

# MARCH 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

Well, I was just giving myself a pat on the back for getting everything done by Saturday afternoon and only having 32 pages, when I realised I'd forgotten to include the Subs notice and the 100 Club application form - so add to add 4 more pages and do some re-arranging - not what I wanted but I got there in the end!

Talking of subs I'd like to draw your attention to the Link Subscription notice on the centre pages - please pay as soon as you can - following the instructions given. I would like to stress that we would prefer payments by bank transfer.

With all the wet and windy weather we've been having I'm afraid I haven't felt very enthusiastic about the garden and the greenhouse. However, all my seeds have now arrived so I will be out there in the next few days making a start. I'm looking forward to the Garden Club talk about garden design and planting and I've booked myself on a propagation workshop - so watch out for an update in April.

As usual we have a wide range of articles and posters. On the wildlife and nature front there is news about some red squirrel boxes, an article about frogs and toads, an update about Balsam bashing and a poster for a talk by Les Webb and Andrew Shore about Loweswater's chemistry and life.

As usual we have the Community Lunch on 9<sup>th</sup> March at Lorton School as well as 2 Lent lunches - one on 4<sup>th</sup> March at YTH and one on the 25<sup>th</sup> at LVH. In addition LVH is hosting the annual afternoon teas to celebrate Mothering Sunday and are also hosting the Melbreak Showcase - an opportunity to show off your talents. There is a film night on 26<sup>th</sup> March which could leave you feeling very hungry - come along to find out why. We also have a talk about the Cumberland International Youth Camps at the 77 Club and one about Cumbria's First Farmers at the Local History Society. Nev has penned an 'interesting' history of the Lorton Vale and Penny has written her usual amusing column. Many thanks to all our contributors.

Rosemary Riley

P.S For the more energetic of you don't forget to sign up for the Lorton 10k run - I'm only doing it if I can bring the horse.



Our front cover photo this month is of the lone pine overlooking Whiteside by Roger Hiley



I want to begin my letter with a big thank you to everyone for your continued prayers, support and guidance during my incredible journey which began in 2013 after a chat with Bishop James and Archdeacon Richard Pratt. Now my journey continues in to the next phase of my ministry as an Associate Priest for this Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere, which is within the Grasmoor Mission Community.

It was such a joy to see so many friends and family from across the Mission Community attending the Candlemas Service of Choral Evensong and sharing the celebration of my licencing on 1<sup>st</sup> February at St. Bartholomew's Church in Loweswater. A special thank you to Sue Ralph and the Benefice Choir for the music, which made the service exceptional and memorable.

Candlemas is one of my favourite feast days and one of the oldest in the Christian Church. It has been celebrated in Jerusalem since the fourth century. This can also be the day when candles that are going to be used in our churches and homes during the coming year are blessed during the service. A tradition to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world.

Light cannot be anything other than what it is. It's bright, pure, true and life-giving. It's welcoming and cheerful and it dispels darkness; it enables people to see what they are doing. There is no such thing as dirty light, dishonest light, ugly light or prejudiced light.

God is light, and since He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside believers, so are we. As his ambassadors on earth, we shine even when we don't know it.

Light sustains life. Plants, animals, and people need sunlight to survive. Plants using sunlight for photosynthesis. Animals consuming the energy provided by plants and using sunlight for body temperature regulation. Sunlight also delivers Vitamin D for humans and boosts our mood, along with many other health benefits.

In the same way, people need Christ's light for spiritual survival. Light and life are intertwined.

I feel it is such a comfort to know that in both the natural and spiritual realms, light is greater than darkness. When a light shines in a dark room with its effortless illumination, the darkness hightails it. Even the smallest match brightens an ink-black night.

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5)*

"Hope is being able to see that there is light, despite the darkness  
"Desmond Tutu.

With love and Blessings  
**Barbara Robinson**

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

## COCKERMOUTH HARMONIC SINGERS

### **A Touch Of Baroque – Concert 27 March 2026**

Bach, Charpentier and Durante are the composers of joy-filled pieces to be performed on 27 March in Cockermouth.

Cockermouth Harmonic Singers present a concert of Baroque masterpieces to delight and excite. We will be singing pieces from J.S. Bach's *St John Passion* and Cantatas 79 and 80 entitled *Ein feste Burg*, Charpentier's *Te Deum* and Durante's *Magnificat*.

The concert starts at 7.30pm on Friday 27 March, and takes place at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Crown Street, Cockermouth.

Ian Wright will conduct the soloists, accompanying musicians and choir. Suitable for all the family, tickets will cost £15, with accompanied u-16s free.

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

# 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)



Loweswater with Buttermere PCC  
100 Challenge Club

**The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st Feb 2026**

1st prize of £25	No 70	Elaine Beard
2nd prize of £10	No 84	Rev Margaret Jenkinson
3rd prize of £5	No 27	Alex Harper

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

**MWG initiate installation of Red Squirrel boxes**

Following efforts by Melbreak Wildlife Group (a Melbreak Communities initiative), red squirrel boxes have been put up on National Trust land in Lanthwaite Woods. They were installed in mid-February by Josh Adams, Red Squirrel Project Officer (Cumbria) at Cumbria Wildlife Trust. The boxes have been paid for by United Utilities at the request of MWG as pre-emptive mitigation should their Crummock Water project get permission to proceed. Whatever the outcome of that, it's great that red squirrels are getting some new homes.



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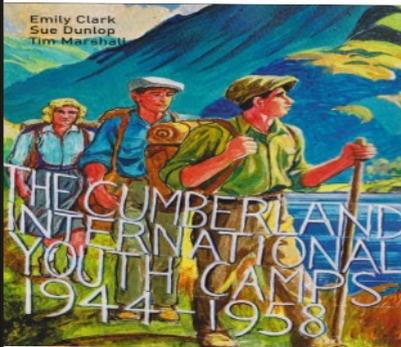
I'm pleased to report that we had an excellent evening talk from Phil Tattershall in February. He spoke about the Jennings Family, the Lorton Brewery company they started and its expansion into the brewery buildings that have been such a Cockermouth landmark. Great news too, that the 'new' company which has re-started brewing has retained the name, the original recipes for the beers, the archives and the riverside premises. Phil informed us of the new micro brewery and Tap Room within the buildings, plus a hint of things to come in the form of sensitive re-development of the area that is planned for the future.

Our next 77 Club meeting is a lunchtime one (12.30 for 1pm) at Hunday Manor, with an 'after dinner talk' by the author Emily Clarke all about the innovative Cumberland International Youth Camps that brought young people of so many nations together for holidays after the war (see poster below). Members and non-members are welcome to this event.

If you didn't sign the list at the last meeting then we urgently need your menu choices for this lunchtime event, so please contact Lorna on 01946 861570 or myself on 07740 461059 (not the number on the poster). Please do it today, or 9th March at the latest !

Looking forward, we have another evening talk planned, a second visit from the Whitehaven Male Voice Choir and a summer trip to The Porridge Museum at the wartime munitions factory at Gretna, hopefully three great events to enjoy in the near future.  
Roger Hiley

## 77 Club - Lunchtime Meeting at Hunday Manor Hotel **The Cumberland International Youth Camps 1944 – 1958**



**17th March 12.30  
for 1pm lunch**

**Our after Dinner Speaker  
will be the author Emily Clarke**

**Places must be booked in advance for catering purposes, please phone Roger Hiley on 07740 461057.  
The cost will be £30 per head.**

**Lorton & Derwent Fells Local  
History Society**

***Cumbria's First Farmers***

**Thurs 5 March, 7.30 pm at YTH**



Around 6,000 years ago, the way of life for Neolithic people living in Cumbria changed dramatically. Hunting, gathering and living in the natural environment were replaced by farming and the alteration of the landscape, including clearing woodland and constructing burial and ceremonial monuments.

These are the changes that occurred throughout Britain but recent work in the North West is providing particularly good

evidence for understanding this transition. Was it as abrupt as first seems? Did it involve an immigrant population and, if so, what happened to the native Cumbrians?

**Dr Gill Hey's** research interests focus on settlement and landscape in the late Mesolithic, Neolithic and early Bronze Age, and particularly on the interaction between people and their changing environment. Her work has ranged from examining the effectiveness of archaeological evaluation techniques, to working for the National Trust in advance of developments within their Stonehenge Estate, and exploring how the north-west of England can help us understand societal changes in the Neolithic period.

Gill Hey is the President of CWAAS, and the former CEO of Oxford Archaeology, where she worked for over 30 years managing large fieldwork projects. She has written or edited a number of books. She is the co-editor of *New Light on the Neolithic of Northern England* (with Paul Frodsham, 2020).

Everyone is welcome, visitors pay £4 incl. refreshments. The annual membership costs £12 and includes five talks and a subscription to our quarterly publication the *Wanderer*.

## LORTON NOTES

As you read these Notes Lent will already have begun (last Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February) as Easter is very early this year. Our Lent Lunch will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March in YTH. See the poster on page 21. As usual I have signed up for the Carbon Fast Challenge with Carbon Stewards - if you are interested you can sign up here. My first challenge is to connect more with nature and suggestions include:

Volunteer this lent in your church's outdoor space - our Yew trees could certainly do with some attention so that may be where I focus my efforts

Visit nature on your doorstep – Explore your nearest park, wetland centre, nature reserve, or city farm - tick for this one

Give generously or volunteer at a charity helping conserve and provide access to nature

Join a local conservation group's work party this Lent – Wildlife Trust, park friends group, or woodland team. Luckily for me my brother recently attended a working party in his local woodland - hope that counts.



Image: Study of Trees by Bernard Meninsky (1891–1950)

Holy Week actually spans March and April, with Easter Sunday falling on 5<sup>th</sup> April. For that reason the Church Services page at the back of the Link covers all of March and the services of Holy Week culminating with the Easter Service. As usual Lorton has a number of special services, the first one being Palm Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March. Then we are holding two further services in Holy Week, Compline on Monday and Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday.

The Easter Day service this year is at Loweswater and both churches will be decorated on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. At St Cuthbert's we will start at 10.00am.

# Lorton Film Club

proudly presents

# THE TASTE OF THINGS



*A sumptuous love letter to French food culture ...*

**Thursday 26th March**

**Yew Tree Hall - Bar opens 7pm/Start 7.30pm**

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The  
Malthouse Club  
*presents*

# Fabulous Friday Social

Find us in the Supper Room,  
Yew Tree Hall

**Drinks, snacks,  
games and chat  
6.30-9pm**



**FRIDAY 27th MARCH**

**Last Friday of every month, social evening at  
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WILDLIFE GROUP



A Melbreak Communities Initiative



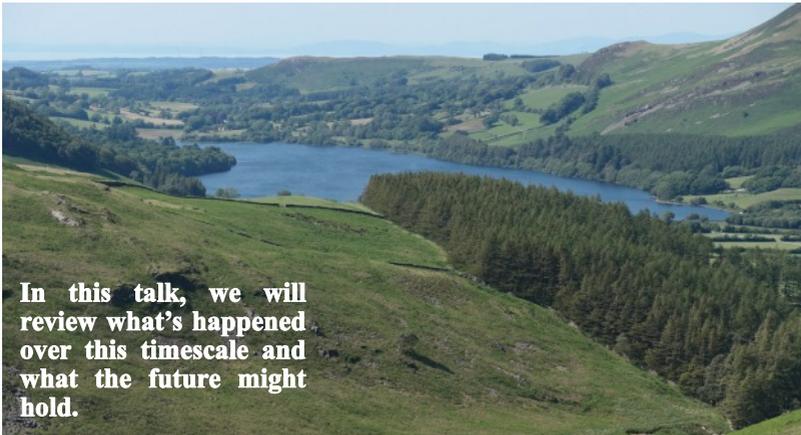
A talk by Andrew Shaw and Leslie Webb

# Loweswater Its Chemistry and Life

**Wednesday 25th March  
at 7.30pm  
Loweswater Village Hall**

**Loweswater Care Programme, West Cumbria Rivers Trust**

We have been studying Loweswater since we got involved, as interested local residents, in the Lancaster University project that ran from 2007 to 2010.



**In this talk, we will  
review what's happened  
over this timescale and  
what the future might  
hold.**

From 2012, this turned into running a £300k DEFRA-funded project trying to improve the water quality of the lake and, when this finished in 2015, monitoring the lake to assess what we had achieved, something that we still do. Over this near 20 year period, many things have changed in the lake catchment with varying impacts on the lake itself.

**Everyone welcome - just come along**



# LORTON 10K RACE



Fundraising for the Friends of Lorton School

Sponsored by:  
**Paramo**

Saturday 18th of April 2026  
at 10.00am  
Lorton Primary School

Minimum age: 15.  
All running abilities are welcomed.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram  
To enter visit: [www.eventsupnorth.co.uk](http://www.eventsupnorth.co.uk)

Anyone from the community interested in volunteering  
on the day with marshalling please contact  
Catherine Armstrong via email at  
[catherine@terracefarm.co.uk](mailto:catherine@terracefarm.co.uk)



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## Nature Notes - Frogs and Toads

As temperatures warm and buds unfurl, you may start to see frog or toad spawn appear in puddles, ponds and pools. Frogs and toads typically emerge from hibernation from February onward, when night temperatures rise to around 5°C. They are mostly nocturnal, hunting at night during spring and summer, and more active on mild, damp evenings. Slugs and snails are a key staple food, which is excellent news for gardeners!

It's sometimes difficult to tell frogs and toads apart – and their spawn for that matter! A good way of remembering is that frogs typically leap whilst toads tend to crawl or walk. Toads have dry, warty skin, which helps them retain moisture, allowing them to live in drier spots such as stonewalls, compost heaps, and log piles. Frogs, on the other hand, have smooth, moist skin, their back legs are often strongly banded in horizontal stripes, and have a distinct brown patch behind their eye. Frogs keep close to fresh water and places that stay damp throughout summer.



Common frog *Rana temporaria*  
Photo: Tanya St. Pierre.

Telling spawn apart is straightforward once you know what to look for, mostly based on the shape of the spawn and where it is laid in the pond. Frog spawn is laid in large, messy clumps – or rafts, that can be seen floating on the surface in shallow water, generally somewhere sunny. Whilst toad spawn is laid in long, thin ribbons that are usually wrapped around submerged vegetation in deeper water. Newts lay eggs individually wrapping them inside leaves of aquatic plants in ponds, neatly hidden away.

Lumps of translucent gelatinous slime, known as 'star jelly' can sometimes be found near ponds or on grass. It's thought that this is produced when predators such as herons, crows, or foxes eat egg-laden female frogs and then regurgitate the indigestible, swollen, unfertilised jelly.



Common Toad *Bufo bufo*.  
Photo: Kathy Buscher.

Studies show that frogs often return to the exact pond where they were born, year after year. Toads are well known to possess a strong migratory instinct, returning to ancestral breeding ponds each spring. They congregate at these ponds, usually a couple of weeks after common frogs' breed.

They follow the same route every year, often crossing roads that didn't previously exist. It is estimated that 20 tonnes of toads are killed on UK roads every year, equivalent to several hundred thousand individuals. This high mortality rate is a significant factor in the 68% decline of the UK toad population over the last 30 years.

Every year volunteers across the country help frogs and toads cross busy roads at night on their spring migration. West Cumbria Rivers Trust organise volunteer patrols on the A591 at Dodd Wood, and Low Nest, near Keswick, and are always on the lookout for additional willing volunteers. Patrols usually happen for a few weeks in March, starting at dusk and lasting for a couple of hours. If you would like to get involved visit: <https://www.westcumbriariverstrust.org/projects/toad-patrol>.

Tanya St. Pierre, Melbreak Wildlife Group

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

for behold, the winter is past;  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the birds  
is heard in our land.  
Song of Songs 2:11-12

We are now in the forty days of Lent, a period of discipline and renewal. It provides an opportunity to share Lent lunches, a good social time for church and non church goers whilst raising funds for our churches. Loweswater will be having their lunch on 25th March. Dates for Lent discussion group will be announced in church shortly.

The Robinson's annual wine tasting, Andalucian wines this time, introduced us to some new wines that most of us hadn't experienced before. It was the usual popular evening and raised over £300 for the church.

In early February in a service at Loweswater we celebrated Barbara's appointment as Associate Priest for our Benefice within the Grasmoor Mission Community.

We are holding our Mothering Sunday service at Loweswater on 15th March. The clocks go forward on 29th March and as usual Buttermere services will revert to 6pm.

Despite some really mixed weather spring is almost here and the crocuses are beginning to shine in Loweswater churchyard! As you can see from this photo taken by Roger Hiley.





□

## Melbreak Balsam Bashing Group *March Update*



An excellent number of people came to the talk given by West Cumbria Rivers Trust in February about invasive species in the Cocker catchment, including Himalayan Balsam and mink.

We now have a band of volunteers signed up for tackling balsam from June. We will have a short meeting in May to learn about mapping sites and recording our work – look out for the date, all welcome. There are also a couple of spaces left for free brush cutter training on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Please send Debbie your email and mobile number if you would like to join the group or access the training. Debbie Watson [beech.lane35@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beech.lane35@yahoo.co.uk)



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# Lorton Lent Lunch

(Money raised is in aid of church funds)

Wednesday 4th March  
Yew Tree Hall, Lorton



Enjoy homemade soup  
with bread, followed by  
cheese and biscuits

Served 12-2.00pm

**Please come and enjoy a simple  
meal in the company of friends**

WHY DID THE  
EASTER BUNNY  
HAVE ON A HAT?

BECAUSE HE WAS  
HAVING A BAD HARE  
DAY.





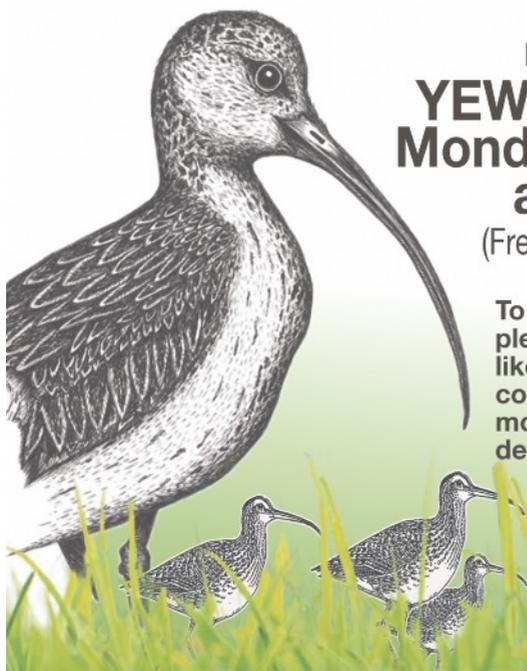
# SAVE OUR CURLEWS

## Volunteers Needed



You can make a difference

Whether you can give 5 mins or 5 hours!  
Outdoors or from home! Use existing skills and learn new ones!  
Make new friends and be part of a community!  
Help Curlews thrive in the Cocker Valley and beyond.



Find out how...

**YEW TREE HALL**  
**Monday 9th March**  
**at 7-9pm**

(Free event and buffet)

To help us plan the evening, please let us know if you're likely to attend. And if you can't come along but want to find out more, contact Karen for further details. [karenbatrick@live.co.uk](mailto:karenbatrick@live.co.uk)

An initiative of the Melbreak Communities



**THE LINK NEEDS YOU TO PAY PLEASE  
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2026 – THESE ARE NOW DUE**

We have chosen not to increase the subs for 2026. The 10 issues will still cost £7 to be delivered locally and £15 for those posted.

The system to track the payment of subs also remains the same for this year. You will retain the same subscription number, which is written on the envelope you will have received with this copy of The Link.

Please can you pay by bank transfer if at all possible to our Cumberland BS account – name The Benefice Link Account, sort code 16-52-21, account no. 54167346 – using the subscription number from your envelope in the reference field of the payment.

If you need to pay by either cheque (payable to 'The Benefice Link Account') or cash, please use the envelope provided and send it to our Treasurer – Ian Smith. His address is on your envelope.

We appreciate your support - thank you. The Link Committee



**Loweswater Village Hall**



# **Magnificent Melbreak Showcase**

**Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm**

**Come and enjoy an evening of entertainment, showcasing the talented performance skills from within our own community:-**

**\* Music and Songs \***

**\* Stories and Recitals \***

**\* Novelty Acts and Comedy \***

**£5 Entry, at the door - to include refreshments. Performers free**

**Licensed Bar from 7.00pm & at the interval**

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dinosaurs at Easter?



Because they are eggs-tinct!

**Lorton Vale  
Gardening Club**



**Garden  
Design  
and  
Planting**

**a talk by  
Tom Attwood**

**Thursday 12th March at 7.30pm  
Yew Tree Hall, Lorton**

*Tom Attwood is a garden designer, writer and owner of Abi and Tom's Garden Plants at Halecat in the Lake District which he runs alongside wife Abi.*

***Please park responsible***

# Loweswater Ladies February Report

On 11<sup>th</sup> February, Loweswater Ladies met for their annual Birthday Dinner at the Kirkstile Inn. Many thanks to the staff for a delicious meal and for squeezing us all into the Dining Room! The raffle prize was donated by Joan and won by Margie. Afterwards, discussions turned to our Annual Outing which takes place in July. Suggestions were gathered for this year's trip.

Our next meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> March when we will be joined by Barbara

Thompson who will share her experience of Walking the Kumano Kodo Pilgrim Trail in Japan. This is sure to be a fascinating insight into this challenging and spiritual area. 7.15pm in LVH.

New members and guests are always welcome. For more information please contact Jenny Burr 01900 85980.

Sue Severs  
Secretary

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# *Penny's Piece*

Spring is sprung! Well, it's well on its way and we are seeing daylight. Can't complain too much about weather as parts down south are still underwater. If we have more icy weather, I will at least be able to see it, though now there is a new 'danger' to be aware of. The council have spent a couple of weeks joining up the bits of good tarmac between the top of Fangs and along the Lamplugh road. Much needed. They have even added gravel to the layby by the end of the coffin road. However, just past that is where the danger lies. A 4-6 inch drop off the edge of the tarmac at the side of the road. Seems you will still be stuck if you go off the side. Not in a bog but bellied on the road. Take care if you venture that way.

I am in the midst of my biannual 3-month obsession with lemon curd and hit a major issue. Square jars. These work brilliantly for coffee as it is dry and loose so falls down the jar. They do not work for lemon curd as I discovered when I reached the end of the jar. I could clearly see enough lemony goodness for a final piece of toast but could I get to it? Nope. I managed to eek most from the bottom corners with the wrong end of a teaspoon but nothing could get me close to the top corners under the neck (short of being a disgusting savage and hooking it out with my finger nail- bleurgh). Very disappointing. If anyone has connections in the conserves and preserves industry (our you are making your own) please tell them to avoid square jars.

How do you know a hotel is posh? Is it the price? The décor? Reputation? Someone I know recently spent time for work in a hotel with a pillow menu. You could choose the type of filling/ stuffing and how many pillows you would like. He did not get much sympathy when reported a stiff neck from over doing it on the pillow requests.

The adverts of the 80s and 90s have been a topic of conversation recently. On Paddy McGuinness's Sunday show on Radio 2 he has been playing the starts of advertising jingles. It is amazing how many you remember just from the beginning of a jingle. For example, can you remember the rest of these and the product: Only the crumbliest, flakiest chocolate. . . ho, ho, ho. . . just one cornetto, give it to meeee. . . thank you very much for feeding William, thank you very much, thank you very, very much. . . (product name) does what it says on the

tin. We have a chocolate treat tuck shop on a Friday at school and the kids look at me like I have 3 heads whenever I sing: a finger of fudge is just enough to give you kids a treat. I'm not sure the adverts of this millennium have the same recall. In fact, I'm struggling to think of one. Modern adverts are all confusing weirdness and made up 'scientific' words. After lunch one Saturday I went up the road and happened to meet a friend who was going for a walk. They said they had been hoping to walk round Buttermere but couldn't get parked. This was not a surprise to me. It was Saturday and 2pm in the afternoon. The way I see it there are 4 ways to ensure parking in Buttermere. Go before 8am. Go after 5pm. Park at the house of someone you know who lives there. Go when it is raining sideways for the second day or more in a row. That's pretty much it.

I have decided that the Winter Olympics are more impressive than the summer Olympics for a couple of reasons. Firstly, all events could result in serious injury or even death- even curlers can face-plant on the ice. Secondly, even if they decided to dope up, it isn't going to help as they still need to 'land' things. There is an element of luck/ chance to it all. Changes in the air temp caused havoc with some of the skiing events as the surface changed. The other thing I like is the camaraderie between athletes. They see each other's achievements and celebrate them. Then there is the abundance of crazy events. I discovered I had completely missed the doubles luge. Let's go downhill, really fast on a tea tray and for a laugh, my mate is going to lie on top of me. I beg your pardon? How is that a good idea? The bottom person can only see the back of their mate's head. How do they communicate to tilt feet in the right way to steer and not hit the hard, icy wall? They might wear a helmet and gum shield but the Lycra isn't going to do much to cushion a crash. There are also the commentators. Ed and Tim's childlike jolly watching the snowboarding half pipe was great. I still don't know what an alley-up is or the difference between a rodeo and Japan grab but it was fun. I'm glad we got a gold in the skeleton. What a statistic that Matt Weston is the first solo man to win a gold medal since Robin Cousins in 1980! See you next month. Penny.



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

We are delighted to once again present an evening of homespun entertainment at our **Magnificent Melbreak Showcase on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30**, where we are proud to offer a wonderful mix of performance talents from within our own community, ranging from instrumental music, singing and poetry recitals, through to short stories and tales in Cumberland dialect, along with some comedy. For full details please see the poster in this edition of the Link.

It is our pleasure to invite you to treat Mum to the **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea on Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>**. Mums, with families of all ages are invited to enjoy a **sumptuous, traditional afternoon tea in stunning surroundings**. **Advance bookings only**. This is a very popular event, so book early to secure your table. For booking details please see the poster in this edition of the Link.

Details of all events are also available on our website, ([loweswatervillagehall.co.uk](http://loweswatervillagehall.co.uk)), and Facebook page.

**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 before the meeting.



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# 100 Challenge Club

## To all members of our community and friends of Lowswater and Buttermere Churches

Whether or not the Church occupies a special place in your life, or is somewhere that you turn to when in need or on special occasions, St Bartholomew's and St James's are part of the fabric and culture of the beautiful valley where we live. We know that many people are glad that the churches are here, and we hope that you will continue to help us secure their future.

The 100 Club is in its thirteenth popular and successful year during which time the total annual profits have been consistently between £700.00 and £1000.00 after deducting administration costs (license fee and prizes). This is a much appreciated contribution to Church funds while also, we hope, being a bit of fun. Thank you for your continued support.

For £12.00 per year, paid in advance, each participant receives a personal number for that year. All the numbers are entered into a monthly draw and cash prizes of £25.00 1st prize, £10.00 2nd prize and £5.00 3rd prize are awarded to the first three numbers drawn. Members can buy more than one number!

The winners receive their prizes as soon as possible after each draw at the start of each month and their names are published in *The Link*.

The next Challenge Club year starts on 1st April 2026

Please complete the form below and return to me, Jan Evans, as early as possible and no later than mid-March so that I have time to send you your new numbers for 2026.

Your personal data will be treated as strictly confidential in accordance with the Privacy Policy of the United Benefice of Lorton and Lowswater with Buttermere (obtainable on request).

Good Luck!!

-----  
**Lowswater with Buttermere PCC 100 Challenge Club**

To Jan Evans, (Promoter) Palace How, Lowswater, Cockermouth, CA13 9UX  
(tel 01900 85458)

I wish to join the '100 Challenge Club' at £12.00 for 12 months from April 2026

I wish to have .....additional numbers at £12.00 each for the same period.

I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to;  
Lowswater with Buttermere PCC 100 Challenge Club.

Name(+title).....Tel.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....



# Treat Mum to a sumptuous Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> - 2.00 to 4.00

at Loweswater Village Hall

A delicious traditional English Afternoon Tea in stunning surroundings



Adults - £15; Under 11s - £8  
Why not add a glass of Prosecco!  
Advance Booking Only



To book your table, please contact Lyn Furniss on 07970 218239

or [alloyslyn@btinternet.com](mailto:alloyslyn@btinternet.com)

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

Charity Number 526856

# The Yew Tree Hall Committee

# COFFEE MORNING

£4



Happy  
Easter

## SATURDAY 4TH APRIL

Please  
park  
responsibly

**RAFFLE**



A Melbreak Communities Event



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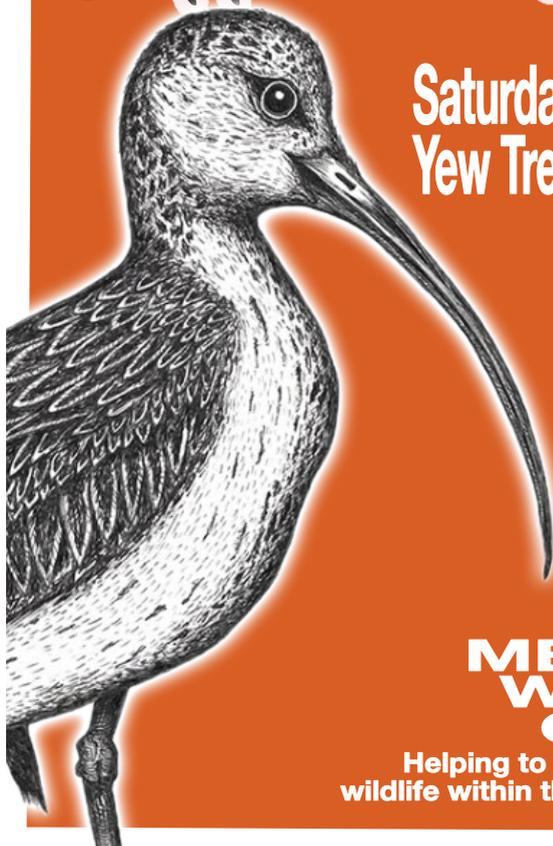


A Melbreak Communities Initiative



# Coffee and Cakes <sup>£4</sup>

Saturday 14th March  
Yew Tree Hall, 10.30-12.00



hosted by  
**MELBREAK  
WILDLIFE  
GROUP**

Helping to support and celebrate  
wildlife within the Melbreak Communities.

please visit Melbreak Communities website for details of forthcoming events

please park responsibly, thank you



Supporting Ukraine



For £5.00 you can buy an original Linoprint card of the 'Vasytkiv Rooster' and support humanitarian aid in Ukraine via the Red Cross. Thanks to Arwen and Lee for selling these cards in Lorton Village Shop!



Ukrainian Vasytkiv Rooster became a symbol of resilience and perseverance during the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 after a photo of one of the buildings in Borodianka went viral: despite a flat being almost completely destroyed, a kitchen cabinet on the wall survived the bombing. Upon closer inspection, a decorative majolica rooster jug was noticed on top.

Thank you! Hanneke van Schelven

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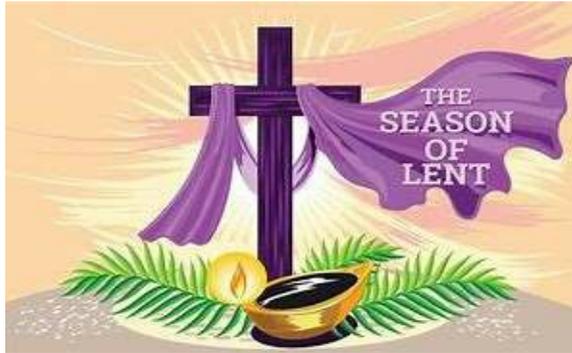


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**St Bartholomew's Church at  
Loweswater Village Hall  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 12.00 - 2pm**

We Invite you to our Lent Lunch,  
a chance to catch up with friends and enjoy  
our delicious home-made soups,  
followed by assorted cheeses and biscuits,  
washed down with Tea or coffee.

All profits to the maintenance and repair of  
our beautiful church.

We look forward to seeing you.

**Churchwardens**

**St Bartholomew & St James Churches**

## From Erratics to Eccentric's

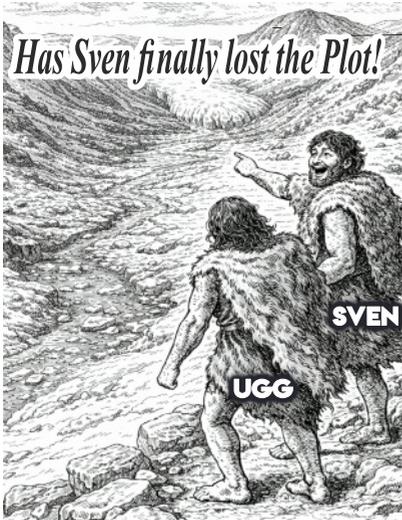


# LORTON: 90% OFFICIAL 12,000 YEAR HISTORY - Nev Mills

*(A true story with just a hint of some extra bits)*

Are you sitting comfortable, our story begins towards the end of the last Ice Age. As glaciers began to retreat from the high fells they sculptured the once V shaped Lorton valley into a distinctive broad U-Shaped valley. Or as The Times and Star may have eloquently reported the event in it's 'Ice Age Edition'...

*“When the last of the glaciers finally packed their bags and retreated north, some 12 to 20,000 years ago they left behind a valley so perfect and fertile that the first **Mesolithic Wanderers** likely dropped their flint tools in sheer disbelief. Imagine weary hunters cresting the ridge of Whiteside, expecting more tundra and gravel, only to find the Vale of Lorton laid out before them. It was like stumbling into a five-star resort after a decade of camping in Sainsbury's car park”.*



*Has Sven finally lost the Plot!*

*“Look Ugg the ice is retreating, give it a few thousand years and no doubt folk will be walking their dogs (with names like Charlie and Mia) down in the valley.*

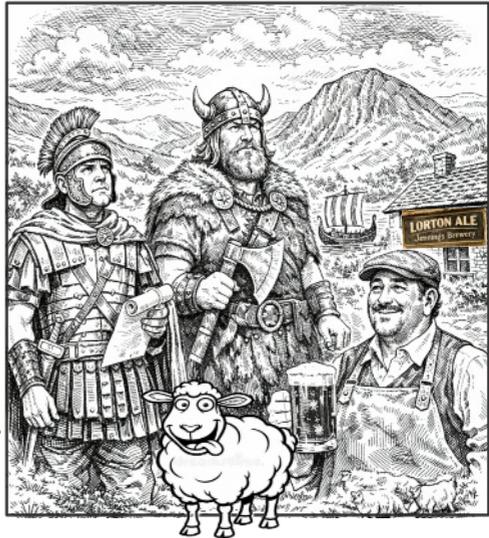
Lorton has never shouted about its importance. Instead, for thousand years, it has quietly watched people pass through, usually heading somewhere else and wondering if they were lost. Lets start with the **Romans**.

Aside from the roads, the plumbing, and the law what did the Romans ever do for us? Sure, they gave us straight roads and indoor toilets, but I suspect the Romans just really loved being the ultimate attention-seekers. Today nobody can open a history book without seeing their names in bold every other page. In the first century AD they built a road nearby, as directed by **Gnaeus Julius Agricola**, governor of Britannia. Soldiers inspected the township but decided that there was nothing here that required conquest, taxation, or further explanation. Far away, **Emperor Domitian** would have been informed that Britain was progressing nicely, without ever hearing the word “Lorton.”

Several centuries later came the **Vikings**, whose legacy still clings to the landscape in stubborn place-names. A figure familiar with the area was Norse leader, **Ketill Flatnose**. Who often stood in the valley looking around approvingly, and no doubt with a mischievous smile, began naming everything with a Norse twang. The fact that many local names still sound slightly argumentative suggests success!

The medieval period saw monks, packhorse drivers, and the occasional fugitive. **Monks from Holm Cultram Abbey** would have passed through on foot, soaked to the skin, convinced this was excellent terrain for humility. Later still, **Border Reivers** knew the valley well but preferred to visit quietly and after dark, a habit the locals wisely chose not to enquire too closely into.

By the eighteenth century, visitors arrived for more agreeable reasons, particularly those involving refreshment.



**The Jennings family**, made use of the valley's exceptionally water, established a brewery famous for its potent "**Lorton Ale**". However, it was many years before people could place Lorton on a map, for countless travellers, Lorton was not discovered through poetry/cartography, but at the bottom of a glass.

The nineteenth century brought poets and walkers. **William Wordsworth**, born nearby, certainly knew the village well, composing thoughts about nature and daffodils while drinking beer and carefully avoiding puddles. However, his mate **Coleridge**, with his fondness for laudanum, stumbled rather than wandered through Lorton. Often in a rather flummoxed state, regularly reciting his latest prose to a rather bewildered Reginald, the 'local scarecrow'.

Today, walkers, cyclists, and curious visitors continue the tradition. They pass through, admire the view, comment on the weather, stay just long enough for a drink and maybe a chat with one of Lorton's many eccentric residents.

**Lorton, as ever, remains quietly content to let history come to it**

*Romans came, Vikings named it,  
and Jennings brewed it.*

*I'll leave the final word to our dear friend Ketill Flatnose ...*

**"Vi er utrolig heldige som bor i Lorton – helt klart i et alternativt univers"**



## The Melbreak Communities AGM 2026

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at Yew Tree Hall 7.30pm to 9.30pm**

The Melbreak Communities will soon be holding its 2026 AGM. The meeting is open to everyone.

If you would like to come along email [carolynmarydavis@gmail.com](mailto:carolynmarydavis@gmail.com) and she will send you the agenda, the financial statement for 2025 and the minutes of the 2025 AGM.



### **S MCADAM GARDEN SERVICES**

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Deadline for April is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March all articles, photos(especially for the front cover), funny stories, letters to [lortonvalelink@gmail.com](mailto: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:- [isumis@gmail.com](mailto:isumis@gmail.com) and he will advise regarding paying your subscription.

## DIARY DATES

### MAR

- 4 Wed Lent Lunch, YTH, 12 noon - see poster
- 4 Wed Lorton Parish Council meeting 7.30pm YTH
- 5 Thu Loweswater Parish Council 7.30pm Loweswater Village Hall
- 5 Thu Cumbria's First Farmers, L&DFLHS talk, 7.30 pm, YTH
- 7 Sat Magnificent Mellbreak Showcase - LVH 7.30pm
- 9 Mon Community Lunch at Lorton School, promptly at 1.15pm. See Poster
- 9 Mon Melbreak Wildlife Group 'Volunteers' meeting - Save our Curlews YTH 7-9pm See Poster
- 9 Mon Farmer's Discussion Group - end of season meeting , Kirkstile Inn, 7 for 7.30pm meal
- 11 Wed Loweswater Ladies - LVH 7:15pm - Walking Pilgrim trail in Japan
- 12 Thu Garden Club Talk- Garden Design and Planting YTH at 7.30pm. See poster
- 14 Sat Coffee and Cake YTH 10.30 to 12. Hosted by Melbreak Wildlife Group. See Poster
- 15 Sun Mothers Day Tea at Loweswater Village Hall - LVH 2 pm
- 17 Tues Loweswater 77 Club Lunch meeting & talk - Hunday Manor 12.30pm
- 19 Thu Crafternoon - LVH 2-4pm. All welcome.
- 19 Thu The Melbreak Communities AGM (open meeting) YTH 7.30pm
- 25 Wed Lent lunch, LVH, 12 noon
- 25 Wed Loweswater - Its Chemistry & Life. Talk by Andrew Shaw and Leslie Webb. LVH 7.30pm
- 27 Fri Malthouse Club 'Friday Social' YTH, 6.30 to 9pm. See Poster.

### APR

- 4 Sat Easter Coffee and Cakes at YTH, 1030 to 1200 - see poster
- 8 Wed Loweswater Ladies - LVH 7:15pm - Pearl Mussels
- 13 Mon Balsam Group - Strimmer training - Rivers Trust
- 14 Tue Balsam Group - Strimmer training - Rivers Trust
- 16 Thu Crafternoon - LVH 2-4pm. All welcome.
- 18 Sat Lorton 10k Run - 10am from Lorton School.
- 21 Tues Loweswater 77 Club talk - LVH 7.30 pm

Please note that Table Tennis takes place in YTH every Wednesday from 7-9p.m. unless otherwise notified. There are Keep Fit sessions in LVH every Monday 9.00-10.00a.m and every Friday 5.30-6.30p.m. These will not be listed every month in Diary Dates but can be found on the Melbreak

Communities diary page - [www.melbreakcommunities.org.uk](http://www.melbreakcommunities.org.uk)

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

# The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

## Church Services March/Early April 2026

1 <sup>st</sup> March 10.30am 3pm	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Holy Communion Evensong	Loweswater Buttermere
8 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Holy Communion	Lorton
15 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent &amp; Mothering Sunday</b> Holy Communion	Loweswater
22 <sup>nd</sup> March 10.30am	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Holy Communion	Lorton
29 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Holy Communion	Lorton
30 <sup>th</sup> March 7pm	<b>Monday of Holy Week</b> Candlelit Compline	Lorton
31 <sup>st</sup> March 7pm	<b>Tuesday of Holy Week</b> Candlelit Compline	Loweswater
1 <sup>st</sup> April 7pm	<b>Wednesday of Holy Week</b> Candlelit Compline	Buttermere
2 <sup>nd</sup> April 7pm	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Holy Communion	Lorton
3 <sup>rd</sup> April 12 noon - 3pm 2pm	<b>Good Friday</b> The Three Hours Devotional Service	Loweswater Loweswater
5 <sup>th</sup> April 10.30am	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Holy Communion	Loweswater

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