

# Grasmere Parish Magazine



**April - May 2024**

## **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 June - July 2024 magazine is **18th May**. Please email copy 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**

To advertise in the magazine please contact the Editors,

**Ann and David Jackman - [editor@oswaldparish.news](mailto:editor@oswaldparish.news)**

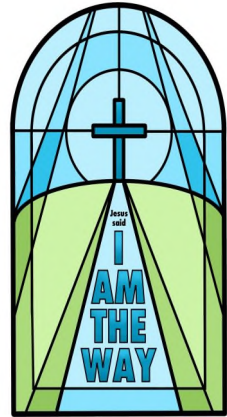
Apologies in advance for any errors or omissions.

## From the Vicarage

### A complete stranger?

One of the interesting and sometimes quite amusing things about those occasions when the Risen Jesus appears to his disciples at Easter is how often they fail to recognise Him.

For instance, you might remember that two of them walked several miles in His company before they realized who this mysterious stranger might be and when Mary Magdalene went to Jesus's grave she mistook him for a gardener!



It's all slightly comical but if we think about it, it is all of a piece with what we know of Jesus. In short, people have always found him compelling and puzzling in equal measure. He always comes across as a strange figure, if only because he looks at the world and our place within it from a totally different perspective to us. Throughout his ministry his disciples completely fail to understand Him and all that He is trying to achieve.

In turn, He constantly has to resist their attempts to make Him conform to their way of thinking. Sometimes I wonder whether being outraged and perplexed by the things Jesus says just goes with the territory. If we're not, then maybe we are not really listening to Him.

My point is that the Jesus who has a reputation for challenging the assumptions and expectations of those He met in first century Palestine will be exactly the same now. And perhaps one of the reasons we have such a 'no holds barred' account of the confusion the disciples experienced is because the Gospel writers had realized that this 'strangeness' was part of the message. As the late Gerard Hughes put it, "Surprise can be a sign that we are encountering the Living Christ, the image of the God of Surprises".

We might say that one sign that we are in fact encountering the risen Jesus, in the here and now, might be the experience of a certain strangeness or disorientation.

Jesus says, "The one who has seen me has seen the Father". Time and again, the God that we see in Jesus is far from the one we thought Him to be.

So, maybe the time to worry is when we are not perplexed, troubled or left scratching our head at the things Jesus says and does. Perhaps the resurrection stories remind us that Christian living has an air of adventure to it. Jesus uses the words "born again" to describe the effect He wants to have on us. It's an entirely new way of seeing and living. As someone said, "Jesus isn't here to help me get the life I want but to give me an entirely new one".

Happy Easter!

*David*

Thank you so much for all your cards, gifts and expressions of kindness as Margaret and I prepare to leave for Grange over Sands. It has been a great privilege to serve as your Rector these past five years. Thank you for your friendship and for all that you do to build up the life of this wonderful village. Our prayers and good wishes to you and your loved ones. Keep the faith. *David and Margaret*

## **Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 21st April-after Morning Worship, in church. Do come along and hear about all that has been going on in the life of our Parish Church during the past year and of our plans for the future. Copies of the Minutes of last year's meeting, the Reports and Agenda will be available at Church on the preceding Sunday. All persons whose names are entered upon the Church Electoral Roll of the parish are entitled to vote at the meeting.

## **Front Cover**

Thank you to **Hayley Davidson** for her wonderful photograph.

The deadline for the next photographs is **May 18th 2024**  
for the June -July edition.

## Sidesman Rota for St Oswald's Church

7 <sup>th</sup> April	PAT TAYLOR & TBC
14 <sup>th</sup> April	DAVID & ANN JACKMAN
21 <sup>st</sup> April	SONIA RICKMAN AND ANN JACKMAN
28 <sup>th</sup> April	TREVOR & HELEN EASTES
5 <sup>th</sup> May	SONIA RICKMAN & ANN JACKMAN
12 <sup>th</sup> May	TREVOR & HELEN EASTES
19 <sup>th</sup> May	DON PERRITT & DAVID DODGSON
26 <sup>th</sup> May	PAT TAYLOR & TBC

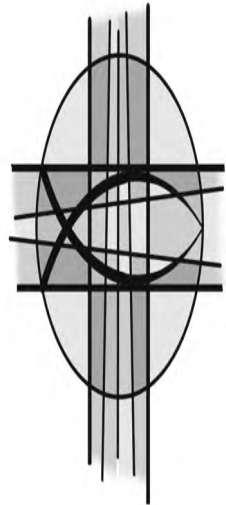
### Sunday Church Services

**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 School



**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May between 11am and 1pm**

Invitation to all! Please come to **Easedale Tarn** on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May between 11am and 1pm, to our pop-up café. We are recreating the 'Refreshment Hut' experience, to launch Tom Palmer's book *Angel of Grasmere*. It would be amazing to have some customers dressed in 1940's Grasmere garb. Do you have a woolly jumper, a tweed jacket, an oilskin, or a sheepskin? Do you have stout boots and a walking stick? Perhaps you'd like to be a farmer or a climber? It would be really good to see you. If you don't want to dress up, do come along anyway. There will be delicious nibbles and delightful service (by children from Grasmere, circa 1940), and a couple of friendly fell ponies to meet. Tom will also have books available for signing, if you want to buy them in situ, rather than in the conventional way at the bookshop...

If it's appalling weather (surely not), we will be postponing until the next day.

We've been trying to join with Grasmere WI in their stepping challenge for St Mary's Hospice. But we're finding it difficult to keep track of our steps as we don't have individual tracking devices. So we're challenging ourselves to get the whole school up Loughrigg in the last week of term. If you'd like to sponsor us to raise money for St Mary's Hospice, please send donations to school, named Hospice Donation. Bank details: Grasmere CE Primary School Fund Sort code: 16-52-21 Account number: 53368066

School is continuing to flourish. We've had a wonderful term, including Year 5 visit to London for a Parliament workshop and visit to the Cabinet War Rooms, a Spring Concert, clubs (running, football, yoga, drama, art), British sign language being learnt (featured in Spring Concert), visit to National Holocaust Centre, visits to Rheged for art exhibitions, poetry sessions with poets, working with Tom Palmer, World Book Day, library visits, a pancake race, work with Natural England on Flood Management, focus on some of our international families' countries of origin: Sweden, Romania, Poland and Ukraine, Financial management training for Class 4, and football and running tournaments. Busy and happy!

Unfortunately, our government funding for next year does not match our rising inflationary costs. We are so grateful to the Kelsick's Educational Foundation, and to those who pay to park at school at weekends and holidays. We would not be able to run the school we do without their support. It is getting very difficult to make ends meet. If anyone would like to support our village school, or talk about sponsorship opportunities, do please get in touch.

*Jo Goode, Headteacher*

## Music Notes



Although the primary purpose of our church buildings is worship and prayer, it is widely accepted that they can also suitably be used for some concerts, without detracting from their most important aim. Accordingly, plans are in hand for the following musical events in April and May.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 p.m. K Shoes Male Voice Choir** (see opposite)

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 p.m. Organ Recital by Edward Taylor** (Assistant Organist, Carlisle Cathedral). This recital has been arranged by the Cumbrian Society of Organists, who will be holding their Annual General Meeting afterwards.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 p.m. Organ Duets with Roy Goodman and Ian Hare**

Roy Goodman has an international reputation as a violinist and conductor with groups such as the Hanover Band and The Parley of Instruments. He is also an outstanding organist.

All are welcome to attend these events at which, in addition to the

# SPRING CONCERT



SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 7.30 P.M.

(an evening of varied Male Voice Choir Music)

**SAINT OSWALD'S CHURCH**

**GRASMERE**

Tickets £10 from:-

Barney's Newsbox, Broadgate, Grasmere (015394 35627)

[www.kshoesmvc.org](http://www.kshoesmvc.org), via QR code below or on the door.





## Grasmere WI

This year is Grasmere WI's 105th year and it's going to be a good one! We are very excited about our 105th birthday in May - watch this space! We have got a very exciting and action packed programme. Do come and join in the fun, you will be made very welcome. Just call in at one of our monthly meetings or contact me. You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Our website link is <https://grasmerewi.wordpress.com/>



Here are some brief highlights of our recent activities.... there is always so much going on at Grasmere WI!

**In February** our monthly meeting was with Paddlers for Life - a group paddling, thriving and surviving after cancer. So inspiring!

We have been to see the NT production of *Vanya* at Fellinis with the wonderful Andrew Scott, a day trip to Glasgow to visit the fabulous Burrell

Collection and a meet up with Lucy Worsley in Kendal to hear her fascinating talk on Agatha Christie. Our Art Group had a fabulous time at Wordsworth Grasmere viewing their Turner collection with curator Jeff Cowton and the brilliant Turner scholar, Dr Cecilia Powell. Creatively, Grasmere WI member Melissa Harwood ran a fantastic practical art session on pastels.



**February** also saw the return of our popular annual February stepping challenge for our charity the wonderful St Mary's Hospice, raising over £2,400.

**March** saw us going on an amazing day trip to RHS Bridgewater Gardens in Manchester, hitting the stage at Theatre By The Lake on a brilliant Behind the Scenes tour and yet more pampering at Kendal College.

Our AGM in **March** was a packed, vibrant meeting (it turns out AGMs can be good fun!) with a brilliant bottle raffle raising over £300 for St Mary's Hospice which brings our total raised for St Marys to about **£35,000** over the last 4 years - just amazing! We were joined by our friends from the Hospice who gave a very interesting and uplifting talk about all the fantastic work they do, we are so pleased and proud to support them.

Also in **March** we were privileged to be involved in the Dorothy Wordsworth walking App launch with Wordsworth Grasmere which includes recordings from many of our members.

### **Looking ahead.....**

At our meeting on **Thursday 11 April 2pm** at the Village Hall we will be joined by the truly inspiring Angela White (The Running Granny). Angela is a retired GP and ultra runner specialising in the promotion of health and fitness - it's going to be an action packed and very interesting afternoon!

**May** sees our Art Appreciation Group tripping off to Liverpool and our Book/Culture Club going to see Northanger Abbey at Theatre by the Lake after reading the book. Our meeting on **Thursday 9 May 2pm** at the Village Hall is with Mark Hatton doing a fascinating talk on German Miners in Elizabethan Grasmere.

Our monthly Book/Culture Club at Allan Bank is a huge success, with a packed attendance and lively discussion each month in Wordsworth's Study! We also have our very popular monthly rambles and Art Group meetings.

Our Lakes and Tarns challenge continues, with members continuing to tick off visits to our wonderful Lakeland tarns. We have had a bumper few weeks. We have now ticked off 125 distinct tarns and have reset our tarn visit target to 200 distinct tarns.

Finally, a huge thanks to our Committees and our members (all 77 of them!) for making Grasmere WI such a vibrant, friendly and fun group. Looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

*Louise Sykes President Grasmere WI*

## The Farming Year - Lambing Season

*In our second look at the life of our farmers in Grasmere, we ask Matthew and Emma, from Brimmer Head Farm, about lambing-the joys and the difficulties they face.*

In Grasmere there are several different breeds of sheep each with their own lambing time. As Matthew explains the Texels usually lamb first, from January to March, closely followed by the Mules. (A Mule is a mixed breed.) Between April and May we should begin to see the distinctive black Herdwick lambs and also the Swaledale lambs. The time the ewes deliver is because different breeds respond differently to weather conditions, and it depends how hardy the breed is. Meanwhile, the Tups having done their job earlier in the season, are sent off to greener pastures out of the way until needed again!



Lambing is a time of highs and lows. Seeing the new generation come through is wonderful but obviously this is balanced by the loss of lambs that can't be saved and the prospect of working in wet weather. The hours can be very long at times. Those lambs that need some extra attention are bottle fed by Emma and Megan and it's true that the stove comes in handy to warm up those that are too cold and wet!

Each year the proportion of twin births varies. Some years we have lots of twin births and some years very few. We have to look after them carefully, especially the ewes, providing them with more food as they have two mouths to feed.

At this time of year before lambing starts one of our big concerns is the pregnant ewes being worried by dogs. If a heavily pregnant ewe is chased there is a real risk that she will abort the lamb. It's true that worrying sheep is something we are concerned about all year long- it's a big problem. It really is important that all **dogs are always kept on leads.**



## Grasmere and Cumbria Weather - January



January was a month of wide swings in temperature with mild unsettled weather either side of a very cold dry spell mid month. It started very mild with rain, heavy at times.

Temperatures then fell sharply on the 6th. with north westerlies bringing colder conditions. Easterlies brought colder, drier air, but extensive cloud prevented a widespread frost. By the 14th. the main area of high pressure had transferred to Iceland, and under clear skies, frost became severe at night with -8.C. at a number of locations. A shallow depression brought snow to Cumbria on the 16th. putting down 14 centimetres ( 5.5 inches) here in Grasmere. On the morning of the 17th, the temperature was -5.C, making both side and main roads dangerously slippery. The next day the mercury fell to -8.C. not improving the safety of the roads. Bewcastle, in Cumbria, recorded a low of -11.8. C. the lowest in England. However, milder westerlies filtered east on the 19th. and 20th. bringing strong winds and heavy rain to Cumbria, but thankfully improving conditions underfoot. Storms Isha and Jocelyn, were brought on a very active jet stream on the 21st. and 23rd. bringing yet more strong winds and heavy rain. Temps. in Cumbria were well above average, with a high of 14.1.C. recorded at Sebergham on the 23rd. Mean temperatures in January were thankfully close to normal. Rainfall amounts were well above average and some stations exceeded 150%. Here in Grasmere 108.2 mm.( 4.26 in.) was recorded from the 19th. until the 21st. compared to Honister (11.14 in). Parts of Appleby were flooded on the 20th. with some residents losing their power supplies. Electricity North West stated that more than 50,000 customers were affected. A gust of 82 mph was noted at Shap, bringing down trees, power lines and on the M6 lorries overturned.

Storm Jocelyn was the tenth storm of the season from September, making it the busiest naming period since the practice began in 2015. Never a dull moment!!

Wettest Jan. day 23rd. 67.9mm. ( 2.67in.) Last year 10th. ( 3.0in.)

Total for month 344.5mm. 13.56in. Last year 17.82 in. Av. 10.72in.

Jan. rain days 19 Last year 25

## February



What a miserable month, not one completely fine day. February began with dominant, mild westerlies in control, dark, dreary days and rain at times. Brief sunshine followed a beautiful red sky on the morning of the 3rd. but obviously with the adage in mind, cloud and rain soon returned. A frost was noted, -2.C. on the 7th. with sleet on low ground, and snow above 800 feet, brought by a cold front on a northerly airstream. Milder conditions followed with dark, cloudy days and heavy showers. The south westerly winds, known as the “muck hole“, carried on for much of the remainder of the month . However, there was a brief interlude on the weekend of the 24th. when the sun made an unexpected appearance, albeit very briefly. It certainly was a very mild month, with the University of Reading logging a temperature of 16.9.C. on the 15th. considering the average maximum temperature should be under 9.C. It’s 70 years ago since the first ever televised weather forecast. Nowadays though, so high powered are the Met. Office systems, they can process in 215 billion weather observations in a day. Yet here in Grasmere their forecasts still leave an awful lot to be desired. For record keeping purposes, Spring begins on March 1st. whatever the weather. But as records show, the true beginning of Spring varies enormously from one year to the next. Very roughly, significant plant growth only occurs above 6.C (43 F) and that’s close to the long term March average. So there is bound to be wide variations each year, either side of this temperature norm from place to place and year to year. There are people who say that Spring hasn’t officially begun until they can put a foot on 12 daisies!

Looking back in the records, February 2008, was the complete opposite of 2024. The most remarkable aspect of that time was the extraordinary amounts of sunshine that were recorded in many parts of the country. Some sites recorded more than twice the long term mean. Norwich topped the list with 156 hours, close to the average for August.

The last completely dry day in Grasmere this year was January 17th. With the nights drawing out, looking forward to the best time of the year. Wettest February day 20th. 47.4mm. 1.87in. Feb. rain days 26 Last year 20 Total for the month 282.6mm. 11.12 in. Last year 4.47in. Rain days to date 45 Last year 45. Total for year to date 627.1mm. 24.68in. Last year 22.29 in.

*Peter Bailey*

## Grasmere Village Society

Daffodils, blossom, and yes, it is April already. A very happy Easter to you all!

Two significant Society events have taken place recently: the AGM and cheese and wine social on March 21<sup>st</sup> and a Wombles litter pick on March 23rd. I am actually posting this copy before both events but I am sure that they will have been successful. Sadly, litter reaccumulates no matter how much we pick and how well we educate people and we are very grateful to all Womble volunteers. We now have custom made high vis jackets in addition to all the necessary litter picking equipment.

The Dark Skies night went ahead as planned in February but unfortunately the weather was appalling and the light switch off was not entirely convincing. We will try again next year!

We are still struggling with red tape from various authorities in connection with our planned tree planting. Unfortunately, we are coming to the end of the planting season and it will be frustrating if another year passes with no trees in the ground. There is optimism that two blossom trees will be planted on Moss Parrock, perhaps even by the time you are reading this.

There has been a major shake up in the GVS committee with the resignation of three members: Alan Riley, Amy Burton and Mary Bass; whilst Marguerite Jenkinson is stepping down as treasurer. Our thanks to all of them for their time on the committee and particularly to Mary and Marguerite who were secretary and treasurer respectively for many a long year. I am pleased to report that Sue Lennon and Jonny Perrem have agreed to join the committee and Sue will take on the role of secretary. Ian Moreland is stepping into the treasurer's shoes.

GVS membership renewals were due on January 1<sup>st</sup> and if you have not yet renewed membership or would like to join for the first time please contact our membership secretary Simon Hey at [simonhey4@gmail.com](mailto:simonhey4@gmail.com), or you can join using the online form at <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/CvmdUw3H8P>.

The GVS was set up to secure the preservation, protection, development, and improvement of the village and whether you live in the village or are a visitor we value your membership and indeed your presence in the village.

*Nick McCraith (Chairman)*



Join us at the  
**Spring Parish Meal**

**ALL WELCOME**

**14th April 2024**

**12.30pm**

**The Village Hall**

**Tickets from Barney's from 24th March**

**(Available until 12th April 2024)**

**BYOB**

**NO CHARGE - DONATIONS WELCOME**



## Grasmere Village Hall

Many of you may have attended the funeral service to celebrate the life of Vivienne Rees. Among her many other contributions to Grasmere, Vivienne was President of the Village Hall charity and the Trustees were honoured that her family chose to hold the wake at the Hall. It was a great opportunity for all who knew Vivienne (and there are many) to get together and remember her. We are extremely grateful to Vivienne's family that donations in her memory are being given to the Hall charity.

We're delighted to report that the Grasmere Village Grand Christmas Raffle raised a total of £3,387.94! In February cheques were presented to Trustees of the Hall and Grasmere Red Squirrel Group. In March, Paul Davies and his band of actors put on a murder mystery entitled "*Who Killed the Vicar?*" which was greatly enjoyed.

**Saturday 27 April:** Wainwright archivist and author Chris Butterfield will be presenting a talk on Alfred Wainwright, including Q&A, book signing, refreshments. 2.30 – 4.00 pm. Tickets £8 available by emailing [chris@alfredwainwright.co.uk](mailto:chris@alfredwainwright.co.uk) or by calling 07807 026113.

**Thursday 9 May:** "*Exclusively*" – an evening of comedy with Patrick Monahan. Start 7.30 pm, refreshments available or BYO. Tickets £12 available from [www.highlightsnorth.co.uk](http://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk) or by calling 015394 35628.

**June:** Grasmere Players summer play - details to be confirmed.

To keep up to date, please follow us on our social media sites:



@GrasmereVillageHall or



@grasmerevillagehall

*Pam Moreland*

# ALLAN BANK



We shall be running an Easter trail (£3) for all ages, this will include a 10-point trail and bonus woodland spotter sheet, all self-lead, with an Easter egg at the end! (vegan option available).

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April a sax quartet will be joining us for the afternoon. This will be led by Peter and Hilary; they will fill the house with a variety of musical genres including pop, jazz, folk and classical. Booking not needed.

The Spring Lino printing workshop is on 13<sup>th</sup> April - so do come and join in! There are 8 places available at £25. Booking online is essential.

Come along and enjoy the wonderfully relaxing music of Harps North West. They will be playing on the 16th April starting around 10.30am

There will also be the usual Allan Bank offer of a warm drink, a place to sit, a good view and a pre-loved book. Red squirrels are fed daily.

**Free entry to members and locals (please bring proof of residency)**

Individual £7.50 child £3.75, Family £18.75.

*Alia Cruz, Welcome Manager*



**National  
Trust**

# CALENDAR APRIL

1	Easter Monday		
7	<b>Sunday Celebration</b>	St Oswald's	11am
9	Knit and Nat	Grasmere	2pm-4pm
10	Warm Spot	Village Hall	10am
11	Grasmere W.I.	Village Hall	2pm
13	K Shoes Male Voice Choir	St Oswald's	7.30pm
14	<b>Sunday Celebration</b>	St Oswald's	11am
	<b>Open Church</b>		
	<b>Parish Meal</b>	Village Hall	12.30pm
16	Harps North West	Allan Bank	10.30am
17	Warm Spot	Village Hall	10am
21	<b>Sunday Celebration</b>	St Oswald's	11am
	APCM		12.15pm
23	Knit and Nat	Grasmere	2pm-4pm
24	Warm Spot	Village Hall	10am
27	Chris Butterworth	Village Hall	2.30-4.00
	Keswick Choral Society	St John's Keswick	7pm
28	<b>Sunday Celebration</b>	St Oswald's	11am
	<b>Open Church</b>		

# CALENDAR MAY

4	Ambleside Choral Society	Ambleside Parish Church	7.30pm
5	<b>Sunday Celebration Open Church</b>	St Oswald's	11am
6	May Bank Holiday		
7	Knit and Nat	Reading Room	2pm
8	Organ Recital	St Oswald's	7pm
9	W.I.	Village Hall	2pm
	An Evening of Comedy with Patrick Monahan	Village Hall	7.30pm
12	<b>Sunday Celebration</b>	St Oswald's	11am
14	Knit and Nat	Reading Room	2pm
19	<b>Sunday Celebration Open Church</b>	St Oswald's	11am
25	Organ Duets	St Oswald's	7.30pm
27	Spring Bank Holiday		

If you have an event, which is open to all the village, that you would like to place in the calendar please let us know. *Editors*

# Wordsworth

## GRASMERE

### What's on at Wordsworth Grasmere

*'I wandered lonely as a Cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils'*

Our spring opening hours are Tuesday - Saturday 10am-4pm. We are also open on Easter Sunday. Entry to Dove Cottage, the Museum and exhibitions is free to Grasmere residents and employees of Grasmere businesses.



This spring we are delighted to launch **Dorothy Wordsworth Walks**, and an app to guide you around Dorothy's favourite places in Grasmere and Rydal, co-produced with Grasmere WI and the University of Manchester. There will be an accompanying display in the community gallery to promote the app to our visitors. Find out more and download here: <https://wordsworth.org.uk/dorothy-wordsworth-walks/>

Collect a map and stamp collection card from the Welcome Desk and have a go at our **Easter Trail!** There are both indoor and outdoor activities to complete, from an Easter Egg trail to springtime crafts in the Museum. Every child who completes their stamp card will win a free chocolate egg. This family activity is available until the end of 13 April.

Drop into our Learning Space on 10 April for **Easter holiday Make and Play** activities. Activities include painting, butterfly and bee suncatchers, making flower crowns and 3D flower bouquets. This free family event runs from 10.30am-12.30pm.

Join us online on 31 May for **Trees, Communication, and Connection**, the second in our series of 'Tree Talks'. Katie Holten, author of *The Language of Trees*, and Dr John Miller will explore themes of connection and communication through trees, from Tree Alphabets and translations to treescapes communicated through film.

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

The next event in '**Go to the poets, they will speak to thee**', our online poetry reading series hosted by Kim Moore, takes place on 24 April with Katie Hale.

**Discover Poetry** with Polly Atkin and **Dove Cottage Poets**, our 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*

## **Support Group**

**For those with dementia, their carers and friends**

**at**

**Ambleside Parish Centre**

**on**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 10.30 – 11.30 am**

**Information, Games and Leaflets available**

**Elaine Ravenhall from Alzheimers Society**

**will also be joining us.**

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

# Warm Hub Coffee Mornings



The weekly Warm Spot Coffee & Chat sessions are continuing every Wednesday at 10.00 to 12.30. The Hall will be hosting the Cumbria Local Arts Exhibition over the Easter period, Friday 29 March until Sunday 7 April. There will be no coffee & chat on 27 March or 3 April, but we shall resume on Wednesday 10 April and continue until the end of the month. The table tennis table is proving very popular at Coffee and Chat as well as badminton, and we hope to host sessions for young people in the future. There are plenty more events to look forward to ...

*Pam Moreland*

## Knit and Nat

Knit and Nat is going from strength to strength. With a very kind donation from our lovely, local Co-op, we have bought some brightly coloured wool. We have lots of projects available, from producing baby blankets for premature babies, making Teddies with Clothes for Hospice and of course, working on your own projects.



Please feel free to join us in the Reading rooms from 2pm- 4pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

The kettle is always on, and the room is warm and welcoming!

Any questions please contact either Sharon, Carrie or Ann D.

*Sharon Savasi*



## Grasmere Book Group

February's book group met to discuss Amy Liptrot's *The Outrun*. Liptrot's memoir deals with accepting addiction and a healing return to her native Orkney. There's lots to love about the landscape depicted although many found the early parts of the memoir difficult to read because of the vulnerability of Liptrot at her lowest. Several of the group enjoyed her depictions of island life and were intrigued by the redemptive arc of the book. A film adaptation, filmed on location around Liptrot's family home, will be released this year starring Saoirse Ronan, which led us to wonder what the impact of it might be on all involved.

March's meeting tackled Ben Myers' Goldsmiths Prize-winning experimental novel *Cuddy*, telling the story of the legacy of Saint Cuthbert in the North of England, including the founding of Durham Cathedral. Told in multiple parts and styles across different time periods, the longest of which tackles a group bearing Cuthbert's body as they search for a resting place seen in a vision. The group found much to appreciate about the book with different people being drawn to tales from different eras. Even those who struggled with the form of the novel were inspired to learn more about Saint Cuthbert's Way and the history which inspired the book.

Two of the group's upcoming meetings have Lakeland connections...

APRIL 11th - Helen Rebanks, *The Farmer's Wife* (2023)

MAY 9th – EM Ward, *Forest Silver* [a Grasmere novel from the 1940s]

JUN 13th – RF Kuang, *Yellowface* (2023)

JUL 11th – Robin Jenkins, *The Cone-Gatherers* (1955)

Book group meets online at 8pm on the second Thursday of every month. All are welcome to join... do email us and we can send you a Zoom link. All book group books are available from Sam Read's at 10% discount off the r.r.p.

*Polly and Will – dr.will.smith@me.com*



## **SPRING PROM CONCERT**

St John's Church, Keswick CA12 4DD

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Keswick Choral Society presents a varied programme  
including

**POULENC : Gloria**

and popular works by Elgar, Mozart, Parry, Rutter, Stanford  
and others

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

## **Cultural Landscapes Lecture**

**A talk by Dr Mike Huggins**

(Emeritus Professor of Cultural History at the University of  
Cumbria)

### **Sport and Identity in Cumbria in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

Ambleside campus on

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

**6.30 pm**

Further details about the talk and a link to book a place at the  
event can be found here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/culturallandscapes>

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April  
Ambleside Parish Centre**

**Dementia Support Group  
For those with dementia, their carers and friends  
10.30 – 12.30 am**

**And**

**Grange and Lakes Integrated Care Community (ICC)  
are delighted to bring you a diverse range of activities to  
support your Wellness journey.**

**11.00 – 3.00pm**

**These Free Events will feature stalls from various organi-  
sations including the NHS, Council and voluntary groups  
offering valuable insights and services.**

**Free Health Checks available in the **HARRI** van**

**Seeking more information, support or just want to focus  
on your health?**

**This event is for you.**

**Tea and Biscuits available throughout the day**

## Ambleside Choral Society



Ambleside Choral Society's Spring Concert, 'Vienna's Golden Age', celebrates the extraordinary years between 1770-1810, when three of the world's greatest composers, Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven, all lived and composed in Vienna. All three works were first heard in Vienna, all making their debuts in its grand concert halls.

To perform them, Ambleside Choral Society will be joined by Soloists Laurie Ashworth, Wendy Sharrock, Nicholas Hurdall and Robert Gildon together with the Lonsdale Ensemble and its leader Julian Cann, under the baton of Ambleside & District Choral Society's Conductor and Musical Director, Marco Giudici.

The Concert begins with Mozart's haunting and evocative 'Requiem Mass in D Minor', which has, over centuries, become a universal expression of grief and sadness. The work proved, ironically, to be the prelude to Mozart's own death just before he had completed the Mass, which was finished by fellow composer Franz Sussmayr.

In contrast to this, Josef Haydn's motet, "Insanae et Vanae Curae" (which translates as 'Insane and Stupid Worries Flood Our Mind') sets off with a passionate excitement describing those very familiar human emotions of fear and dread, only to calm troubled minds with a lyrical second section of quiet reflection.

The Concert ends on a joyous note with Beethoven's "Choral Fantasy" in which he creates a playful musical dialogue between piano and orchestra, with piano soloist Juanjo Blázquez, and brings it to closure with an uplifting choral finale, precursor of the stirring 'Ode to Joy' in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Tickets £15 including glass of wine (under 21 £7; children free) available online at [amblesidechoralsociety.org.uk](http://amblesidechoralsociety.org.uk) or from Fred's Bookshop, or choir members, or at the door.

*Jane-ACS*



Ambleside & District Choral Society  
**Vienna's Golden Age**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 @7:30pm

Mozart - Requiem  
Haydn - Insanae et Vanae Curae  
Beethoven - Choral Fantasia

Laurie Ashworth - Soprano  
Wendy Sharrock - Mezzo  
Nicholas Hurndall Smith - Tenor  
Robert Gildon - Bass

Lonsdale Ensemble | Leader- Julian Cann  
Juanjo Blázquez - Piano

Conductor - Marco Giudici

St. Mary's Church, Ambleside

Tickets available online at [amblesidechoralsociety.org.uk](http://amblesidechoralsociety.org.uk) | Fred's Bookshop  
Choir members | At the door. £15 including a glass of wine | U21-£7 | Children free



The 172nd Grasmere Sports will take place on Sunday 25th August.

As part of our highlights for 2024 we will be hosting the prestigious All Weights Wrestling which should see competitors come from far and wide. This year will also see the awarding of the inaugural Pete Bland Fell Running Bursary. This is designed for a local junior runner, to assist with their development. The sporting theme is continued with sprint and track races, long leap, and fun races for children.

In addition, watch the hounds set off onto the fells and race back into the main arena a short time later. There is a very popular fun dog show, and of course, no Sports is complete without live music and entertainment throughout the day. Local history and craft makers will also be showcased.

The fell running, or Guides races is the climax of the day, when up to 200 runners set off from the Sports Field across the A591 and head off up the crag opposite. Visitors can watch the pack climb the fell, up to the top and then wind their way back down the hill to the Sports Field.

The record set by Fred Reeves in 1978 is 12 minutes and 21 seconds.

After being introduced in 2022 there will once again be 'Early-bird' tickets available online from 1st to 30th June only. These 'Early-bird' tickets are great value at £9 for adults and £3 for children.

After 1st July tickets will go to the regular prices of £12 and £5 with a family ticket available for £28, online only till Saturday 24th August.

Tickets will also be available on the day at £15 and £5.

The Sports Manager can be contacted at [manager@grasmeresports.com](mailto:manager@grasmeresports.com) for any enquiries regarding the Sports.

## Grasmere Red Squirrels

Reds: the 2023 annual population survey of red squirrels in the Grasmere area resulted in a total of 60, this is very similar to 2022. They are here because of the dedicated work of our two rangers, volunteers and everyone who reports grey sightings. In 2023 there were 3 cases of reds dying from squirrelpox and 5 road kills, one of which was right in the centre of the village.



Greys: A record number of greys arrived in Grasmere in 2023. They carry squirrelpox, pass it to the reds and results in the death of reds.

IF YOU SEE A GREY or a sickly looking red anywhere around Grasmere PLEASE TELL US IMMEDIATELY *with an exact description of the location and the time it was seen* – Don't leave it till tomorrow!

Text one of us: Stuart Dickson 07980 893459, David Birkett 07775, Stewart Sutcliffe 07817 326524, Trevor Cooper 07884 404794, Jane Cooper 07763 465 034; if no response, email [grasmerersg@gmail.com](mailto:grasmerersg@gmail.com)

If you have a feeder please ensure it is kept clean and virus free. Antiviral solution is available free from the contacts above, just text or email us.

**Please help us if you can by donating.** We can accept online donations by Debit and Credit cards via our Paypal account: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=NMWH9FQLN77MQ](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=NMWH9FQLN77MQ) or by PayPal to our PayPal Giving Fund: <https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/4390415>

There are collection boxes in the village shops and we can accept direct bank transfers A/C No:63002884 Sort Code:01-09-75.

Follow us on Facebook @GrasmereReds and send your red squirrel stories and photos to Sam Dixon at [Grasmereredsqurrels@gmail.com](mailto:Grasmereredsqurrels@gmail.com) or message her via Facebook Messenger.

*If you would like to receive our email newsletters please email:*

*grasmerersg@gmail.com and inform us when you change your email address*

**Stewart Sutcliffe**, Grasmere Red Squirrel Group Charity number 1197379

## Nature's Philosophy

Nocturnal birds in sibilant causerie  
Forest creatures in distant revelry  
While nature's blanket dims their rivalry  
And stills the air to peaceful reverie

How brief is this tranquillity  
As hostile meetings in darkened shrubbery  
Remind, if only momentarily  
That man alone enjoys in camaraderie

*About the Author: Victor Timmons, 78, was born in Scotland and this is his first poem. The poem is inspired by the book 'Green Mansions: A Romance of the Tropical Forest' by W.H. Hudson, (1904) one of the first ecological adventure stories published.*



 Hedges  Lawns  Maintenance  Pruning

 Planting  Soft landscaping

Contact us for a chat about your garden and to arrange a free consultation on:

Mike Fearon: 07918 800 248 Holly Bean: 07471 421 153

Email us: [info@greenvalleygardeners.co.uk](mailto:info@greenvalleygardeners.co.uk)

# CONTACTS

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

**Rector:** Vacancy from April 2024

**Church Warden:** Ann Jackman

07826663590 [grasmerechurchwarden@gmail.com](mailto:grasmerechurchwarden@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Richard Beskeen 015394 35131

[treasurer.grasmereandrydal@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.grasmereandrydal@gmail.com)

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

[ian.c.hare@outlook.com](mailto:ian.c.hare@outlook.com)

**Church Website:** [stoswaldsgrasmere.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jjcedixon@btinternet.com)



# Dorothy Wordsworth Walks

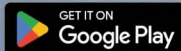
Explore Grasmere and Rydal  
with Dorothy by your side.

This free location-based app  
will notify you when you reach  
a place linked with Dorothy's  
writing.

Scan the QR code  
or follow the url to  
download the app, and  
access interactive route  
maps and FAQs.



[www.wordsworth.org.uk/dorothy-wordsworth-walks/](http://www.wordsworth.org.uk/dorothy-wordsworth-walks/)



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