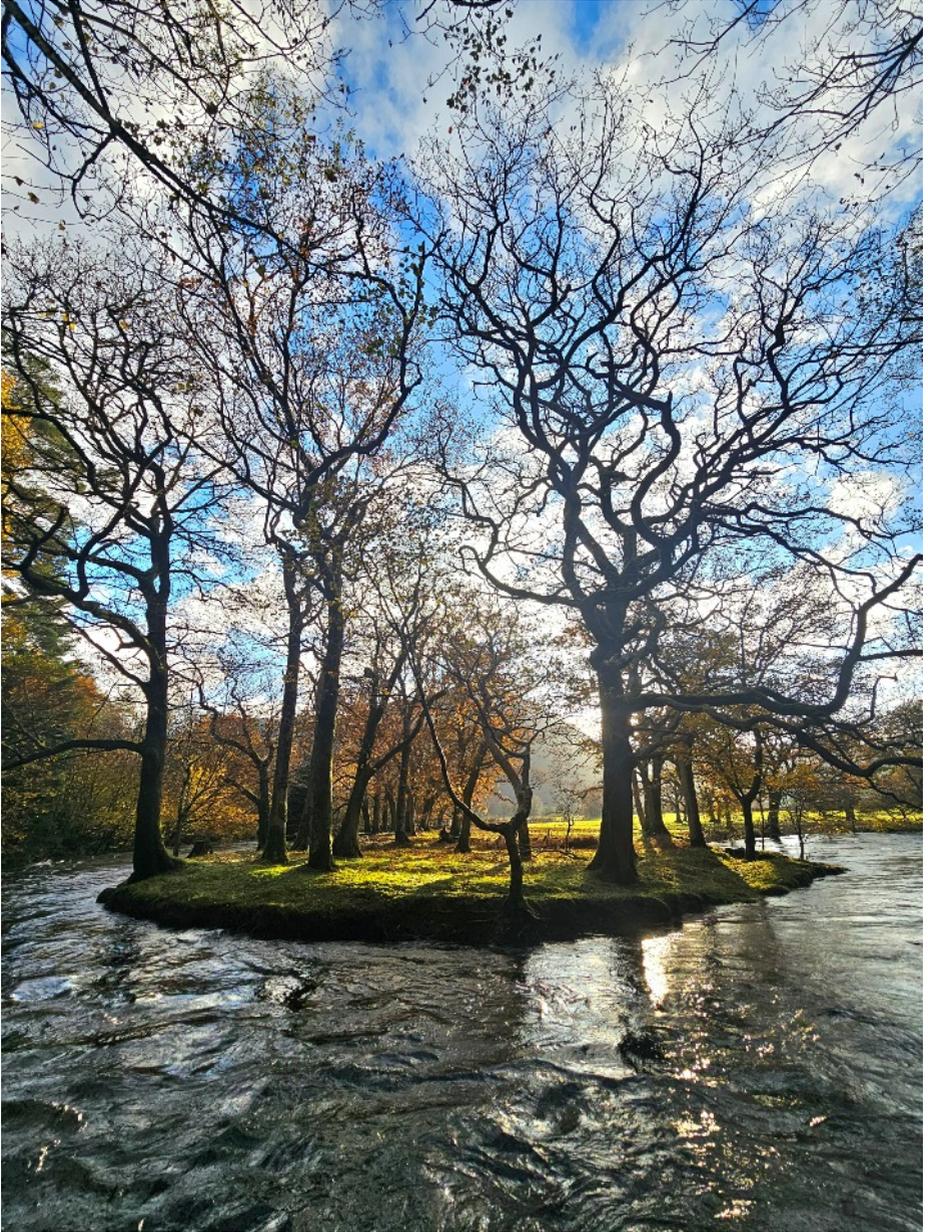


**DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026**



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

**£7.00 PER ANNUM (LOCAL)**

**£15.00 PER ANNUM (POSTED)**

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Link Readers

It's been a bit of a juggling act this month as there was too much content for 36 pages and not quite enough for 40 - but we got there in the end.

We have lots of Christmas-themed events during December including two rounds of Carol Singing, the First Responders Mulled Wine evening, a Christmas Coffee morning, two carol services, the 77 Club Christmas party, a Christmas Gathering at LVH and a Christmas Community Lunch. And of course don't forget the joint St Cuthbert's and FOLS Christmas Fair on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Never fear - activities do not cease at the end of the year as we have another Coffee Morning in January as well as the Burns Night Supper. There are Community lunches in January and February and in February there is an Arts Out West production at LVH as well as the ever-popular wine tasting run by David and Barbara Robinson.

Our centre-spread is an article written by John Macfarlane about JMW Turner and his visit to the lakes and to this valley in 1797 when he sketched his iconic painting of Crummock with a rainbow from 'Turner's viewpoint' on Rannerdale Knott, and also around Buttermere which John has researched extensively, and asks a question. The reason for including it this year, is that 2025 is 250th anniversary of his birth and a major exhibition has just opened at Tate Britain. BBC Country file have also been up filming to include it in a programme. Staying with the lake theme we also have a further update from Les Webb about the water quality of Buttermere.

I'm sure many of you attended the YTH Grand Auction Night on Saturday which was a great success. See the full report on pages 32 and 33 followed by an update about the redevelopment plans.

As I wind down for 2025 may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rosemary Riley



Our front cover photo this month is of a rather full Oxbow Cocker - very appropriate given the amount of rain we've had - and was taken by John Macfarlane



If you hadn't already noticed, Christmas is just around the corner! For many, the Advent season is one of the busiest times in the year, as we prepare for the big day on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

The birthday of Jesus Christ, God's gift of His Son to the world, deserves nothing less than a joyful celebration.

But the season of Advent, in the church calendar, *begins* with getting ready for another event. An event for which we have no date, but which Jesus Christ promised will happen: the day when he returns in glorious majesty and establishes his kingdom in heaven and on earth.

At a first glance, the pairing of these two comings in Advent - one so humble in nature and one so cosmic and unmissable - may seem rather strange. But it's only in looking forward to Christ's second coming that we find true joy in remembering his first arrival. Indeed, the Christmas story only has full meaning in the light of Christ's promised return, when he will bring to fulfilment that which he gave us a taste of in his earthly life: everlasting peace, justice, equity, love, joy, healing. The final verse of the Christmas carol, "It came upon the

midnight clear" conveys this longed-for future in Edmund Sears' sublime lyrics:

"For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing."

*Edmund Sears (1810 - 1876)*

Advent offers us a beautiful message of hope, especially in the face of the strife and woes that so often characterise our world, and at times, our personal lives. But it's not just a passive hope for a better future, rather a hope that motivates action: to bring, in our own small way, a flavour of this kingdom of peace, love, joy and justice, here and now on earth.

With best wishes for a joyful Christmas, and a peaceful new year.

Andrea Ward

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

Rev. Barbara Robinson, 01900 85234 or 07961902075. Please leave a message and I will get back to you asap. If your need is urgent please contact Rev. Jane Charman, Mission Community Leader on 01900 828028



# **HIGH LORTON CAROL SINGING MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER**

**We will be knocking on your door to  
sing and collect for the NSPCC**

**Want to join the singers ?  
Meet at Lorton Park Cottage  
for mulled wine and mince pies  
6pm for 630pm start**



**If you want to be in but  
wish to donate please  
contact Ann Roberts at  
Owl Brook High Lorton**

# Wine Tasting - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

7pm Friday 6th February 2026

Loweswater Village Hall

Finger buffet to accompany

Reservation required

£17 per ticket, available from

David Robinson

0190085234 david@loweswater.net



Proceeds to Loweswater and Buttermere churches

# 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.

01768 428 000

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





We had an excellent evening this week when we were entertained by the local and best selling author, Mr Alan Cleaver. He gave us an interesting and illustrated talk on the Postal Paths of Britain, concentrating, I think for our benefit, on many of the local paths that first saw the light of day as rounds for Cumbrian Postmen and women.

His photos included the Loweswater Postman delivering to Gillerthwaite, in the days when the big barn still stood and the house had not yet become a Post office in its own right. He took us on journeys to Lorton and Swinside with Ann Moffat, into Miterdale with Hannah Knowles and to perhaps the loneliest postal route covering Shap and Wet Sleddale. Altogether a delightful talk about the series of investigative walks that he and his wife Lesley have done in recent years.

Our next event is our Christmas Party (see poster) when we will gather at 2.30pm on Saturday the 13th December for an afternoon tea, at which we will be entertained by the Allerdale Fiddlers. If you want to take part in the Secret Santa Draw, then please "bring a present to receive a present".

We are also all lined up for the January celebration of Burns night, where your piper awaits at 6.45pm on the 22nd Jan, at the Loweswater Village Hall, to start a fine evening of Scottish entertainment. We have haggis, toasts, speeches and entertainment to last the evening through. The details are available from a second poster in this edition of The Link.

Places for both events must be booked with myself (Roger Hiley, 01 900 85040) for catering purposes.

Have a great Christmas and hope to see you at one or both of our events. Guests welcome to both.



**Loweswater 77 Club**

**Saturday 13th December**  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY** at 2.30pm  
**Loweswater Village Hall**

Afternoon Tea  
followed by music by  
the Allerdale Fiddlers

**Club Members Free**  
**Non members £12.50**

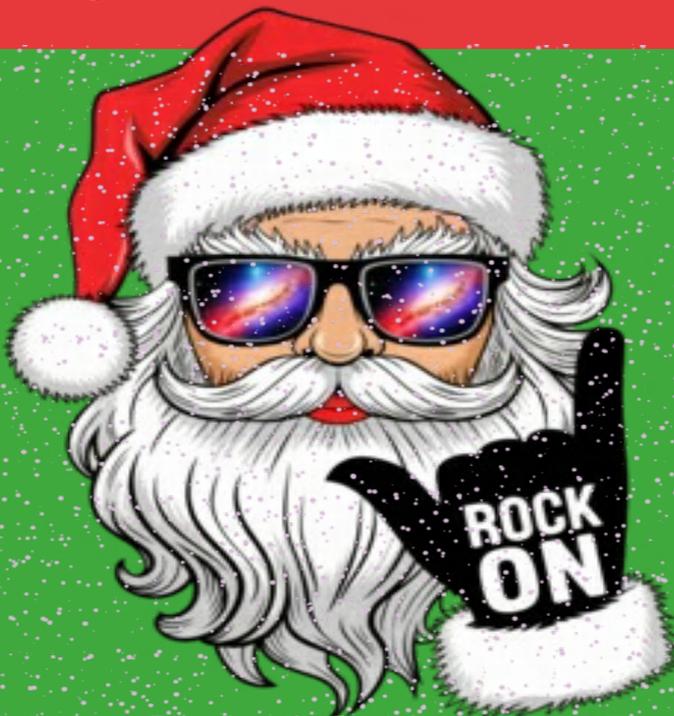
**Book your place or table**  
**with Roger Hiley on 01900 85040**  
**by Sunday 7th December please.**

Seasonal Greetings from  
THE YEW TREE HALL COMMITTEE

Christmas  
**£4**  
Coffee Morning

Includes some delectable, scrumptious,  
mouth-watering and heavenly **CAKES**.

**Saturday 13th December at 10.30am**



**with a Grand Christmas Raffle  
in aid of Winter Warmth Appeal**



(Please park responsibly)

**A Melbreak Communities Event**



## LORTON NOTES

As the year draws to a close we begin the celebrations of Advent and Christmas - always a joyful time of year. We have a few Christmas Services at Lorton, starting with a celebration of Carols and Readings on the 14th December. Then as usual we will be holding the Christingle Service and Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve - we hope to see many of you at the various services. We shall be decorating St Cuthbert's on the morning of Saturday 20th - you are all welcome to come along and help.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who help to support our church in many ways - the Responsible Sides Persons who make sure the church is ready for every service -- including the refreshing of flowers, to Roger Peck who continues to act as Sacristan and to Madge who comes every week (always the first to arrive) to play the organ for us.

Our Christmas Fair (held jointly with Friends of Lorton School) takes place on Saturday 6th December starting at 10.30. See the poster elsewhere in The Link for further details but do come along to enjoy the various stalls and to partake of delicious refreshments. There will be the remaining packs of St Cuthbert Christmas cards on sale, as well as the last few Lorton Vale Calendars - so don't miss the opportunity to buy those. One of the Christmas cards features one of the Angels from our stained glass windows which I've reproduced here - but B&W doesn't do it justice - you need to buy the cards! Thank you to John Macfarlane for the photo.

Rosemary Riley



## BUTTERMERE NUTRIENT INVESTIGATION



Last year, Leslie wrote a short piece comparing Loweswater's and Buttermere's water quality. This article is about the productivity of Buttermere, which primarily concerns the growth of algae. The lake is generally described as being oligotrophic meaning that it has a low nutrient status.

It is owned by the National Trust and, like most of the rest of the Cocker catchment, it is classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

The Environment Agency (EA) undertakes regular compliance monitoring of permitted point source discharges as well as water quality monitoring and there is also a longer-term record through the surveys by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) in their quinquennial Lakes Tours. There has been concern in recent years that the concentration of a key nutrient (phosphorus) has increased above the target level so the EA has just launched an investigation, which is being carried out by West Cumbria Rivers Trust (WCRT) and should be completed by April 2026.

There are no direct discharges from waste water treatment plants or farms to the lake so diffuse pollution from land run-off requires reduction in order to meet target phosphorous levels in the lake. The investigation will include sampling/analysis of the lake and its inputs; dialogue with local farmers and permitted dischargers; assessment of possible contributions from non-permitted point sources like septic tanks (presently unknown) and tourist activities.

As is well-known from studies on other lakes, a deterioration in water quality can happen very quickly, but often takes much longer to reverse, so a rapid response is needed to identify the best course of action and prevent a further drop in water quality such as excessive algal growth and deoxygenation.

Leslie Webb and Laura Hutchinson, WCRT - contact [laurah@westcumbriariverstrust.org](mailto:laurah@westcumbriariverstrust.org) for more info.

# The Secret of William Wordsworth and Lorton Ale

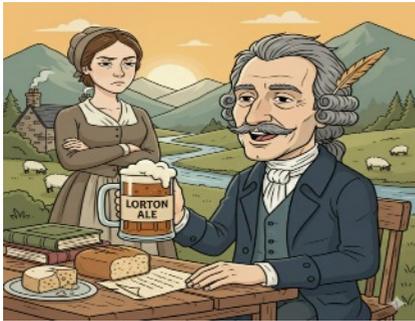
- an unofficial history, by Nev Mills

It is a well-established truth that William Wordsworth, the bard of the Lakes, was born just a few miles from Lorton in Cockermouth. What is less-known is that the formative years of his poetic genius were less a period of solitary contemplation and more a series of boozy visits to High Lorton, where he became very close friends with the pioneering Jennings family—the forefathers of the now-famous brewery.

While other biographers focus on the **Daffodils** (a clear inspiration from a tankard of golden ale), or the **Lyrical Ballads**(a possible reference to pub songs), we focus on Williams true muse: **Lorton Ale**.

In those early days, the Jennings were perfecting their brew at Scales Farm. They'd lure young William over, not for his sharp wit, but because his grand, dramatic readings of truly awful early verse provided excellent background noise for the malt-mashing. The deal was simple: recite a new poem, get a free tankard of the new, experimental bitter.

The problem? Wordsworth was a dreadful poet after a few beers. Many would say he wasn't a lot better when sober, but that's another story. His sister, the perpetually worried **Dorothy Wordsworth**, quickly realised that if his "Lorton Outpourings" were ever to see the light of day, they would destroy his reputation.



## Dorothy doesn't look best pleased!

After much research I can reveal for the first time, an authentic, unedited extract from his Lorton Yew ode. Composed by William Wordsworth while staring at his glass at the Scales Farm tap-room: But thanks to Dorothy was quickly substituted with a more lyrical verse.

Thus, a great literary conspiracy was born: whenever William stumbled off to his bed-chamber, Dorothy would frantically gather the damp, ale-stained scraps of parchment, burn them, and substitute a beautiful, introspective poem she had quickly composed herself! This single-handed effort is why we now credit William with lines like "*I wandered lonely as a cloud,*" when the original manuscript was perhaps a little different!

## *Wordsworth original 'Lorton Yew' before Dorothy fine tuned the lyrics*

The Yew is here and it is not small,  
I see it standing by the wall.  
It smells like dirt and maybe dust,  
I hope the wood does not get rust.  
My feet are tired, my head feels glum,  
Look, a squirrel is chewing its thumb!



**Loweswater 77 Club**  
**Burns Supper**

**Loweswater Village Hall**  
**Thursday 22nd January at 7pm**

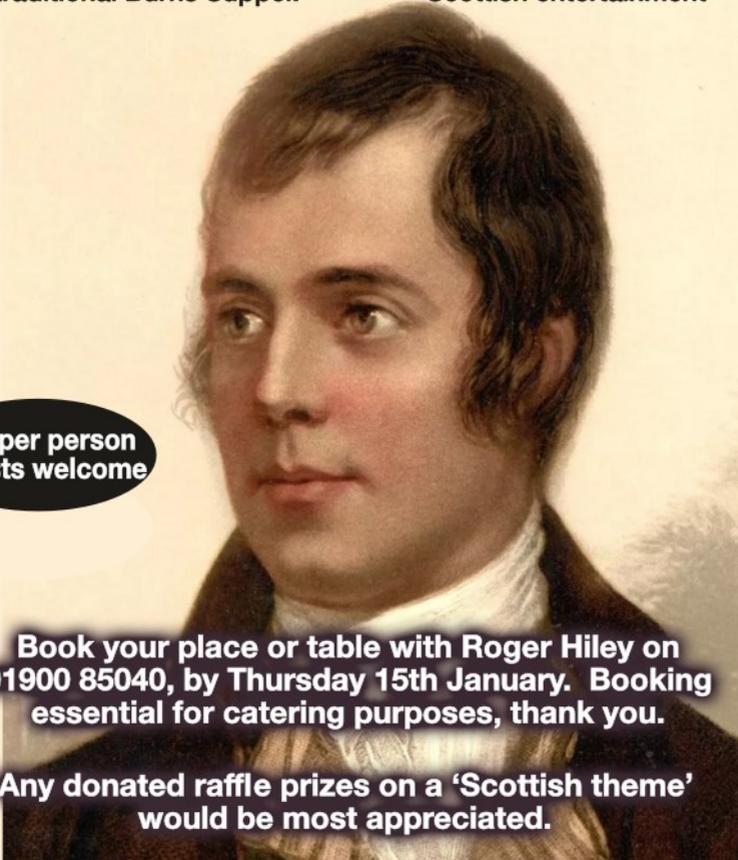
A Piper's Welcome awaits  
you from 6.45pm, ready for a  
traditional Burns Supper.

With toasts and speeches,  
followed by authentic  
Scottish entertainment

**£24 per person**  
**Guests welcome**

**Book your place or table with Roger Hiley on  
01900 85040, by Thursday 15th January. Booking  
essential for catering purposes, thank you.**

**Any donated raffle prizes on a 'Scottish theme'  
would be most appreciated.**





## Lowseswater Village Hall

# Christmas Gathering

Tuesday December 16th from 8.00pm

After the Carol Singing in Lowseswater

Whether you have been carol singing or not, please come and join us for some complimentary seasonal cheer and a few more carols

*Warming Festive Food and Drink*

No entry charge - Donations to the NSPCC

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



## Farm Shop

Saturday 10am – 1pm

Wednesday 3pm – 6pm

Low Netherscales Farm, Embleton  
Cockermouth, CA13 9YP

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

### Sustainable Produce from Local Farmers

Belted Galloway Beef

Herdwick Lamb

Venison

Pork sausages

Seasonal Vegetables

Cut Flowers

Milk and Eggs

Bread and Flour

Rapeseed Oil

Apple Juice

## Nature Notes – Tawny Owls



A common sound after dusk at this time of year is barn owls calling the familiar ‘twit two’. If you hear that noise it is actually a pair, male and female calling to each other. The ‘ke-wick’ or ‘twit’ is usually made by the female, and the male responds with the ‘two’. The noise of a barn owl is very different – more of a screech. The reason we hear tawny owls in the autumn in particular is that the young have fledged and are looking to establish themselves, and older owls want to hold on to their territory. Adult birds mate for life, and will chase their own young out of their territory once they are old enough.

Tawnies are the most common owl species in the UK, but have been on the amber list of birds of conservation concern since 2015. Given that they are nocturnal, monitoring their numbers is difficult – as the BTO has stated “*while we certainly know that there is an owl if we hear one, we can never be sure that there is no owl if we don’t hear any!*”. They will eat a wide variety of food – mostly small mammals like mice and voles, but they will also take birds, amphibians, insects and worms and if food is very scarce will eat carrion.

Deciduous broad-leaved woodlands are the most common habitat for tawny owls, but they can be found in other types of forest and have adapted to live in a variety of places including urban locations. They prefer to nest in a tree cavity if available, but will also easily adopt a nestbox. Other places they might nest are squirrel drays and old nests used by larger birds, but it unusual to find a tawny in a building.

Nesting begins early in the year, with hatching tending to be early June. Like barn owls, the eggs hatch over a period of days, having been laid asynchronously to aid survival rates. The young fledge once they are about 5 weeks old, but remain reliant on their parents for food for much longer. Before they fully fledge there will be a period of ‘branching’, when they have left the nest but spend several days in surrounding branches. If you come across a young tawny owl on the ground and out of its nest, it probably isn’t in trouble and doesn’t need rescuing (the opposite is true of barn owl chicks).

Harriet Fear Davies  
Melbreak Wildlife Group / Co-ordinator of Melbreak Barn Owl Group (MBOG)

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

It seems no time since I was writing the November notes and 4 weeks on we have experienced a real taste of winter, frost and snow on the fells which look quite beautiful. We have been spared low level snow with the ensuing problems on the roads. We are now in the season of Advent, a time of anticipation and preparation in the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas, the birth of Christ and his expected second coming. We look forward to sharing our Christmas services together starting with our Loweswater Carol service of 9 Lessons and Carols on 21st at 6pm, followed by Christmas Eucharist at Buttermere at 12 midday on 24th, Christmas Eucharist at Loweswater on Christmas Day at 10.30 am and the ever popular informal Carol service at Buttermere on 28th at 3pm. As usual we shall be decorating our churches on the morning of Saturday 20th. As the year draws to a close it is time to thank all those who contribute to the smooth running of our services and care for

our churches in so many ways, Margie for her dedicated work in organising the flowers, Sheila and Heather for their beautiful arrangements in the Chancel and Kath for keeping the church spick and span. Last but not least we are indebted to Sue for the music and her work with the choir and John Scadding for his playing the organ at Buttermere. Everyone of our small but loyal congregation play a role in Buttermere. Joan adds the pretty floral decoration. Our first fundraising event of the New Year, the Robinson's popular wine tasting takes place on Friday 5th February, more information elsewhere in this issue. Many will know John Betjeman's poem Christmas which is so evocative of the season though written mid 20th century contrasts the commercialisation of the season with the real religious meaning. Wishing all readers a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year  
Eleanor Ella



**CUMBERLAND  
STOVE SERVICES**

- Stove and Fireplace Installation
- Flue Lining
- Chimney Sweeping
- Stove Maintenance and Repair
- FREE NO OBLIGATION SURVEY AND ESTIMATE

Email: [enquiries@cumberlandstoveservices.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cumberlandstoveservices.co.uk)  
Tel: 01900 268737 Mob: 07702112406





**William Keith Campbell  
Chimney Sweeping Services**

- Open fires, stoves, Agas etc. swept and cleaned
- Clean & efficient
- Fully insured
- Certificates issued on request.

**T: 01946 813052  
M: 07756 470041**

## Christmas

The bells of waiting Advent ring,  
The Tortoise stove is lit again  
And lamp-oil light across the night  
Has caught the streaks of winter rain  
In many a stained-glass window sheen  
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge  
And round the Manor House the yew  
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,  
The altar, font and arch and pew,  
So that the villagers can say  
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,  
Corporation tramcars clang,  
On lighted tenements I gaze,  
Where paper decorations hang,  
And bunting in the red Town Hall  
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.

And London shops on Christmas Eve  
Are strung with silver bells and flowers  
As hurrying clerks the City leave  
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,  
And marbled clouds go scudding by  
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,  
And oafish louts remember Mum,  
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.  
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'  
Even to shining ones who dwell  
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,  
A Baby in an ox's stall ?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true ? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissued fripperies,  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare -  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

John Betjeman



# Melbreak Wildlife Group



Presents

## Rewilding and reintroductions

- can we have a wilder Cumbria please?

A talk by Kevin Scott, Cumbria Wildlife Trust's  
Northern Reserves Officer



Thursday 04 December

Yew Tree Hall, Lorton, CA13 9UL

7.30pm-9pm

£3.00 entry, teas/coffees on arrival.



Melbreak Wildlife Group is part of 'The Melbreak Communities' initiative.

[www.melbreakcommunities.wordpress](http://www.melbreakcommunities.wordpress)



# All welcome!

# **Brain of the Benefice** **2025**



## ***The Dire Diamond Heist***

---

***The Vale's premier, annual word  
search – special 30<sup>th</sup> year edition!***

***Things found on or around a farm***

'Rob and Nick Steal, the local bungling burglar brothers, whose last job was a right botc\_, \_\_ joyed their time off. They were recounting their last sa \_\_. " \_\_ amwork; we need to do it better", after they'd had a right \_ \_ \_ \_ ey...'



***Cup for the winner***



***Only £2 - available at the Christmas fair,  
coffee morning and in the Village Shop***

\*Winners to be drawn by Lee & Arwen in the shop Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026\*



# **Loweswater Carols 2025 – in aid of NSPCC -**



We will be doing our usual “round the houses” of Loweswater this year on Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup> Please note that the start venue will again be The Loweswater Village Hall.

Please meet up at Loweswater Village Hall car park, ready for a 6pm start (by doing so it will be easier to share transport). We are hoping to visit Loweswater's Waterend, then back to Oak Bank, Scale Hill, the Kirkstile plus houses in between. Finally, we have an invitation to end the evening as guests of the Loweswater Village Hall, where I understand there will be seasonal light refreshments on offer.

You are invited to join us for a fine night of carols, house-to-house, or if this is difficult for you then feel free to join us any of the venues on the way round, or at the Village Hall from 8pm onward. For full details please contact myself, Roger Hiley on 01—900-85040 or 07740-461059

**Wrap up warm, bring a torch and feel festive again on this fun, fund raising evening.**

## **A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS WITH CAROLS**

with the Benefice Choir  
Loveswater Church  
Sunday 21 December at 6 pm



## Crummock Water and JMW Turner.

This year, 2025, marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775–1851), one of the most widely admired and influential British artists.



Self portrait  
c. 1799

George Field's  
(Colourman)  
oil paint catalogue  
from Turner's time.  
Turner was keen to  
experiment with new  
paints

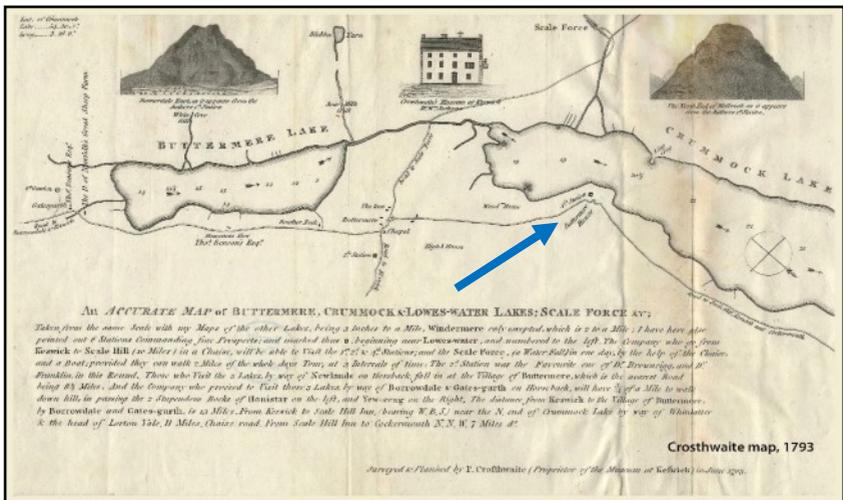


Turner was no stranger to the Lakes. In July 1797, aged 22, he embarked on his (first) 2-month tour of the North. He travelled from the Northeast of England and Scottish borders to Carlisle, and then down through the lakes via Penrith, **Keswick**, Grasmere, Ullswater, Ambleside, Windermere, Coniston and then across Morecambe Bay Sands from Furness to Lancaster. During the tour, the emphasis of his work turned from architecture to landscapes, partly influenced, one presumes, by his travels in the Lake District.

He stayed in Keswick for 3 days in the first week of August 1797, possibly at the Royal Oak or the Queen's Head as they hired out Post Horses and Carriages. He was very energetic and made many sketches and watercolours around Derwent Water and Borrowdale, using a large, heavy, purpose-designed leather-covered sketching book.

He probably planned his days using the maps produced by the eccentric curator of the newly opened Keswick Museum, (Admiral) John Crosthwaite, who was exploiting the business opportunities of guiding the new breed of tourists who were starting to visit the Lake District. Crosthwaite promoted the idea of specific Viewing Stations, describing where tourists were assured the best view – perhaps the forerunner of Instagram places? Loweswater, Crummock and Buttermere were rich in these, having six.

On the third day he travelled (probably by horse) the nine miles to Buttermere village over Newlands pass. There he called at Fish Inn, sketched around the village (Viewpoint No.5) and lake, and then moved north to Crummock and Crosthwaite's Viewing Station No. 4, which became known as "**Turner's viewpoint**". This is on Buttermere Hause up on the shoulder of Rannerdale Knotts, near the then carriage track, there being no lake side road at that time.



From here, he sketched the scene of Crummock looking south to Buttermere and Fleetwith Pike, which informed one of his most famous paintings, exhibited at Royal Academy in 1798 and now hung at Tate Britain.



**'Buttermere Lake with Part of Cromackwater, Cumberland, a Shower'**. For comparison, on the right, is a recent photograph I took from Turner's viewpoint. In both images you can see the white Woodhouse building. In Turner's painting a boat is depicted with two people and oars. In my image you can see Woodhouse Island which 'floats' prominently in Crummock water in a similar position.

Could Turner have *converted* his view of Woodhouse Island into the boat which he includes in his painting, the outlying rocks becoming the oars, to make the scene more pastoral (see below)? *What do you think?*



Certainly, Turner was no stranger to 'artistic' licence to please his public! You can see that the shafts of sunlight in his famous *Cromackwater* painting are coming from the west and travelling low down over Mosedale valley and over Ennerdale valley behind. Consulting sun almanacs for early August 1797 suggests that Turner must have made his sketch in the late afternoon, so he would have been late back for supper to his Inn in Keswick!

However, the position of his rainbow is imaginary, being **impossible** based on the physics of rainbows. The bow is near colourless. Was he painting a fog/mist bow (raindrops affect his sketches), or have the pigments faded?

He was not alone in such liberties. His arch-rival John Constable also included a 'scientifically impossible' rainbow in his famous painting - *Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows* - exhibited 1831!

**Tate Britain** are holding the definitive exhibition **"Turner & Constable Rivals & Originals"** about these two pivotal British artists in the 250th year of their births Open 27.11.25 – 12.4.26. So, **book soon!**

*Dr John Macfarlane* Nov 2025 Em: jtmacfarlane@gmail.com

**References:** *Turner in the North* (David Hill, Yale University Press, 1996); *In Turner's Footsteps* (David Hill, Book Club Associates, 1984); [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk), but any mistakes are mine!

# COFFEE MORNING

Yew Tree Hall, Saturday 10th January  
10.30am to 12noon

£4.00

PLEASE JOIN US  
The Melbreak Communities  
are kicking off the New Year  
round of Coffee Morning's



Feeling in need of a little inspiration  
A fresh start to the New Year,  
Meet up with old friends

(please park responsibly, thank you)



A Melbreak Communities Initiative



Loweswater with Buttermere PCC  
100 Challenge Club

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

1st prize of £25	No 85	Katharyn Pinfold
2nd prize of £10	No 64	Giles Elliott
3rd prize of £5	No 61	Elly Rowland

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

# Lorton Vale Gardening Club



## Steve Mees “Ferns fabulous Ferns”



Steve Mees is volunteer gardener at the Lakeland Horticultural Society, Holehird, Windermere. Responsible for their fern collection - which contributes to the National Collection of the RHS.

**Thursday 11th December**  
**Yew Tree Hall at 1.30pm**  
please park responsibly, thank you

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

**TIM IRLAM**  
ELECTRICAL 

**Tim Irlam**

📞 07806 656650

✉ [ti.electricaltd@gmail.com](mailto:ti.electricaltd@gmail.com)

📱 /timirlamelectrical    📷 /ti.electrical



# Loweswater Ladies November Report

Loweswater Ladies enjoyed an evening in the company of the Marron Valley Handbell Ringers on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November. The evening commenced with a short explanation of how the bells are set up in sets of four and so, according to these talented people, as long as you can count to four and have good wrists you can learn to ring. No need to be able to read music either. Having witnessed the performance I feel there is much more to it, definitely good wrists are needed as the larger bells are incredibly heavy. We were entertained to music ranging from Beethoven and Verdi to Fiddler on the Roof and even the Ukrainian National Anthem. As the ringers have to move the bells around into different combinations of four on the tables after each piece of music the pauses were filled with poetry, prose and amusing stories. After the

performance the ladies were able to have a go with these very expensive bells and ask any questions.

Our thanks go to the Marron Valley Bell Ringers for a great evening's entertainment.

The next meeting of LLG is our Christmas meal on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December at Hundith Hill Hotel at 6:45pm for 7:00pm. Cost of meal is £37, please bring cash.

2026 sees our first meeting being held on Wednesday January 14<sup>th</sup> which will be our AGM and collection of subscriptions, which remain at £12.

Jenny Burr

*Experienced installers of Renewable Energy Systems.*



## **Border** **Hydro**

**Over 30 years  
experience in design  
and  
installing grid & off-  
grid systems.**



**MCS Accredited  
Installers**



**RECC**  
RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSUMER CODE



**TRUSTMARK**  
Approved by Trading Standards

APPROVED INSTALLER



**MCS**  
CERTIFIED



**NAPIT**

**Border Hydro Ltd,  
Armaside Farm  
Lorton  
Cockermouth  
Cumbria  
CA13 9TL**

**www.borderhydro.co.uk    Tel: 01900 85616**  
**email: emma@borderhydro.co.uk**

# Lakeland Slate Co.

Working with world famous  
**'Westmorland Green Slate'**

Suppliers of:

**Memorials • Worktops • Hearths  
Nameplates • Homeware • Walling Stone  
Quoins • Lintols • Sills**

**Unit 5, High Hill, Keswick • Shop, 9 Lake Road, Keswick  
Tel: 017687 74695/75834 • Mob: 07950 642 298  
www.lakelandslate.com info@lakelandslate.com**



**BEGINNERS CLASSES  
ENROLLING NOW**

ENNERDALE

LAMPLUGH

LORTON

HARRINGTON  
SCOUT HUT

HARRINGTON  
ST MARY'S CHURCH

**TO ENQUIRE OR ENROL CALL**

**07543 876490**

(THIS NUMBER DOES NOT ACCEPT TEXT MESSAGES)



**CUMBRIA COAST  
KARATE**  
www.cumbriacoastkarate.co.uk

ALL INSTRUCTORS ARE  
FIRST AID TRAINED  
AND DBS CHECKED



**DÉCOR &  
DESIGN**

**Kate Pritchard**

Quality Decorating and Interior Design  
Bespoke Painted Kitchens and Furniture

Tel: 07989 773708

decoranddesign.kp@gmail.com

Find us on 

# *Penny's Piece*

What did our ancestors think of things like the Northern Lights and shooting stars? I don't necessarily mean as far back as Neanderthal man, more medieval times. You know, that period of time where Roman civilisation was forgotten and mud was a major building material. I wonder if they thought things happening in the skies were linked to God's pleasure or displeasure at what they were doing or witches? I suppose it must be similar now for the Amazonian tribes who have been happily living their way of life for centuries and then a helicopter flies over. That must be terrifying. I know the inhabitants of the South Sentinel Islands are not known for being very friendly to people trying to visit and I can't say I blame them. Turning up in a mode of transport they've never seen and won't understand, which is noisy and fast would be very frightening. I would be throwing spears too. The first Europeans settling in tornado alley will have had an interesting first decade I imagine. The internet is a curse at times but at least it increases our awareness of the things that are out there in the world. Here's hoping it is less scary in the new year.

At time of writing, I have done some seasonal shopping but am getting to that point of what do you get the person who has everything? I can remember once making up a kind of hamper for grandma and thinking it was probably a bit lame. You know what, I now think it's a great idea. Whack some boxes of tea, biscuits, snacks in a basket and you're good to go. I know most people now stream films but a DVD or 2 with some popcorn and hot-chocolate sachets and mini marshmallows and you've given someone an evening's film night. I have always liked useful presents. Yes, I once asked for and got a set of jump-leads much to the bemusement of many of my colleagues. Someone wasn't laughing so hard the day we used them to start her car at the end of a school day. Similarly, the compressor I bought from Lidl's 'magic aisle'. I've managed to avoid the bandsaw so far but I might buy it one time when it reappears. Socks are great. Candles are still for power cuts only, so keep your Yankee candles ta very much. A friend and I decided

years ago to stop buying presents for each other as it is just more stuff. Either it is stuff you don't really like but feel you have to keep because of who bought you it and/ or it is something else that isn't going to get dusted. Instead, we go out for food or a walk and it means more because you've actually made space in a hectic schedule to spend time with someone. I recently had a catch up with some former colleagues. How times have changed. Conversation has moved from holidays, weddings and innuendo to how much longer we have to work before we can retire and where does good knickers now there's no Debenhams. There was a lot of reminiscing and laughing about things people did: apparently there was a major error when 2 colleagues bought a large paper slicer and were very surprised and horrified to find, when it arrived, it was nearly 6 foot long and cost 100s! Someone wrote the wrong catalogue code down. Luckily it was sent back so all was well. Then there was the school trip no one apart from the Deputy Head at the time wanted to go on. Off to Beatrix Potter at Ambleside and then on the Keswick Launch. Staff had to intervene in Ambleside when Japanese tourists starting taking photos of the kids and children who hadn't been sick on the coach were sick on the boat. That trip has never been repeated!

So, I just opened a lovely bar of soap I bought in Maderia. It lathers beautifully and smells great. However, if it were a stone you'd class it as a cobble. In comparison to the sink, it seems huge and it almost weighs as much as a good cobble. It would do some damage if I dropped it but thankfully it does not have the lethal corners reserved for bars of Imperial Leather. I feel like I have been duped like you are in sofa shops. Lots of space so the things don't look huge until you get them home. Never thought I might have to take a tape measure for general shopping as well as furniture.

I am off to consider seasonal food but am determined not to fill my fridge with cheese again. . .honest. Hope you have a good Christmas and best wishes for 2026. Penny



**ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH  
& FRIENDS OF  
LORTON SCHOOL**



# **CHRISTMAS FAIR**



A FESTIVE COMMUNITY EVENT  
FOR ALL AGES  
DONT FORGET TO BRING CASH



Raffle, tombola, gifts, refreshments  
& much more!



**SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER**  
FROM 10.30AM TO 12.30 PM



**AT LORTON SCHOOL**





Community First Responders

# MULLED WINE EVENING

Thursday 18th December  
Yew Tree Hall at 6pm to 8pm



I SPY  
MINCE PIES!



Please support your Community First Responders

Fellside  
PHYSIOTHERAPY

Dual qualified Sports  
massage therapist and  
Chartered physiotherapist  
specialising in Sporting  
injuries, Musculoskeletal  
(MSK) conditions and  
Poly-trauma recovery.

Contact Emma on 07595 672 188

[www.fellsidephysiotherapy.co.uk](http://www.fellsidephysiotherapy.co.uk)

   @fellsidephysio



# CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY LUNCH



Lunches held at Lorton School  
Served promptly at 1.15pm. Everyone is welcomed

## December 8th @ £13.00

**Booking essential**  
call Helen on 07790 459064

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

**Some Dates  
in 2026**

January 12th  
February 9th  
March 9th



Lakes Wood Fuel

Suppliers of high quality firewood in handy nets, as well as larger quantities.

Hardwood • Softwood • Kindling  
Briquettes • Smokeless coal • Charcoal



All wood has a moisture content below 20% ensuring  
quick and easy lighting, and maximum heat output.



Order online: [lakes-woodfuel.co.uk](http://lakes-woodfuel.co.uk) info@lakes-woodfuel.co.uk

Call Chris & Rachael Edmunds: 01900 85119

## Michael Geoffrey Baron 1928-2025

Many will still remember with gratitude and affection the names of Michael and Hetty Baron who moved into their house near the shore of Loweswater in 1990. Hetty died in 2012, and now Michael has followed her on November 16<sup>th</sup>, aged 96. He had been living in London with his daughter Saskia since 2016, but retained a small house in Cockermouth which was used by family and friends and which he liked to visit himself whenever possible. He was a Londoner by birth and for most of his working life as a solicitor, but more and more his heart lay in Cumbria, with his friends here and the community to which he contributed in so many ways.

Hetty became treasurer of the Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society in 1999. Michael soon after became arranger of talks, chair from 2006 to 2008, and both of them ran the Three Valleys Oral History Project, Michael leading the move to include Loweswater in the area covered by the society. The Cumbria Bat Group was another field of involvement for them. And it was not unusual for the many human visitors who were welcomed to their home to find that they were sharing a mealtime with a tiny rescued creature being fed milk through a tube.

A poet himself, Michael edited and had published an anthology on bats. His own last poetry collection, *The Ginkgo Tree*, was published as recently as 2023, its title referring to the tree now growing on Hetty's plot in the woodland burial area of Cockermouth Cemetery. He was also a great organiser of literary events, the most memorable being perhaps a performance by the then poet laureate, Andrew Motion, who spoke and read to a packed audience in a marquee erected on the lawn of Wordsworth House. (No lawn there now, alas).

By 2008 it was time to downsize, Hetty and Michael moving into a much smaller house in Cockermouth. They were just in time for the catastrophic floods of 2009, though their own house was untouched, being in the upper part of South Street and far from the river. But no occasion being too awful to waste, Michael soon published *The Cockermouth Poets 1700-2012*, whose living contributors were invited to write on the floods themselves.

One of the most visible parts of his Cumbrian legacy is *Words by the Water*, the literary festival at Theatre by the Lake. He was a campaigner for its creation, in at its birth, and aware when the time came that the running of it would be best handed over to a specialist organisation. Now in its twenty-fifth year, it's one of those annual events which, since the Covid pandemic, have recovered to take on a new lease of life.

'Mover and shaker' and 'cultural networker' Michael certainly was. But for those of us who were privileged to know him he was above all a unique encourager, inspirer, and friend.

David Lindley

# The Melbreak Communities

An Action Plan for the four parishes of Buttermere, Loweswater, Blindbothel and Lorton

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

Dear householder

## The Melbreak Communities Emergency Plan

In the past we have had a number of events involving wind and rain which have caused problems for residents of the valley. Emergencies can arise with little warning. Mostly, we rely on our neighbours and friends to help out. As a rural community we don't always have near neighbours who can help.

To help everyone in the area cope with the unexpected, the four parishes of Lorton, Loweswater, Buttermere and Blindbothel have come together as The Melbreak Communities to prepare an Emergency Plan for just such a situation.

We have a network of helpers who can be contacted for assistance, they in turn have access to some items of basic flood prevention equipment and a list of other volunteers with usefull recovery equipment should it be needed.

Steve Irlam	01900 85336 07847 680124	steveirlam@gmail.com	Low Lorton
Richard & Yvette Kahane	017687 70249 07786 484070	kahane@hotmail.co.uk	Buttermere
Alex Baker	01900 85792 07858 486386	alexbaker789@btinternet.co	Blindbothel
Debbie Watson	01900 85317 07780 782197	beeche.lane35@yahoo.co.uk	Brackenthwaite
Chris & Pip Wise	01900 85561 07729 004943	pip.wise@hotmail.co.uk	Lorton
Derek & Chris Poate	01900 85265 07770268260	cdpoate@gmail.com	High Lorton
Carolyn Davis	01900 85708 07785 981934	carolynmarydavis@gmail.com	Loweswater

I sincerely hope we don't need to use the Emergency plan extensively, but for occasional minor events, help is at hand.

Thanks

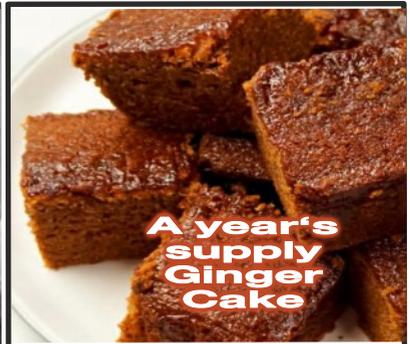
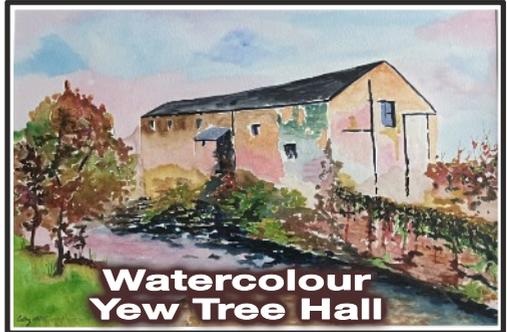
*Steve Irlam,*

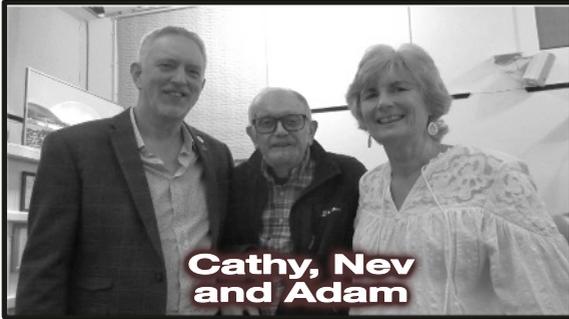
*Co-ordinator, Emergency Plan Group of The Melbreak Communities.*

# 'Grand Auction Yew Tree Hall'

Saturday 22nd November

The Auction to raise funds for Yew Tree Hall was a resounding success. An evening of generosity resulted in an astonishing sum of over £20,000 raised from bids for Lots donated by the Community. Thanks to all who contributed.





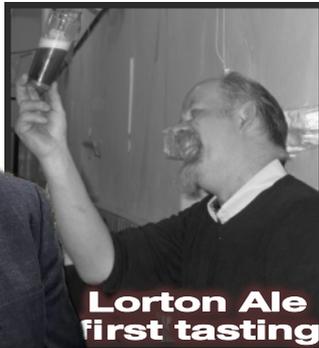
**Cathy, Nev  
and Adam**



**Weeks holiday  
in Spain**



**Lorton Ale  
comes Home**



**Lorton Ale  
first tasting**



**How much  
for  
Ginger cake!**



## **UPDATE YEW TREE HALL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - IMPORTANT**

Following a number of meetings with representatives from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) team and after receiving advice from an independent funding strategist, it has become clear that it is likely to take up to five years to secure significant funding from the NLHF. There is also a real risk that they will not approve the extent of funding required to move the project forward in the way it had been envisaged. Bearing in mind these factors, Yew Tree Hall Management Committee, the trustees, have decided to use a different approach to progress the project far more quickly using a number of smaller grant funders and donations from the community.

This means that the project will need to be undertaken in a few phases, with the first phase to include the high priority work such as access into the building for everyone in our community. Due to the availability of funding in the short term, a simpler and more cost-effective external access option, as an alternative to the single storey extension, will be needed. WK Design Architects have been instructed to design this option ready to be submitted for planning permission and Listed Building Consent.

The overall objectives of the project will still be met by the alternative scheme, which is based loosely on option A from the original community consultation back in May 2025.

It is felt that moving the project along in this new direction is far more achievable financially and will mean that a start can be made on the initial building work, hopefully soon next year. Continued donations from the community are really important, as the availability of funding through grants is finite and the trustees want to improve the hall as comprehensively as possible.

More information and designs about the revised scheme will be shared with everyone as soon as we can. Thank you for your patience.



**Advance notice - Community Balsam Bashing 2026 - help needed!**

West Cumbria Rivers Trust have been holding Balsam Bashing days regularly for several years in the valley. However, they do not have the resource to do enough to keep this invasive species under control. We are planning to form a Community work group supported by WCRT who will meet each week in the summer season to tackle areas of balsam. Many people have noticed how much it is spreading along watercourses and roadways. If you are interested in helping and learning more about invasive species in West Cumbria, there will be an introductory meeting and talk by Izzie from WCRT on February 19th 7:30pm at Yew Tree Hall. Keep this date free!

More details in the next Link.

Debbie Watson, Glenis Postlethwaite



Loweswater & Brackenthwaite Show Limited are looking for a keen and enthusiastic person to act as a show **co-ordinator/secretary**.

This role is a voluntary position which will include keeping minutes of meetings, overseeing the organisation of the show and general administration.

For further details please send an email to [loweswaterbrackenthwaiteshow@gmail.com](mailto:loweswaterbrackenthwaiteshow@gmail.com)



A very big **Thank You** to everyone who supported the **Arts Out West** presentation of **Around the World in Four Seasons** from the **Lantivet Duo with Joy Becker**. Playing to a full and very appreciative audience, Anna, Brendan and Joy treated us to their own very skillful arrangements and performance of Vivaldi's work. Without doubt an evening to remember. Our thanks to **Arts Out West** for the opportunity to experience such a range of first class performance artists within our community.

Our next community event in the hall will be the **Christmas Gathering on Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup>, from 8.00pm** and will take place after the carol singers have completed their walk around Loweswater. We would very much like to invite all members of the community to join us for some seasonal food and drink. Whether you have been carol singing or not, we will be delighted to see you. There is no entry charge – donations to the NSPCC are encouraged. For full details, please see the poster in this edition of the Link.

Our Spring offering from **Art Out West on Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup>** brings a light-hearted and nostalgic perspective, with a performance of **"At the Drop of Another Hippopotamus"** by two local musicians and performers **Bob Pritchard** and **Mike Ames**. Having premiered at the 2024 Cocker mouth Live! festival, this celebration of the comic genius that was Flanders and Swann will take you back to memories of The Gnu, The Gasman Cometh, A Transport of Delight, not forgetting the unforgettable chorus of "Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud" from The Hippopotamus Song and many more! Suitable for all ages, so whether you're old enough to remember the golden lyrics and music first time around or young enough to learn them from new, come along to this magical sing-along evening. For full details please see the poster in this edition of the Link.

Following the success of our first **Magnificent Melbreak Showcase** last year, where we were delighted to discover the varied and sometimes hidden performance talents from within our own community, we are very pleased to be presenting another Showcase on **Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>**. If you can play a musical instrument, sing, dance, act or perform, either on your own or with a group of friends or class mates, we would love to hear from you. If you would like to take part, please contact **Val Bell on 07918 882175** for further details.

Once again it is our pleasure to invite you to treat Mum to the very popular **Mothers' Day Afternoon Tea on Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>**. Make a diary note! Booking details will be in the February edition of the Link, but if you can't wait, please contact Lyn Furniss on 07970 218239 for details.

Loweswater Village Hall Committee will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 in the village hall, to which members of the community are warmly invited. An agenda for the meeting will be posted on the village hall notice board and website no less than 7 days before the meeting.



**Bob Dritchard and Mike Ames  
present**

**AT THE DROP OF ^  
HIPPOPOTAMUS**

**celebrating the comic genius  
of**

**FLANDERS  
& SWANN**



**Loweswater Village Hall**



**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

**7:30 start, doors at 6:45pm**

**Tickets: Adult £12, U18 £6, Family £25**

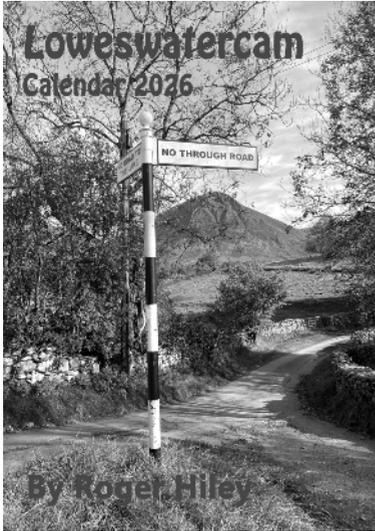
**[loweswaterevents@gmail.com](mailto:loweswaterevents@gmail.com) tel: 01946 862200.**

**Light refreshments at interval and licensed bar.**

*Yes, the Hippo will be there, as  
well as the Gnu, the Spider  
and the Whale, slow trains,  
transports of delight,  
cannibals, songs of protest  
and ballads of unrequited  
love.*



Loweswater Village Hall: Registered  
Charity No.: 526856



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

It's that time of year again . . .

Yes ... the world famous

## *Loweswatercam Calendar*

Last chance to buy before Christmas

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  
[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)**



### **S MCADAM GARDEN SERVICES**

Independent business offering a quality gardening service in and around Cockermouth, Lorton Vale and Keswick

Grass Cutting – Lawn Care – Turf – Artificial Grass - Fencing – Landscaping – Hedge Cutting – Pruning - Planting - pressure washing and re-sanding

Tel/Whatsapp: 07864860720

Email: [mcadamgardenservices@gmail.com](mailto:mcadamgardenservices@gmail.com)

Facebook: S McAdam Garden Services

## DIARY DATES

### DEC

- 1 Mon Farmers Discussion Group, Kirkstile 8pm.
- 3 Wed [Loweswater Ladies Christmas Meal](#) - Hundith Hill - 7pm - revised date
- 4 Thu [Melbreak wildlife Group](#) . Rewilding and Reintroductions - Talk by Kevin Scott.  
YTH 7.30. Entry £3
- 6 Sat [FOLS and St Cuthbert's Christmas Fair](#), 10.30am, Lorton School - see poster
- 8 Mon [Christmas Community Lunch](#) at Lorton School. - See Poster
- 8 Mon [High Lorton Carol singing](#) - start at Lorton Park Cottage at 6pm - see poster
- 9 Tue Kirkstile Inn Locals Night
- 11 Thu [Lorton Garden Club Talk](#) at YTH 1.30pm. "Ferns, Glorious Ferns" see poster
- 13 Sat [Christmas Coffee Morning](#) - YTH 10.30am
- 13 Sat [77 Club Christmas Party](#) - Afternoon tea and entertainment - LVH 2.30pm
- 15 Mon Farmers Discussion Group, Kirkstile, Christmas Meet, 7 for 7.30pm Meal.
- 16 Tue [Loweswater Carols](#) - in aid of NSPCC - Start from LVH at 6pm Christmas
- 16 Tue [Gathering at LVH](#) from 8.00pm - See Poster
- 18 Thu Chat & Crafternoon. LVH 2-4pm. All welcome. Suggested donation £3.
- 18 Thu [First Responders Mulled Wine Evening](#) - YTH 7pm

### JAN

- 10 Sat [Join the The Melbreak Communities for Coffee & Cake](#) at 10.30am YTH - see POSTER
- 12 Mon Community Lunch at Lorton School. - see Poster.
- 14 Wed Loweswater Ladies - AGM and Homegrown Entertainment 7.15pm LVH
- 17 Sat Wildlife Recording for Nature Recovery Workshop 9.30am - 1.30pm LVH
- 22 Thu [Loweswater 77 Club. Burns Supper](#) at 7pm LVH, a fantastic evening awaits. - SEE POSTER

### FEB

- 6 Fri [Wine Tasting](#) - see poster
- 7 Sat Wildlife Recording for Nature Recovery Workshop 9.30am - 1.30pm YTH
- 9 Mon Community Lunch at Lorton School. - see Poster
- 19 Thu [Balsam Bashing talk](#), YTH, 7.30pm
- 21 Sat [AOW At the Drop of Another Hippopotamus](#), LVH, 7.30pm - see poster

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**

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

If you are reading this copy second hand and wish to have your own individual copy delivered on the day of publication, please contact Ian Smith on his email:- isumisu@gmail.com and he will advise regarding paying your subscription.

# The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

## Church Services December 2025

7 <sup>th</sup> December 10.30am	<b>Advent 2</b> Holy Communion	Loweswater
14 <sup>th</sup> December 10.30am 3pm	<b>Advent 3</b> Carols & Readings Holy Communion	Lorton Buttermere
21 <sup>st</sup> December 10.30am 6pm	<b>Advent 4</b> Holy Communion Carol Service	Lorton Loweswater
24 <sup>th</sup> December 12 noon 5pm 11.30pm	<b>Christmas Eve</b> Christmas Eucharist Crib & Christingle Service Christmas Eucharist	Buttermere Lorton Lorton
25 <sup>th</sup> December 10.30am	<b>Christmas Day</b> Christmas Eucharist	Loweswater
28 <sup>th</sup> December 10.30am 3pm	<b>Christmas 1</b> Holy Communion Informal Carol Service	Lorton Buttermere

## Church Services January 2026

4 <sup>th</sup> January 10.30am 3pm	<b>The Epiphany</b> Holy Communion Evensong	Loweswater Buttermere
11 <sup>th</sup> January 10.30am	<b>The Baptism of Christ</b> Holy Communion	Lorton
18 <sup>th</sup> January 10.30am 3pm	<b>Epiphany 2</b> Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Loweswater Buttermere
25 <sup>th</sup> January 10.30am	<b>The Conversion of Paul</b> Holy Communion	Lorton

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