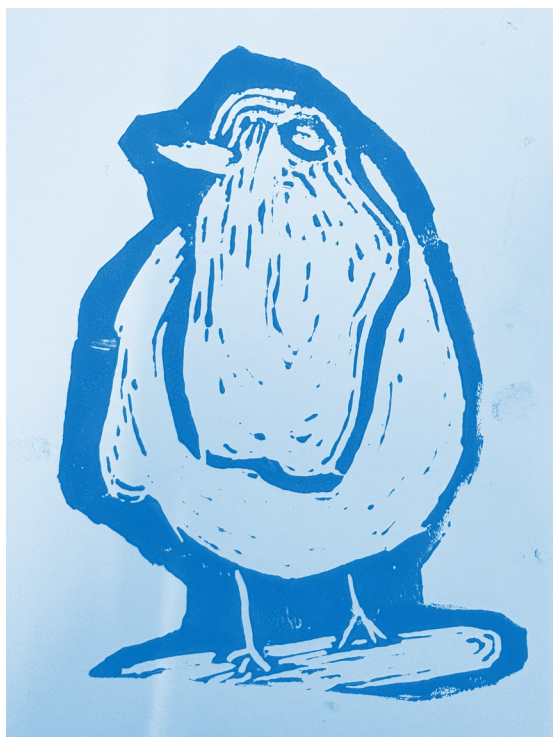


Grasmere Parish Magazine



February - March 2025

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**

Copy Date

Copy date for the **April-May 2025** magazine is **18th March**. Please email copy to **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**

Advertising in the Magazine

To advertise in the magazine please contact the Editors:

Ann and David Jackman - editor@oswaldparish.news

Apologies in advance for any errors or omissions.

A Letter from The Vicarage

It was a busy Friday evening at the end of a busy week, my mind full of the week's meetings, children's activities and information. I'd dropped in at the supermarket to collect groceries for the weekend. There were queues down each aisle, visitors to this area

filling baskets for their week ahead. I paused and stood still for a moment, I could hear the murmur of conversation, mingled with tills beeping and ringing, staff chattering, children laughing and crying. People brushed past me like a river bending around a boulder. For just a second more, I stood bolted to the ground, savouring stillness. Then, I stepped back into the current.



You might recognise that sense of over-busyness, feeling frazzled, close to exhausted? Doesn't it feel like the volume has been turned up for all of us? We share a kind of "modern life fatigue"; physically, mentally and spiritually stretched beyond our limits.

As we approach the season of Lent a couple of verses from Jesus have caught my attention,

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

These verses say that when you are worn thin — carrying baggage you can't seem to unload — Jesus will give you true rest. He gives it as a gift. My challenge has been learning how to receive this gift. Lent can be a helpful beginning.

Lent is primarily a season of fasting, representing the 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness. Fasting cultivates hunger for God by removing a regular activity in order to reveal and intensify spiritual longing and create new space to seek God. Lent begins on Wednesday March 5th with the traditional rite of Ashing.

Ashing in the Church of England is the practice of marking people's foreheads with ashes on Ash Wednesday. The ashes are made from burning palm crosses that were blessed on Palm Sunday.

When I fill every last space in my life with relationships, activities and information, even these good things can drown out my heart's hunger for God. Yet, when I release some things, I suddenly find that He wants to satisfy the longings left behind.

During Lent, is there something you can release to focus on "what is better"?

Best wishes

Lawrence

Ash Wednesday 2025

St Oswald's Church, Grasmere,

Service of Holy Communion will be held

at 11am

with the imposition of ashes.

Lent Bible Study

starting weekly from the 10th March at Rydal Hall

All Welcome

Rota for Sidespersons

2nd February

DAVID & ANN JACKMAN

9th February

TREVOR & HELEN EASTES

16th February

SONIA RICKMAN & PAT TAYLOR

23rd February

DON PERRITT & DAVID DODGSON

2nd March

GERRY & ANNE RAWCLIFFE

9th March

DAVID & ANN JACKMAN

16th March

TREVOR & HELEN EASTES

23rd March

SONIA RICKMAN & PAT TAYLOR

30th March

DON PERRITT & DAVID DODGSON

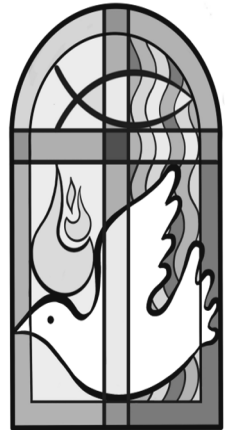
Sunday Church Services

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





It was lovely to see so many of you at our open evening on Wednesday 15th January. Thank you for coming. I thought I'd share some information about our school's history, for those who couldn't make it.

It used to be a legal requirement for head teachers to enter into the school log book anything affecting attendance, resourcing or other important matters. I'm trying to do the same this year. Having read all the old log books I'm trying to give a bit of back-story to each entry, as many of the old entries are baffling! Some of them raise more questions than answers.

Here are some curious, surprising, sad or amusing extracts:

1867: Ink freezing. Children crying with cold. Too cold to write.

Bought 6 new slates. There are besides 12 other slates belonging to the school.

You cannot teach children except they are in a comfortable temperature. A good blazing fire on a wet or cold day is a great assistance in teaching.

School proving very thin on account of the favourable hay weather.

Attendance for year. 1/3 was entirely lost (1/6th weather, 1/5th sickness, 1/12th other, 1/2 no reason given)

1868 A number of children returned after being away for 4 months on account of fever. I fear they will be very backward for the inspection.

Several boys away hunting. I let those at school play 20 minutes longer as a reward for coming to school and I shall confine those who are away today. I have found this plan answers well. (NB: there are also 4 children's deaths recorded during this year.)

1889 Received the New Blackboard this week

Two girls returned to school this week after an absence of 17 weeks through illness. Received a certificate from the doctor stating that they are to attend school this winter when the weather is favourable only.

1896 Received news of the death of a child during the holidays. The cause of the death was diphtheria

News of the death of a little girl aged 7 years

1900 The school was closed from 11am to 2pm to enable the children to see the motor cars pass through

1901 Today I am able to do what I have wished to do for many years, to alter the position of the desks and place the children with their backs to the windows and faces to the maps. The introduction of a new stove has enabled me to do this.

1902 41 present out of 120 on registers (NB because of measles. The school is closed every couple of years for a few weeks for measles, diphtheria or whooping cough.)

1910 New football today

We have lots more fascinating excerpts to share with you over the year!

Jo Goode, Headteacher

Music Notes



Thanks are due to the St. Oswald Voices, the new name for our occasional choir, who led the Carol Service so effectively, along with the children who read the lessons so clearly. It is hoped that there may be other occasions in the future when there can be a choral component in our worship.

The Music at Grasmere organizing committee will meet on Monday 10th February at 10.00 a.m. in Rydal Hall. Any suggestions or offers of help would be gratefully received. On the eve of Palm Sunday, Saturday 12th April at 7.30 p.m. in St. John's Church, Keswick, the Keswick Choral Society will be performing a programme of "Songs for Springtime", including Easter themed pieces such as the Five Mystical Songs by Vaughan Williams and the Easter Hymn (O Rejoice that the Lord has Arisen!) from Cavalleria Rusticana by Mascagni.

As a personal footnote, in September 1974 I took up my first appointment as a Music Lecturer at Lancaster University, and during the current academic year I am celebrating this fiftieth anniversary, including two organ recitals in Lancaster - on Thursday 13th February at 1.00 p.m. in the Great Hall on the University campus and on Saturday 1st March at 10.30 a.m. in Lancaster Priory.

Ian Hare

Front Cover

This year as Grasmere School is celebrating its 400th anniversary the pupils will be invited to submit their art work as the design for the front cover of the magazine.

This month Class 4 have been working on lino cuts and show us an example of their work on birds.

We look forward to seeing more of their work over the coming year .

Grasmere and Cumbria Weather



November was a month of two distinct halves. The first quiet, cloudy and mild, the second unsettled, stormy, even wintry. The first week was over-cast with dark, drizzly days. Then high pressure brought welcome sunshine for a brief time until anticyclonic gloom dominated with constant drizzle. At certain Met. stations it was one of the driest starts to Nov. on record. A major change occurred on the 16th. as a cold front swept South, bringing Northerly winds and hard frost at night on the 20th. and 21st. Bewcastle, near Spadeadam, recorded a low of -10.2 C. on the latter. On the 23rd. a deep depression, Storm Bert, brought heavy rain and gales to Cumbria. Snow was widespread on high ground ahead of the storm, and in Penrith 8 cms. of snow fell in 2 hours. Temps. on the 23rd. rose rapidly, from freezing at dawn to 61. F. in the afternoon. The remainder of the month was dominated by north - westerlies, bringing more rain and strong winds. The simple summary for Nov. would be very dry up to the 21st. and wet thereafter, but with one very wet day, that was the 23rd. The wettest was Kentmere with 131.8 mm. (5.19 in.), Ambleside 85.1mm., Coniston 80.6 mm. and Grasmere 73.3 mm. In a month of contrasts on the 23 rd., Maulds Meaburn near Penrith, started with an air frost, was the only place in the month to see falling snow and also the only place to have a day of lying snow. However, it would then go on to be not only the wettest day of the month, but also the warmest. Of all the Met. sites in Cumbria this month, every one recorded below average rainfall. In England, for the first 12 days of November, the normal amount of average sunshine would be around 18.7 hours.

This month the average has been around 100 minutes of sunshine. Blame the anticyclonic gloom! Here in Grasmere, it was the driest Nov. since 2004 (only 4.53 in.) The wettest Nov. since 1890 was in 2009 (29.26 in.) The driest on record was in 1945 (an unbelievable 0.44in.)

Wettest November day was 23rd. 73.3 mm. (2.89 in.)

Rain days for the month 19 Whereas last year 21. Total for month 166.0 mm. 6.54 in. Rain days to date 230 Last year 232

Total for year to date 2500.6 mm. 98.45 inches. Last year 104.8 inches.



December was yet another mild month, with only one dry day. Dominant westerlies prevailed for much of the month. In the first week heavy showers were the norm, with a light dusting of snow above 1000 ft. on the 3rd. Then on the 7th. the fourth named storm, Darragh, hit the UK. bringing heavy rain and gales to Cumbria, but fortunately no major damage here in Grasmere. There has been a gradual increase in storms over recent years due to the position of the jet stream, especially when on the south side of the UK. In the second week the wind veered easterly, bringing colder conditions with frost, brief sunshine and showers daily. South westerlies then took over from the 16th. with heavy rain and showers. The mild weather continued throughout the month, with dark days and constant drizzle. No white Christmas was recorded anywhere. For the last 12 years, there has never been widespread snowfall on Christmas Day. This has occurred only 4 times since 1960. In 1981, 1995, 2009 and 2010. Now there is growing concern in the rain gauge network.

The number of volunteer rainfall observers has decreased dramatically over the last few decades, and it's not always possible to replace every Met. site with another volunteer. I'm part of a Met. network of 2300 collecting sites, with the Met. Office operating around 370 stations across the UK. The data is used locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. I've been reading the rainfall gauge daily and now in my 35th. Year I can honestly say a daily reading has not been missed in all this time. This would not have been possible without the help of Ian Ferriday and Dennis Batey in my absence. I take great pleasure in unearthing facts and figures, which are all part of the weather records.

Many situations of past weather records come to mind over the decades, but one stands out. On delivery of the Parish Magazine by my wife to Mrs Powell of Brimmer Head farm in Dec. 1997, all the hens were perched in a tree. "When they're perched in the tree, it's a sure sign of snow" says Mrs Powell. Late evening the temperature dips to minus 6 degrees. Then lo and behold next morning, all is white with the first snow of the winter!

Wettest Dec. day 31st. 99.6, mm. 3.92 inches. Also wettest day of the year
Total for month 379.5 mm. 15.65 inches Av.11.15 inches
Rain days for month 30 Last year 30
Rain days to date for year 260 Last year 262.
Total for year 2880.1 mm. 114.10 inches Last year 122.79 inches
Since 1890 lowest no. of rain days 185 (1947)
Highest since 1890 277 (2000)
Happy New Year to all. Looking forward to an early Spring.

Peter Bailey

WARM SPOT

Coffee & Chat sessions are continuing through the Winter
at 10.00 to 12.30 every Wednesday,
so come and join us in the Village Hall

Grasmere Fellowship

Another season is drawing to a close with four more talks and the highlight of the season, the AGM. On February 6th Gary Primrose is going to talk on “Yewfield, re-wilding a small Lakeland Farm”. Gary among other achievements has been responsible for developing the gardens at Yewfield. He will present the possibility of a middle ground between farming, gardening and conservation using the 80 acre small-holding as an example.



February 20th Peter Yates makes the long journey from Rydal to give his talk “Enter the Dragon” about modern day China. Peter spent most of his career in the Far East and will provide an illuminating talk.

On March 6th Ambleside Oral History Group return to give one of their presentations. This time the topic will be “The Lakes, a Place in History”. This covers the Thirlmere pipe-line, Grizedale POW camp and The Theatre in the Forest.

For our final meeting on March 20th after the AGM, Andy Lowe will talk to us about Roadside Heritage. Andy has been a frequent speaker and his talks are not to be missed.

As always, talks begin at 2.30 in the Village Hall. Entry for non-members is £3 including refreshments. If you have not been to one of our meetings, it is time to give it a go!

Sadly, we have lost two of our committee members this year. If you would like to give us a hand to organize another season's talks please have a word with Nick.

Finally I should like to pay tribute to Melissa who managed to assemble such an impressive list of speakers for this year.

David Dodgson

Grasmere WI

In **December** over 50 of us had a fabulous Christmas party at Tweedies, such a great festive and fun afternoon. Thanks to Hilary Beskeen and The Glee Singers in GWI we were treated to the special debut performance of our very own GWI Christmas Carol too!

19 members enjoyed an exciting day trip to Christmas at Chatsworth and the Christmas markets. Chatsworth put on a great festive experience with a fully decked out House and amazing garden light show.

Also in December, we held our Christmas Book Group evening at Allan Bank with storyteller Jessie McMeekin. It was very atmospheric with candlelight, festive treats and we gathered suggestions for our exciting 2025 book schedule. Members also enjoyed a fabulous pre-Christmas Pamper day at Kendal College.

We have started 2025 with an action packed schedule, containing a wide variety of quality events and activities including Badminton , Crafts and Garden Groups.

Our first meeting of the year in January was with Ursula Brendling hosting a 'New Year, New You!' This was an active afternoon getting our hearts racing with lots of hints and tips to stay active and healthy.

Also in January 20 GWI Art group members went to the sensational David Hockney Lightroom production at the Aviva Studios in Manchester.



Looking Ahead- By popular demand, **February** sees (for the fifth year running) the return of our annual stepping challenge for our charity, St Mary's Hospice. It's such a brilliant, fun challenge (9,000 steps a day) raising much needed funds for the Hospice. Please do join in and support us, every step and contribution helps! Keep an eye on our GWI Facebook page and website for more information and updates.

Our **February** meeting is on **Thursday 13 February** 2pm at Grasmere Village Hall with GWI member Dr Annette McGrath presenting "Ancient Rocks of Lakeland". This will be a fascinating insight to our local geology. We also have a trip to Keswick museum.

After reading and discussing the Oscar Wilde play "The Importance of Being Earnest" in January, the GWI Book/ Culture group will be watching the NT Live production of this play at Fellinis in February.

Our meeting on **Thursday 13 March** 2pm at Grasmere Village Hall is our AGM and social gathering and we'll be launching our annual speaker programme too, lots of brilliant talks lined up.

We are very excited about our new GWI Garden Group which is up and running with a fantastic programme, including trips to Sizergh Castle, RHS Harlow Carr, Edinburgh Botanical Gardens, a Holehird meeting and tour, Brantwood, Kew Gardens and lots of other great events and discussions.

In addition, here's just a few of our other extra activities. Our monthly Book / Culture Group 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, Art Group meetings and trips (with planned trips to London, Liverpool and Glasgow), weekly GWI Strong kettlebell classes with our fabulous local personal trainer Libby Dixon (we're getting stronger every week!) and weekly GWI Badminton.

Finally, as always, a huge thanks to all our 83 members for making Grasmere WI such a vibrant, friendly and fun group. We are looking forward to an amazing 2025!

Louise Sykes President Grasmere WI E:clsmailbox@icloud.com

wordsworth

GRASMERE

Thank you to everyone who came along to Grasmere Residents Afternoon in December! It was a wonderful event to close the year, with plenty of cheer, conversation and carols. We're looking forward to the next one.



After our brief January closure, we are now back open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm. Entry to Dove Cottage, the Museum, exhibition and grounds is free to Grasmere residents and workers.

Don't forget to visit us for February half-term. We have plenty of fun family activities to do, including Art Cart crafts, dressing up, Minecraft, and indoor and outdoor trails. Join us on 18 February from 10.30am-12.30pm for Signs of Spring: Make and Play, a free drop-in session for families with children of all ages. Taking inspiration from William and Dorothy Wordsworth's writing we will draw, paint, dress up and play. Have a go at decorating a pot and plant seeds like Dorothy did. Craft a bird feeder and take part in outdoor trails.

Little Wanderers, our creative play sessions for under 5s, takes place every Thursday morning in the Learning Space during term time. Free for all families and paid for by Grasmere School & Nursery and Arts Council England.

Discover Poetry with Polly Atkin and Dove Cottage Poets, our poetry reading and writing groups, continue to take place on Zoom and as a hybrid meeting respectively. For more information and how to book, please visit wordsworth.org.uk/event-directory/

Hannah Catterall, Events Officer, Wordsworth Grasmere



Grasmere Book Group

December's book group discussed Ursula K Le Guin's 1969 sci-fi novel *The Left Hand of Darkness*. The group appreciated the book's detailed world-building, evocative descriptions, and exploration of gender fluidity. The role of diplomats in alien realms also led to a good discussion of depictions of different cultures and societies. Some comparisons were drawn with novels by China Miéville and David Mitchell.

January's meeting tackled Susanna Clarke's short story "The Wood at Midwinter" and also fulfilled the traditional role of planning for 2025. It's always a fun meeting as everyone shares the books they want to read in the year ahead or are having recommended to them. Whilst the full schedule is currently being confirmed, our plans for February and March are outlined below. Clarke's short story was a fun and beguiling read, set in the world of *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell*. Although very short, many enjoyed the tale and it left them wanting to read more by Clarke.

A number of members are eager to read Samantha Harvey's Booker-winning novella *Orbital*, so this will be our first book of 2025. Set on the International Space Station, *Orbital* sees a team of astronauts collecting meteorological data, conducting scientific experiments and waiting as they test the limits of the human body. In March we'll read five AS Byatt short stories, collected as *The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye*. The title story inspired recent film *Three Thousand Years of Longing*. **Upcoming meetings: FEBRUARY 13th – Samantha Harvey, *Orbital* (2024) and MARCH 13th – AS Byatt, *The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye* (1995)**

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

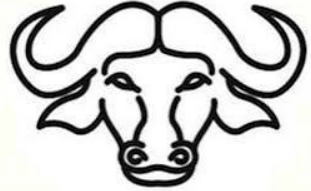
Village People

Last year we followed the Powell family at Brimmer Head through the farming year. For 2025 we focus on people and groups who, often behind the scenes, keep the village going but who don't normally feature in the regular articles of our Parish Mag. These are 'Village People'.

ROAB - The 'Buffs' Club

We are pleased to be able to give you a brief idea of the highlights of our work last year. Our annual Christmas Party for Grasmere primary school children was well attended this

winter. Over 30 children from the village were given gifts from Santa. Thank you to Tom Brood for squeezing into the red suit (with ready-made beard!), and to Josh Metcalfe for organising the presents and chocolate. Earlier in the year we hosted a Halloween Party, which was also a hit with local children, and wonderfully organised by the Mums. This year we are hoping to support this again.



Our charitable fund-raising went to four main causes last year: the British Legion, Cancer Care, the Salvation Army's Christmas Fund, and supporting Grasmere Primary School's appeal for Manna House to help homeless people in the South Lakes.

In previous years we have supported the Air Ambulance and St. Mary's Hospice. If you have a good suggestion for where our fundraising efforts should be focused this year, please get in touch!

Last summer, Adam Wood captained our ROAB cricket team to a hard-fought victory over our old opponents, the "Ambleside Drinkers", with stand-out performances on the field from John Ellwood, Nick Gledhill, Shaun Sykes, Dennis Batey, Howard Fisk, Micah Hall, Billy and Graham Magennis (who heroically pulled his hamstring chasing a catch). This 20/20 match also had a BBQ after, in aid of Cancer Care.

On the Buff Club itself - Peter Holgate has made a solid effort to improve our commercial letting of the room (see photo below). This has been very successful, so much so that we can now offer community / local bookings of the RAOB Club **FREE OF CHARGE**, for Grasmere residents or non-profit organisations who need a space to meet (so long as the Club is left clean and tidy). The Club has kitchen facilities, toilets, and heating. If you are interested in using the Club this year, please get in touch with me, or Peter Holgate, or any of the other RAOB members. We will do our best to help.

New members are always welcome at the Grasmere RAOB Club. If you are interested, ask one of our members.

Paul Abbott - 07840 059561

Peter Holgate -Room bookings

peterholgate41@gmail.com





Join us at the
Winter Parish Meal
ALL WELCOME

23rd February 2025

12.30pm

The Village Hall

Tickets from Barney's from
24th January

BYOB -DONATIONS WELCOME

ROTHAY GARDEN

BY HARBOUR HOTELS

Indulge in a delightful Afternoon Tea

surrounded by our beautiful gardens
in Grasmere.

Enjoy delicious sandwiches, freshly
baked scones with clotted cream and
jam, and cakes, served with tea.

Book your table today and make plans for a very
special afternoon



Afternoon Tea for
two is
now just £49 for a
limited time
(was £60)

Please note this offer is not applicable on
Mother's Day (30th March)

Rothay Garden, Broadgate, Grasmere,

Ambleside LA22 9RJ

015394 34334

reservations@rothaygarden.com

harbourhotels.co.uk/rothay-garden

CALENDAR - February

1	Dark Skies Event	Allan Bank	5.30 -7pm
2	Sunday Celebration	St Oswald's	11am
6	Fellowship	Village Hall	2.30pm
9	Sunday Celebration- Communion	St Oswald's	11.00am
13	W.I.	Village Hall	2pm
	Grasmere Book Group	Zoom	8pm
16	Sunday Celebration-	St Oswald's	11am
18	Story telling	Allan Bank	11am -2.30pm
20	Story telling Fellowship	Allan Bank Village Hall	11am -2.30pm 2.30pm
23	Sunday Celebration- Communion	St Oswald's	11am
	Parish Meal	Village Hall	12.30pm

Knit and Nat Every month 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the Reading Room 2pm

CALENDAR - March

2	Sunday Celebration - All age Worship	St Oswald's	11am
6	Fellowship	Village Hall	2.30pm
9	Sunday Celebration Com- munion	St Oswald's	11am
13	W.I. Book Group	Village Hall Zoom	2pm 8pm
16	Sunday Celebration - All age Worship	St Oswald's	11am
20	Village society AGM	Village Hall	7.30pm
23	Sunday Celebration - Communion	St Oswald's	11am
28	Dark Skies	Village & Allan Bank	7pm
30	Mothering Sunday	St Oswald's Grasmere	11am
	Music for Mother's Day	Allan Bank	11am -1pm

Knit and Nat Every month 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the Reading Room 2pm

Grasmere Village Society

The days are lengthening, the first snowdrops are appearing and soon the daffodils will burst into flower. Look out for the display along the grass verge on Broadgate, the result of hundreds of bulbs planted by the GVS. The Society has also purchased several blossom trees which will be planted along Broadgate.

Now here's an important date for your diary. The Society AGM will be held on Thursday March 20th in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. The business meeting will be short and will be followed by a cheese and wine party. All are welcome and whether you would just like to socialise or want to quiz the committee on future plans or give us your thoughts and ideas for future projects we hope that you will join us.

After much discussion with the Village Hall Trustees the Society will fund the installation and maintenance of a generator in the Hall. This will provide another important aspect of our Emergency Plan and could prove invaluable in the future. Thanks to a lot of hard work by Simon Hey, grants have been secured to cover the cost of the initial purchase and installation. The Village Hall is our nominated place of safety in any emergency situation and we will now be secure in the knowledge that electricity will be available.

The GVS maintains two defibrillators in the village. One is in the phone box opposite Barneys Newsbox and the other is outside the front entrance to The Gather. Easy to follow instructions are included. Using CPR and a defibrillator together gives the best chance of survival if someone suffers a cardiac arrest. See www.bhf.org.uk for a tutorial. You could save a life.



The Daffodil bus shelter will shortly be repaired and reopened. Apologies for the lengthy delay in this work particularly during the worst winter months.

Grasmere is again taking part in the Dark Skies Big Switch Off from 7pm on Friday 28th March. Street lights will be turned off and businesses and residents are invited to take



part by limiting lighting, particularly external lights. Allan Bank will be opening its grounds from 7pm. This is a free event but booking a one hour slot is essential and this can be done through the National Trust website or by phoning 03442491895. Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult. Tea, coffee, hot chocolate and biscuits will be available.

Membership renewals are now due. Fees are still £1 for adults and 50p for juniors although additional donations are most welcome and help us to maintain and improve village amenities. The easiest way to renew is through our online facility at <https://forms.office.com/r/3EEMvCJFnE> . Alternatively, a printed form is available from our membership secretary Simon Hey (simonhey4@gmail.com or 01539435067). We welcome all members whether you are a resident, a visitor or just love Grasmere.

Nick McCraith (Chairman)

Books Needed

If you have any spare books please pass them on to St Oswald's, we would be very happy to receive them.

The church has a second hand bookshop which raises money for church activities. Please leave any books at the back of the church near the bookstall. Thank you .
Grasmere PCC



Grasmere Village Hall

We've had a very busy festive season and 2025 has begun in the same vein. In December the Hall again hosted the hugely successful Grasmere Christmas Fair and again, the weather tried and failed to spoil it! It was lovely to see so many of you with local connections win prizes in the Grand Christmas Raffle. We're delighted to report that we raised around £4,000 (to be confirmed) which will be split between the Hall and the Grasmere Red Squirrel Group. This would not have been possible without the generous donations of prizes by local residents and businesses, and of course all of you who purchased raffle tickets!

In the run-up to Christmas, the Badapple Theatre Company brought us their delightful children's show "Polaris the Snow Bear" and Grasmere Players presented their annual Christmas Readings. We are still recovering from the New Year's Eve party. This was a new event for us and turned out to be a huge success. We'd like to thank our fantastic local band "Grasmere Rocks!" and singers "The Rockettes", and everyone who contributed to the magnificent buffet. And a special thanks to all who came along and enjoyed the night despite the atrocious weather!

Everyone enjoyed the Grasmere Players' Panto "Jack & the Beanstalk" (photo below and see page 31) and the Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh (brought back by popular demand!) was a fantastic evening.



The weekly Warm Spot Coffee & Chat sessions are continuing through the Winter at 10.00 to 12.30 every Wednesday, so come and join us - everyone is welcome. You can even practise your table tennis skills!



In the Spring, we will have more shows from Highlights Rural Touring Scheme, starting with:

Friday 11 April, 7.30 pm, "Third Class – A Titanic Story" – Russell Lucas brings us a one-man show - using music, movement, projection and historical facts - about Edward Dorking, a gay man who survived the Titanic disaster and entered the world of theatre so he could



champion the forgotten victims of the Third Class. Tickets are now on sale: adult £12, under-18s £9, from www.highlightsnorth.co.uk or contact the Hall on 015394 35628 or enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk

The Hall Trustees would like to thank everyone who has supported us over 2024 by hiring the Hall, making donations or attending our events. We have successfully raised the funds required to install a new audio-visual system in the Hall which will enhance the experience for current users and open up great new opportunities such as film nights. Our next focus will be to raise funds to redecorate the interior of the Hall, so we are extremely grateful for your ongoing support.

Don't forget to sign up and support us by using Easyfundraising - a fantastic online platform that enables you to raise free donations with every purchase you make. There are over 8,000 participating retailers, ranging from your food shop at Tesco, booking a holiday with Booking.com to taking out insurance on Compare the Market. Sign up here: <http://efraising.org/rWHiZTgHZI> A big thank you to our existing supporters - you have raised £68.36 so far!

Email: enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk

Pam Moreland

ALLAN BANK



Allan Bank will look a little different this year as two new exhibition spaces open in April to complement the existing gallery space. A cosy new family room has been created in the back kitchen where art activities can now be found and the visitor welcome point moves into the house.

February

Visitors will find a new look bookshop with children's reading area where **storytelling** sessions will be held for February half term on Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th February at 11am and 2.30pm. Enjoy wintery tales with a cup of hot chocolate to keep you cosy. Free with standard admission .

Family Stargazing Evening

1 February, 5.30-7pm

Explore the wonders of the winter night sky and learn fun facts about stars, planets and galaxies.

Booking essential.

Over 12's £5, Child 6-12yr £2.50, Child under 6yr Free

March

Community Dark Skies Night

28 March, 7-10pm

To help celebrate the Grasmere Switch Off we will be opening the grounds of Allan Bank after dark to allow visitors to enjoy this special date in the year where you can enjoy a true dark skies experience.

Join us for a night outside under the dark skies. Bring your own telescopes and binoculars. If the clouds stay away, we can go in search of stars, distant galaxies and planets.

Please bring a torch.

Please note if the weather is poor or cloudy the event will still go ahead.

This is a free event but bookings for 1 hour slots between 8pm and 11pm is essential.

Mother's Day Music

Sunday 30 March, 11am-1pm

Spend quality time together listening to the harmonious melodies of Harps North West performing classical music live in the study. It was in this very same study that William Wordsworth wrote his ground-breaking 'Guide to the Lakes'.

Free with admission.

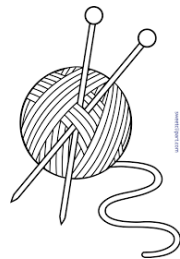
We look forward to welcoming you to Allan Bank!

Allan Bank Team

015394 35143

Knit and Nat

Happy New Year! We had much to celebrate in January. Who could believe that the Knit and Nat gathering is now in double digits? I know it is 10 years as the inaugural meeting was in the January after the birth of my two grandsons in 2014!

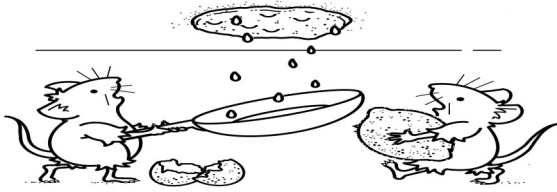


In true Grasmere fashion, we put on a 'bit of a do', with an afternoon tea with home-made sausage rolls and cakes. Ten members participated in quick quizzes and the heads and tails game. It was great fun! Of course, we must not forget the original purpose of gathering twice a month; for exchanging techniques combined with a good catch up on local interests. To this end we have produced a collection of baby blankets which will be sent to the premature baby unit at Furness General Hospital.

Please feel free to join us every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 2 pm in the reading rooms. Current projects are following the annual pattern of making small items needed in baby units across the north, We have already sorted to knit for next November and the Christmas shoe-boxes!

For further information :

Please contact Sharon Savasi or Carrie Taylor carriegrasmere@aol.com



SHROVE TUESDAY- PANCAKE DAY 4th MARCH

Basic Pancake Recipe

100g plain flour,
2 large eggs
300ml milk
oil for coating a frying pan

1. Combine the dry ingredients.
2. Add the wet ingredients and mix.
3. Pour or ladle the batter onto the oiled griddle or pan.
4. Cook until bubbles form, flip, and cook on the other side

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shoving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pan-cakes up for feare they burne."

The ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity. Enjoy!

Grasmere Players Present
**JACK & the
BEANSTALK**

The annual run of the Pantomime has just finished and what a delight it was! It's hard to single out any one performer because everyone threw themselves into creating a fun packed evening, full of laughter and song. The audience participation singing was delivered with great gusto, with some standing on chairs belting out the lyrics to ensure they won Ruby Trott's basket of goodies.



These things don't just happen by chance but involve a lot of hard work from writers, actors, musicians, back stage crew and front of house staff. However, it is so worth it and the best way to shrug off winter blues in Graslachen! We are already looking forward to the next one in 2026!

Thank you Grasmere Players!

Gardening



It's hard to think of summer days relaxing in the garden when the weather is so dismal. However, if your thoughts are turning to brighter days and your garden it might be time to start thinking about how you can plant this year to attract bees .

Woodlands, hedgerows and meadows are all declining at an alarming rate so bees desperately need our help. You don't need a huge garden to attract bees but with a bit of thought pollinators can benefit from a feast of pollen and nectar throughout the year. Below are listed some of the best plants for attracting bees-

1. Hellebores
2. Salvia Species
3. Echinacea
4. Rudbeckia
5. Lavender
6. Common Snowdrop
7. Crocus
8. Cosmos
9. Sedum
10. Verbena

All of these are readily available at nurseries or even better it might be possible to have a plant swop with your neighbour!

Happy Gardening!

Grasmere WI Gardening Group

Ambleside Bowling Club Open Days

Come and Join us down at Ambleside Bowling Club, Rothay Holme (we are opposite the Ambulance station) to try your hand at bowling. We are a friendly club and welcome new members of all ages

Sunday 23rd March 11 - 2.30pm and Saturday 29th March 11 - 1.30pm

Refreshments provided, come and have a go. For more information contact

Linda Tebay or Diane Swainson



46th Annual Cumbria Local Arts Exhibition

Easter is coming so the Cumbria Local Arts Exhibition is here again, now in its 46th year. As always the exhibition is located in the beautiful Grasmere Village Hall from 18th April to 27th April 2025. Featuring 115 artists from all over Cumbria and the Lake District it shows nearly 600 original artworks .

The majority of the work is shown for the first time. The artists range from acclaimed award-winning professionals to artists that are exhibiting for the first time. The mission of the exhibition has been to provide a platform to showcase art from the whole of Cumbria. A true celebration of creativity from across Cumbria. This follows on from the record breaking exhibition in 2024 where we received hundreds of lovely comments such as - "Blown away by the quality and variety of work", "the most serene experience", "Stunning" and many more.

For information visit <https://cumbrialocalarts.com>



Damp and mould have built up in our home. Our letting agency say they'll speak to our landlord but there's been no action and I'm really worried about how this might affect our health.

It's not always easy to work out the cause of damp and mould. Your landlord will be responsible for the issue if it's being caused by structural problems or disrepair such as a leaking roof or bad insulation, and if it's affecting your health. However, they might suggest that it's your fault for causing condensation. On the Citizens Advice website you can find information to help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do about it.

The best way to prevent condensation is to keep homes well-heated and ventilated, but high heating costs and cold weather can make this difficult. Check the website to see if you're eligible for financial support, and for advice on actions to avoid, like drying clothes on heaters.

However, if the property can't be heated and ventilated adequately to cope with normal day-to-day living activities like showering, cooking and laundry, then it's the property that's the problem, not your behaviour.

If your landlord is responsible for the damp in your home but doesn't do anything about it, you can report them to the local authority. And if you have medical evidence that damp is making you ill, you may be able to get free legal advice. Contact South Lakes Citizens Advice if you need further help.

Free, confidential advice and help is available from South Lakes Citizens Advice How to access:

- ***Call 015394 46464 (9.30am – 2pm, Monday – Friday)***
- ***Drop in sessions at Wainwright's Yard, Kendal, LA9 4DP (10am – 2pm, Tuesday and Thursday)***
- ***Adviceline: 0808 2787 984 (9am - 5pm, Monday – Friday)***
 - ***email advice via the submission page on our website***
www.southlakescab.org.uk

Ruskin and the Railway: The Arts and Crafts Movement in the Lake District

Tuesday 4th February at 6.30pm

This talk will explore the impact of the railway and John Ruskin on bringing the Arts & Crafts movement to the Lake District.

Tony Peart is a Senior Lecturer in Illustration at the University of Cumbria, and a passionate life-long collector of the Arts and Crafts movement.

The talk is free but you are requested to book a place at the event.
For further details and to book, please see the event page here:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cultural-landscapes/t-jzyylxx>
University of Cumbria - Ambleside Campus

CONTACTS

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

Rector: Rev Lawrence Basham

lawrencebasham@gmail.com

Church Wardens: Ann Jackman and Gerry Rawcliffe

07826663590 grasmerechurchwarden@gmail.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: A Church Near You

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,

Ambleside 015394 33027

Quaker: Friend In Residence: Terry Winterton, Glenthorne, Grasmere

Tel: 015394 35389 info@glenthorne.org

URC Minister: The Rev. Martyn Coe, Carver Church, Windermere

01539 533223

Central Lakes Mission Community Rev. John Dixon

015394 36301 jjcedixon@btinternet.com

wordsworth

GRASMERE

Dove Cottage • Museum • Woodland
Garden • Café • Shop • Family Activities



Open Tuesdays - Saturdays

Don't forget that admission is free for Grasmere residents
and employees of Grasmere businesses