways of working producing ideas and thoughts against a number of objectives. Those ideas turned into working sketches and we shared all of them with the community. The trustees agreed to donate £5k from reserves to get the ball rolling and we're also very grateful for the £2k contribution from Lorton Parish Council. Such was the belief in what we were doing, we quickly raised over £13k enabling us to start looking at the

project in earnest. We contracted WKD Design, Cal Williamson, who'd done many hours of ex-gratia work on the hall previously, to commit some designs to full drawings. Along with a number of other contractors, a viable plan began to emerge. Following another round of consultation, we're now at a point where we have a 'preferred option'. But that is just the start of the formal process. We need to secure planning permission and just as importantly, we need to ensure we have the funds to build it.

At the same time we began to clear the undercroft area – it had never been properly cleaned since the floods of 2009 and 2015. A group of us cleared several tons of silt, mud, grime and rubbish. Some of you may have seen the results – the original vaulting and flag floors. And at the same time we were doing that, it was announced Jennings Brewery in Cockermouth had been bought with a view to brewing again. If ever there was an example of serendipity that was it. Cathy quickly established contact with the new owners and we now have a strong relationship with them based on the shared heritage and history of Jennings. Again, such was the cultural and heritage interest in what we were doing, we made the front page of the Keswick Reminder, Cumbria Life and the BBC website! ITV are still interested in making a mini documentary about the Jennings history and I'm in touch with both the BBC and ITV. And watch this space for the new 'Lorton Ale' coming to glass near you soon!

As part of the fund raising initiative we set up another sub-committee called Friends Of Yew Tree Hall (FOYTH) whose aims are to secure funding through new initiatives, events and grants. We additionally registered for, and were awarded, Gift Aid status by HMRC – this effectively means most donations are uplifted by 25%, a major contribution in its own right.

When we have a clearer picture of funding and project time-lines we'll be liaising with the Church and the school in terms of alternative arrangements and complimentary heritage projects.

I make no excuse for repeating what I said last year - the committee runs purely on the goodwill and voluntary time of the trustees, not to mention a significant number of volunteers who help us in many ways – there are literally thousands of hours invested in the upkeep and development of Yew Tree Hall. And that belief translates into donations – our redevelopment fund currently stands at an incredible £131k! So many thanks to all involved and especially to everyone that uses the hall for continuing to support the heart of the community, the epitome of Lorton life.

*Melbreak Wildlife Group*

*Presents*



# Butterflies of the Lorton Valley



Join us for a talk by local butterfly expert and enthusiast, Stuart Medland.

Thursday 9th October

Yew Tree Hall, Lorton, CA13 9UL

7:30

£3.00 entry, teas/coffees on arrival



**All welcome!**





## **Harvest Festival**

*St Bartholomew's Loweswater  
with St James's Buttermere  
Celebrate at St Bartholomew's on  
Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am*

### **Tatie Pot Supper & Auction**

*On Monday October 6th 2025  
Loweswater Village Hall 7.00 pm  
Admission £13.00 Children £6.50*

*For catering we need to know numbers please.  
To reserve your place please ring:  
Jan Collins-Webb on 01900 85609  
or Eleanor Ella 07756 341163*



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# Loweswater Village Hall **Coffee Morning**



Saturday October 11th - 10.00 'till 12.00

## Coffee/Tea & Cakes

and an opportunity to catch up with friends & neighbours

Plus

**Sale of Prints, Calendars & Cards by Rosamund & John Macfarlane**



A Melbreak Communities Event

Proceeds in aid of Village Hall Funds

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A Melbreak Communities Initiative



# Hedgehog Recovery Project



## Hedgehog Fostering and Overwintering

Would you like to join a small local network of hedgehog fosterers? Please come along to this training session to see what's involved.



**Loweswater Village Hall 7.30pm onwards  
Wednesday 24 September**

**Tanya St. Pierre, Melbreak Wildlife Group will lead the session, she works with Millcroft vets and other carers locally to rehabilitate injured, sick or juvenile hedgehogs.**

**(No charge - but donations welcome)**

# COMMUNITY LUNCH

Served promptly at 1:15pm.



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

ETD

(No lunch in August, school holiday)

Held at Lorton School  
Everyone is welcomed

**Booking essential**  
**call Helen on 07790 459064**

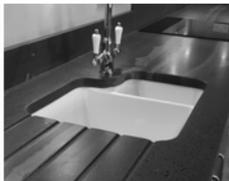
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## Nature Notes – Green Bank Farm Regeneration



Green Bank Farm, at the bottom of Simonscales Lane on the southern edge of Cockermonth, is crossed by two footpaths. The higher path follows a thick hedgerow across four fields before turning right down towards the river Cocker. Walkers can then follow the river east to Southwaite Bridge, or west back to Simonscales Lane.

The farm has recently changed hands, and a year ago it was announced that the new owners were entering into an agreement with Environment Bank, a company which creates 'habitat banks' through selling units of 'biodiversity gain'. The company will manage around 70 acres of Green Bank Farm, well over half the total holding.

The previous farmer was interested in wildlife and planted a number of hedgerows which were allowed to grow thick and tall. He did not farm the land intensively, though his sheep inevitably tended to eat away any wild flowers or tree seedlings which tried to grow.

Environment Bank's plans for the land – in collaboration with the new owners – involve creating flower meadows, ponds and areas of scrubby woodland interspersed with open glades. Sheep have been removed and four hardy cattle are grazing some of the fields. The remainder will be cut in late summer for hay. Tree-planting and pond creation will begin later this year or early next.

The immediate effect of the dramatic reduction in grazing has been a massive increase not so much in the variety of species, but in their abundance. On a recent walk on a sunny day I was struck by the sheer volume of birds. A large flock of long-tailed tits came right past me, twittering to one another as they moved along the uncut hedge. One sat on a twig just a few feet above my head. Willow warblers and chiffchaffs were plentiful, while swallows and martins skimmed over the tall grasses. The highlight, however, was first hearing and then seeing a pair of curlews. They rose up from a meadow on the far side of the hedge and circled away towards the west. I waited a while but did not see them return.

Heading back along the path close to the river I noticed a number of meadow plants making a welcome return. There was yellow rattle (always a good sign), field buttercup, red clover and bird's-foot trefoil. I also spotted many oak seedlings popping up, presumably from acorns most probably planted by jays, a bird often seen in the area. On the river was a goosander with four chicks. Noticing me it quickly moved to the far bank, watching over its brood carefully. A heron rose up and flew downstream, and a dipper bobbed its head on a rock. A swift darted by, identifiable by its dark underside.

Beside the river I was also delighted to meet the lead ecologist from Environment Bank, Tom Dodds. We chatted and I promised to keep in touch, letting him know of any significant species I spot as this very promising project continues to take shape.

Richard Watson



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Pop in and browse our books, we have over 500 to choose from ...

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You can keep it or you can pass it on, or you can return it ...



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## DIARY DATES

### 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  
13 Sat FOLS coffee morning and duck race from 9.30am, YTH  
18 Thu [Chat & Crafternoon](#). LVH 2-4pm. All welcome. Suggested donation £3.  
18 Thu [Long Meg Stone Circle and Birdoswald Roman Fort](#), L&DFLHS, YTH, 7.30 pm  
24 Wed [Melbreak Wildlife Group](#) - Hedgehog Fostering and Overwintering 7.30pm LVH

### OCT

- 5 Sun Apple Day, Lorton - see flyer  
6 Mon [Harvest Supper, LVH](#) - see poster  
9 Thu [Melbreak Wildlife Group](#) . Butterflies of the Lorton Valley - Talk by Stuart Medland. YTH 7.30. Entry £3  
11 Sat [LVH Coffee morning](#) - see poster  
12 Sun [Harvest Lunch](#), Auction and Apple Trail Prize Giving, YTH, 1pm - see flyer and Lorton Notes  
16 Thu [Chat & Crafternoon](#). LVH 2-4pm. All welcome. Suggested donation £3. YTH  
18 Sat [Afternoon tea and live music](#) - see poster  
21 Tue [Loweswater 77 Club Meeting](#) - LVH 7.30pm  
23 Thu Melbreak Wildlife Group - Annual Opening Meeting. YTH 7.30  
25 Sat AoW: Around the World in Four Seasons. LVH 7:30pm see poster for details



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Facebook: S McAdam Garden Services

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 September 2025

7 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Trinity 12</b>	
8.30am	Said BCP Holy Communion	Lorton
12 noon	Morning Worship	Loweswater Showground
14 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne</b>	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton
21 <sup>st</sup> September	<b>Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</b>	
10.30am	Morning Service	Loweswater
6pm	Holy Communion	Buttermere
28 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Trinity 15</b>	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton



We have now received a thank you letter from Christian Aid for our donation. This letter can be seen on notice boards around the Valley, but states "Your donation will help people like Aurelia in Guatemala. As increasingly intense conditions kill her crops, Aurelia's ability to safeguard her family slips away. Aurelia's observed many impacts of the climate crisis, including extended dry seasons, the degradation of soil, contaminated water and a decreasing diversity of plants and crops. Climate change has been killing our crops, and this is our food. But with a little help from Christian Aid and Congcoop, Aurelia's gained the skills and knowledge to cultivate native seeds that are better suited to the changing climate. I want to tell donors to continue supporting Christian Aid, because, through Congcoop, they've been supporting us. Aurelia

Our donation this Christian Aid Week will help people like Aurelia in putting the unstoppable power of hope into action.

Jan Collins-Webb  
Lorton Valley Organiser

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 October is Friday 19th September - all articles, photos(especially for the front cover), funny stories, letters to [lortonvalelink@gmail.com](mailto:lortonvalelink@gmail.com) by this date. Thank you