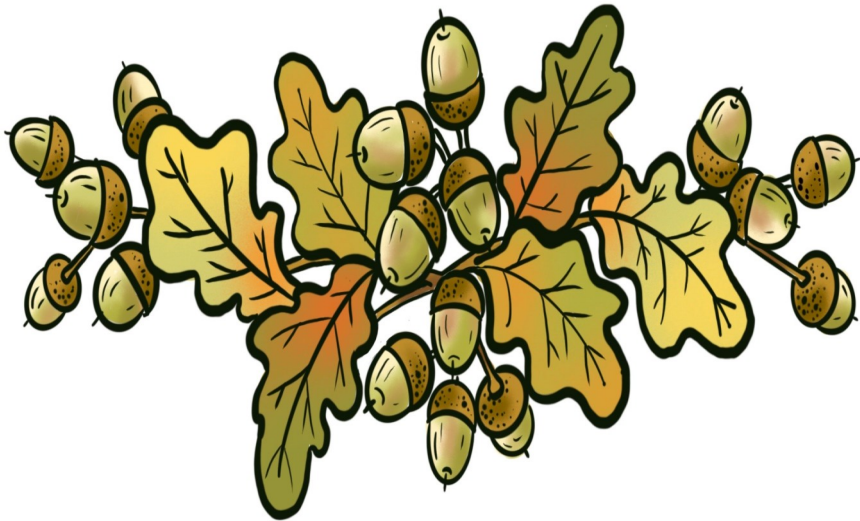


# Grasmere Parish Magazine



October - November  
2023

## **MAGAZINE INFORMATION**

### **Editorial Policy**

Grasmere Parish Magazine is produced bi-monthly by St. Oswald's PCC and is sponsored by Wordsworth Grasmere. The name of the author appears by each item and the views expressed are those of the author. The Magazine is produced by St Oswald's PCC on behalf of the community. The Editors and PCC reserve the right to use their discretion in finalising the content. Our policy and copyright notices are available at [oswaldparish.news](http://oswaldparish.news)

### **Copy Date**

Copy date for the December 2023 - January 2024 magazine is 18th November. Please email to [editor@oswaldparish.news](mailto:editor@oswaldparish.news)

Please submit copy in a Word document, using Calibri font with 11pt and in A5 size. Past editions are available on our website: [oswaldparish.news](http://oswaldparish.news)

### **Advertising in the Magazine**

Yearly rates are for single column ads up to 2" in the back pages. We can also take half-page ads in the main pages an, occasionally, inserts. Colour printing is an option. If you would like to advertise please contact the Editors, Ann and David Jackman. Apologies for any errors or omissions.

# From the Vicarage

## The Company You Keep.....

A Parable. One day in the 1950`s in an Edinburgh hospital, a child died tragically on the operating table. Later that week, two friends were talking over the sad events and one of them expressed sympathy for the surgeon involved, since he had obviously met unexpected complications.

However, the other, a colleague of the surgeon, strongly disagreed and said, “I think the man is to blame. If anybody had handed me ether instead of chloroform, I would have known from the weight it was the wrong thing. You see, I know the man well. We trained together at medical school and he could have become one of the finest surgeons in Europe if only he had given his mind to it but he didn`'t. He was more interested in golf. So, he just used to do enough work to pass his examinations and no more. And that is how he has lived his life... just enough to get through but no more; so, he never picked up those seemingly peripheral bits of knowledge that can one day be crucial. The other day in that operating theatre a bit of `peripheral` knowledge was crucial and he didn`'t have it. But it wasn`'t the other day that he failed, it was thirty-nine years ago, when he only gave himself half-heartedly to medicine”.

This rather abrupt tale invites us to reflect for a moment on the details of our life. In short, those apparently small habits and influences which, over time, form our character, attitudes and behaviour.

I`'m reminded of how, one day, two of Jesus`'s disciples were arrested. We`'re told that when the authorities, “saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus” (Acts 4.1).

Something of Jesus had rubbed off on Peter and John. Something of Jesus`' boldness, perhaps? And just as we might sometimes warn our young people about the company they keep, this little incident reminds us of how friendship with Jesus can have an affect on the kind of person we are becoming.

People are only too ready sometimes to point a critical finger at Christians, saying, “that wasn’t a very Christian thing to do”. What intrigues me is that whilst it’s fair to say that none of us are without fault, it might equally be the case that we’ve encountered a Jesus we didn’t expect; who perhaps ‘ruffled our feathers’.

Jesus tells us, “Woe to you when all speak well of you”. Being his follower is not about courting popularity or cultivating niceness; any more than HE did (!). Being his follower means making a daily ‘Yes’ to Jesus and the influence of his Holy Spirit in our lives so that HIS character and purposes are known, regardless of what people think of US. Because again, the point is not that the Christian is especially liked, understood or popular, but that Jesus is recognised; even the Jesus that upsets or confounds us.

This might be challenging for those of us who want to be liked. But Jesus asks us to ‘abide’ or ‘keep company’ with him. The question we’re asked is, “what habits and reminders of the presence of Jesus are we following, so that choosing, living and acting for him in the world becomes a matter of instinct and habit... So that we might be recognized as ‘companion of Jesus’.

Every blessing  
*David*

## **Remembering our Loved Ones**

Our annual service of Prayers for the Faithful Departed will take place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am. If you would like a friend or loved one to be remembered by name at this service and light a candle in their memory, please add their name to the list which will be available in church from the middle of October or email the Rector: [rev.grasmererydal@hotmail.com](mailto:rev.grasmererydal@hotmail.com)

## **Remembrance Sunday**

The traditional ceremonies will be observed when we gather in Church on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 10.50am for a service in commemoration of those who died in time of war. Please note the earlier starting time. This will be followed by wreath laying at the Village War Memorial.

## REFLECTION



**At this time of year in the church calendar, All Souls Day, we are invited to reflect on the lives of those who have died, to remember them with love and perhaps even to ask questions about our own journey. The following may give us some pause for thought.**

A palliative nurse who has counselled the dying in their last days, has revealed the most common regrets we have at the end of our lives and among the top (from men in particular), is 'I wish I hadn't worked so hard'.

Bronnie Ware is an Australian nurse who spent years working in palliative care, caring for patients in the last 12 weeks of their lives. She recorded their dying epiphanies in a blog called *Inspiration and Chai*, which gathered so much attention that she put her observations into a book called *The Top Five Regrets of the Dying*.

Ware writes of the phenomenal clarity of vision that people gain at the end of their lives, and how we might learn from their wisdom. "When questioned about any regrets they had or anything they would do differently," she says, "common themes surfaced again and again."

Here are the top five regrets of the dying, as witnessed by Ware:.

**I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.**

"This was the most common regret of all. When people realise that their life is almost over and look back clearly on it, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people had not honoured even a half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made. Health brings a freedom very few realise, until they no longer have it."

## **2. I wish I hadn't worked so hard.**

"This came from every male patient that I nursed. They missed their children's youth and their partner's companionship. Women also spoke of this regret, but as most were from an older generation, many of the female patients had not been breadwinners. All of the men I nursed deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence."

## **3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.**

"Many people suppressed their feelings in order to keep peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result."

## **4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.**

"Often they would not truly realise the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks and it was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years. There were many deep regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved. Everyone misses their friends when they are dying."

## **5. I wish that I had let myself be happier.**

"This is a surprisingly common one. Many did not realise until the end that happiness is a choice. They had stayed stuck in old patterns and habits. The so-called 'comfort' of familiarity overflowed into their emotions, as well as their physical lives. Fear of change had them pretending to others, and to their selves, that they were content, when deep within, they longed to laugh properly and have silliness in their life again."

**What's your greatest regret so far and what will you set out to achieve or change before you die?**

*Rev David Wilmot*

**Open Church**  
**11am**  
**29th October 2023**



**A service of worship and song.**

**Join us for refreshments after the service.**

**ALL WELCOME**

**A Quiet Day at Rydal Hall**

**Theme: Just another Sunday Morning?**

Enriching our experience of Holy Communion

Thursday 30th November 2023. 9.30am - 4.00pm

Price: Suggested donation £10.00

Leader: Revd David Wilmot. Chaplain at Rydal Hall.

How many times have we attended Holy Communion and wished that it had more fully touched our heart? Why does it so often feel like a missed opportunity for grace? In this Quiet Day, we will reflect on the roots of this disquiet and discover some ways of entering more richly into what has been called 'the source and summit' of the Christian life.

Our Quiet Days are free of charge. Donations are welcome, and booking is required, please. Tel: 015394 32050. Tea/Coffee provided. Please bring a Packed Lunch or alternatively, you may wish to visit our Tea Shop.

Free Car Parking: permit available from Reception.

## Music Notes

The principal headline is the completion of the organ project after seven years of hard work. On taking up my appointment at Grasmere in 2016, I inherited some research from my predecessor, Stephen Mott, who had identified the need for a thorough overhaul as the organ neared its centenary. John Taylor launched the appeal in 2018, and there followed several fundraising concerts and applications to various trusts. That this outcome has been achieved is due, in no small measure, to the generosity of many individuals who have contributed both financially and in practical ways, and to them our thanks are due. This milestone will be recognized both at James Lancelot's organ recital on **30<sup>th</sup> September** and at the service of rededication the following day. Looking ahead, it would be good to see a resurgence of singing in church, and I wonder whether some of those who enjoy singing in other contexts might consider putting their talents at our disposal from time to time. The next opportunity will be our Carol Service on Sunday **17<sup>th</sup> December** at 4.00 p.m., for which I intend to hold rehearsals on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December and on the day of the service, both at 2.00 p.m. If you would like to take part in this choir, please let me know in advance, so that the music can be organized.

Meanwhile on Sunday **29<sup>th</sup> October** at 4.00 p.m. there will be a Choral Evensong, led by the Herdwyck Consort, a very accomplished local chamber choir, to which all are welcome.

*Ian Hare*

### Births, Marriages, and Deaths

#### Funerals

Michael Magennis	15th June 2023
Mary Walker	25th September 2023
John Rickman	27th September 2023

#### Marriages

Laura Walshe & Jason Lutener	12th August 2023
Alan Riley & Sarah Sherratt	13th July 2023
Antony Riley & Emmi Ukkonen	26th August 2023





## Grasmere School News



GRASMERE SCHOOL

Year 6 have been to London to explore their capital city. We had a fascinating three days, crammed full of wonderful experiences. Here is what we did:

We spent time in the rose gardens in Regents Park, on the way to London Central Mosque & Islamic Cultural Centre. We had an very interesting workshop there, and then meandered through the park again. We ate out at Seven Dials, and went to see the RSC production of Matilda. After an incredible performance we exited into vibrant, chaotic London night-time, and bought some beautiful gelati on our way back to the hostel. The next day was the anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. So after a bus ride along The Strand and a walk along The Mall, we watched the guards' regiments, and the gun carriages of the Royal Artillery preparing for the salute. Then it was off to Parliament for a great tour and workshop. Afterwards we walked up Whitehall, looking at the statues in Victoria Tower Gardens and Parliament Square on the way. We saw The Cenotaph, Downing Street, Banqueting House and of course, Trafalgar Square. We found the 'standard measures' in Trafalgar Square, and recapped on our understanding of the Napoleonic wars. From there it was a bus back to St Paul's Cathedral, where we visited Nelson's and Wellington's tombs, and had a good look at this beautiful place of worship. Crossing the Millennium Bridge we then visited Tate Modern, and were amazed at the variety of art works on display. In the evening we walked along the Thames towards Tower Bridge, seeing HMS Belfast, Southwark Cathedral, the City of London, The Golden Hinde, the old Mayor's Office, The Tower of London, London Bridge, The Shard, ... It was unbelievably hot! More ice-creams were required...

Our last day began with a lovely mellow morning in St James' Park, climbing trees, talking to squirrels and being as-cool-as-possible in 32 degrees. From there we visited the Ukrainian Cathedral in Mayfair, and then travelled out to the Hindu Mandir in Neasden. We were made incredibly welcome in both of these places, and came back happy and full of memories.

*Jo Goode Headteacher Grasmere School*

## Sidesman Rota for St Oswald's Church

8th October	Don Perritt & David Dodgson
15th October	Ann & David Jackman
22nd October	Sonia Rickman & Ann Jackman
29th October	Ann Fawthrop & Pat Taylor
5th November	Trevor & Helen Eastes
12th November	Don Perritt and David Dodgson
19th November	Ann & David Jackman
26th November	Ann Fawthrop & Pat Taylor

### Sunday Church Services

**Weekly Church Services are as follows  
unless advertised separately:**

**9.30am Holy Communion at  
St. Mary's Rydal**

**11.00am Sunday Celebration at  
St. Oswald's Grasmere**

**Taize Prayer is every first Sunday at  
7.00pm. at St Mary's Rydal**



# Grasmere WI

As always, very busy and exciting times with lots going on at Grasmere WI!

We now have over 60 members. Come and join in the fun, we have a very active and varied programme of events and there is always tea and fabulous cake. Just call in at one of our meetings or contact me. It is an incredibly friendly group and you will be made very welcome.

You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Our website link is [grasmerewi.wordpress.com/](http://grasmerewi.wordpress.com/)

Here are some **brief highlights of our recent activities....**

## **The Westmorland County Show - 13th/14th September**

Our successes at the Show last year gave us an appetite for more, so we decided to go BIG at this year's County Show with almost 100 entries across many different categories. And we won BIG - 5 trophies and an amazing haul of Golds, Silvers and Reds awarded.

Wow, what an incredible GWI team effort and something that we are all be very proud of. Huge thanks to everyone involved, from all the members that entered and to all the many members who helped and supported a huge logistical operation in a wide variety of ways.

A special thanks to Jane Caven for so expertly and enthusiastically leading our Show project and for encouraging and guiding us through everything. Also to our Show Sub-Committee for all their time, hard work and commitment.

I am a very proud President!!!

**At our August meeting**, our speaker was Joanne Heather who gave us a very interesting talk on Hawkshead Grammar School. **During August** we also had fabulous trips to Southport Flower Show and to Salts Mill at Bradford to see the amazing David Hockney exhibits (the first trip of our newly set up Art Appreciation Group). We also attended the Wordsworth Grasmere evening with the Poet Laureate Simon Armitage and hosted the Church flowers putting on a wonderful display in memory of our past members. **At our September meeting**, Jo Andrews gave us an interactive discussion on Feel Good Fitness, Wellness and Eposture. Our monthly book/ culture club at Allan Bank is well attended and we enjoy a lively discussion each month. The October book is the Marriage Portrait



Nicky, Jacky and Jacqui enjoying Southport Flower Show

Church flowers by Grasmere WI in memory of past members

### Looking ahead...

**In October** we have an excellent Pearl Workshop at the Village Hall and also a behind the scenes tour and afternoon tea at Dalemain.

At our **12th October meeting** we have Dame Sue Ion with her talk 'Net zero : A challenge too far?', followed by our **9th November meeting** with Maria Benjamin - Business Development and Diversification in Farming.

**In December** we are visiting the Country Living Christmas Fair at Harrogate.

In addition we have our usual monthly rambles, Book / Culture Club and Art Appreciation trips.

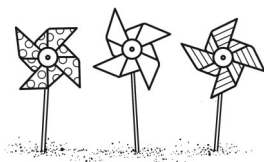
Our Lakes and Tarns challenge continues, with members continuing to tick off visits to our wonderful Lakeland tarns.

Finally, a huge thanks to our Committee and all our members for making Grasmere WI such a vibrant, friendly and fun group.

Louise Sykes President Grasmere WI  
 07860 299658 [clsmailbox@icloud.com](mailto:clsmailbox@icloud.com)

## Grasmere and Cumbria Weather

July 2023



### From one extreme to the other

After the warm, sunny weather of May and June, July could not have been more different, with a cool and very wet month with few fine days. The unsettled theme was already well established as the month began, with a large area of low pressure to the northwest of Scotland and Atlantic fronts sweeping east across Cumbria. Showers and longer spells of rain were heavy and frequent, whilst temperatures remained depressed, reaching just 14C. to 15C. on most days. A weak ridge of high pressure on the 7th and 8th. pushed temperatures above average. The 7th was the warmest day of the month, with Scotby in Cumbria recording a maximum temperature of nearly 27.C.

The weather quickly became unsettled again with thunderstorms occurring. On the 15th an unusually deep depression for July, moved across Cumbria, with heavy rain and strong winds. Here in Grasmere 41.5 mm. 1.63 inches was recorded, whilst in Ambleside 72.0mm. 2.83 inches was noted. The cool, unsettled weather continued until the month's end. Rainfall amounts were well above average everywhere, particularly in the Lake District where rainfall totals exceeded 200%. On the 30th we'd had one dry day in the last 46. Thunder was recorded on the 2nd, 8th and 15th. The obvious reason for our unsettled weather was, of course, our old friend the jet stream. While southern Europe was having an extreme form of summer with the searing heat, the jet stream had stuck in a rut south of the British Isles, blocking the low pressure over us that refused to budge. This, of course, resulted in weeks of rain, grey skies, unseasonably high winds and temperatures way below normal. Low pressure has been in control for the past five weeks, and it was our wettest July for fourteen years.

Wettest July day 15th. 41.5 mm. 1.63in. July rain days 27. Last year 20.

Total for month 287.8mm. 11.37 in. Last year 4.37in. Average 5.77 in.

Rain days to date end of July 143. Last year 127.

Rainfall to date end of July 1565.5 mm. 61.68in. Last year 45.26 in.

## August 2023

August took over from July with similar conditions for the first week. Dark, damp days, heavy thundery showers and brief sunny spells. From the 7th, pressure rose, bringing brighter days with brief sunshine and light showers. Then on the 11th a more active front moved southwards bringing heavy showers and more general rain for the next three days, totalling 90mm. 3.54 inches. From the 15th, pressure rose again, albeit briefly, with more sunshine, but isolated light showers. With pressure again falling from the 18th dreary days followed with very brief sunshine and rain being recorded every day apart from the 30th.



As summer comes to an end, the Bank Holiday was disappointing. One of the most notable aspects of our current changing climate is the way that weather patterns tend to shift more slowly. Heatwaves and droughts are increasingly prolonged. A study published in 2021 by the Met Office found that climate change is also driving an increase in slow moving storms producing intense rainfall across Europe. Every month last year, apart from December, was warmer than the previous 20 year average. Overall, last year was the hottest year since records began. As warm air holds more moisture than cold air, meteorologists have a tongue twister of an expression for this: Potential Precipitable Moisture. Although July was wetter this year, this is greater in August than in any other month.

Wettest August day 11th. 39.97 mm.1.56in.

August rain days 25 Last year 18

Total for month 204.5 mm. 8.05 inches. Last year 4.94 inches. Average 8.01 inches

Rain days to date end of August 168 Last year 145

Rainfall to date 1770.0 69.73 inches Last year 50.20 inches

*Peter Bailey*

# Wordsworth

## GRASMERE

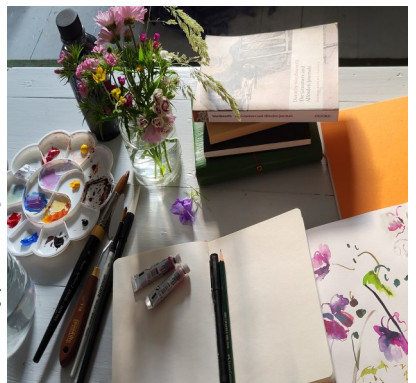
Thank you to everyone who came along to Simon Armitage's poetry reading at the Daffodil Hotel in August – we can't wait for next year! In the meantime, there is plenty to see and do at Wordsworth Grasmere...

In October we are open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm. From November we enter our winter hours and are open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm. Entry to Dove Cottage, the Museum and exhibitions is free to Grasmere residents and employees of Grasmere businesses.

This autumn we have recreated three pioneering Lake District ascents as part of a trilogy of short films that that will premiere at **Kendal Mountain Festival** on 19 November: the soldier and 'rambler' Joseph Budworth's first ascent 'by a stranger' of Helm Crag, Grasmere (1792); the Gothic novelist Ann Radcliffe's influential horseback ride up Skiddaw (1794); and the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge's moonlight traverse of Helvellyn and the Dodds (1800).

Join Alison Critchlow and Susan Allen from 6-8 October on **'Glowworms everywhere': A three-day creative retreat.**

This retreat uses Dorothy Wordsworth's Grasmere journal as a template for creative exploration, including experimentation with imaginative and practical techniques using poetry and paint.



The latest event in **'Go to the poets, they will speak to thee'**, our online poetry reading series hosted by Kim Moore, takes place on 22 November with special guest Malika Booker.

Our online talks programme has started back up again for autumn and winter. Join **Tony Mehew** on 9 November as he explores historical travel accounts, sketchbooks, press photographs and more, all from his fascinating collection. On 7 December **Stephen Gill** will explore inscriptions and human stories as he discusses the Wordsworth books from his collection that mean the most to him.



Celebrate Halloween with **Twilight Tales** on 24, 25, 26 and 27 October, for families with children aged 3+.

There will be hot chocolate, gingerbread, and plenty of spooky stories.

**Little Wanderers**, our creative play sessions for under 5s, take place every Friday morning in the Learning Space. Free for Grasmere families.

**Discover Poetry** with Polly Atkin and **Dove Cottage Poets**, our monthly poetry reading and writing groups, continue to take place on Zoom.

For more information and to book, please visit [wordsworth.org.uk](http://wordsworth.org.uk)

*Hannah Catterall, Events Officer, Wordsworth Grasmere*





## Grasmere Fellowship



As autumn approaches it is time to start saving for your subscription to the new season of Fellowship meetings. Melissa has arranged a full and interesting programme.

The season gets underway with the opening service at St Oswald's Church on October 5th which will be taken by David Wilmot.

The first talk on October 19th will be by Gill Henwood and Melissa Harwood on Travels in Uzbekistan. Both speakers are well known to all of you.

On November 2nd Ron Ward will pay us another visit. After entertaining us previously on Great Mistresses and Pre-Raphaelites his subject this time will be the Nation's Favourite Paintings.

November 16th sees another local speaker Trevor Cooper who will be giving us all the facts about Red Squirrels.

All talks will be in the Village Hall the first and third Thursday in the month commencing at 2.30.

We have raised the subscription this year to £15.00, but it still represents remarkable value considering tea is included!. Cost for a single meeting will be £3.00. Subscriptions will be collected at the first meeting in the Hall.

*David Dodgson*

## Grasmere Village Society

The nights are drawing in and the temperature is dropping but there is plenty of activity in and around the village. The bus shelters have been redecorated - many thanks to Mark Broomhead for this. Invasive species are being noted and treated. If you do see any, particularly Japanese Knotweed or Himalayan Balsam, then please report this to Sharon Savasi or any committee member. Meetings have taken place with the various authorities and hopefully some tree planting will commence this winter.

In my last update, I referred to the Grasmere Neighbourhood Watch Scheme , which has been set up as a by-product of the Emergency Plan. You will notice Neighbourhood Watch road signs attached to lamp posts in the near future. There is a leaflet enclosed with this edition highlighting the benefits of joining the scheme. It is free to join, gives you access to various resources and you can also choose the sources of information and alerts which may be of interest to you.

To join, open the website **[ourwatch.org.uk](http://ourwatch.org.uk)** and select Join Us in the top menu. Once registered, you will be directed to join the Grasmere Watch and you will receive a New Member Pack by email. Once you have joined, we can provide free window stickers and we have a limited supply of wheelie bin stickers.

If you would like to become involved by becoming a local coordinator for your immediate community or if you have any questions, please contact Simon at [simonhey4@gmail.com](mailto:simonhey4@gmail.com) or 015394 35067.

With the storm season rapidly approaching, a reminder that you may join the Grasmere Flood Watch and Emergencies Facebook Group at **[facebook.com/groups/grasmerefloodwatch](https://facebook.com/groups/grasmerefloodwatch)**. There are guides and information to assist you in preparing for an emergency. Please contact Simon if you need any help with this. We are also looking for more volunteers to help out in the event of an emergency occurring and Simon will be happy to talk through the various roles available. Take care of yourselves and each other, and stay warm and dry!

*Nick McCraith (Chairman)*

## Grasmere Village Hall

Over the summer the Hall hosted the Lake Artists Society exhibition, which many of you will have visited (and maybe even purchased from!) Folk music duo Fool's Gold performed their show "Bang up to the Elephant" on 16 September, which was a huge success. Now we have a busy Autumn schedule of events ...

You'll be pleased to know that the weekly Warm Spot coffee mornings have returned to the Hall every Wednesday at 10.00 to 12.30 (except 4 October). Everyone is welcome to pop in and have a tea or coffee and chat.

**Saturday 7 October at 7.30 pm:** The Theatre by the Lake company presents a comedy/drama "Every Brilliant Thing". Tickets £12, are available online at [www.highlightsnorth.co.uk](http://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk) or can be reserved for cash on the door by emailing [enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk) or phone 015394 35628. Refreshments available.

**Friday 27 October. Doors 6.45 / start 7.30 pm:** We welcome back the brilliant Simon & Garfunkel tribute act who gave such a fantastic performance last year. Tickets £15, available from Sam Read's, Grasmere (cash only) or online at [www.classicsingersongwriters.co.uk/sandg](http://www.classicsingersongwriters.co.uk/sandg) Refreshments available or BYO.

**Tuesday 7 November 10.00 am – 1.00 pm:** Lino Print Christmas Card Workshop with Liz Jones Studio. An introduction to lino printing: learn how to design, carve and print your own Christmas cards. Tickets £30 available online at [www.highlightsnorth.co.uk](http://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk) or email [enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk) or phone 015394 35628 to reserve a place for cash.

**Friday 10 November. Doors 7.00 / start 7.30 pm:** Acclaimed music duo Winter Wilson. Tickets £12, can be purchased online at [www.winterwilson.com/dates](http://www.winterwilson.com/dates) BYO refreshments.

**Sunday 3 December:** Grasmere's Christmas Fair will be taking place at the Hall with market stalls selling local crafts and produce, and of course Father Christmas in his Grotto. There will also be a Grand Christmas Raffle – more details to follow. We are still in need of a coffee van for the day - If you know of anyone who can help us out do get in touch. Save the date poster on page 28.

The Hall now has a **table-tennis table** which is available for all to use. We would like to set up an after-school table-tennis club but we need a coach! If you are interested in coaching adults or children, please contact us: enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk or 015394 35628.

## **Grasmere Village Hall Company Ltd Annual General Meeting**

We would like to give notice that the AGM will take place  
on  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at Grasmere Village Hall  
at 7.00 pm.**

All Grasmere residents are welcome to be in attendance.

Following the official business of the meeting you are invited to join the Trustees for refreshments and a discussion on the hall and how it can best serve your and the community's needs.

# CALENDAR

## October and November 2023

### St Oswald's Church

Every Sunday please see page 11 for timings

### Grasmere Fellowship 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 2.30pm Village Hall

5<sup>th</sup> October (IN CHURCH), 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2nd November, and 19<sup>th</sup> November

### Grasmere WI Meet every second Thursday at 2pm in the Village Hall

12<sup>th</sup> October and 9<sup>th</sup> November

### Grasmere Warm Spot Every Wednesday tea and chat Village Hall 10.30am

11<sup>th</sup> October, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1st November, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, and 29<sup>th</sup> November

### Grasmere Book Group Meet online every second Thursday

12<sup>th</sup> October and 9<sup>th</sup> November

### Grasmere Village Hall Events throughout the months

7<sup>th</sup> October Every Brilliant Thing 7.30pm

27<sup>th</sup> October Simon and Garfunkel Tribute Act 7.30pm

7<sup>th</sup> November Lino Cut Workshop 10am

10<sup>th</sup> November Winter Duo 7.30pm

### SPECIAL EVENTS

1<sup>st</sup> October Rededication of St Oswald's by the Bishop 11am

7<sup>th</sup> October Parish Councillors Drop in Village Hall 10.30am

24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October Wordsworth Trust Halloween Tales

29<sup>th</sup> October St Oswald's Choral Evensong Herdwyck Consort 4pm

12<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday St Oswald's 10.50 afterwards at the War Memorial

ADVANCED NOTICE CHRISTMAS FAIR and ADVENT CAROLS 3RD DECEMBER

## Grasmere Players Logo Design Contest

Are you a creative mind with a passion for design? Grasmere Players is excited to present our Logo Design Contest! We're on the hunt for a professional, stylish logo that perfectly captures the essence of Grasmere and our wonderful theatre group.

### How to Enter:

- Create a one-of-a-kind stylish logo design that embodies Grasmere's charm and theatrical spirit.
- Email your design to **grasmereplayers@gmail.com**

### What's in it for You?

- The opportunity to see your design become the new face of Grasmere Players.
- Two complimentary tickets to the Grasmere Panto in January 2024.
- The honour of having your logo featured on all programmes, publicity materials, and social media.

Ensure your design reaches us by **November 6, 2023**.

The winning design will be chosen at the Grasmere Players AGM on November 7, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

Join us in shaping the future of Grasmere Players. Check out our Facebook page for more information.

*Matty Jackman*

## Grasmere Book Group

August's book group meeting discussed Toshikazu Kawaguchi's *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* translated from Japanese by Geoffrey Trousselot (Picador, 2019), a set of interlinked stories taking place in a special café, which ask the question, who would you spend time with if you could go back in time? There are a few catches: the only people you can meet while in the past are those who have visited the café, your present won't change at all and you must return before your coffee gets cold. A thought-provoking idea! Many enjoyed the book but a few had mixed feelings. The style of storytelling made more sense when we understood the novel was based on a play, with limited stage-setting and lots of dialogue but less insight into thoughts and feelings, which made some of the characters seem two dimensional. As the first book in a series set in the same café, we were intrigued to think how the story could develop.

In September we read Sarah Thomas's environmental memoir *The Raven's Nest* (Atlantic, 2022) detailing her time living in Iceland. Set between her first experience of Iceland in 2008 and her departure in 2014, it's also an intimate portrait of a country experiencing the fallout of a financial crisis and the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano which closed European airspace in 2010. Sarah's life there is inextricably linked with her ex-husband and his family who all feature in the book. Some group members loved the insights into Icelandic life, but others had conflicting feelings about how vivid the landscapes were, how much we learned about the people around Sarah and her own role in the narrative. The book certainly made us think about the complexities of genre, containing aspects of memoir, travel writing and environmental writing!

Next meetings are:

**OCTOBER 12th** – Bonnie Garmus, *Lessons in Chemistry* (Doubleday, 2022)

**NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>** – Ruth Ozeki, *The Book of Form and Emptiness* (Canongate, 2021)

**DECEMBER 14th** - Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol and Other Christmas Books* (Oxford World's Classics, 1843-1848)

Book group meets online at 8pm on the second Thursday of every month. If you'd like to join us for a meeting, do email and we can send you a Zoom link.

*Polly and Will* – [dr.will.smith@me.com](mailto:dr.will.smith@me.com)

## Grasmere Parish Councillors Drop In Session

A third Grasmere Parish Council drop-in session is to be held at Grasmere Village Hall on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October** from 10.30am until 12.30pm

We hope to build on the success of the last event in March and everyone is welcome. We would love you to be part of it. so much so, we are planning a free prize draw for all that attend to make it worth your while!

No topic is off limits, and we would love your suggestions on what we can realistically do to improve Grasmere Village.

The last event was very successful and included representatives from a wide range of organisations; Cumbria Housing Trust, Grasmere Church, Grasmere Food Bank, Grasmere Rushbearing, Grasmere Village Society, Grasmere WI, Probus, The Lake District National Park and the National Trust and we hope most of them plus more can make it again.

We hope to see you on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10.30 am – *Sharon, Andy & Will.*



Warm Spot coffee mornings have returned to the Hall every Wednesday at 10.00 to 12.30 (except 4 October).

Everyone is welcome to pop in, have a drink and chat.

Do come and join us



## National Trust Rangers

Summer is always a variable season in a Rangers world. It involves an interesting mix of work coming at us from all angles. It ranges from managing invasive species, tree disease surveys (notably for ash die back), managing an increase in visitor numbers and of course everyday practical work that keeps us busy rain or shine! Our wonderful volunteer group at High Close are very active during the summer months, mainly working in the arboretum, they help us keep on top of maintenance alongside identifying any upcoming challenges or opportunities. They are a friendly bunch, so if see them do say hello and talk to them about their work.

I am sure many of you will have noticed the number of ash trees that we have either felled or pollarded. This is due to ash dieback which is caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, which ultimately kills the tree. The fungus causes the tree to die back from the tips (see picture for example), so in the summer months, as the disease progresses there will be less visible foliage in the crown. We're anticipating that between 70-95% of ash trees will be affected, as such; to ensure the highest possibility of finding the small percentage of trees that are resistant, we survey trees every year only removing trees that pose a risk to people or property.



Surveys are an important part of our wider tree safety management programme. This is undertaken in the autumn months when there is less crown that helps us to assess a trees condition more broadly. We can also see fungus that is often a clue to a tree's health and wellbeing. These more broader surveys will be happening over the next few months, as such you will see us walking around the patch, with binoculars, hammers and screwdriver assessing tree's conditions. Again, feel free to chat to us about we're doing or if you have any concerns about any trees.

*Sarah Anderson, Ranger*

# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN ST OSWALD'S

We would be delighted if you would like to sponsor a plant that will be used to decorate the church over the Christmas period.

Once again we are choosing to display cyclamens, not only beautiful but also hardy in cold conditions!

Please fill in the slip below and return to Sonia at:

**St Oswald's or leave in the church letterbox no later than the 21st December.**



Each plant will have a label with your dedication printed on it.

You are welcome to collect the plants from church from Sunday 7th January

.....  
I /We would like to donate £..... for a plant with the following dedication: max 50 words)

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Minimum donation of £8 per plant please. Cheques payable to Grasmere PCC

Name.....  
Tel No:.....



**Save the Date!**

**Sunday 3rd December**

**10am - 5pm**

**Grasmere Village Hall**

**Grasmere Christmas Fayre  
with Santa's Grotto  
and Grand Christmas Raffle**

**There are a still a few outside  
pitches for stall holders  
£20**

**Contact [enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk)**



## Grasmere Red Squirrels

Reds: there have been several sightings of reds right in the centre of the village on the village green. Do have a look on our Facebook page for videos & photos @GrasmereReds



*In September/October we are conducting the annual population survey of reds in the Grasmere area. Please send us details of numbers and location.*

Greys: There continues to be a record number of greys arriving this year. Please report any sightings to us asap.

If you have a feeder, now would be a good time to check it and give it a good clean with Anigene disinfectant. This can be provided free of charge, so if you need a supply, please message or email us, so we can arrange for you to collect it. You just need to bring a clean empty 500ml kitchen spray bottle and we will give you 10ml of disinfectant to dilute with water. This mixture will last for 3 months in the bottle.

**IF YOU SEE A GREY (or a sickly looking red) ANYWHERE AROUND GRASMERE PLEASE TELL US IMMEDIATELY. Don't leave it until tomorrow!**

Text our 2 Rangers David Birkett on 07775 904236 or Text Stuart Dickson 07980 893459, Phone Trevor Cooper on 015394 35502, Jane Cooper 35589 or Stewart Sutcliffe 35263 and 07817 326524. If still no response email [grasmerersg@gmail.com](mailto:grasmerersg@gmail.com) and we'll pick it up when we look at the photos from the cameras.

We accept online donations by Debit and Credit cards via our Paypal account and there are collection boxes in the village shops and we can accept Direct bank transfers.

Many thanks to everyone who has contacted us with local sightings, especially greys! – they are really helpful. Send red squirrel stories & photos to Sam at [Grasmereredsquirls@gmail.com](mailto:Grasmereredsquirls@gmail.com) or via Facebook Messenger and follow us on Social media. *If you would like to receive our email newsletters please email [grasmerersg@gmail.com](mailto:grasmerersg@gmail.com) .*

*Stewart Sutcliffe, Grasmere Red Squirrel Group*

## GRASMERE SPORTS

The committee were delighted that so many villagers and visitors could join them at the Sports this year – the field looked magnificent, largely due to the efforts of Matt Brood and his local team, and a good time was had by all.

The hound trails had been reinvigorated with the help of the South Lakeland HTA and had attracted many more entries. The wrestling carried on late into the evening, having teams from Scotland, Iceland and Breton joining the competitions.

More runners took part in the fell races and local awards had been added to the junior classes to add interest for locals.

This was the final year that Deborah Black will be our Sports Manager; 2023 was declared by many to be a vintage Sports and a suitable high for Deborah to bow out on. She is not leaving us altogether and will still be administering the events that take place on the field.

Some exciting plans for the 2024 Sports are already being investigated, with local foods and crafts being high on the list. The Directors are also looking to bring in more local volunteers, so please do let us know if you are able to help in any way.

Next year's Sports will be in the capable hands of Rich Hooper, our new Sports Manager in waiting. Rich will be working closely with the Directors to continue building links with the village and local groups – contact him on [manager@grasmeresports.com](mailto:manager@grasmeresports.com) from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

### **BOOKS NEEDED**

Are you keen to have a sort out?

The Church sells second hand books for Church Funds.

If you can donate any books please leave them at the back of Church. Thank you !



## **Support Group**

**For everyone affected by Dementia and Memory Loss.**

**Ambleside Parish Centre**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.30 – 11.30 am**

**Guest:**

**Elaine Ravenhall from Alzheimers Society**

**will be attending both meetings**

**015394 34172 [admin@amblesidepc.org.uk](mailto:admin@amblesidepc.org.uk)**

## **OXFAM AMBLESIDE – UPDATE**

After a time of disruption, with an amazing team of volunteers battling to keep the shop open as much as possible, there is now a new manager in place – Hello!

We know that, as the only charity shop in the area, Oxfam is a valuable resource for the community and our hope is to ensure that we are consistently open for as many days as possible. For this to become reality, we do need more volunteers to come and join the team. Can you help?

If you have 3-4 hours a week to spare, and would like to spend them in a fulfilling and enjoyable role, we would love to welcome you.

Thousands of people work for Oxfam around the world, bringing help, health and hope to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, at times of crisis and beyond. The money raised in our shops funds this amazing work. If you would like to help, please call in for a chat, call 015394 34487 or apply on line at [volunteering.oxfam.org.uk](http://volunteering.oxfam.org.uk) and search for Ambleside.

Many thanks, *Debs*

**New research from the national charity shows almost eight million people had to borrow money to pay their energy bills in the first half**

**of 2023, a number it forecasts will rise over the coming months. 1 in 4 people say their energy bill is the essential cost they're most worried about.**

**Despite the fall in the energy price cap, the average household will probably pay slightly more in the coming winter than they did between January and March 2023. Starting the winter in debt means that people have to pay back arrears on top of the costs of increasing energy use in the colder months.**

**Disabled people and families with young children, particularly single parents, are more likely to have very high levels of energy debt, and high monthly shortfalls too. This can lead to stress and anxiety for people who already suffer higher levels of anxiety compared to the general population, but they are also more likely to be eligible for assistance with costs.**

**There is information on saving energy to reduce costs, details of grants or benefits and how to check your eligibility. Contact your energy provider as well, as many can offer help to people who are struggling to pay bills, and may let you reschedule your payments. Borrowing money at high rates from doorstep lenders is not the solution, as it just increases your debt burden**

**If you are worried about energy bills, advice and help is available. South Lakes Citizens Advice, your local charity, is here for you.**

- **Call 015394 46464 - this is being staffed from 9:30 – 2pm**
- **Adviceline: 0808 2787 984**
- **Email advice via our submission page on our website [www.southlakescab.org.uk](http://www.southlakescab.org.uk)**
- **Help to Claim (Universal Support): 0800 144 8 444**

# CONTACTS

**St Oswald's Parish Church**, Church Stile, Grasmere LA22 9SW

**Rector:** The Rev. David Wilmot

St. Mary's Vicarage, Ambleside Road, Windermere LA23 1BA

Tel: 07305 777113 rev.grasmererydal@hotmail.com

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals - please contact David

**Church Warden:** Ann Jackman 07899733104

jackmanae@icloud.com

**Treasurer:** Richard Beskeen 015394 35131

treasurer.grasmereandrydal@gmail.com

**Organist:** Mr Ian Hare MA Mus B 017684 83886

ian.c.hare@outlook.com

**Church Website:** stoswaldsgrasmere.uk

## Other Church Contacts

Rydal St. Mary's Churchwarden Pam Coates 015394 32449

**Methodist Minister:** Grace Cauldwell 07341960506 / 01229 583196

Grace.southlakes@gmail.com

**Roman Catholic Priest:** Fr. Ajish Kumpukkal, Mater Amabilis Church,  
015394 33027

**Quaker: Friend In Residence:** Terry Winterton. Glenthorne,

Tel: 015394 35389 info@glenthorne.org

**URC Minister:** The Rev. Martyn Coe, Carver Church 01539 533223

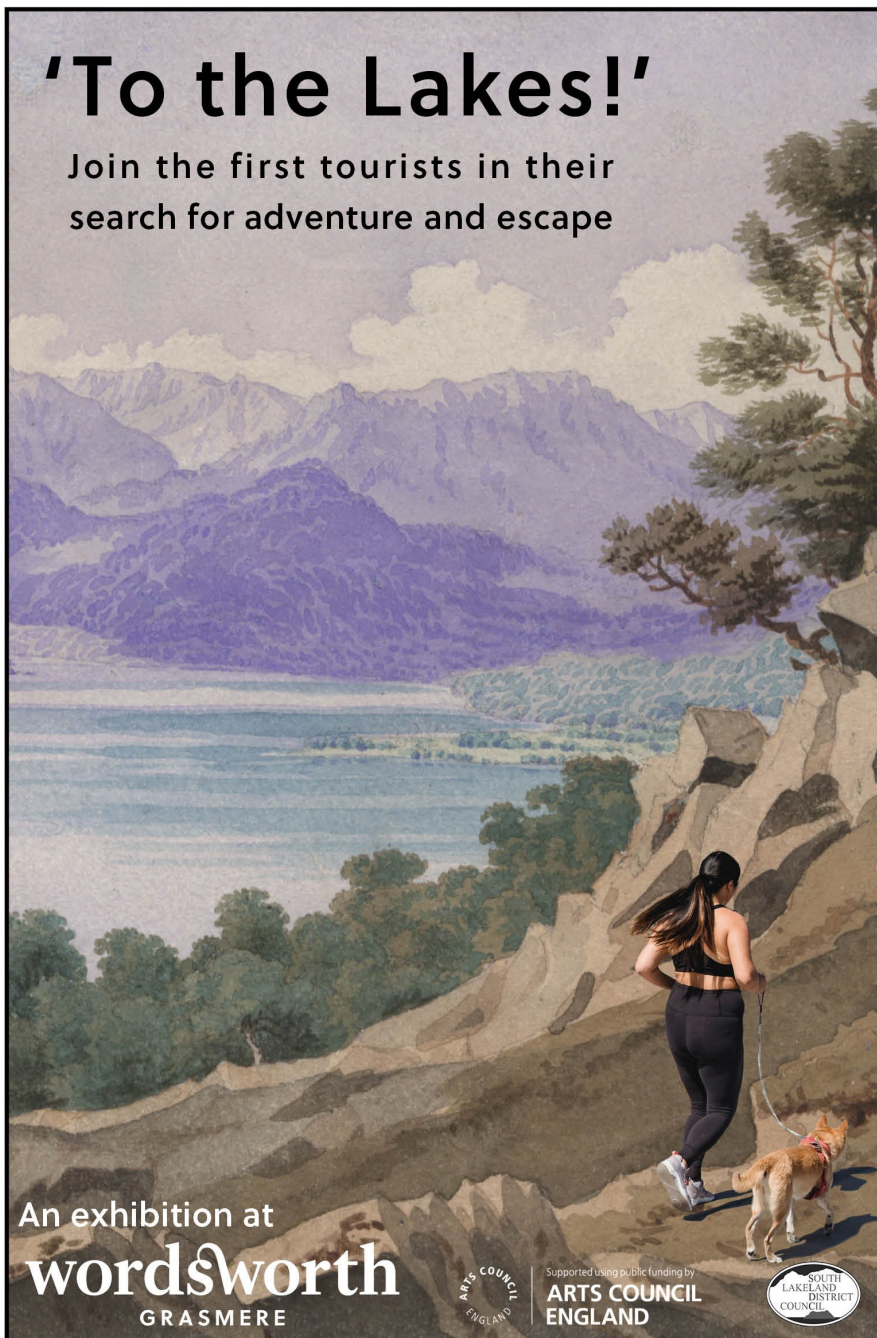
**Central Lakes Mission Community** Rev. John Dixon

015394 36301 jjcedixon@btinternet.com



# 'To the Lakes!'

Join the first tourists in their search for adventure and escape



An exhibition at  
**wordsworth**  
GRASMERE



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