

Coniston and Crake Valley News



Coniston
&Crake
Churches

May 2026 www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk

Parking Measures for Coniston During Bluebird K7 - The Festival

To ensure the safe and efficient management of traffic during Bluebird K7 - The Festival a series of temporary parking measures will be implemented throughout the village from **11th - 17th May 2026**.

These measures are designed to reduce congestion, maintain access for emergency services, and enhance the overall experience for residents and visitors.

Designated event parking areas will be clearly signposted on all main approach routes into the village, with stewards on hand to direct vehicles accordingly.

Temporary parking restrictions, including no-parking zones and controlled waiting area and cones will be in effect along key roads. These restrictions are necessary to keep routes clear for emergency vehicles and local traffic.

The only road that will be closed to motor vehicles is the East Side of the Lake; this is to ensure there is a "Blue Route" out of the village in the case of an emergency.

Station Road has a road closure notice on it, but this would only be brought into force as a temporary measure to reduce congestion on Lake Road if needed.

Lake Road will be closed below the bridge to ensure a safe environment for everyone visiting the event during the week.

Illegally parked vehicles may be subject to enforcement action, including fines or removal.

Our goal is to ensure residents will always retain access to their properties and businesses.

We are providing permits for all locals to display in their vehicles to ensure a smooth unrestricted journey into the village, everyone displaying these permits on their dashboard will be automatically waved through the traffic measures ensuring there is no delay in your journey.

**PLEASE COLLECT PERMITS FROM THE RUSKIN MUSEUM AT YOUR CONVENIENCE FROM THE 27th of APRIL 2026 ONWARDS
THEY SHOULD BE DISPLAYED ON YOUR DASHBOARD
THROUGHOUT THE EVENT**

11-17TH MAY 2026

These measures are in place to support a safe, enjoyable, and well-organised event for everyone in Coniston. Cooperation from all visitors and residents is greatly appreciated.

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, 07505 048736
Penny Bridge. *Brian works for Filling Station on Thursday*
LA12 7RQ *Brian's rest day is Friday*

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

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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**.

Church Services for May 2026

3rd			
Fifth Sunday of Easter			
St Luke, Torver	9.00am	Biker Breakfast	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Luke, Lowick	9.30am	Morning Worship	Chris Clark
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Grace Cauldwell
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10th			
Sixth Sunday of Easter			
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Holy Communion By Extension	Pamela Hull
Abbot Park Farm	11.00am	Lambing Service	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Morning Worship	John Hutchinson
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17th			
Seventh Sunday of Easter			
St. Luke, Torver	9.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Morning Worship	Karen Edmondson
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24th			
Pentecost			
St. Luke, Lowick	9.30am	Methodist Service	Hayley Edmondson
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	Morning Worship	Pam Priestley
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Healing Service	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Morning Worship	Bob Mantle
St. Luke, Torver	7.00pm	Torver Junction	Rev Brian Streeter
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31st			
Trinity			
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Christians Together in Coniston (United Service)	Rev Dr Daniel Pratt- Morris-Chapman
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion (Greenodd Village Hall)	Rev Brian Streeter

Tottlebank Baptist Church - Saturday Special - Mini bible school - a journey through the bible - last Saturday of the month. This month the subject is Exodus chapter 3 - "Hot and bothered!" - Moses and the burning bush and the speaker is Chris Hamps.

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

- **Saturday 9th May 2026** - 10am-12.30pm - *Coffee Morning* - see page 31
- **Wednesday 24th June 2026** - 7.30 pm - *The Dorian Players*

Pastoral Letter - Pam Priestley

Dear All,

Something which really excites me at the moment is rushing over to the potting shed (acts like a greenhouse) to see if my seeds have grown! When I first saw the green tip of a Mange tout sprouting a couple of weeks ago, it was a great day! I can't help but marvel at tiny seeds which have the germ of life within them.

In the church's calendar, we are still in the season of Easter and so the emphasis there on new life and resurrection is mirrored in all that we see around us in creation - browns turning to green, shoots unfolding as flowers, leaves beginning to appear on bare branches, all with the background symphony of bird song.

For me, belief in a Creator God is a foundation stone in my life echoing the Psalmist's words, recorded so long ago 'the heavens declare the glory of God' and in a more modern translation 'How plainly it shows what He has done'.

Recently Artemis 11 has returned from its journey to the other side of the moon. 'They didn't find God there either', said the sceptics but Victor Glover, pilot of Artemis 11 said that viewing earth from space deepened his appreciation for creation and his belief in God. He looked at the earth from 240,000 miles and saw the hand of the Creator even more clearly.

Many years ago a French revolutionary boasted to a peasant 'we are going to pull down all that reminds you of God'. The peasant replied 'then start with the stars'.

In this continuing Easter season we look with awe and wonder to the God 'who flung stars into space', who hung on a cross and who rose from the grave so that we might have the new life and hope which He promises. Hallelujah!

Love Pam

SONGS OF PRAISE



Is there a hymn or worship song that when you hear the tune it just makes you want to sing it? If so, then we want to know!

On Sunday 21st June 2026, 4.30pm at St. Andrew's, Coniston, we will be holding our own **Songs of Praise**. So bring your best singing voice and invite those you know who also enjoy a good sing. Also, there is an opportunity to join in with the community choir beforehand to practice and then perform. We are not looking for perfection, just enjoyment.

Please do send me your favourite hymn or worship song, or your suggestions, or whether you would like to be part of the community choir for this event. Please email vicar@conistonandcrake.churches.co.uk or send to *the Vicarage, Penny Bridge, LA12 7RQ*.

Brian Streeter

Around the Parishes: Colton

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

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)

Colton Parish Council News May 2026



Community Governance Review Colton Parish Council has rejected Westmorland & Furness Council's proposal that it merges with Satterthwaite Parish Council on the grounds that the proposed new parish are would be too large. The recommendation under consideration was for a larger area covered by fewer councillors, reducing local representation and risking the connection between councillors and local communities. However, as there are lots of issues that affect people in both Colton and Satterthwaite, we are committed to the two Parish Councils working together informally when it is in everyone's interest to do this. A good example of recent partnership working between the two Parish Councils has been the efforts to reduce the impact on residents and businesses caused by all the road closures. We will now have to wait and see how Westmorland & Furness Council responds to our submission. The meeting at which they will be discussing the Community Governance Review will be on **30th July**.

We're delighted to welcome Iain Bowman, who is joining the Parish Council as a representative of our East Ward, Finsthwaite and Lakeside. As well as living in the area and bringing his personal experience of the issues in the East Ward, Iain has lots of business experience that will add a valuable perspective to the Council.

Save the date – Tuesday 2nd June 2026; you are invited to join us at the Annual Meeting of the Parish at Hay Bridge Nature Reserve. Join us at **6.45 for a walk** round the reserve **and/or at 7.45 for refreshments and a discussion** about the issues you want us to focus on for 2026/2027. This will be a great opportunity to meet, mingle, share ideas and enjoy a special and beautiful place that is right in the centre of the Colton Parish Area. Please note, booking is not essential, but it would help us plan refreshments if you can let us know you're coming along. Email clerk@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk *We look forward to seeing you there.*

Other upcoming meetings. As always, you are welcome to come along!

- **7pm Monday 27th April** at Finsthwaite & Lakeside Village Hall
- **7pm Tuesday 26th May** the Annual Parish Council Meeting: as well as our normal Parish Council business, we will be reporting back on the past year's activity and accounts. Please note, this is a change to the usual date and day of the week. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.
- **7pm Monday 6th July** Bouth Village Hall

For more information see <https://coltonparishcouncil.org.uk/> and sign up for Colton Link, our email round up. Or follow us on Facebook or Instagram; search for Colton Parish Council South Lakes.

You can contact us by emailing clerk@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk or speaking to your local Councillor.

Egton cum Newland

The Haley Sisters

Saturday 2nd May 2026
Greenodd Village Hall

6.45pm for 7.30pm



Ticket £12.50

Available from: Tom 01229861638
07949587710

Or

Stuart 07745815259

**Licensed
Bar**

Osmotherley and Mansriggs WI Garden Party Afternoon Tea

Thursday May 14th

Gramark House, Bowstead, Newland Ulverston (1 mile up Alpine Road,
will be signposted from A590 at Newland)

Plenty of parking!

Stalls, Activities, Competitions, and Demonstrations!

1:30 – 4:00

£10 per person, includes entry and a sumptuous afternoon tea!

For booking and any special dietary requirements please ring: *Marilyn 01229
582634*

All Welcome!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

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 - (Update)

Now to be held **Tues 12th May** (*REVISED DATE*, previously 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



The Butterflies and Moths of Bethacar Moor Common

Tuesday 12th May 2026 7.00 - 8:30pm Greenodd Village Hall

Bethacar Moor Common is home to a wide range of rare and beautiful butterflies and moths. Survey work began in 2025 to assess how special the site is and how these species are responding to changes in the management of some areas of the Common. Join us to learn about the species we found in 2025 and how you can help us survey this year. We will also be learning how to use the 'iRecord Butterflies' app, so if you have a smartphone, please download this and create an account ahead of the talk. During 2026, there will be 5 outdoor sessions to help monitor the butterflies on site and 2 moth mornings to come and meet some of the moths that call Bethacar home. Everyone is welcome, and no experience is necessary. Join us at 7.00pm on **Tuesday 12th May** at Greenodd Village Hall, or email *Ryan Clark* at euceraecology@outlook.com to find out more.

Coniston & Torver

Rainfall, Garden House, Coniston - March 2026

Total 298.5mm (11.8ins)

Wet days 18

More than 1mm on 17 days

Wettest day 24th - 70.5mm (2.8ins)

Frost on the 3rd, 18th, 19th, 20th & 22nd

Coniston Parish Council

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

- **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:

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

The next meeting of Torver Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 7th May 2026** at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom. This will include the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting. All parish councils in England must hold an Annual Parish Meeting between March and June, after 6pm, to allow parish electors—not the council itself—to hear reports from the council and local organisations, ask questions, make comments, and vote on parish matters, while the Annual Parish Council Meeting is a formal council meeting that includes the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chair; the Annual Parish Meeting is open to all to attend but only registered electors may speak or vote, is usually chaired by the council Chairman, must be publicly advertised at least seven clear days in advance, and has minutes reviewed and signed at the next year's meeting.

Coniston Children, Youth and Community Worker

Recent editions of the Parish News have begun to share feedback from Coniston's whole-village door-knocking exercise, undertaken by Chris with local volunteers to gather residents' views on life in the village. Chris' trustee group continues to collate and review all responses in detail, but here is a summary of answers to Question 1, which asked what residents feel is going well.



Responses highlight an overwhelmingly positive picture of village life, with strong appreciation for Coniston's welcoming spirit, active community, and wide range of opportunities. Many comments spoke of the friendliness and neighbourliness that define daily life. Local schools and community support services are highly regarded, as are the essential facilities that enable people to meet most of their needs within the village.

A rich variety of clubs, societies, and intergenerational activities running throughout the year helps bring people together and keeps the village vibrant—something especially valued during the winter months. Special events and celebrations further strengthen this sense of connection.

Overall, people strongly value living in Coniston, alongside the variety of village amenities, and the many volunteers and organisations whose efforts create an active, supportive, and friendly place to live.

Thank you again to everyone who took part. While similar surveys benchmark 30% as an excellent response rate, Coniston's survey achieved an outstanding 41.8%, with 194 responses from 464 visits.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to all of you who make Coniston such a wonderful place.

Please look out for further updates 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*

CONISTON GRASS COURTS TENNIS CLUB

The beautiful grass tennis courts in Coniston have been in existence since the 1900s for the enjoyment of villagers and visitors. Funds to keep these courts in good condition come from membership fees, and kind donations from local charities.

Membership fees are £50 per year for single membership, and £75 for family membership. The courts are also available for hire at £10 per hour to non members and visitors who can call **07795493007** for details. Membership enables you to play anytime. Club nights are *Wednesday* and *Friday* 4-6pm. If you would like to join this small and friendly club then please get in touch with:

*Paul Mullard on mullards@outlook.com or Bill Marshall on **07795493007** or billmarshall1058@gmail.com.*

The new season will start - weather permitting - in mid to late April.

CONISTON CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the Coniston Co-op and its future. It is clear that you care about the organisation and its role within the community, and we would welcome a constructive discussion about how it might be strengthened.

To help move this conversation forward positively, we invite you to outline your ideas for securing the Co-op's long-term future. In particular, we would be interested to hear your thoughts on alternative management approaches, how staff might best be

supported and engaged in the current labour market, and what practical steps you believe could improve the Co-op's financial resilience, given wider economic pressures and the costs associated with an ageing building.

You have also referred to the importance of a clear long-term vision. We would welcome a practical outline of what that vision might look like, how it could realistically be delivered, and how key relationships with partners and stakeholders could be maintained and strengthened.

Running the Co-op requires sustained time and presence, as well as active membership involvement. We would value your views on how these commitments could be met and how engagement across the wider membership might be improved.

We recognise that meaningful change is most effective when it is built collaboratively. We are genuinely interested in hearing how you would contribute in practice, help build consensus, and support a positive and lasting future for the Coniston Co-op.

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**.

Exploring Peace

There will be a series of interactive reflections on the meaning of peace and how it might be found, both individually and internationally, each Monday afternoon in May.

First session will be on **Monday 4 May** and all will be at 2.00pm at *Coniston Methodist Church*, with light refreshments served afterwards.

We shall look at questions about the nature of peace, why the world is not peaceful, what we can do about it and how we can find peace for ourselves. We shall seek answers from our own experiences and those of others and, not least, from the Bible.

All will be made most welcome.



Save The Date!

Coniston Festive Fayre Returns!

It will be held on **14th November 2026!** We will be having an artisan market, Santas grotto, children's party, lantern parade and evening entertainment!

A Special Exhibition at a Special Time

10th - 16th May is *Christian Aid Week* this year.

To mark the end of 80 years of the charity working to help those unable to help themselves, St Andrew's Church will host a special exhibition, entitled

Poster Art and the Power of Hope

With its birth at the end of World War II amongst the immense suffering of that time, now is such a worthy time to remember the work done both then and over the succeeding decades.

There will also be opportunities to make donations to carry that work on into the future.

Reports

Oxen Park News

The Carthouse Community Cinema

Our season is over but you can put some dates in your diary for future shows. First - collect the new programme at The Rusland Show on **Saturday 15th August** and be ready to book in for our first films in September. Remember first to book in for a film gets first choice of seats :)

If you have been to one or more films over the past year then very many thanks to you all for supporting this amazing community facility.

Oxen Park Reading Room fund raising presentations: Over the winter we held 8 evening presentations to raise funds to keep the Reading Room up to scratch and have banked over £400. Thank you for your support if you came to one or more of them.


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

Mother's Union Report - 2026 March

Members of Coniston Mothers' Union joined members  from other branches in the Furness Deanery for a Lady Day/Annunciation Service at St James Church, Barrow in Furness. Branch and the Deanery Banners were displayed.

The service was prepared and lead by Janice Eadington and her team. The reading from Luke Ch1 verses 26 to38 was dramatized by three members. Revd John Hodgkinson gave a thoughtful illustrated talk/reflection on Mary's feelings from the Annunciation, birth, early life to his teachings, death and resurrection. The intercessions began with the new Diocesan Prayer celebrating 150 years of the MU.


This was followed by two young mums Hannah and Juliet accompanied by their children, being admitted as new members by Janice and all present, ending with the international Mothers' Union prayer and the final hymn, 'Now Thank We All Our God'.

Thanks were given to the Revd John Hodgkinson, organist Mark Latima, Janice and her team, St James Members for hosting the service and everyone for coming. Tea and fellowship followed.

Our next meeting on **30th April**, we will be looking at names, places and things in the bible beginning with E.

For more information contact Kay **015394 41559**.

Egton WI

We had a good turn out for our meeting in April when Hannah from HP  Activities came to talk to us. She began by telling us about herself and how she went on to start her own business which is based in Ulverston. Her favourite sport is football which she started aged seven. By the age of ten she was playing at Manchester United and later played for Preston, Blackburn, Ulverston and spent fifteen years with Morecambe. Having had various jobs she decided to set up on her own and during Covid she did some online coaching. She covers all sorts of sports with her team of helpers and reaches out to all ages from tots to the over 90's, so if you feel like some exercise with company do look her up online. Even if you are disabled there are options as one unusual sport she covers is table cricket! To round off her time with us she organised a couple of games of Boccia which was fun and suitable for most as it is played from sitting on a chair. We enjoyed it so much that we will have her back later in the year for a fun evening of games, probably boccia and curling.

We are keeping busy this month, - a few of us are going to try our hands at bowling and we are hosting our group meeting where Midge from the BBC program Sewing Bee is coming to talk to us about his time on the show. The cake tins will be in use again, a forerunner to our charity raising event which is on **Saturday 16th May** at 2pm in Greenodd village hall. If you haven't been to one of our "teas" before please come and join us as for £12 pp you will find that you have more than enough to eat and enjoy, just ask our loyal returnees! You will be helping our charity this year too which is the Admiral nurses (the dementia team) from St. Mary's Hospice.

At our **May meeting on 12th** we are having a CPR awareness talk entitled "Bystanders can be Lifesavers" so feel free to join us.

For more information about the tea or WI call **07519144799**.

Coniston WI

Coniston WI in **May** are visiting Hill Top and having Afternoon Tea, in **June** we are Crown Green Bowling and in **July** we are Canoeing, swimming and holding a Jacobs Join on the lake shore. We are also going to Chester to visit Threads through Creativity and off to the theatre to see Barnum. We meet one night a week for crafting and once a month to go walking.

If you would like to visit us for one of these meetings then please phone *Judith* on **07896618474**. We would love to welcome you.

BRANTWOOD NEWS AND VIEWS



Don't miss our new Studio exhibition: '**Exploration' A collection of Works by Green Door Artists. 18th April - 5th July.** Following their successful exhibition in 2023, Green Door artists have returned to the Severn Studio 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 24th April** and **Sat 20th June**.

As part of the Bluebird K7 Festival, Brantwood is offering a very special viewing experience all week. Full details of our offer for purchasing tickets can be found on our website. Parking is very limited at Brantwood but parking tickets can be obtained with the purchase of our admissions tickets. Ferry shuttle tickets can also be bought exclusively through our website. The Terrace Café will be open during the day with our full menu including our fantastic range of pizzas. These are also available (pre-booked) between 5-7pm.

If anyone is lucky enough to be going to Chelsea Flower Show, check out our stand! We are thrilled that Brantwood's Plant Heritage National Plant Collection of Wisteria (Dispersed) species and cultivars in partnership with Cumbria Wisteria is to be showcased at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show between **19th - 23rd May**.

We are open every day from 10.30am - 4.00pm.

The Terrace Café every day 10.00am - 4.00pm.

*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

A Warm Welcome to Andy Abbott

We're very happy to welcome Andy Abbott as the newly appointed Project Director of The Farmers Arms.

Andy is an artist, musician, and arts organiser whose practice spans a wide range of settings, from major institutions such as Tate Modern and the NHS to local authorities and community-led initiatives across the UK and beyond.

Alongside his work as an artist, Andy has a long history as a musician and promoter, having toured internationally on the DIY underground circuit as well as performing at major venues and festivals. This passion for music feeds directly into his work here, and we're delighted that he is launching Weird Lakes Lounge- a new strand of leftfield, ambient and psychedelic live music in our 16th-century pub and arts centre. Please check our website for upcoming gigs!

Andy's experience also includes developing and supporting creative spaces and organisations - from grassroots, member-run social centres to community pubs and international arts foundations. This spirit of collaboration and experimentation is something he brings with him to The Farmers Arms.

As we pause our Soup Talks over the summer months, Andy will be spending time getting to know the community and creating opportunities for conversation about the future of the pub. Do keep an eye out for ways to get involved- we'd love for you to be part of these discussions!

THE
FARMER'S
ARMS

Private Event Notice - 2nd & 3rd May

We will be hosting a private, invite-only event on **Friday 2nd** and **Saturday 3rd May** in memory of John Fox, Artistic Director and Co-founder of Welfare State International (based in Ulverston), an inspirational figure in the UK arts and a much-admired member of the local community. This will be a respectful gathering, organised by family and friends, with most attendees aged between 60 and 85. There is no public ticketing or publicity for this event and attendance is by invitation, however we will still be opening our teen-run café on Saturday and we expect to be busy!

New: 24/7 Farm Vending Machine

Thanks to generous support from the Royal Countryside Fund, our new vending machine is now installed in the car park- a 24/7 farmers' market!

It will be stocked with seasonal goods and fresh produce, including our own valley apple juice, goat's milk from Freya (one of our pottery workshop tenants), and a variety of other locally sourced treats.

The machine also offers a new opportunity for local farmers, bakers, and growers to sell refrigerated or frozen produce directly to the community. If you produce something delicious and would like to take part, we'd love to hear from you!

Pottery Evening Classes

Our popular pottery classes continue every Wednesday and Thursday evening with Adam Sutherland who has been a potter for over fifty years. Beginning at school in Devon, he has gone on to work with many noted architects and artists on bespoke ceramic commissions, as well as developing the pub's distinctive *mocha ware* range, available in our onsite shop. Adam began teaching ceramics in London in the 1980s and has continued to inspire both new and experienced potters ever since. All information and booking on our website.

What's On in May?

Community Lunch (Every Thursday)

Week after week Rosemary and Brian cook us 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. 1pm sharp!

1 May - Weird Lake Lounge : Martyn Roper

One-man graveyard blues, romantic folk band from West Yorkshire. "A party that never happened in a time that never existed in which everyone dresses beautifully and sing for those that have been and gone" 8pm - 10pm Free entry with Donations for Acts Gratefully Accepted

6 May - Weird Lake Lounge : Alula Down

Join us for an atmospheric evening of Weird Lake Lounge, featuring special guests Alula Down - a leftfield folk duo from Hereford, blending traditional song, field recordings, improvisation, and original compositions. Their distinctive sound has earned them The Guardian's Folk Album of the Month. 8pm

7 May - Soup & Talk: The Keswick School of Industrial Art

Join us for a fascinating and richly illustrated talk by Chris Pratt, presented on behalf of Keswick Museum. The talk explores the most creative and influential period of The Keswick School of Industrial Art, from its founding in 1884 through to the 1950s, and

how it became internationally recognised for its unique metalwork. £5 / 6:30pm

8 May - Celtic Fiddles

A group of experienced musicians coming together from across South Cumbria, Celtic Fiddles have all played together for many years in various local venues and ceilidh bands. As a regular fixture in The Farmer's Arms, they come together once-a-month and tactically perform next to the warmth of our fireplace. 7:30 pm

15 May - Rebecca Spooner: Indie Folk Singer Songwriter

Indie Folk singer-songwriter from West Yorkshire, for fans of Joni Mitchell / Big Thief - 'a stand out talented young musician'. 8pm - 10pm Free entry with Donations for Acts Gratefully Accepted

21 May - Poetry Reading & Book Launch

An evening of poetry to celebrate the launch of Kim Moore's new collection, The House of Broken Things. Kim will be joined by Cumbrian poets Mark Carson and Jennifer Copley, each reading from their recent work. A relaxed and welcoming event showcasing three distinctive voices, with open mic slots available - sign up on the night! £5 / 6:30pm

Cafeteen (Every Saturday)

Our teen-run Cafeteen continues to go from strength to strength. The young team bring so much energy and enthusiasm to the pub, serving up lunches, coffees, cakes - everything you might need for a relaxed weekend catch-up. It's become a cheerful and much-loved part of the week, and we're very grateful to everyone who comes along to support them. 11- 4pm

Our Wonderful Saturday Bar Volunteers (Every Saturday Evening)

A heartfelt thank you, as always, to the volunteers who give their time each Saturday to open and run the bar. Their generosity and commitment make all the difference-welcoming neighbours, pouring drinks, and helping to create the warm, sociable atmosphere that we look forward to each week. Much of that warmth comes from the friendly faces behind the bar, who give their time so generously. If you'd like to get involved, we'd be delighted to hear from you. New volunteers are always welcome, and it's a great way to meet people and be part of something the whole community enjoys. 5-11pm

Pizza and Live Music (Every Friday)

Our much-loved pizza and music night are a great way to ease into the weekend. We make all our dough in-house, and we're firing up our wood fired oven as we move into the warmer months.

The oven itself is something quite special - built from local larch with copper detailing, its distinctive blackened finish created using a traditional Japanese weatherproofing technique.

Designed by Hayatsu Architects and built with the help of architecture students from Central Saint Martins in London, it's as much a piece of craft as it is a working kitchen.

Rookhow

Quiet Day at Rookhow Thursday 14th May 10am-4pm

'Seeing the wood and the trees'. A creative and reflective day with artist in residence Caroline Stow and geologist Clare de Villanueva.



10am-4pm. Bring a packed lunch. Suggested donation £30 (preferably cash on the day). Email info@rookhow.org.uk to book a place.

Another cleaner needed at Rookhow

We have 2 wonderful self-employed cleaners at Rookhow Bunkbarn & Quaker Meeting House. If anyone else would like to join the team, please contact *Sue Nicholls*, Development Manager Email- info@rookhow.org.uk Tel **07377 971783**. Turnarounds are usually 4-5 hours, Fridays, Sundays or mid week. Even a couple of days a month would help to fill gaps when our cleaners are away or have other commitments.

Volunteering at Rookhow

We're incredibly grateful to our volunteers for the time and energy they give to making Rookhow such a special place for so many groups and individuals. We hold volunteer work parties every Friday at Rookhow 9.30am-3.30pm. Tasks include gardening, DIY, splitting kindling, organising the garage storage, wood processing. Homemade cakes provided. Bring a packed lunch.

Quaker Meetings in the Rusland Valley

There is a Quaker Meeting for Worship at Rookhow on the 1st Wednesday of every month 7.30-8pm and on the 1st and 3rd Fridays 12.30-1pm. All are welcome, even if you haven't been to a Quaker Meeting before. Postcode: LA12 8LA

Rookhow is a Quaker charity.

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

Green Sparks News May 2026

River Crake Noticeboard

We're delighted to announce that the River Crake Noticeboard has been installed by the river at Spark Bridge - next time you're passing through the village please stop and take a look. It's been wonderful to see visitors to the riverside stopping to read about the history of the village and the wildlife in and around the river.

Thank you

We want to say a big thank you to everyone who has given their support, including local people, Green Sparks' members, Spark Bridge Village Hall Committee, members of Finsthwaite community, Colton Parish Council, Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council and The Rawdon-Smith Trust.

Special thanks go to Barbara Welch, who has put so much time and effort to bringing this project to life, and to Archie Workman, who generously gave his time to install the board.



Litter picking

We'd also like to thank local resident Sally Davey and her wonderful team of volunteers whose hard work litter picking around the patch has made a real improvement to the state of our lanes and verges.

If you want to organise a litter pick but need to borrow some litter pickers and high vis jackets, please contact us:

greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com



Archaeology in the Rusland Valley

A talk by Kevin Grice

Wednesday 22nd April at Oxen Park Cinema Club



The Archaeology Volunteers of the Lake District National Park Authority spend their time uncovering the stories hidden in the landscape. From surveying forgotten buildings to recording tiny utility markers, they piece together the human history woven through the National Park.

Come and discover what they've found here in Rusland. Once you know what to look for, even the simplest local walk becomes a journey into the past, full of clues you might have walked past a hundred times.

Starts 7.30pm - door opens at 7pm: **£3 suggested donation (goes towards our local conservation work)**

To book contact RuslandLSG@Cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

Location: Oxen Park Cinema Club, LA12 8HB

<https://What3words.com/lobster.bumpy.subplot>

Parish Prayer Diary May 2026

1st: Pray for those taking a stand against injustice and oppression by speaking truth to power.

2nd: Pray for Chris Clark, Coniston's Children, Youth and Community Worker and his faithful ministry to the Coniston community.

3rd: **Sunday, the first day of the week**

Pray we grow daily closer to our Lord and allow Him to develop in us the fruit of the Spirit for our own wellbeing and for the benefit of the world He so loves.

4th: Pray for those working this Bank Holiday Monday.

5th: Pray for our Government and all leaders with national responsibilities.

6th: Pray for pupils preparing to sit GCSE and A-Level examinations throughout this month. Pray also for their families as they offer support.

7th: Pray for the training event arranged by the Cumbria Modern Slavery Champions Network for those who work in roles that might come across people vulnerable to, or involved, with exploitation.

8th: Pray for all who mourn.

9th: Pray for Social Workers carrying large, and often complex, caseloads.

10th: Sunday, the first day of the week

Encouraged by all Jesus has done for us in the past, and His promise to be with us always, pray we may daily trust and not let our hearts be troubled.

11th: Pray for St Mary's Hospice providing care for patients living with life-shortening illness or long-term conditions and support to their families.

12th: Pray for a generous response to Christian Aid Week enabling the charity to bring relief and hope to those living in poverty or crisis around the world.

13th: Pray for the Toddler play groups across our benefice.

14th: This Ascension Day, ponder the great, wondrous, mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Hallelujah!

15th: Join with the global *Thy Kingdom Come* prayer fellowship, committing to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for those who do not yet know the Lord Jesus.

16th: Pray for those serving in our Armed Forces at home and abroad.

17th: Sunday, the first day of the week

As we reflect on our personal liberation from our old way of life, may we renew our dedication to daily follow Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

18th: Pray for the Farming Community Network, a voluntary organisation and charity supporting farmers, and families within the farming community.

19th: Pray for the *Space to Breathe* retreat day at Rydal Hall for carers involved in a direct caring role.

20th: Pray for the Coniston Mountain Rescue team.

21st: Pray for the Church in Sudan, that it may continue to be salt and light and come to be seen not as a threat by society and warring factions but as a blessing in their communities. Pray for the protection of our Christian brothers and sisters there and for the provision of all they need during this extremely difficult time.

22nd: Pray for those working in the funeral sector.

23rd: Pray for Children's & Family Worker Emma Taplin as she works in young people's initiatives across the Furness Deanery's mission community.

24th: Sunday, the first day of the week

The world-wide Christian Church was born that day the Holy Spirit fell upon the first disciples. We pray that God the Holy Spirit will bring new life to us, our church, our community, our Nation.

25th: Pray for pupils and staff during this week's half-term school break.

26th: Pray for all who live and work in the communities of Gawthwaite, Woodgate and Subberthwaite.

27th: Pray for those living with life challenges of acquired brain injury, and for their families. Pray also for health professionals supporting their rehabilitation.

28th: Pray for delivery drivers negotiating tourist traffic or trying to find properties in remote communities, often against tight time schedules.

29th: Pray for the British Red Cross helping people in the UK and around the world get the support they need when crisis strikes.

30th: Pray for Lowick Young Farmers Club, its members and organisers.

31st: Sunday, the first day of the week

Pray our faithful and unchanging Lord will help us grow in knowledge of His truth and draw us deeper into His love that we may truly worship our Holy God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

From the Registers

St. Luke's, Lowick, 9th April 2026, Funeral of Richard Wood

St. Andrew's, Coniston, 20th April 2026, Funeral of Steven Walsh

St. Andrew's, Coniston, 9th May 2026, Interment of Ashes

- Anne Martin

St. Andrew's, Coniston, 23rd May 2026, Interment of Ashes

- Kathleen (Kate) Rhodes

St. Luke's, Torver, 24th May 2026, Wedding of Rhiannon Britt & Max Hampshire

Readings for May 2026

3rd	Acts 7.55-60	John 14.1-14
10th	Acts 17.22-31	John 14.15-21
17th	Acts 1.6-14	John 17.1-11
24th	Acts 2.1-21	John 20.19-23
31st	2 Corinthians 13.11-13	Matthew 28.16-20

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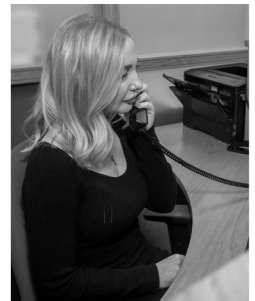
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Monday	Short Mat Indoor Bowling, 1 - 3pm, no experience needed	Greenodd Village Hall
2 nd & 4 th Friday	Tottle-Art: Art Group 10.30am - 12.30	Tottlebank Baptist Church
Tuesday	Coffee and Chat, 9.45 - 10.45am	Greenodd Village Hall
Tuesday	Coniston CAMEO 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 - May

1st	Weird Lake Lounge : Martyn Roper - see page 15	The Farmer's Arms
1st	BEETLE DRIVE - see page 31	Greenodd Village Hall
2nd	The Haley Sisters - see page 7	Greenodd Village Hall
3rd	The Ciderhouse Rebellion - see page 32	Water Yeat Village Hall
6th	Weird Lake Lounge : Alula Down - see page 15	The Farmer's Arms
7th	Soup & Talk: The Keswick School of Industrial Art - see pages 15-16	The Farmer's Arms
8th	Celtic Fiddles - see page 16	The Farmer's Arms
9th	Tottlebank Baptist Church Coffee Morning - see page 31	Tottlebank Baptist Church
10th	Lambing Service - see page 4	Abbot Park Farm
10th-16th	Poster Art and the Power of Hope - see page 12	St Andrew's, Coniston
11th-17th	'Bluebird K7 - The Festival' - see page 2	Coniston
12th	Egton WI, CPR awareness talk 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' - see page 13	Egton WI
12th	The Butterflies and Moths of Bethacar Moor Common - see page 8	Greenodd Village Hall
14th	Osmotherley and Mansriggs WI Garden Party Afternoon Tea - see page 8	Gramark House, Bowstead, Newland
14th	Quiet Day at Rookhow - 'Seeing the wood and the trees' - see pages 16-17	Rookhow
15th	Rush Hat Making Courses - see page 31	Water Yeat Village Hall
15th	Rebecca Spooner: Indie Folk Singer Songwriter - see page 16	The Farmer's Arms
16th	Egton WI, Tea - see page 13	Greenodd Village Hall
20th	The Crake Valley Friendship Club's Scenic Mystery Trip - see page 8	Greenodd
20th	Bouth Village Hall Coffee Morning - see page 6	Bouth Village Hall
21st	Poetry Reading & Book Launch - see page 16	The Farmer's Arms
22nd	'Celebrating Eva - The Eva Cassidy Songbook' - see page 11	Coniston Institute

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



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Plant stall



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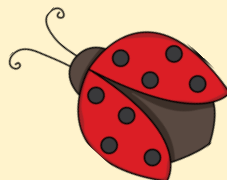
Charity

**No:
517738**



**St Mary's
Hospice**

Join us for a
BEEBLE DRIVE
Greenodd Village Hall
Friday 1st May, 7:30pm
Pie & Pea Supper
Tickets £10
*Proceeds to Duddon &
Furness Mountain Rescue*
**Tickets: 07713351623
or 07519363200**



Rush Hat Making Courses

Fri 15 May & Fri 12 June

This is a one day course, open to all, no prior skills or experience necessary.

So, if you would like to make your own summer sun hat from rush then you will be most welcome. It makes a very light weight yet durable hat.

Round top or Boater style

Venue - Water Yeat Village Hall

Cost - £95 (includes a simple vege lunch)

Timings 9.30 - 5.30

More details and how to book please go to my website

www.oakswills.co.uk

Any queries please contact me on:

owenjones2008@btinternet.com or **077 877 12434**

WATER YEAT VILLAGE HALL

Presents

The Ciderhouse Rebellion



Magical in-the-moment music from a virtuoso duo.

The Ciderhouse Rebellion, the original folk improvisers, are violinist Adam Summerhayes and accordionist Murray Grainger. Every performance they give is a spontaneous act of composition - music created entirely in the moment, never to be repeated.

The pair specialise in creating music in the moment, based on traditional tunes or their own compositions - often springing from a single note, key, time signature, or emotion. It's this unusually improvisatory focus that is uniquely magical. Their quest is to create music with no conscious thought between conception and playing - always searching for the unexpected and the possibility to create a deep sonic narrative that transports the audience.

Audiences across genres consistently describe being carried and transported, often calling their shows the **best concerts of their lives**. Whether in concert halls, folk festivals, or intimate spaces, the reaction is the same: **complete immersion**

Sunday 3rd May, 8pm £15 (doors 7.30)

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

www.e-voice.org.uk/wyvh www.facebook.com/wateryeatvillagehall/

www.theciderhouserebellion.com