

Coniston and Crake Valley News



Coniston
&Crake
Churches

April 2026 www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk



The Coniston and Crake Valley Benefice

“To Grow, Witness and Love Like Jesus”

Serving the parishes of Colton, Coniston and Torver, Egton cum Newland and Lowick with Blawith

Revd Brian Streeter	vicar@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk	01229 861668
The Vicarage, Penny Bridge. LA12 7RQ	<i>Brian works for Filling Station on Thursday</i> <i>Brian's rest day is Friday</i>	07505 048736

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Churches in Coniston and the Crake Valley

To contact any of the Churchwardens, pastoral team, retired clergy or lay ministers please call or email the Administrators.

St Andrew's Church, Coniston LA21 8EN

St Luke's Church, Torver LA21 8AZ

St Luke's Church, Lowick LA12 8EE

Holy Trinity Church, Colton LA12 8HF

Church of St Mary the Virgin, Penny Bridge LA12 7RQ

Tottlebank Baptist Church, Colton LA12 8HY

Welcomes you to our Sunday services from 10.30 to 11.30am followed by refreshments, and midweek prayer meetings on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. The church building is usually open daily 10am – 4pm for visitors and for private prayer. For further information contact Chris and Margaret Hamps, **hampsc@outlook.com**

Coniston Methodist Church, Coniston LA21 8ER

The Sunday morning service is at 11.00am and a warm welcome awaits you. For further information contact Joyce Holland on **015394 41594**.

St Francis of Assisi Church of the Sacred Heart, Coniston LA21 8AW

Mass is held on Thursdays at 10am and Saturdays at 5.00pm.

For further information contact Father Matthew Jacob on **01229 779673**.

Cover: Brantwood Woodlands

Church Services for April 2026

3rd	Good Friday		
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Walk of Witness	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	2.00pm	Devotions at the Cross	Rev Harry Welch
St. Andrew Coniston	2.00pm	Devotions at the Cross	Rev Brian Streeter
5th	Easter Sunday		
Bluebird Café Coniston	7.30am	Easter Sunrise Service	Christians Together in Coniston
St Luke Torver	9.00am	Biker Breakfast	Paul Rudd
St. Luke Lowick	9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Harry Welch
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bickersteth
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Holy Communion By Extension	Pamela Hull
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Grace Cauldwell
12th	Second Sunday of Easter		
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	Morning Worship	Pam Priestley
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Healing Service	Rev Harry Welch
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev David Edmondson
19th	Third Sunday of Easter		
St. Luke Torver	9.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Morning Worship	Karen Edmondson
26th	Fourth Sunday of Easter		
St. Luke Lowick	9.30am	Methodist Service	Chris Clark
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Morning Worship	Pamela Hull
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Morning Worship	Chris Clark
St. Luke, Torver	7.00pm	Torver Junction	Rev Brian Streeter

Tottlebank Baptist Church - Saturday Special - Mini bible school - a journey through the bible - last Saturday of the month. Led by Richard Henry. This month the subject is "Moses, 40 - 80 years - from Prince to Shepherd and the Number 40 in the Scriptures" - **Saturday 25th April 2026** - 10.15 am - 12.15 pm - All welcome.

	<u>Tottlebank Baptist Church Weekly Preachers</u>	
5th Sun	10.30 am in the Church & Zoom - Easter Sunday - Communion	Richard Henry

12th Sun	10.30 am in the Church & Zoom	Richard Henry
19th Sun	10.30 am in the School Room & Zoom - <i>Café Style Service</i>	Rod Readhead
26th Sun	10.30 am in the Church & Zoom	John Huthchinson

Save the date - Two events coming up at Tottlebank Baptist Church:

- **Saturday 9th May 2026** - Coffee Morning in aid of St Mary's Hospice
- **Wednesday 24th June 2026** - 7.30 pm - The Dorian Players

More details to follow

The Sacred Heart - **Maundy Thursday April 2nd** 7pm - Mass and washing of feet followed by private prayer / **Good Friday April 3rd** 11am - Stations of the cross / **Holy Saturday April 4th** 6pm - Easter Vigil Mass

Pastoral Letter - Harry Welch

Dear friends, The BBC produces a radio programme called In Our Time. It airs at 9am on Thursdays. In the studio are the presenter and three experts on the topic for the day. There are subjects from the fields of Physics, Chemistry, History, Sociology, Politics, and Religion, amongst many others; over 1,000 of them available on BBC iPlayer. Melvin Bragg, the presenter, when asked to what did he attribute the programme's success, he responded he believed we, in this country, are a curious people and the wide variety of topics provided much to interest everyone with something.

Is he right? Are we a curious nation? Are you curious? I know I am. From childhood when I enjoyed taking things apart, to adulthood watching YouTube watchmakers bringing timepieces back to life.

It was curiosity that kindled my search for faith. I was welcomed into our local church, and this welcome, above anything, encouraged me to stay and find out more. Until then religion had only received one of my dismissive glances, but I became curious to the point of staying, listening and watching. And, as they say, the rest is history, which I would be happy to share if asked. God has continued to use my curiosity to teach me, lead me, challenge me and bless me.

We are about to celebrate Easter Sunday. Most people only know of it from what they have gleaned from youth, parent, or school. But there is more to Christianity than a cursory glance. Christianity is a deeply life changing faith. If I were to sum up in two verses the essence of Christianity, they would both be found in John's Gospel. The first is John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life".

The second verse is John 20:17. After His crucifixion, when Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' grave, she found that Jesus had risen, and He said to her, "Do not hold on to me for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and Your God'". The proclamation went out in the first verse and Jesus declared the work done in the second.

Has this prompted your curiosity to find out more? To rekindle that which is dormant,

to experience the new birth that Jesus promises?

Easter Sunday is drawing near. Curious? Why not look in this magazine to the church services page and choose one to attend. Let God use your curiosity to bring you closer to Him.

In Him, *Harry*

Around the Parishes: Colton

Songs of Praise, Colton - Sunday 22nd February 2026

Do we always need a sermon?

The message Rachel Tarr and team exemplified happily and clearly - how MUSIC can easily offer us the beauty of God's peace.

We sang together: *"Take from our lives the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace"*

It certainly did for me and I trust for others?

The entire programme, presented through singing, instruments, verse and sounds, evoking listening skills and memories, particularly childhood ones, innovative and inspiring.

The choice of music, verse and language was linked throughout the service, providing much thought.

We were never distracted - the momentum kept us listening.

The Colton Choristers - a most welcome surprise. The Addition was a delightful bonus - Thanks to you all.

Special thanks to Rachel and John Tarr who pulled everything together, the lighting, the seating, and the teas served after the service.

We must not also forget the Organist, Mark Latimer who made the organ sound triumphant in all its Glory and our Vicar, Brian Streeter for his ministrations and prayers.

I look forward to another similar service, when I can sing (out of tune).

A wonderful experience, I returned home feeling closer to God, everything linked very effectively, calmness and happiness.

Thank you.

Susan King

"No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of Life;

Life is nought without Thee: aid us in our strife;

Make us more than Conquerors, Through Thy deathless love;

Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above."

Colton Parish Council News April 2026

The Future of Colton Parish Council: have your say before 22nd April

Westmorland & Furness Council is reviewing the size and structure of local Parish Councils. They are considering whether Colton Parish Council should 'merge' or 'group' with Satterthwaite Parish Council. If the two are merged there will be one Parish Council for the whole of the area they currently cover, with a reduced number of Parish Councillors for both Parishes. If they are grouped, although there



will be one Parish Council meeting, but for the purposes of representation, there will be Councillors representing the existing wards from both Parish Councils. If either of these recommendations goes ahead, there will be significant changes for the ways in which our Parish Councils are organised. The third option is that both Parish Councils continue in their current format. What matters most is that local people have their say. The deadline for completing the online survey is **22nd April**. See <https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/community-governance-review> or, you can email: elections3@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk or write to *Westmorland and Furness Council Electoral Services, South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal LA9 4DQ* or speak to your local parish councillor.

Community Grants available Our small grant scheme is open for applications. Email the clerk for details or see our website <https://coltonparishcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Grant-awarding-policy-and-application-form-October-2022.pdf>

Road closures We are continuing to work with our neighbouring parish councils and Councillor Suzanne Pender, who represents our area on Westmorland & Furness Council, to raise concerns about the frequency and length of road closures. Whilst we completely understand that the road closures are in place to enable essential upgrading to broadband infrastructure, our aim is to minimise, as far as possible the impact on travel.

Support your village hall! We held a meeting for village hall committee members to help identify ways we can work together. Our village halls are wonderful community spaces that can be used for group activities and social gatherings, as well as formal meetings; but keeping them running is a challenge. Check out your nearest village hall to find out what's on!

*Our next meeting is 7pm **Monday 27th April** at **Finsthwaite & Lakeside Village Hall**. All welcome! Email us clerk@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk For all the latest information follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Look for Colton Parish Council South Lakes.*

Bouth Village Hall Coffee Mornings 2026

Filter Coffee or Tea with Biscuits: £2.00 Donation

10:30-12:30

An event for residents and non-residents alike

Fourth Wednesday of the month:

25th March 22nd April

Third Wednesday of the Month:

20th May 17th June 16th September

21st October 18th November

16th December (Christmas Special 10:30-13:30)

(Holiday months July and August)

Egton cum Newland

Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting (including the AGM) for Egton with Newland, Mansriggs & Osmotherley will be held on **Tuesday 5th May 2026** 7pm at Greenodd Village Hall. All welcome.

Greenodd and Penny Bridge Village Hall Annual General Meeting

To be held **28th April** at 7.00pm in Greenodd village hall. All welcome to attend, new members are **NEEDED** to keep the hall running and will be made welcome!

“Now is the time to air your thoughts”

The Crake Valley Friendship Club Coach Trip

The Crake Valley Friendship club's next coach trip of 2026 is on the **20th May**



We are going to ? ? ? HO! We don't Know as it is a scenic Mystery trip

There are spare seats on our trips which are up for grabs to none members, anyone is welcome to join us! £18 none members. For enquiries please contact *Anne* on

01229 861278

Coach leaves Greenodd 9.00 Prompt

ULVERSTON ROTARY PRESENTS **BECKI FISHWICK**



an evening of music
featuring songs from
over the years

also featuring Magic
from Richie Norman



Friday 17th April
Greenodd Village Hall
doors 7:00pm for 7:30pm start
Bar, tea & coffee

Tickets £10 available from H.C. regions
1 Market Street, Ulverston

Rotary Club of Ulverston Trust Fund Reg'd Charity No501060

Lowick



Coniston & Torver

Rainfall, Garden House, Coniston - February 2026

Total 265.3mm (10.4ins)

Wet days 24

More than 1mm on 20 days

Wettest day 25th - 47.0mm (1.9ins)

Coniston Parish Council

Lake Road Playground



As you may be aware Coniston Parish Council has secured sufficient funding to enable it to upgrade and renovate the playground on Lake Road. We have been very successful in securing grants from organisations such as *the Rawdon Smith Trust*, *National Lottery* and *Lakeland 100*.

Old favourite pieces of equipment will be renovated, and new equipment has been chosen to reflect the wishes of those children and their parents who took part in the consultation exercise in the autumn. The images of what the 'new' playground will look like can be found inside the front cover of the magazine (see page 2).

Unfortunately to undertake both the renovation work and the installation of new equipment the playground will have to close for a fortnight from the **13th to 27th April**. I know that this will be a disappointment and we would like to ask for your patience and understanding. We can only hope that when the playground reopens you'll agree the wait has been worthwhile.

Coniston Parish Council

Upcoming Coniston Parish Council meetings (please do come along):

- **20th April**
- **18th May** (Annual Parish and Annual Coniston Parish Council meeting)

If you are searching for information relating to the work of Coniston Parish Council, you might want to start at the Council website www.coniston.info. However, on a day-to-day basis much of the Parish Council's work and general information regarding *community events*, *emergency planning*, *road closures* etc. is posted on Facebook at Coniston Parish Council, if you don't already do so, follow us to be kept better informed.

You probably already know one or more of your parish councillors, however, if you want to contact them in their capacity as parish councillor you can do so by email at the contact details listed below:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • <i>Tracy Coward</i> , Chair | tracy.coward@coniston.info |
| • <i>James Buller</i> , Vice Chair | james.buller@coniston.info |
| • <i>Robert McCracken</i> | robert.mccracken@coniston.info |
| • <i>Derek Adams</i> | derek.adams@coniston.info |
| • <i>Lian Dixon</i> | lian.dixon@coniston.info |
| • <i>Libby Lea</i> | libby.lea@coniston.info |
| • <i>James Butcher</i> | james.butcher@coniston.info |

If your query is more general you might want to contact *Michael Dearnley*, the Parish Clerk, he can be contacted at: parish@coniston.info or by telephone **01539 441 442**.

Torver Parish Council

At the 5 March 2026 meeting, the Parish Council unanimously opposed proposed community governance changes that could merge or group Torver with neighbouring parishes, citing concerns about reduced local voice, while also agreeing to undertake a full parish-wide drainage review before progressing flood-mitigation measures; councillors discussed ongoing parking pressures on the Commons ahead of the Bluebird Festival (**11–17 May**), shared an update on Coniston Medical Practice

confirming a newly advertised 10-year GP contract from June 2026 and efforts to improve premises, noted the lack of response regarding untreated leaks at Torver Water Treatment Works and agreed to escalate the issue, approved January minutes and financial matters including a three-year comparison, co-opted Rick Graham to fill a vacancy, and confirmed the next meeting for **7 May 2026** at 7:30pm.

Coniston Surgery Meeting 6th March 2026

Over 100 people came to an open meeting with senior managers from the ICB (Integrated Care Board) arranged by the Coniston Patient Group.

Tracy Coward made a presentation of the time line from January 2025, when Dr Frey announced her retirement, to the current day. Tim Farron could not attend the meeting but sent a video message.

Dr A Knox, a GP and the medical director of the South Cumbria and Lancashire ICB, the most senior manager, gave an informative talk. He explained the 5 main responsibilities of the ICB to provide quality medical care to South Cumbria and Lancashire including Hospitals and GP services. He confirmed that the recruitment advertisement December 2025 to February 2026 had not received any bids. The ICB then extended temporary GP service to March and to 30 June.

He explained that the ICB are in continuous discussion with local practices, advertising nationally and considering as many options as possible.

We then had 30 minutes of Questions and Answers. These covered all of the main issues of the rural community of Coniston from transport links, the premises, the financial restrictions, and the delivery of prescription. Dr Knox explained that there are government formulae which control the finances of the GP practices, and the ICB are looking at any flexible approaches that would help our case. Dr Knox also pointed out that it is important to retain as many patient registrations as possible. When a concern was raised about information Dr Knox committed himself to returning with a full update at a meeting which is:

Friday 17th April John Ruskin School 6pm

Celebrating Eva - The Eva Cassidy Songbook

The UK's number 1 Eva Cassidy Tribute - Enjoy a beautiful evening at the Coniston Institute, with Helen May and her five piece band, celebrating the Music of Eva Cassidy. **May 22nd 2026** - doors 7pm Tickets: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/peppromotions/2074776> or contact *Dylan* on **07810210384**

Coniston and Torver Village Over 70's Trip

The Coniston and Torver village over 70's trip will be on **Friday June 19th** leaving Coniston bus shelter at 10am. We are visiting Barton Grange, having a ride on the canal followed by dinner at Crooklands. Everyone is welcome, to book a seat telephone *Gill* on **01539441116**.

Coniston Carers - 30 Years Celebration

The small and dedicated team which makes up Coniston Carers would like to celebrate with you over 30 years of Coniston Carers. Our aim remains, as it was in 1995, to support local people to live independently in the comfort of their own homes.

Our underlying principle is to care for others as we would wish our families and ourselves always to be treated, with respect, dignity and kindness.

We invite you to join us on the morning of the **28th of March** in the Reading Room, Coniston Institute for a drink and cake. We hope our clients, their families, staff from

over the years and those who value the service within our community can find time to pop in and enjoy a morning amongst friends.

Dairy Date: Coniston Carers Coffee Morning, **28th March**, The Reading Room from 10am until lunch.

Grants from the Coniston 14 Road Race

Each year the Coniston 14 Committee makes donations to support the work of about 30 local organisations, charities and clubs. This year, there's a new method of applying for Grants. All applications need to be made on a Grants form. This is available as a download from the website on the "About Us" page <https://www.coniston14.co.uk/about-us/history-and-fundraising/> The form is also available from the *Coniston 14 Facebook page* or hard copies can be collected from the Coniston Co-op. All application forms should be sent to: Coniston14@outlook.com The closing date for grant applications is **30th April 2026**. A Presentation Evening is held each year in **June** at the Sports and Social Centre in Coniston.



CONISTON CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD

The Committee met on 10 March 2026, approved prior minutes, and reviewed a stabilising financial position with due diligence completed, supplier invoices scheduled for direct debit, and year-end accounts finalised and signed for AGM circulation; following advice from Co-operatives UK, it agreed to update governance rules for member approval at the 25 March AGM and confirmed authority to dispose of assets below one-third of net asset value to address financial pressures, instructing Matthews Benjamin to proceed; property management continued with completed shop window installations and active marketing, health and safety documentation from an NFU review was approved for staff communication, a new staff appointment and four new members were noted, and future dates - including the AGM on 25 March and the next Committee meeting on 14 April 2026 - were confirmed before the meeting closed.

Coniston Children, Youth and Community Worker

Last month we reported that Chris Clark, Coniston's Children, Youth and Community Worker under the 'Love Coniston' banner, has been visiting every house in Coniston to ask what's going well in the village and if there are any gaps that Love Coniston could be helping with. Here are some statistics from that work:



- Properties visited to date (residential houses, schools, businesses, but not holiday lets): **464**
- Number of responses (answers at door): **194**
- Additional forms returned: **14** (including one email)
- Welfare checks list for Parish Council: **9**
- Smoke alarm requests to pass on to Cumbria Fire and Rescue: **8**

Once again, a huge thanks from Chris for all the contributions given. The trustee group for Chris' work are now beginning to meet, collate and review all of these, and more communications will be featured in future editions of the Parish News.

To contact Chris, email conistoncfw@gmail.com, call/text/whatsapp: **07594 775046**, or catch him around the village.

Reports

Oxen Park Cinema Club



The last films of the season

28th March - an extra showing of 'Santosh' for those who booked in February (that show was postponed) - contact *Carol* by email if you'd like a seat - a few left. It will be pay on the door.

Tuesday 7th April - 'Civil War', 7.30pm and **Saturday 18th April** - 'I'm Still Here' 7.30pm. Book these through the website.

Oxen Park News

April events

Friday 10th April last of our Spring Friday presentations - "Where are we with wildlife reintroductions in Cumbria?" a summary of the current situation in our county. What chance seeing Lynx, Beavers or White-tailed eagles in the future? An illustrated talk from Colin Barr featuring a presentation by Jenny Williams (Natural England). Book in with *Carol* (clrmcneill@gmail.com). £5 pay on the door. Start 7.30pm. Raffle - £1 a ticket.

Dog Club will start again - for puppies and young dogs (also older dogs OK) - obedience and socialisation. Outside by OP Reading Room. £2 per dog. A 4-5 week block starting towards the end of April. Tuesdays 5.30 - 6.15. Start date possibly 28th to be confirmed. If you are interested contact *Carol* for final details.

Rusland Valley Community Trust

We have a small pot of money to help local groups such as schools, nurseries, and clubs with funding towards projects. We are restricted to the areas of the Parish Councils of Colton and Satterthwaite but can include Hawkshead, Leven Valley and Penny Bridge primary schools.

In the past we have helped with expenses relating to courses including those for photography, upholstery, and computer skills. We have also helped with the setting up of clubs such as those for writing, handbell ringing, table tennis and orienteering.

So if you need financial help or have an idea for an activity or event to benefit the communities of these parishes and schools please apply to the trustees by contacting *Angus Adams* - anguslighthall@gmail.com

Guides, Brownies and Rainbows

Girlguiding would like to welcome new young members to several Units across our area. We have Rainbows to Rangers in Broughton. Rainbows to Guides in Hawkshead, and Rainbows to Rangers in Ulverston. Girls aged 4-7 Rainbows, 7-10 Brownies, 10-14 Guides and Rangers 14-18. We do a wide range of activities from canoeing to cooking, mountain climbing to visiting the city. We offer a safe space to girls and women who can volunteer for a wide range of opportunities within Cumbria.

Mother's Union Report - 2026 February



February's meeting of MU members began with worship including the reading of the parable of the Great Supper, Luke ch14 v15 -24, part of our topic for the day. Prayers for the meeting were on Peace, Royal Family and Creator and Sustainer of all life. Members had each chosen a parable to read with explanations and thoughts about their meanings, while examples were also given which led to plenty of discussion. Thanks were given to Jean Edwards for hosting the meeting after finishing with tea and cakes.

The next MU meeting will be celebrating Lady Day, The Annunciation on **25th March** with other groups in the Deanery. The service is to be held at 2pm at *St, James's church Barrow*. All are welcome.

For further information contact Kay **015394 41559**

Egton WI

Our March meeting had a good turn out and we could tell Spring is coming as the 'Flower of the Month' competition had lovely entries. Our speaker was local business woman Claire McKeever from Pure Lakes skin products. Claire shared about the origins of the business in Stavely and how they aim to make natural and affordable products. She went on to talk about how the business moved to Far Sawrey with her close family ties to the village and determination to stay local. We learned how they have been able to diversify and remain sustainable in the Lakes. We had the opportunity to identify some of the essential oils used in their products and hear about their properties. We would very much like to try one of the soap or candle-making workshops they offer and we wish their business continued success.



A date for the calendar - we will be putting on an afternoon tea on **Saturday 16th May** in Greenodd Village Hall for £12 per person.

In our next meeting on **Tuesday 14th April**, 7.30pm in Greenodd Village Hall, we will hear from fitness coach HP Activities about enjoying life through mobility. Visitors/new members are always welcome.

For further information call **07519144799**.

A TASTE OF SINGING

The Ghyll Singers are a ladies choir based in Ulverston, but members come from all over South West Cumbria. On **Tuesday 14 April 2026** we are holding a "Taster Evening" at our rehearsal venue – *Emmanuel Christian Centre, Mill St, Ulverston* (entrance via the back of the building). All ladies who would like to see what we do, and possibly consider joining the choir, are welcome to this free event which will be starting at 7:15pm for 2 hours.

The choir sing a wide range of pieces: from folk songs to classical, from Swing to pop song arrangements. They perform concerts around the area, including regular visits to residential care homes. During the Taster Evening, Musical Director, Deborah Milledge, will work through some easy first steps, warming up our voices and showing how the journey is made from singing simple melodies to working in harmony, where 3 or sometimes 4 different strands of music are all woven together.

There is no requirement to read music, and no age limits, but if you already enjoy singing, or would like to give it a go, please come along. No need to book, but if you have any questions beforehand, please contact the Secretary, *Angela*, on **07780 441594**.

BRANTWOOD NEWS AND VIEWS

We are now open every day from 10.30am – 4.00pm (gardens 4.30pm). The Terrace Café opens every day 10.00am-4.00pm.



There is still time to catch '**East Side Story – Portrait of a Lakes Road in Winter**' exhibition which continues in the Severn Studio until **12th April**. These evocative photographs by local photographer **Ken Royall** depict the East of Lake road in Coniston including some of the characters that live and work there.

This is followed by **'Exploration' A collection of Works by Green Door Artists**. **18th April – 5th July**. Following their successful exhibition in 2023, Green Door artists

are returning to the Severn Studio this spring and early summer to present an exhibition that invites the viewer to join them in being curious about the world around us, as they respond to the theme of Exploration. The artists have gone anywhere their imagination takes them allowing you to explore with them, new places, new ideas, or new colour palettes and techniques. There will be opportunities to meet the artists throughout the exhibition on **Fri 24 April** and **Sat 20 June**.

SPECIAL SUMMER EXHIBITION in the Blue Gallery, Brantwood, Coniston LA21 8AD

1st May – 11th October 2026 - Treasures of the Earth – The Mineral World of John Ruskin

Ruskin was one of the largest private collectors of minerals in 19th Century and gave invaluable collections to public institutions, schools and universities. With loans of remarkable specimens, Treasures of the Earth explores his love of stones and their meaning to him. The exhibition coincides with the publication of The Mineral World of John Ruskin by Roy Starkey. Roy will be giving a talk about his research during the exhibition and other related events are being planned over the Summer.

For full details of all our exhibitions, events and bookings, please visit our website www.brantwood.org.uk. Contact enquiries@brantwood.org.uk or call **015394 41396**.

The Farmer's Arms Lowick Green / Grizedale Arts

THE
FARMER'S
ARMS

Easter Sunday Lunch at The Farmer's Arms - Candles, fresh flowers, a crackling log fire, and the Stable Bar open from midday for drinks. Join us for a proper Easter Sunday lunch with a choice of three options for each course and something for everyone, including vegan options. As always, we're using the best local produce we can get our hands on, carefully prepared and cooked from scratch - and that includes the bread. It's £46 per person for four courses. *Pre-bookings only (no walk-ins, sorry), so do get on it pronto.*

A 24/7 Farmers' Market (Coming Soon) - Thanks to generous support from the Royal Countryside Fund, we'll soon be installing a refrigerated vending machine in our foyer - essentially a small, self-service farmers' market open 24 hours a day. The machine will stock everyday essentials such as fresh milk, alongside local produce including valley apple juice, vinegar and other seasonal goods. It will also provide an opportunity for local farmers, bakers and growers to sell refrigerated produce directly through the machine. If you produce something delicious and would like to take part, we'd love to hear from you. The machine will be going live soon, so please do get in touch to find out more.

Ceramics with Adam Sutherland - Every Wednesday starting **1st April** (with an additional Thursday group beginning **2nd April**), join Adam Sutherland for a five-week ceramics course. Each session runs for two hours, offering a comprehensive introduction to ceramics - from clay to kiln. You may be surprised to hear that Grizedale Arts director Adam Sutherland has been a potter for over fifty years. Beginning at school in Devon, Adam has worked with many noted architects and artists on bespoke ceramic commissions, as well as developing the pub's popular mocha ware decorated range, which is available in our onsite shop. Adam began teaching ceramics in London in the 1980s and has continued to inspire and educate both new and experienced potters ever since. Across the five weeks, participants will explore a range of techniques including coiling, slab building, and throwing on the potter's wheel. You'll be guided through the whole process - building,

finishing, decorating and glazing - and will be able to take home your finished pieces at the end of the course.

Friday Ceramics Drop-Ins - For those who'd like a more casual introduction, we're also running ceramics drop-in sessions every Friday from 10am–4pm. These are £6 per session and can be paid onsite.

Community Electric Van for Hire - Our spacious all-electric van is still available for community hire at a subsidised rate. It proves useful for all sorts of jobs - from small moves to market runs - and it even has a refrigeration option, making it particularly handy for anyone transporting fresh produce. If you're interested in booking the van, please get in touch and we'll be happy to help.

Exhibition in the Stable Bar – *Three Generations* - We are delighted be hosting *Three Generations*, an exhibition by Jess Levine, bringing together her work alongside that of her mother and grandmother. To exhibit three generations within a single lineage is to ask what it means for creativity to be shaped at the kitchen table as much as in the studio. What passes between grandmother, mother, and daughter may be technique, sensitivity to material, or thematic preoccupation - but it may also be something less visible: a permission to make, a model of artistic life, a way of seeing the world.

The Cafeteen - Our teen-run Cafeteen continues to go strong. The young team are still hard at work keeping the place lively each Saturday serving lunches, coffees, cakes- the works. It remains a cheerful and much-loved part of the week, and we're always grateful to everyone who comes along to support them.

Our Wonderful Saturday Bar Volunteers - Many thanks, as always, to the volunteers who give their time every Saturday to open and run the bar. We simply couldn't do it without this generous group of community members who step in each week to pour drinks, welcome neighbours and keep the pub lively. It has become a much-loved part of the week - a proper village moment where people drift in, catch up and settle in by the fire. The warmth of it owes a great deal to the people behind the bar who give their time so cheerfully. If you'd like to join the team, we'd be delighted to hear from you. New recruits are always welcome, and it's a friendly and sociable way to lend a hand while being part of something the whole community enjoys.

Community Lunch - Thank You Rosemary and Brian - A special thank you goes to Rosemary and Brian- week after week they cook and serve a generous, hearty meal with great care and good humour, creating a welcoming table for anyone who fancies good food and good company. For just £7 you get two courses and plenty of tea and coffee.

What's On in April –

2nd April: Soup Talk- Silly, Serious and Survival, Renaissance 1974 to 1994 - Denis McGeary, former Executive Director of Ulverston's Renaissance Theatre Trust talks about 20 tempestuous and wonderful years presenting arts events throughout Cumbria, from Stage Fight Workshops, Polka Children's Theatre, Opera 80 (English Touring Opera) the Royal Shakespeare Company, celebrity lectures, jazz, street theatre, kite making. Making things happen in theatres, halls, schools, streets, parks, churches and a cattle auction ring. Ad hoc performances that made jaded, seasoned jazz musicians blush. Encouraging people to 'just do it'.

9th April: Soup Talk- Emma Sumner - In 2023, after supporting the transformation and leading the fundraising campaign that helped save The Farmer's Arms, Emma

made a significant shift, leaving rural Cumbria to move to Jaipur, India, to become Director of the Public Arts Trust of India. In this talk, Emma reflects on the realities of building cultural infrastructure across contexts, exploring what it means to work internationally with care and reciprocity; how public art can function as a tool for exchange rather than extraction; and what she learned from two transformative years working alongside artists and communities in India.

23rd April: Poetry Writing Workshop – Expansion and Contraction - Come and explore how poets write the big and the small, how they 'see a world in a grain of sand, and heaven in a wild flower'. Using poems and other prompts, participants will be encouraged to produce their own work in a supportive and encouraging environment. No previous experience is necessary but the workshop will also cater for more experienced poets or writers. Just bring pen, paper and enthusiasm. £20 PP, pre-booking online essential!

7th May: Soup Talk- Christopher Pratt – The Keswick School of Industrial Arts - Christopher Pratt will talk about the remarkable story of the Keswick School of Industrial Arts on behalf of Keswick Museum. Founded in the late nineteenth century, the school became famous for its beautifully crafted copper and silver metalwork, designed and made in the Lake District and sold across Britain and beyond. Rooted in the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement, it provided skilled employment in Keswick while producing distinctive hand-worked objects that are still highly prized today. Christopher will explore the people, the craftsmanship, and the legacy of this unique Cumbrian institution.

EMRYS Walking & Music Tour of the Lake District

Emerging from the creative London jazz scene, EMRYS are a trio of unique young artists crafting original music; they are Sam Nicholls (drums), Isaac Burland (double bass) and Chris Outhwaite (piano).



Walking to a Venue Near You... In spring 2026, EMRYS are embarking on a week-long 'Walking and Music Tour of the Lake District'. Inspired by Poet Laureate Simon

Armitage's book 'Walking Home', the trio will trek across the fells, valleys and waterways of the Lake District, with each day's walk leading to a concert in churches, village halls, schools, and community spaces. Their journey is an exploration of how music grows in conversation with landscape and the communities within. Recordings

from each concert will form their debut album. All events will be free entry (tickets available in advance and on the door) and audience members will have the option to donate towards the project after the concert. EMRYS invite you to join them on each day's walk, details for which can be found on their website. ***Reserve your seat now!***

The Concerts: 16th April Penrith Methodist Church 7:30pm - 17th April Keswick St John's Church 7:30pm - 18th April Cockermouth URC Church 7pm - 19th April Grasmere Village Hall 6:30pm - 20th April Ambleside Parish Centre 12.30pm - 21st April Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston 7pm - 22nd April North West Music Academy, Barrow 7pm - 23rd April Ghyllside Primary School, Kendal 3:30pm

For press & radio enquires contact: emrystrio@gmail.com Website: emrysmusic.com
Instagram: [@emrys_music_](https://www.instagram.com/emrys_music_)

Rookhow

Rookhow's Retreat Away Fund

Over the last 5 years the Retreat Away Fund has supported over 2,000 people from 90 groups to have a subsidised stay at Rookhow.



Initially set up with a grant from the Quaker Mental Health Fund UK, it is now supported by local Quaker Meetings, individuals and 5% from Rookhow's bookings income. Groups have included refugees, people dealing with addictions and trauma, homelessness charities and youth groups. The next deadline for applications is **1st April**.

Fundraiser concert

South Lakes Acapella Choir will be presenting a concert at Rookhow on **Monday 20th April** at 7pm. This will be a fundraiser for Rookhow's Retreat Away Fund. Cash donations on the door.

Quaker Meetings in the Rusland Valley

- Every 1st Wednesday 7.30-8pm
- Every 1st and 3rd Friday 12.30-1pm

Non Quakers and local people are welcome, even if you have not been to a Quaker Meeting before. Join with others in a gathered silence. Rookhow, LA12 8LA

Open Days & Quiet Garden Movement

Rookhow continues to be open to the public on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month 10am-4pm all year round. Come and be shown round the 300 year old Meeting House, take time to wander in the woodland and chat with our friendly volunteers over tea and homemade cakes. All are welcome. No charge. Donations welcome. Potential volunteers are even more welcome!

A reminder that on Open Days, Quakers' Wood is available as a 'Quiet space'. Rookhow is now a member of the Quiet Gardens movement. Just let us know when you arrive that you are here for Quiet Garden time and you'll be free to wander undisturbed!

Rookhow is a Quaker charity.

Website: rookhow.org.uk Email: info@rookhow.org.uk Tel **07377 971783**

Green Sparks News April 2026

7.30 Thursday 9th April Restoring Rusland's Rare Rainforest Water Yeat Village Hall. Doors at 7pm. £5 inc. tea and coffee book here www.e-voice.org.uk/wyvh or see www.facebook.com/wateryeatvillagehall/ Marion Brown will be talking about how this local project is surveying, protecting and restoring this precious and threatened habitat.

7.30pm Friday 10th April Where Are We With Wildlife? Oxen Park Carthouse Cinema. £5 on the door. Proceeds to Oxen Park Reading Room. A summary of wildlife reintroductions in Cumbria with local resident Colin Barr and Jenny Williams from Natural England. There will be a raffle too. You are welcome to get a drink from the Manor across the road and bring it in with you. No food, thanks. To book email greensparks.sparkbridge@gamil.com

Ulverston Eco Fair 10.30-3.30 Saturday 18th April at the Coro. This is a free event for all the family with exhibitors and activities to join in with.

Big Green Week 2026: 6th-14th June This is a national initiative coordinated by the Climate Coalition as a way of raising awareness of climate change and the biodiversity crisis, and getting more people involved in supporting nature and taking action to reduce their carbon footprint. This year Great Big Green Week overlaps with The Big Lunch, an annual campaign to bring people together to share

friendship, food and fun. We're encouraging community groups across Cumbria to get involved this June and host an activity or event! Westmorland & Furness Council has grants of up to £300 for groups wanting to organise an event for Big Green Week. See <https://zerocarboncumbria.co.uk/action/gbgw/#grants> The deadline for applications is **4th May**.

Support to make your home greener Thinking about improving your home with a green heating system, better insulation or not sure where to start? Futureproof Cumbria is offering a free 45 minute phone consultation to help you think about your retrofit and upgrade options. Call them on **01768 216 500** or see <https://futureproofcumbria.org.uk/homes/retrofit/>

Litter picking We're all frustrated by the accumulation of litter along our roads and lanes. If you want to organise a local litter pick Colton Parish Council has litter picking equipment to lend you. Email clerk@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tips for safe litter picking: Be aware of the risks from passing traffic and your visibility. Avoid dangerous areas. Wear gloves and high vis jackets. Work in pairs or groups. Make sure that any children are supervised. Don't pick up hazardous items, report them to the Council.

*Keep in touch and share your news by emailing
greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com*

Cumbria Wildlife Trust: Rusland Local Support Group



22nd April - Evening talk at Oxen Park Cinema, 7.30pm, Kevin Grice, "The Local Archaeology of the Rusland Valley and Woodlands". £3 on the door.

3rd May - Dawn Chorus walk, Hay Bridge Nature Reserve, 6.30am. Max 12 people. £5. Please register via our email address or via our webpage – see below.

Other events to come! We are looking for additional members for our Group, so if you would like to take part in steering conservation and wildlife activities in Rusland, please let us know.

As always, you can also keep in touch with us by: Joining the [Wild about Rusland](#) Facebook group, contacting us by email on RuslandLSG@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk or going to: <https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/rusland>

Thank You from Coniston Community

Community lunch - Helen and Tom Glaister have stepped down from organising the Monday community lunches through the winter. They've been doing this for many years, giving countless meals, warmth and friendship to so many in the village. They've very much earned a break but all they have done has brought joy in the village and has been hugely appreciated. The lunches will continue next winter and Helen and Tom are very, very welcome to come and be served themselves!

Alan - one of Coniston's taxi drivers, has recently retired from offering taxi services. He has given a reliable and friendly service over many years and will be missed from the role. We wish him the very best in his retirement.

If you know of anyone who might be nominated for a thank you? Let us know!

Chris Clark

Parish Prayer Diary April 2026

1st: Hold before God our broken and hurting world, praying for an end to violence and warfare.

2nd: Reflect on the last Passover meal Jesus shared with his disciples and the significance of that event, commemorated at each Holy Communion service.

3rd: On this Good Friday morning remember our Lord's walk through the streets of Jerusalem to Golgotha. This afternoon, remember His final hour on the cross and meditate on his final words, "It is finished!" (*John 19:30*)

4th: Pray for situations that seem so hopeless, offering them to God for Him to work His restoration miracle.

5th: Sunday, Easter Day HALLELUJAH – CHRIST IS RISEN!

Celebrate with Christians all around the world, rejoicing and proclaiming together "He is risen indeed!"

6th: Pray for those undertaking theology studies and ordination training in preparation for ministry within the national Christian fellowship.

7th: Pray that many more countries will take up the ambitious goal of providing people access to healthcare without the worry of financial hardship.

8th: Pray for those moving into a care home; that they will have the courage and understanding to accept and adapt to their new situation. Pray also for the staff as they help new residents settle into their new surroundings.

9th: Pray for increased social awareness of the needs of autistic children and adults, especially those who find the world a noisy and confusing place.

10th: Pray for children in strained family situations.

11th: Pray for Christians in Yemen taking risks to meet at secret house churches; pray especially for those who no longer meet for fear of discovery and reprisals. Pray also for Yeminiis who are searching for truth and finding out about Jesus via online chats with secret Christians.

12th: Sunday, the first day of the week

Pray the risen Jesus opens the door of our hearts that we may seek the good of others and walk joyfully the road of sacrifice and peace, to His praise and glory.

13th: Pray for children and staff returning to school for start of Summer term.

14th: Pray for our Government and all in positions of authority, and the impact of their decisions and actions.

15th: Pray for all who need the Lord's comfort and healing.

16th: Pray for anyone experiencing bullying or harassment, either physically or online.

17th: Pray over the opportunities given to the local and national Church to minister to people in material need through food provision, housing projects, debt support, advice and compassion.

18th: Pray parents and God-parents will take seriously promises they make to nurture the Christian spiritual development of children they bring for baptism.

19th: Sunday, the first day of the week

Pray our risen Lord, who filled His first disciples with boldness and fresh hope, may strengthen us to proclaim His risen life and fill us with peace that passes all earthly understanding.

20th: Pray for people who are in debt and bearing the deprivation, anxiety and hopelessness this can bring.

21st: Pray for Christian chaplains ministering in schools and colleges.

22nd: Pray for Haiti as gang violence escalates and expands, intensifying food insecurity and instability. Pray for the Christian church addressing both spiritual and physical needs, being a source of stability amid crises, bringing hope and purpose.

23rd: Pray for our local businesses.

24th: Pray for the Churchwardens of the churches across the Benefice as they faithfully and responsibly oversee the care for the fabric of our church buildings.

25th: Pray for the volunteer crew and medical staff of *Mercy Ships*, the charity that deploys modern hospital ships to some of the poorest countries to deliver vital surgical healthcare freely to people in desperate need.

26th: **Sunday, the first day of the week**

Rejoice that Jesus our Saviour is the resurrection and the life and through our faith and trust in Him we are safe in His care, today, tomorrow, for always.

27th: Pray for all who live and work in the communities of Low and High Nibthwaite, Colton and Oxen Park.

28th: Pray for all involved in marine conservation, working toward a cleaner, better protected, healthier ocean.

29th: Pray for foster parents and the children in their care.

30th: Pray for the Rev Canon Dr Michael Leyden as he is consecrated Suffragan Bishop of Penrith at a service in York Minster on today.

From the Registers

St. Luke's, Lowick, 19th April 2026, Baptism of Edward Andrew Maclean

Readings for April 2026

5th	Acts 10.34-43	Matthew 28.1-10
12th	Acts 2.14a, 22-32	John 20.19-31
19th	Acts 2.14a, 36-41	Luke 24.13-35
26th	Acts 2.42-47	John 10.1-10

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Tuesday	Coffee and Chat, 9.45 - 10.45am	Greenodd Village Hall
Tuesday	Coniston CAMEO 2 - 4pm	Coniston Institute
Tuesday	Youth Club age 11 & over 7 - 9pm	Coniston S & S Centre
Wednesday	Yoga 7 - 8pm 07471 421 153 to book	Coniston S & S Centre
Wednesday	Lowick Parent & Toddler Group 9.30 - 11.30am (term time only) £1.50	Lowick Community Hall
Wednesday	Walking Football, 6.30 - 8pm	Coniston S & S Centre
Thursday	Community Lunch, 1pm sharp, £7	Farmers Arms, Lowick
Thursday	"Young at Heart" exercise and lunch, 11am £5 (term time only) or just come for lunch at 12 noon.	Coniston S&S Centre
Thursday	Volunteer Day 9.30 - 3.30pm	Brantwood Gardens
Thursday	Zumba 6.30pm with Valentyna	Coniston Primary School
Thursday	Netball Skills 6.30 - 7.30pm	Coniston S & S Centre
Thursday	Little Kicks, a football session for 4-6 year olds, 5.30pm	Coniston S & S Centre
Friday	Junior Cricket	Coniston Cricket Club
2 nd Tuesday	Egton WI, 7.30pm	Greenodd Village Hall
2 nd Tuesday	Ulverston Repair Café 6.30-8.30pm	Croftlands Community Centre
3 rd Tuesday	Coniston WI, 7.30pm,	Coniston Institute
1 st Wednesday	Prayer Hour - 10 - 11am	St Mary's, Penny Bridge
3 rd Wednesday	Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12.30pm	Bouth Village Hall

What's On Guide - April

2nd	Soup Talk - Silly, Serious and Survival, Renaissance 1974 to 1994 - see page 15	The Farmer's Arms
4th	Lowick YFC Easter Big Breakfast - see page 8	Greenodd Village Hall
4th	The Blackheart Orchestra - see page 32	Water Yeat Village Hall
7th	Film - 'Civil War' - see page 12	Oxen Park Cinema Club
9th	Restoring Rusland's Rare Rainforest - see pages 17 & 32	Water Yeat Village Hall
9th	Soup Talk - Emma Sumner - see pages 15-16	The Farmer's Arms
10th	Spring Friday presentations - 'Where are we with wildlife reintroductions in Cumbria?' - see pages 12 & 17	Carthouse Cinema
14th	A TASTE OF SINGING - The Ghyll Singers Ladies Choir - see page 13	Emmanuel Christian Centre
14th	Egton WI - Fitness Coach HP Activities - see page 13	Greenodd Village Hall
16th-23rd	EMRYS Walking & Music Tour of the Lake District - see page 16	(See Page 16)
17th	Becki Fishwick - see page 8	Greenodd Village Hall
17th	Coniston Surgery Meeting - see page 10	John Ruskin School
17th	Holly Clarke - see page 31	Coniston Institute
18th	Film - 'I'm Still Here' - see page 12	Oxen Park Cinema Club
18th	Ulverston Eco Fair - see page 17	The Coro
22nd	Bouth Village Hall Coffee Morning - see page 7	Bouth Village Hall
22nd	Kevin Grice, "The Local Archaeology of the Rusland Valley and Woodlands" - see page 18	Oxen Park Cinema
23rd	Poetry Writing Workshop - Expansion and Contraction - see page 16	The Farmer's Arms

**Please send all articles and events for the May Magazine by April 15th to
editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk**

CONISTON INSTITUTE

A photograph of a person with long hair, wearing a red shirt and dark pants, standing in a forest and playing an acoustic guitar. The sun is shining through the trees, creating a warm, hazy atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

HOLLY CLARKE

WITH:

AMY THATCHER

ANNA HUGHES

JOHN POPE

"WILD FERAL FIERCE"

ALBUM LAUNCH TOUR SPRING 2026.

FRIDAY 17TH APRIL

TICKETS £15 online: conistoninstitute.uk

DOORS 7:00PM PERFORMANCE 8:00PM

NO BAR – BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS – RAFFLE

ENQUIRIES : 07789591619

WATER YEAT VILLAGE HALL

Presents

The Blackheart Orchestra



The Blackheart Orchestra are British multi-award winning, multi-instrumentalists Chrissy Mostyn and Rick Pilkington. Recent winners of the UK Rising Stars of Progressive Music Award, chosen by British musical legend Mike Batt as his favourite new album on Times Radio's Old and New show and as one of At The Barrier's Best 20 Concerts of 2025 they comprise a two person 'orchestra' playing up to 13 instruments in their unique live show.

"Simply one of the most beautiful and powerful artists I have ever seen live" - Lee Graham: The Rock Show

"An amazing noise" - Mark Radcliffe BBC Radio 6 Music

"A life-enhancing listening experience" - Louder Than War

With influences from as far afield as Sigur Ros and Kate Bush to modern composers Steve Reich and Philip Glass, they combine their folk and rock roots with electronica and classical with Genesis founder Steve Hackett calling their music "Powerful and inspiring".

Saturday 4th April. 8pm (doors 7.30)

£15 cash/card on the door or in advance

www.wegotickets.com/wateryeatvillagehall - no booking fee
Café/table seating. No bar, bring your own drinks and nibbles

&

Restoring Rusland's Rare Rainforest

The Rusland Valley is blessed with valuable remnants of Temperate Rainforest – a habitat that only 1% of the earth's landmass can support. Once this species rich woodland covered 20% of the Western Seaboard of the UK. Now it is only 1%.

Come and hear about how we are working to survey, protect and restore this internationally rare and beautiful environment.

A talk by Marion Brown



Thursday 9th April

Starts 7.30pm – door opens at 7pm

£5 entry - includes tea/coffee/biscuit on arrival

www.e-voice.org.uk/wyvh

www.facebook.com/wateryeatvillagehall/