

# Grasmere and Rydal Parish Magazine



August-September  
2026

# MAGAZINE INFORMATION

## Editorial Policy

Grasmere Parish Magazine is produced bi-monthly by St. Oswald's PCC on behalf of the community. The name of the author appears by each item and the views expressed are those of the author alone. The Editors and PCC reserve the right to use their discretion in finalising the content.

Our policy and copyright notices are available at: **[www.oswaldparish.news](http://www.oswaldparish.news)**

## Copy Date

Copy date for the **October- November** magazine is **18th September**

Please email copy to **[editor@oswaldparish.news](mailto:editor@oswaldparish.news)**

Submissions should be in Word, using *Calibri font* 11pt on A5. Past editions are available on our website: **[www.oswaldparish.news](http://www.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

Dear Friends,

There are some words of Jesus that seem especially at home in Grasmere & Rydal. In Matthew's Gospel we read that Jesus looked upon the crowds with compassion because they were "like sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9.36)

Here, shepherding is not simply a biblical image. It is part of the life of the fells. We know that sheep belong to these hills because generations of shepherds have belonged to them too. Their knowledge is learned over decades; every intake wall, every beck in flood, every hidden gill, every change in the weather, every ewe with her own character and her own place on the fell.



Many of you will have enjoyed the recent Countryfile feature celebrating local shepherds such as Peter and Bobsie, reminding a national audience that shepherding is far more than an occupation. It is a vocation of patience, memory, attentiveness and faithfulness, shaped by love for the landscape and the creatures entrusted to their care.

Over recent weeks our valley has also found itself in the national news for rather different reasons, following the incident in Rydal where vehicles parked in a field were sprayed with slurry. Whatever we make of that event, it has highlighted something we all know: these beautiful places carry pressures. Farmers work hard to care for land that is also loved by thousands of visitors. Visitors come seeking peace and beauty, while those who live and work here carry the daily responsibilities of farming, livelihoods and stewardship. These tensions are real, and they remind us how easily people can find themselves pulling in different directions.

That is why Jesus' words speak so powerfully today.

To be "like sheep without a shepherd" is not simply to be lost on a hillside. It is to long for someone who sees us, understands us and draws us together. We know that feeling in times of grief, when familiar paths suddenly seem unfamiliar. We know it when life feels uncertain and decisions become heavy. We know it when we long to belong in a world that often feels hurried and fragmented.

Jesus looks upon people in exactly those moments with compassion. He sees beyond the headlines. He sees beyond the disagreements. He sees beyond the labels of resident or visitor, farmer or walker, young or old. He sees people whom he loves.

The Good News of the Gospel is wonderfully simple. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Like the finest Lakeland shepherd, he knows every path, be it easy or steep climb and every resting place. He calls each one by name. He gathers communities as well as individuals with care that is constant, wisdom that is sure, and love that is wide enough for the whole flock.

As our churches continue to pray for Grasmere and Rydal, our hope is that we may become a community that reflects something of the Shepherd we follow: remaining patient with one another, thankful for those who care for this remarkable landscape, welcoming to those who come among us, and attentive to anyone searching for hope or a place to belong.

The fells remind us every day that sheep flourish because of faithful shepherds. The Gospel reminds us that people flourish because Christ walks among us.

May we know his voice this summer, may we follow where he leads, and may our valley become ever more a place where the compassion of the Good Shepherd is seen in the life we share together.

With every blessing,

*Lawrence*

## Grasmere Fellowship - New Season

Just a reminder that the new season opens with a service in St Oswald's on Thursday October 1st at 2.30. Meetings will continue in the Hall on the first and third Thursdays until March.

Plans for the season are well advanced and we hope will continue to provide interesting talks and opportunities to meet and chat with tea and cake.

With several committee members nearing retiring age, we need people to continue organising these meetings. There is a great danger that this will be the last season. so please consider joining us. Remember we have no hidden agenda, everyone is truly welcome.

*David Dodgson*

## Bible Study at Rydal Hall

An opportunity to meet together in an informal setting to read the bible and ask questions. Everyone is welcome.

We will restart on Monday 14th September at 11am after our summer break



## Spirit of Place project

The parish is working on this exciting project with Churches Trust for Cumbria and over the next 6 months our churches will be recording items within the buildings and researching their history, using a specially prepared app. In early 2027 there will be a workshop in learning how to interpret our findings and how to display and make them widely available.

Rydal church has some much admired stained glass, so these in particular will be part of the Spirit of Place project as will the memorial plaques. If you have information about any items in Rydal St Marys church or would like to be involved please get in touch.

*Ruth Yates*



## Music Notes

As can be seen in the Music at Grasmere brochure, there are several musical events coming up in August, as follows:

### **Sunday 2nd August at 4.00 p.m. Choral Evensong for St Oswald**

St Oswald Voices will sing music by S. S. Wesley, Sir Arthur Somervell and Martin How.

### **Monday 3rd August at 11.00 a.m. Lake District Music Festival**

The Hathor Duo will explore an enchanting range of music for flute and harp, featuring their own arrangements and folk music, classical and contemporary works.

### **Monday 31st August at 12.30 p.m. Bank Holiday Organ Recital**

The mighty Binns organ will be put through its paces in a programme of popular organ music played by Grasmere organist, Ian Hare, to mark the completion of ten years in this post.

As I prepare to move on, I should like to express my thanks to all who have helped in any way with the choir, concerts and organ project, and I am sure that music will continue to play an important part in Grasmere life.

*Ian Hare*

## Rota for Sidespersons

|           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 9th Aug   | DON PERRITT & DAVID DODGSON |
| 16th Aug  | GERRY & ANNE RAWCLIFFE      |
| 23rd Aug  | SONIA RICKMAN & PAT TAYLOR  |
| 30th Aug  | DAVID & ANN JACKMAN         |
| 6th Sept  | DON PERRITT & DAVID DODGSON |
| 13th Sept | SONIA RICKMAN & PAT TAYLOR  |
| 20th Sept | GERRY & ANNE RAWCLIFFE      |
| 27th Sept | DAVID & ANN JACKMAN         |

## SERVICES IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER



August 2nd

9.30am Rydal Hall Chapel Holy Communion  
11.00am St Oswald's Grasmere Holy Communion

August 9th

9.30am RH Chapel Holy Communion  
11.00am St Oswald's Grasmere Open Church

August 16th

9.30am RH Chapel Holy Communion  
11.00am St Oswald's Holy Communion  
4.00pm St Oswald's Evensong with choir

August 23rd

9:30am RH Chapel Holy Communion  
11.00am St Oswald's Open Church

August 30th

9.30am RH Chapel Holy Communion  
11.00am St Oswald's Holy Communion

### **August – Morning Prayer,**

9.00am at Rydal Hall Chapel on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

No midweek services in Grasmere

### September 6th

9.30am RH Chapel Holy Communion

11.00 am St Oswald's Open Church

7.00pm Rydal St Mary's Taize

### September 13th

9.30am RH Chapel Holy Communion

11.00am St Oswald's Holy Communion

### September 20th

9.30am RH Chapel Holy Communion

11.00am St Oswald's Open Church

### September 27th

9.30am RH Chapel Holy Communion

11.00 am St Oswald's Holy Communion

### **September - Morning Prayer**

9.00am at Rydal Hall Chapel

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Midweek Holy Communion,

11.00am at St Oswald's on Tuesdays

Service of quiet contemplation

2.30pm at St Oswald's on Thursdays



GRASMERE SCHOOL

## Educational visits and activities beyond the classroom

I've just written something for the wonderful Kelsick's Educational Foundation about our educational visits. They partially support us financially with the cost of these. The tourists of Grasmere (also wonderfully!) pay the remaining cost of these. Our children thus get all these amazing experiences free of charge.

These visits and other experiences are a core part of our school life. They widen the children's experience of the world, and give them physical experiences which deepen learning.

During our '400th' celebrations, we very much focused on looking forward to the future, as well as reflecting on the past. Part of our future planning has been about the natural world – trying to help conserve nature and understand our local environment better. To support the children's understanding we have had educational visits to Kew Gardens, Dynamic Earth (Edinburgh), Forest Side's kitchen garden and Hill Top.

We've planted more apple trees in our orchard and lots of other native trees in our new Grasmere 400 wood. Growing food has also been a focus. Our vegetable beds have been very successful, and we've grown enough to eat for snacks, make jam and run a 'market stall'.



We also performed to world leaders at Terra Carta, in Hampton Court, at their summit to debate what we mean by a sustainable future.

Our world is very different from the world 400, 200, or even 100 years ago. We've been learning about how life in Britain has changed over that time. This has included visits to: Parliament and all the influential politicians' statues in Parliament Square; The National Holocaust Centre; St Paul's Cathedral and the Hindu Temple at Neasden; The Judges' Lodgings and HMS Prison in Lancaster; Sunderland Point and the Transatlantic Slave Trade trail; Dove Cottage and Rydal Hall.



There have been visits and activities which have deepened our learning across the curriculum. Working with a steam engine was a great way of understanding the power behind the Industrial Revolution. We've researched Victorian times through several local visits, and online link-ups. Other history residential and day visits have covered Romans (Hadrian's Wall residential), Stone Age (Langdale stone carvings and a Woodmatters' Stone Age day – great fun!) and the impact of Ancient Greece on our cities today. Every year we keep a look out for great art exhibitions which we can get to.

This year we've been to Rheged, Lakes Artists, Tate Modern, the National Gallery and the National Gallery of Scotland. We've also studied lots of sculpture and street art in London and Edinburgh when we visited these capital cities, and visited the theatre in London. All these experiences help the children to understand the wider world, and to engage with it with curiosity and respect.



Each term we have a 'whole school walk'. During the last year we have climbed Loughrigg and Helm Crag, and walked around the lake to Rydal Hall and back. The younger children go on weekly adventures to explore the local area. Older children have a fell race and triathlon. Appreciating where we live,

and learning how to engage with it and love it, are so important for adult life. This year we have paddled and swum in the beck, made dams and dens, climbed trees and fells, got up early to sing with the dawn chorus, painted in the bluebell woods, written poetry in Dora's Field when the daffodils were in full bloom, and camped in shelters built in the wood. We have tried to give the children wonderful memories and happy childhood experiences which will support them and nurture them throughout the rest of their lives.



On behalf of all the children at Grasmere School, I would like to say a huge thank you to Kelsick's Educational Foundation and everyone who parks in our car park, for financially supporting all these many, diverse experiences.

*Jo Goode, Headteacher*

# RUSHBEARING



It was fantastic to bring the Grasmere Community together once again for our traditional Rushbearing Festival.

The weather was perfect for the day

Jonny and Megan kindly harvested rushes and then people of all ages gathered in the Church on Thursday and Friday working hard to create bearings

for the Saturday event. Thanks to GVS who generously paid for the flowers to decorate the bearings, and ensured they looked wonderful on the day!



On the day itself the village streets were lined with people, old faces and new were welcomed to take part. Special thanks must go to Will, Martin and Angela who worked tirelessly on the traffic plan and to the marshals who were magnificent - without their help Rushbearing could not have happened.

The church service, led by Lawrence, was joyous, celebrating the achievements of the pupils in the races, held the day before, and enjoying a flash mob rendition of Down by the Riverside. Burnside Brass Band played the Rushbearing Hymn in the procession and then continued outside church to entertain with a medley of music. The Apple Pie shop generously provided food for the band. Tea and Gingerbread was enjoyed after the service - thank you tea ladies! Grasmere Gingerbread once again generously donated the traditional gingerbread and, as always, it was enjoyed by all. As in previous years, our Rush Maidens were kindly treated to a scrummy tea at the Rothay Garden Hotel, courtesy of Robert Timms.

A £2 coin, also donated by the GVS, was gifted to the children -thank you. The children enjoyed ice creams -thank you to Paul for the use of the freezer! Angela and her wonderful friends heroically manned the Tombola making much needed funds for next year

Emma Powell and young Henry won 'Best Pram' - it was beautiful!

A massive 'Thank you' to all those involved. Your support was wonderful and the organising team really appreciated your help. We hope that you enjoyed the day!

It would be great to have your help next year. If you would like to support in some way or help in sponsoring the event please do get in touch at [editor@oswaldparish.news](mailto:editor@oswaldparish.news)

Thank you

*Rushbearing Organisers*





Grasmere Sports this year will be on **Sunday 30th August**. We begin at 10am, and for the first time (ever!) there is free entry on the gate. You can just walk in! Pedestrian access is via the Reading Room gate, the Pavilion gate, North Gate, or Fell Gate.

Thank you to the many volunteers and sponsors from the village who are helping to keep our Sports alive. Thanks in particular to Matthew Brood and Carrie Taylor: they have kept the Sports Field and Pavilion running smoothly this year, a crucial source of income. I am pleased to announce that Libby Dixon, Mel Brood, and Dave and Sally Keighley are all joining the Sports Committee this year - all locals, with a history of supporting the Sports.

Our Athletics this year will be run for the first time by the Friends of Grasmere School. Thank you to the parents who are helping! We also have several new trophies this year, including the under-15s girls World Championship in wrestling, and a new trophy for the first female local fellrunner, named in honour of legendary athlete Jean Dawes.

As well as the games themselves, we also have an impressive array of Cumbrian crafters and traders, the Grasmere Red Squirrels, the Farmer Network's "Fell Gather", a classic car display, face painting, fun entertainment, some splendid food stalls (including the Yan) and of course a Beer Hall in the Reading Rooms.

I hope to see you there on the day.

*Paul Abbott, Chair of Grasmere Sports*

# **GRASMERE SPORTS TIMETABLE**

## **OPENING CEREMONY 10:00 sharp**

Bellman - Mr Dennis Batey

Chief Steward - Mr Matthew Brood

Brass Band - Mr Jake Leech & Company

## **ATHLETICS (Friends of Grasmere School) 11:00 - 15:00**

11:00 - 14 & under

11:40 - 10 & 11 years

12:20 - 5 & under

13:00 - 6 & 7 years

14:00 - 8 & 9 years

## **GUIDES FELL RACES 12:50 - 16:30**

12:50 - Under 9s

13:40 - Under 12s

14:30 - Under 14s

15:10 - Under 17s

16:10 - Senior Guides

## **HOUND RACES 11:00 - 14:15**

**WRESTLING** 10:00 weigh-in

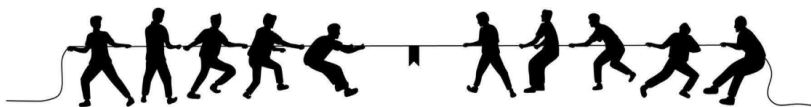
10:30 wrestling starts

**FUN DOG SHOW** 12:00 - 14:00

**TUG OF WAR** 15:00 onwards

**PARAGLIDING** all day

## **CLOSING CEREMONY 17:00**



## **Grasmere Sports Tug of War Sunday August 30, 3pm.**

Put your Grasmere group on the map!

Grasmere boasts a VAST array of magnificent groups  
with a wealth of interests and pursuits.

Can you provide a team of 8 to enter the tug of war event?

You don't have to be strong to enter.

Tug of war teams need to sign in at the Sports Office on the day.

You need 8 people (of any suitable age including kids) from your group to be  
available on the day from 2.30pm.

### **The tug of war competition will start at 3pm.**

Wear good trainers or boots (no spikes or studs please) and possibly gloves  
(to prevent blisters)

If you cannot find 8 willing participants, please consider contacting another  
group to join forces.

Interested? Please email Ros:

[Roselyn.abbott@mindmatters-therapy.co.uk](mailto:Roselyn.abbott@mindmatters-therapy.co.uk)

for further information.

Many thanks for your enthusiasm and interest.

Warm regards

## KNIT AND NAT

No news is the good news!

A unique set of individuals with crafting skills, we have nothing startling to announce but continue to enjoy the company and fellowship so supportive in moments of need.

Surely everyone knows that we meet twice each month (second and fourth Tuesdays) with kind permission of the Reading Rooms, everyone is welcome. It's a drop-in session - no joining fee - just a donation of £2.00. Endless tea and coffee available, helping hands and cheerful chatter

So why not give us a go. Accessibility an issue- no worries, we even have a solution for that now.

We would love to welcome you- so come along -

Contact: *Sharon on 07957073255*



## Books Needed

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

The second hand bookshop 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

It has been a busy Summer so far. Grasmere Players performed their excellent production of Agatha Christie's thriller "*And Then There Were None*" to sell-out audiences. The Village Hall Cinema returned with a screening of *Paddington 2* which was enjoyed by parents and children alike, and the Curry Night was a great success – many thanks to Will and Karen for the delicious food! The village got together for a community lunch to say farewell to Jone who has been such a friendly and helpful presence at Grasmere Pharmacy. We will all miss her and wish her well in her new life in Spain!

Saturday 1 August – Wednesday 9 September: the Hall will be hosting the Lake Artists Society summer exhibition, open daily 10.30am – 4.30 pm.

Meanwhile, we're starting to plan our next building project: much-needed repairs to the front section of the Hall roof. And we have plenty of activities lined up for the Autumn.

Friday 18 September: Ragged Edge Theatre will be bringing their new show "*The Mystery of the Pirate Lagoon*" to Grasmere. It's a family-friendly comedy with lots of audience participation! Details will be available shortly.



Saturday 19 September: Wordsworth Grasmere presents "Walking with the Wordsworths & Friends: A Celebration of Lake District Wanderings". The programme includes guided walks around Grasmere with tea & cake at the YHA Youth Hostel, plus film screenings recreating the walks of William & Dorothy Wordsworth and their friends, with a Q & A session with 'William Wordsworth' himself! Two screenings during the day at 2.30 pm and 7.00 pm. Tickets for the film screenings £10, available from Wordsworth Grasmere or Barney's Newsbox. Guided walks are free. Further details at <https://wordsworth.org.uk>

Saturday 10 October: the Lakeland Dialect Society will be celebrating the *Grasmere Dialect Plays* with an evening of readings and music ... in the venue they were originally written for!

Thursday 22 October: storyteller Gav Cross will be performing two shows. Firstly at 4.30 pm "*Ghastly Stories for Gruesome Gremlins*" for families & children and then at 7.30 pm "*The War of the Worlds*" for the grown-ups. Tickets on sale soon.



The regular Wednesday morning Coffee & Chat sessions will be returning in the Autumn. Meanwhile, we wish all our users and supporters a wonderful Summer!

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!

Social media: To keep up to date with events, please follow us on our social media sites. We appreciate your feedback about our events:

 @GrasmereVillageHall or

 @grasmerevillagehall

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

*Grasmere Village Hall Trustees*

## Grasmere W.I.

Our **June** meeting at a packed Grasmere Village Hall was a wonderful afternoon all about sourdough with the hugely popular Lovingly Artisan from Kendal. The presentation was vibrant and inspirational and we all bought the bread!



*Lovingly Artisan founders Aidan Monks and Catherine Connor showcasing their marvellous sourdough with GWI President Louise Sykes*

Also in **June** our GWI Garden Group had a fantastic tour of Brantwood gardens with Simone Daye, Head of Gardens and Estate. Brantwood won Gold at Chelsea this year and it was great to see the gardens and hear about future plans. We had a sold out GWI calligraphy course at Allan Bank and our June Book Group meeting was outside at Allan Bank in the evening sunshine where we discussed our apt book for June, *'Three Days in June'* by Anne Tyler.

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

Our **August** meeting is on **Thursday 13 August 2pm** at Holehird Gardens where we will be having a tour of the gardens, a floral demonstration and our very own Gardeners' Question Time.



*GWI Members at the Brantwood jetty with Simone Daye, Head of Gardens and Estate at Brantwood*

Also in **August**, we are going to Theatre by the Lake in Keswick to see *Calendar Girls* with a pre theatre dinner. It's sure to be a great fun night out.

And we will also be back out on our hugely popular GWI Cumbria Way Challenge. Such a brilliant, great fun challenge. We are now at Coniston taking us to 64 miles ticked off, just 15 miles to go! Our big finale walk is in **October** to Ulverston and our charity St Mary's Hospice for a celebratory afternoon tea.

Our **September** meeting is on **Thursday 17 September 2pm** with our Federation Chair Karen Hanks telling us all about her important and fascinating work on Independent Custody Visits.

We are looking forward to a very busy and active Westmorland Show County Show for GWI on **Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 September** , always such an exciting few days at GWI.

And our GWI Book Group is looking forward to meeting up with the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage again at his forthcoming annual Grasmere reading.

In addition to all of this, here are a few of our other regular activities. Our monthly Book / Culture Group at Allan Bank is a huge success, with a packed attendance and lively discussion in Wordsworth's study. We also have our very popular monthly rambles, fabulous practical Art Group sessions, weekly GWI Strong kettlebell classes with our local personal trainer Libby Dixon (we are getting stronger every week!), weekly GWI Badminton, GWI Craft and Garden Groups and the list goes on!

Something going on most days at GWI, a packed programme with something for everybody!

A huge thanks to all of our members for making Grasmere WI such a vibrant, friendly and fun group. And as the National WI Life Magazine recently commented - GWI is an incredibly active and aspirational group which has put fireworks to the stereotypical image of WI jam and Jerusalem! Come and join in the fun, you will be made very welcome. Please get in contact, my details are below.

*Louise Sykes*  
*President Grasmere WI*

*T: 07860 299658*  
*E: clsmailbox@icloud.com*

**THINK YOU CAN TAKE ON THE DALES?**

**JOIN US**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
26 MILES • THREE PEAKS • 12 HOURS • 1700M ASCENT

**YORKSHIRE THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE**

**REGISTER AT**  
<https://www.stmaryshospice.org.uk/events/threepeaksstmaryshospice/>

**SPAR**  
JAMES DALL & CO. LTD.

# IT'S NOT JUST POLICY, IT'S PERSONAL

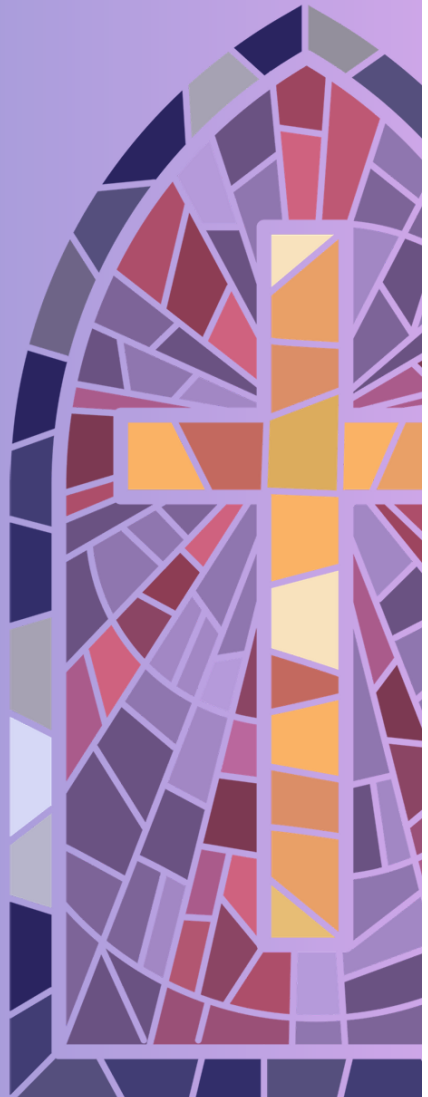
Building confidence in reporting  
safeguarding concerns

***"Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with  
your God."***

**- Micah 6:8**

We know that  
reporting  
safeguarding  
concerns can feel  
difficult

[Scan here for  
resources to help  
you](#)



*When someone shares a concern, it is important they are listened to and taken seriously. You are not expected to investigate. Keeping people safe and ensuring concerns are recorded and referred appropriately is all of our responsibility.*



## **Recognise**

Be alert to signs or disclosures  
of abuse.



## **Respond**

Listen carefully and take  
what is being said  
seriously.



## **Record**

Make a written record of  
what has been shared.



## **Refer**

Share the concern with the  
Safeguarding Officer and  
relevant authorities.



During the recent long hot spells of sunny weather, our thoughts have steered towards the cherry blossom trees planted last year on Moss Parrock and along Broadgate, and the replacement Oak in Broadgate Meadow. These are surviving well due to comprehensive watering last year and recent renewed watering. Thank you to my willing helpers Hilary Beskeen and Joanne Pattinson for their diligence.

We had an excellent CPR and defibrillator training session from the North West Ambulance Service at the village hall recently, and the trustees kindly provided the hall free of charge for this community event, thank you. We now have a few more residents proficient in using our village defibrillators, of which there are currently 3 provided by GVS (in the Broadgate “phone box”, outside the main entrance to Grasmere Gather and outside the entrance to the Village Hall). The sports field also has one on the rear of the toilet block. GVS is in the final stages of arranging installation of a further 3 (Highfieldside, Swan Hotel / Greenhead Fold and Wordsworth Trust areas).

Funding for the installation has been secured, thanks to contributions from local residents and a sizeable donation from one local, thank you so much for your support. However, there will be maintenance costs of around £600 a year to maintain all 6 and we are appealing for donations please to allow these to be sustainable. A new funding page for ongoing maintenance can be found at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/simonhey> We have already received some funds into this, many thanks to anonymous, or otherwise, contributors.

GVS supported the recent Rushbearing event, both financially and helping with marshalling, excellently organised by Martin Clark, who took part along with several other marshals in comprehensive training on traffic management.

A big thank you also to the Rushbearing team for taking the lead and their hard work in ensuring that the event could take place this year against a backdrop of challenges

Following representations submitted to Highways by villagers the 20mph limit extensions have been provisionally accepted and at last W & F have agreed to extend up Red Bank due to the number of residents proposing amendments. Formal adoption is expected shortly.

Himalayan Balsam is rife again this year and urgent removal is now underway. It is of paramount importance that we eradicate this invasive species from around Grasmere again as it risks spreading downstream and involving much work by other volunteers each year between Rydal and Kendal.



We are in real need for more volunteers and if you are able to offer some of your free time, please contact Simon Hey ([simonhey4@gmail.com](mailto:simonhey4@gmail.com) tel 07785 920316) thank you. Training is provided and the plants are easy and satisfying to pull. Although some of the terrain along the northern and eastern shores of the lake is challenging, there are more easily accessible areas in some of the Red Bank gardens.

We are still welcoming renewals and new members to GVS. Membership does not commit you to getting involved in our various projects but will give you the opportunity to raise questions and make suggestions. All donations help us to maintain and improve the amenities of Grasmere. Joining or renewing can be done easily and quickly online at GVS Membership joining and renewal form 2026 – Just fill in the form, or alternatively contact me at [simonhey4@gmail.com](mailto:simonhey4@gmail.com) or 07785 920316.

*Simon Hey (membership secretary)*

# Grasmere and Cumbria Weather

## May



May brought wide swings in temperature, with a 3 week cool spell followed by an early heatwave.

The month started with a cool area of low pressure, producing heavy, thundery showers. Even cooler northerly winds pushed south on the 9th. with max. temperatures struggling to reach 10.C. 50. F. in many locations. Clear skies the following night brought a widespread frost, with Shap recording a dawn temp. of - 4.5.C. on the 10th. The cool spell lasted until after mid-month, with the temp. in some places not reading 59.F. until the 22nd. A depression brought wet days on the 18th. and 19th. with over one and a half inches falling on the 18th., the months wettest day. A large area of high pressure then developed on the 21st. with temperatures rising from 59.F. on the 21st. to 82.F. on the 26th. Levens recorded the months highest temp. on the 25th., nearly 86.F.. The heatwave continued for several days, although freshening westerlies on an active cold front on the 29th. brought a wet day on the 31st. Mean temps. in May were above average due to the intense heatwave of the last week. Rainfall amounts ranged from well below normal across north Cumbria, to near average in the Lake District and west Cumbria. The 37% of rainfall that fell at Sebergham, was in sharp contrast to the 135% recorded at St. Bees Head. However, nowhere was especially wet. Even sites within the L.D.N.P. failed to attain 200 mm. 7.87 inches. The Environment Agency reports that for Cumbria, the 12 month period ending in May was the second wettest on record. Thunder was heard on one day in Grisedale and Penrith. On the 28th. a thunderstorm in Dent saw lightning strike the signal box at Blea Moor, causing a total failure of the signalling system which affected the Settle to Carlisle line for the whole day. The wettest Met. station for May was Ennerdale Black Sail recording 198.2 mm. (nearly 2 inches). Grasmere was the 10th wettest. South westerlies were the dominant wind direction for May.

Wettest day 18th. 39.0 mm. May rain days 18. Last year 10.

Total for month 130.9mm. 5.16 inches Last year 6.27 inches Av. 4.74 inches.

Rain days to date 97 Last year 64.

Rainfall to date for year 1028.6 mm. 38.50 inches Last year 26.21 inches

## June

This month has seen the hottest June day since records began in England and the second hottest in the whole of the U.K. Here in Grasmere the first half of June was dominated by low pressure, bringing heavy thundery showers, longer periods of rain and limited sunshine. The first completely dry day was on the 14th. but the changeable weather continued with



drizzle and brief sunny intervals. However, from the 20th. the humidity and heat began to increase, with more sunshine although drizzle not far away. Then on the 24th. of the month, the Met. Office issued a red warning for heat for three successive days, the first time ever, for the south of the country. The temperature rose from the 24th. until the 26th. It then peaked, with a new June temperature of 37.1.C. 98.F. recorded at Santon Downham, West Suffolk. Fortunately here in Cumbria, it was nowhere near as hot, but with the humidity and hot sunshine being overpowering, for a lot of people an umbrella or a parasol was a necessity. As usual the phrase 3 hot days and a thunderstorm comes to mind with a typical British summer. So thunder was recorded here in Grasmere in the early hours of the morning on the 26th. This cleared the air to an extent, but the less humid conditions continued with showers and brief sun until the month's end. Europe's deadliest heatwaves are almost always what are called Omega blocks. When the temperature hits 27.C., nearly 82.F., there's a direct correlation with the mortality rate. An Omega blocks happens when the jet stream comes over the Atlantic and is flanked by two low pressure systems. This phenomenon pulls hot air from Africa northwards, trapping Saharan air beneath it. A heat dome then develops, driving temperatures higher. Britain is then sucked into the extreme heat as the ridge over the continent pushes low pressure to the north of Britain, and the jet stream roaring in from the Atlantic drags hot air northwards and westwards across the Channel. June wettest day 3rd. 61.3 mm. 2.41 inches. Last year 13th. 2.06 inches  
June total rainfall 180.8 mm. 7.12 inches Last year 11.81 inches. Av. 4.78 inches  
June rain days 20. Last year 22

Rain days to date (end June) 117. Last year. 86

Total to date (end June ) 1209.4 mm. 45.62 inches Last year 38.02 inches

*Peter Bailey*

## Grasmere Diary - August

|    |                                                 |                                                 |                       |
|----|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1  | <b>Lakes Arts Summer Exhibition starts</b>      | VH                                              | 10.30am-4.30pm        |
| 2  | <b>Holy Communion</b>                           | Rydal Hall Chapel<br>St Oswald's                | 9.30am<br>11am        |
| 9  | <b>Holy Communion<br/>Open Church</b>           | Rydal Hall Chapel<br>St Oswald's                | 9.30am<br>11am        |
| 13 | <b>WI<br/>Book Group<br/>Oxfam Popu-UP Shop</b> | Holehird<br>Zoom<br>Kelsick Centre              | 2pm<br>8pm            |
| 16 | <b>Holy Communion<br/><br/>Evensong</b>         | Rydal Hall Chapel<br>St Oswald's<br>St Oswald's | 9.30am<br>11am<br>4pm |
| 23 | <b>Holy Communion<br/>Open Church</b>           | Rydal<br>St Oswald's                            | 9.30am<br>11am        |
| 30 | <b>Holy Communion</b>                           | Rydal Hall Chapel<br>St Oswald's                | 9.30am<br>11am        |
|    | <b>GRASMERE SPORTS</b>                          | Sports Field                                    | 10am                  |

|                          |                                                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Week Day Services</b> | <b>Monday- Friday 9am Rydal Chapel</b>                 |
| <b>Tuesday 11am</b>      | <b>Holy Communion St Oswald's (not in August)</b>      |
| <b>Thursday 2.30pm</b>   | <b>Quiet Half Hour St Oswald's (not in August)</b>     |
| <b>Knit and Nat</b>      | <b>Every month 2nd &amp; 4th Tues Reading Room 2pm</b> |

# Grasmere Diary- September

|    |                                               |                                  |                                    |
|----|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1  | <b>Simon Armitage</b>                         | Daffodil Hotel                   | 6.30pm                             |
| 6  | <b>Holy Communion<br/>Open Church</b>         | Rydal Hall Chapel<br>St Oswald's | 9.30am<br>11am                     |
| 13 | <b>Holy Communion</b>                         | Rydal Hall Chapel<br>St Oswald's | 9.30am<br>11am                     |
| 14 | <b>Bible Study</b>                            | Rydal Hall                       | 11am                               |
| 16 | <b>Heritage Open Day<br/>Paul Lewis</b>       | Allan Bank                       | 11am                               |
| 18 | <b>The Mystery Of The<br/>Pirate Lagoon</b>   | VH                               | TBC                                |
| 19 | <b>Walking With Words-<br/>worth<br/>Film</b> | VH (am) and YHA (pm)<br><br>VH   | 11-1pm<br>2-4pm<br>2.30pm &<br>7pm |
| 20 | <b>Holy Communion<br/>Open Church</b>         | Rydal Hall<br>St Oswald's        | 9.30am<br>11am                     |
| 27 | <b>Holy Communion</b>                         | Rydal Hall<br>St Oswald's        | 9.30am<br>11am                     |
| 30 | <b>Lichen Walk</b>                            | Allan Bank                       | 10.30am                            |



## GRASMERE PLAYERS

### And Then There Were None

Grasmere Players was delighted to present Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*. Performed over two weeks, the production welcomed over 500 audience members through the doors of the Village Hall to experience one of Christie's most celebrated murder mysteries. The enthusiastic response from audiences was incredibly rewarding and a testament to the hard work, commitment, and talent of everyone involved.

Co-directed by Paul Davies and Matty Jackman, the production was the culmination of many weeks of rehearsals, during which the cast and crew worked tirelessly to refine every aspect of the performance. We were fortunate to assemble one of the strongest casts the Players has had in recent years, bringing together talented performers from across the Central Lakes. Their dedication, professionalism, and passion for theatre shone through in every performance, creating a gripping and memorable production.

Of course, every successful production relies on far more than those seen on stage. We are immensely grateful to the backstage team, front-of-house volunteers, technical crew, and everyone who contributed their time and expertise behind the scenes.

From set construction and lighting to costumes, props, sound, and welcoming our audiences, every individual played an essential role in making the production such a success. Community theatre is truly a team effort, and this production demonstrated just how much can be achieved when so many people come together with a shared goal.

The production itself was enhanced by a beautifully detailed set that transported audiences to the isolated atmosphere of Soldier Island. Combined with thoughtful lighting, sound design, and outstanding character performances, the cast brought Christie's tense and suspenseful story vividly to life, keeping audiences captivated from beginning to end.

One of our most distinctive directorial decisions was to perform both of the play's published endings across the run. Depending on which performance audience members attended, they either witnessed the original, darker conclusion or the alternative ending in which two of the principal characters survive. This unique approach added an extra layer of intrigue to the production, sparking conversations throughout the village and encouraging many people to return for a second performance to discover the other ending. It was wonderful to see audiences embracing this idea with such enthusiasm.



On a personal note, it was an absolute pleasure not only to co-direct the production, but also to take on the role of Captain Philip Lombard. Balancing both responsibilities was a rewarding challenge, and it was a privilege to work alongside such a talented and dedicated company.

As we look ahead, Grasmere Players now turns its attention to our pantomime in January 2027. We hope to build on the success of *And Then There Were None* and would love to welcome both returning and new members to join us, whether on stage, behind the scenes, or in the audience.

After the enormous amount of work invested by so many people, we are delighted that the production received such a warm and positive reception. Thank you to everyone who supported us by attending, volunteering, or encouraging the Players along the way. We look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

*Matty Jackman, Grasmere Players*





# **OXFAM POP-UP SHOP**

**FROM CLEARANCE RAILS  
TO DESIGNER GEAR  
CALL IN & GRAB A BARGAIN!  
THE KELSWICK CENTRE  
THURSDAY 13th AUGUST**



## *Memories of Grasmere*

*This series of articles asks some of our long term residents to share their memories of life in Grasmere. We are delighted that, in this edition, Sharon and Atilio Savasi are our contributors.*

We arrived in Grasmere to prepare the Oak Bank Hotel, our new venture in business, early in 1980, just before Easter. Both Attilio and I had been in catering since leaving education. My ambition throughout had been to own a hotel and luckily, Attilio shared my dream.

In those days, hotel holidays were in fashion. The English were starting to drink wine with the evening meal. Do you remember Blue Nun, Mateus Rose, and Bull's Blood, to name a few?

Guests came for a week's holiday. It was still formal as the men dressed in jacket and ties for dinner, and the ladies wore dresses. It was customary to have a drink in the bar before being shown to their tables, and having a Sherry was especially popular!

At that time, the season ran from Easter to October half term. This meant that Grasmere was very quiet over the winters, as nearly all the hotels closed for repairs and refurbishment. No one opened for Christmas!

Oak Bank had only four bedrooms en-suite, with a “separate bathroom and toilet section”. The central heating was only on the ground floor, so the bedrooms were only heated with one bar electric heater. Over the next 3 years, especially in 1983, and with the help of an English Tourist Board grant, we managed to make all bedrooms en-suite and installed full central heating. This meant we could open all year, and we did! It also enabled us to offer full-time staff positions.

The next phase was to build the new dining room overlooking the back garden and add a kitchen next to it. Whilst doing the building work we worked in conjunction with Kendal College achieving the “Investor’s in People” award, this meant our staff could gain NVQ qualifications, and work in different departments of the hotel.

Many of our wonderful guests returned year after year and our staff were happy to stay with us! We made lovely memories and had many memorable times.



*Sharon and Attilio Savasi*

## ROAB Grasmere



### Buff's Updates

Firstly, apologies for this rather late update on the goings on of the ROAB. We've been busy in 2026 making lots of positive changes for the local community, and now we believe it is a great time to reflect on last year's brilliant events. Beginning with the Halloween party, which was held for another year, and was a huge success with children of all ages - turning up and having lots of ghoulie fun with their families. A big thank you to Claire Metcalfe for organising this.

In October we also held a race night in aid of two local Scouts, raising money for the trip of a lifetime to Denmark. A great turn out with folks reaching deep into their pockets and raising £1000 towards the trip. We are always looking for a charitable cause to raise money for as a volunteer-led organisation, so please feel free to approach a Buff with any ideas.

A highlight of last year was sponsoring Knit and Nat with some wool to help them carry out the wonderful work they do for their charity.

The annual Christmas party for Grasmere Primary school's children was well attended, with nearly 40 children present. Thank you to Tom Brood for playing his part again as the big man, Baldry's for their delicious hot chocolate and Josh Metcalfe for helping Santa source his presents. A special shout out to the members/elves for helping with wrapping the gifts. Alongside this party we carried on our yearly tradition of donating Christmas presents to local children's hospitals/wards, in partnership with the Salvation Army.

We would also like to thank the parents, carers and guardians who show up and make these community occasions brilliant by helping out, having fun and making memories.

## **Building Updates**

We were busy last year and in early 2026 improving the building for the community to use. We started by painting the outside and tidying up the car park, adding some beautiful hanging baskets that flower all year round. We then focused on the interior of the club, fitting new blinds, building a new bar for all to enjoy at future events. A big thank you to Mark Broomhead and the lads for fitting the work in.

Our wider aim with the building is to make it more appealing to the public, especially the locals, so that everyone can use it and enjoy it - celebrating occasions important to them in the heart of Grasmere. Please note that the building is free to use for non-profitable events, if available. Check out our website for more information or get in contact with us to find out more via email: [bex728@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bex728@hotmail.co.uk).

## **Want to Get Involved?**

We are always looking for new members of the Buffs. If you are free on Monday evenings between 7pm-9pm and would like to be part of something brilliant that supports communities across Cumbria, get in touch with a local Buff to find out more!

*Nicky Gledhill ROAB*



# wordsworth

## GRASMERE

In August we are open 7 days a week, 10am-5pm, and then open Tuesday - Saturday, 10am-4pm from September onwards. Don't forget, entry is free to Grasmere residents and workers!

### Gothic exhibition and events

#### **Ghost Story! Into the Gothic Imagination**

Our new exhibition is inspired by the ghost story writing contest that led Mary Shelley to write *Frankenstein*, the best-known Gothic novel in the English language. Exciting storytelling events, museum lates and creative workshop will run alongside the exhibition all year round:



#### **After Hours at Dove Cottage: Gothic Heroines**

**Thursday 20 August, 6.30-8pm**

Discover the origins of modern horror and fantasy fiction in this bewitching storytelling event. This summer the theme is 'heroines': the women of the early Gothic who inspired the famous heroines in modern pop culture.

#### **Gothic Heroines: A Loose Leaf Poetry Workshop**

**Saturday 8 August, 2.30-3.30pm**

This relaxed creative writing workshop features a cast of complex, wilful, intelligent and questioning Gothic heroines. No writing experience necessary!

#### **After Hours at Dove Cottage: Gothic Monsters**

**Thursday 24 September, 6.30-8pm**

This autumn theme is 'monsters': the human and inhuman monsters of Gothic horror, with a focus on those found in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and *The Last Man*.

Booking for the above events is essential.

### **Free family events in Grasmere**

#### **Make and Play: Fairytale**

**Wednesday 29 July, 10.30am - 12.30pm**

Explore the enchanted woods with William and Dorothy Wordsworth and get involved with crafts, printing and creative writing. Make a treasure map, build a pop-up world, tell a story with shadow puppets, or build your own fairy wings. Talking animals and jolly monsters guaranteed, perfect porridge not included!

**For:** Families with children of all ages.

**Location:** The Learning Space, Wordsworth Grasmere

**Free event:** No need to book just turn up!

#### **Little Wanderers**

**Term-time Thursday mornings from 10.15am - 11.15am**

These early- years sessions are designed to encourage little ones to be creative and playful. Each themed morning is a mixture of songs, stories and play based learning inspired by William's poetry, Dorothy's journal and their lives at Dove Cottage over 200 years ago.

**For:** Families with children age 0-4yrs

**Free this term thanks to Grasmere School and Nursery:** No need to book just turn up!

### **Free family workshops at local libraries**

#### **Rucksack of Rhymes - Sounds like Summer**

**For families with children age 0-5yrs**

Perk up your ears as we listen for the human and natural sounds of a busy summer. We will use songs, activities, and our imagination to learn about William and Dorothy Wordsworth's writing, and travel with them across woods, towns, and the seaside by day and night, encountering noisy and quiet sounds as we go.

#### **Off on an Adventure!**

**For families with children age 5-11yrs**

A session of crafts and creative writing about journeys and adventures for primary age children exploring the writing of William and Dorothy Wordsworth and their lives more than 200yrs ago.

## **Summer Party: Crafts & Activities** **For families with children of all ages**

Come and celebrate a sunny summer with drop in crafts and creative writing. Make your own summer kite and decorate postcards, enjoy games and play. A lovely summer making session, infused with the writings of William and Dorothy Wordsworth.



### **Tuesday 4 August**

#### **Kendal Library**

10.30am-12.30pm: Summer Party - Crafts and Activities

#### **Ambleside Library**

2-3pm: Rucksack of Rhymes - Sounds like Summer

3-4pm: Off on an Adventure!

### **Tuesday 18 August**

#### **Keswick Library**

2-4pm: Summer Party - Crafts and Activities

**Please book these sessions with your local library.**

### **Poetry events in Grasmere**

This year our annual poetry reading with **Simon Armitage** will take place at the Daffodil Hotel on 1 September (6.30pm for 7.30pm).

**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 to book please visit **[wordsworth.org.uk](http://wordsworth.org.uk)**

*Hannah Catterall*

*Events Officer, Wordsworth Grasmere*



wordsworth  
GRASMERE



## Walking with the Wordsworths and Friends

Saturday 19th September 2026

As part of the YHA's Festival of Walking, Wordsworth Grasmere are celebrating the walking of Dorothy and William Wordsworth and their friends with a film showing and a walking tour of Grasmere village, guided by William Wordsworth himself. And the YHA is providing free coffee and cakes for all who join the walks!

### Guided Walks (Free)

Explore Grasmere with Wordsworth as your guide!

**11am-1pm:** Meet at Grasmere Village Hall

**2-4pm:** Meet at YHA Grasmere



### Film Screenings (£10pp)

Watch uplifting films recreating historical walks. Includes Q&A.



**2.30-5pm or 7-9.30pm**  
At Grasmere Village Hall

Scan the  
QR code  
to book:



*Tickets available from [wordsworth.org.uk](http://wordsworth.org.uk) and Barney's Newsbox*



## Grasmere Book Group

In June, the group tackled Sarah Hall's Lakeland Book of the Year award winning novel *Helm*. A deeply Cumbrian book, *Helm* is told in interlocking stories featuring characters across history living in the Eden Valley and navigating its relationship with the Helm Wind, the only named wind in the UK. A neolithic tribe attempt to placate Helm, a Dark Age wizard priest tries to banish it, a Victorian engineer wants to capture it and a researcher fears pollution might be killing it, all joined together by Helm's own playful voice made of "maleficence and data and lore". It was met with a whole range of responses. Most really enjoyed it but a couple of members could not get on with it, with divisions centering on its poetic and fragmented style coming across as challenging or pretentious. Some attempted to read only certain characters' stories but found they needed all the voices and gained more for them. A fascinating one!

For July, we read Elisabeth Sanxay Holding's *The Blank Wall*, an American noir thriller set during the Second World War, first published in 1947. Loved by Raymond Chandler but little known in the UK and recently reprinted by the excellent small press Persephone. Lucia, a young mother of two from New York, is living on Long Island, with a husband away serving in the Navy, before she finds herself entangled in a web of criminal activity. Many enjoyed the suspenseful plot, although some felt increasingly uncomfortable as they worried about Lucia's fate, as she became more and more entangled and they did not know what kind of book this would become! Discussions also surrounded ideas of class, gender and the pressures of maintaining appearances. Others were impressed with how modern the novel felt, addressing Lucia's lost sense of self in motherhood and what it means to be seen as a full person.

**Looking ahead:** On August 13<sup>th</sup> we'll be discussing JL Carr's *A Month in the Country* (1980). The novel was adapted as a 1987 film which gave Kenneth Branagh his first credited screen role.

On September 10<sup>th</sup> we will be reading a graphic novel ahead of the Lakes Comic Art Festival in early October. We'll vote on the graphic novel in due course so do email or ask at the bookshop if you're interested!

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



# Allan Bank



**(In)tangible** by artist Tracy Hill has opened at Allan Bank, running until December 20th. This is an exhibition of site-specific works including drawings, intricate paper cuts and cyanotype photography and prints, reflecting the micro-landscapes of fungi, lichen and moss that exist around Allan Bank.

Lichens are nature's pioneers, occupying six percent of the earth and communities of these microorganisms indicate the health and deep history of earth's ecosystems. Hill's wish is that her work will spark a new appreciation of the enigmatic beauty and function of lichens in the natural world.

Many of these can be found on the garden walls around Allan Bank and

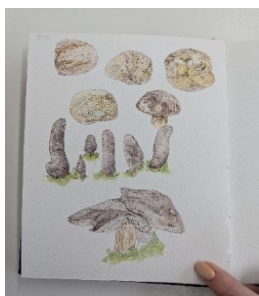
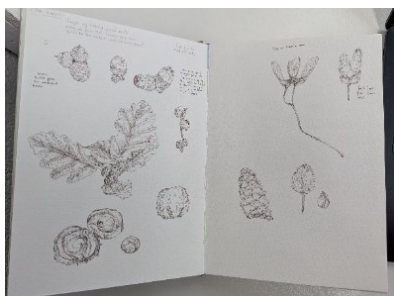
lichens expert **Pete Martin** from the Cumbria Lichen and Bryophyte Group, will be hosting a walk from Allan Bank on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 - 12noon. The walk is free but house admission applies and booking is recommended.

**Summer of Play**, the National Trust's free play offer, returns to Allan Bank for the summer holidays, running until September 6<sup>th</sup>. This includes lawn games, badminton and sports day games, with croquet available on the west lawn.

**Verdigris** - opening in Coleridge's Bedroom on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August is Verdigris, a unique collection of botanical studies from artist Kathryn Poole.

Poole's work concentrates on the line through death and regeneration in nature and how observing that process gives things significance. Poole's research on Grasmere led her to a report on copper pollution in the lake as a result of mining, which gave her the project name of *Verdigris* - an impermanent colour that is the result of corrosion.

The artist has spent the summer exploring the grounds of Allan Bank looking for things on the verge between life and death.



## **Heritage Open Days - Special Guided Tour**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 11am - 12 noon.**

Join historic building conservator, Paul Lewis, from the Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group, on a tour of discovery around Allan Bank and learn about the building of Grasmere's first villa. This special tour is part of Heritage Open Days, England's largest festival of history and culture. Responsible for the conservation of the building following a devastating fire in 2011, Paul Lewis offers a unique insight into how the building has changed since its Georgian roots in the early nineteenth century. Discover how Allan Bank looked during Wordsworth's brief tenancy between 1808 and 1811 and how the later fashion for the neo Gothic led the next owner, a wealthy merchant, to add his own flourishes.

A final reminder that this year the house is open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm with last entry at 3.30pm.

*Emma Hawley NT Allan Bank*

## Grasmere

### Red Squirrels

As the leaves begin to turn and autumn settles over the fells, the Grasmere Red Squirrel Group enters one of its busiest seasons. While many of us are enjoying the spectacular autumn colours, our volunteers are out across the area helping to protect one of the Lake District's most iconic native mammals.

Autumn is a particularly important time for red squirrels as they gather and store food to see them through the winter

months. Seeds and nuts become vital resources, and monitoring the health and activity of our local squirrel population during this period helps us understand how well they are preparing for the colder weather ahead.

Throughout the autumn, our volunteers continue regular monitoring across Grasmere and the surrounding woodlands. This work allows us to track squirrel activity, identify any changes in local populations, and ensure that conservation efforts are targeted where they are needed most. We also continue to work closely with landowners, local organisations and conservation partners, recognising that protecting red squirrels is a shared responsibility across our community.

Autumn is also a time for planning ahead. As the year draws to a close, we review the successes of the past season, assess the information gathered through our monitoring programme, and begin preparing projects and funding applications for the coming year. Every survey, volunteer hour and observation contributes to building a clearer picture of how we can best support our local red squirrels in the future.



Finally, we would like to thank everyone who continues to support the Grasmere Red Squirrel Group, we couldn't continue our work without you and your encouragement helps ensure that red squirrels remain a treasured part of our local landscape for generations to come.

**IF YOU SEE A GREY or a sickly looking red anywhere around Grasmere PLEASE Text:**



Stuart Dickson 07980 893459, David Birkett 07775 904236,

Stewart Sutcliffe 07817 326524, Trevor Cooper 07884 404794;

or email [grasmerersg@gmail.com](mailto:grasmerersg@gmail.com) If you would like to donate, please visit <https://bit.ly/3yX6FC5> to donate via PayPal or Bank transfer: Grasmere Red Squirrels | 63002884 | 01-09-75 |

Follow us on Facebook @GrasmereReds

*Kelly Taylor*

## Advice for Keeping Safe In Hot Weather



The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Met Office recommend the following key steps :

### 1. Stay Out of the Sun

**Avoid the midday heat:** The sun is strongest between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. Try to stay indoors or in the shade during these hours.

**Protect yourself outdoors:** Walk in the shade, wear a wide-brimmed hat, and use sunglasses.

**Apply sunscreen:** Use a high-factor sunscreen, apply it generously, and reapply frequently—especially after swimming or sweating.

## 2. Keep Your Home Cool

**Block the sun:** Close blinds and curtains on windows that face the sun during the day.

**Ventilate at night:** Keep windows closed during the hottest parts of the day. Open them in the early morning or late evening when the outside air is cooler to create a cross-breeze. [

**Avoid heat sources:** Turn off lights and electrical equipment you aren't using. Try to limit oven use during the hottest hours.

**Use fans safely:** Electric fans can help circulate air, but do not aim them directly at your body if the room temperature is above 35°C, as this can lead to dehydration.

## 3. Stay Hydrated

**Drink regularly:** Sip water or diluted squash throughout the day. Don't wait until you are thirsty.

**Watch what you drink:** Limit alcohol, tea, and coffee as they can speed up dehydration.

**Eat cooling foods:** Choose cold, water-rich foods like salads, fruits, and ice-lollies.

## 4. Clothing & Activities

**Dress appropriately:** Wear loose, lightweight, light-coloured clothing made from breathable natural fabrics (like cotton or linen).

**Adjust your routine:** Plan strenuous activities, exercise, or walking the dog for the early morning or evening when it is cooler.

## 5. Watch Out for Others

**Check on vulnerable people:** older adults, young children, and those with underlying health conditions are at a higher risk. Check on family, friends, and neighbours who might need help.

**Stationary vehicles:** **Never** leave anyone (especially children or pets) in a parked, enclosed car.

Having shared this advice we hope it now doesn't rain for the whole of the school holidays! *Editors*

# TOGETHER AT THE MOVIES

*A Community Connections Hub*

Join us for a welcoming monthly gathering designed to help people connect, access support and discover local services in a friendly and familiar place.



 **First Tuesday of  
Every Month**

 **1:30pm - 3:30pm**

 **Free Entry**

 **Royalty Cinema,  
Lake Road,  
Bowness-on-  
Windermere**



**Build  
Connections**



**Access Information  
and Advice**



**Enjoy  
Refreshments**

**For more information call 01229 444407**  
**Bringing Our Services and Community Together**



*The flat that I rent is very expensive, it's damp and in bad condition. The wiring is unsafe and last week everything in the kitchen stopped working. I keep trying to contact the letting agent but they don't reply. I can't afford to eat out. I will have to borrow money to get this fixed if nothing happens. A friend who complained about repairs was evicted. This is making me feel trapped and very stressed. What can I do?*

You are not alone - Citizens Advice has found almost half of renters who dealt with a letting agent in the last three years, nearly 4 million people, faced rule-breaking behaviour. Citizens Advice nationally is campaigning for tougher regulation of letting agents and better enforcement of existing rules. The new Renters' Rights Act makes it illegal to evict a tenant without a good reason, so don't be afraid to take action.

Collect all your evidence - photographs, dates of contacts and copies of messages, receipts for expenses caused by the problem, a letter from your GP if your health is affected, and a copy of your tenancy agreement. Write (or email) the letting agent setting out the problem, give a clear deadline, and keep a copy. If you don't get a satisfactory response, you can make a formal complaint, first to the letting agent and then to an independent complaints body. You can even take them to Court, use ADR (alternative dispute resolution) or mediation. But where the problem is a Health and Safety issue, as in your case, you can contact your local Council for help in ordering your landlord to carry out the repairs. There is full information about all these steps on the Citizens Advice website.

Free, confidential advice and help is available from South Lakes Citizens Advice on any aspect of debt, consumer problems, benefits, housing, employment or any other problems. New opening hours:

**Tuesday - Drop in at Wainwright's Yard,**

**Kendal 10am - 1pm, last client at 12.45**

**Wednesday - Pre-booked appointments**

**Thursday - Pre-booked appointments**

**Adviceline: 0808 278 7984 Consumer Helpline: 0808 223 1133**

**Universal Credit Helpline: 0800 328 5644**

## **CONTACTS**

### **St Oswald's Parish Church,**

Church Stile, Grasmere LA22 9SW

**Rector: Rev Lawrence Basham**

**lawrencebasham@gmail.com 07891001592**

**Church warden: Anne Rawcliffe**

grasmerewarden@gmail.com

**Church Warden Deputy: Jane Robinson (Rydal)**

**Treasurer: Gerry Rawcliffe**

gerry.rawcliffe@btinternet.com

**Organist: Mr Ian Hare**

017684 83886 ian.c.hare@outlook.com

**Church Website: A Church Near You**

**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:**

tbc, Glenthorne, Grasmere

Tel: 015394 35389 info@glenthorne.org

**URC Minister:**

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# Ghost Story!

## INTO THE GOTHIC IMAGINATION

*An exhibition at  
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7 July 2026 – 19 June 2027

Venture into the fateful night that  
inspired one of the world's greatest  
Gothic tales: Mary Shelley's  
*Frankenstein*.

