

Cambridge Society (Cumbria)

January 2026 Newsletter

Introduction

I hope that you had a good Christmas and on behalf of the Cambridge Society (Cumbria) committee I'd like to wish you all the best for the new year. Here are the details of our events for the first part of 2026, I hope that you'll be able to join us. Friends and family are also welcome.

If you have any feedback on recent events or any suggestions for future events do let me know.

Saturday 14 February at 12.30- "Wings over Windermere"



We will meet at The Jetty Museum, Rayrigg Road, Bowness on Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1BN for a buffet lunch at 12.30 followed by a talk by Mr Ian Gee entitled "Wings Over Windermere". Ian will talk about two seaplanes, the original Waterbird which first flew at Windermere in 1911

(the first aeroplane outside of France and the USA to take off from and alight successfully on water with no damage) and its replica which first flew in 2022. Ian is Chair of The Lakes Flying Company Ltd, a registered charity, which constructed the replica based on the original plans. He is a retired solicitor, with a commercial pilot's licence and seaplane rating.

The original Waterbird was commissioned by Captain Edward Wakefield from Kendal who read Natural Sciences at Trinity College, Cambridge before becoming a barrister, banker and soldier, as well as patenting the stepped float used for Waterbird.

Lunch will be sandwiches, cakes and tea/coffee, let me know if you have any dietary requirements. The cost is £30 each, payable in advance (payment details are at the end of the newsletter), please book by Monday 2 February.

There is free parking at the museum which has disabled access and toilet facilities.

Friday 24 April at 12.30- a guided walk in the Swindale Valley

Meet for lunch at The Mardale Inn, St Patrick's Well, Bampton, CA10 2RQ (<https://www.themardaleinn.com>) . After lunch we will drive to the Swindale Valley for a guided walk.



The walk will be led by Annabel Rushton from the RSPB and will take around 3 hours and be around 3 miles in length. We will explore and discuss the temperate rainforest, RSPB's nature-friendly farming operation, trees and tree care, drinking water, a re-wiggled river, wildflower meadows, peat bog restoration and elements of cultural heritage and the people

side of the RSPB's work.

The walk is not suitable for those with restricted mobility and please note that Swindale doesn't have any toilet facilities or phone signal.

Everyone will pay for their own lunch and there will be a charge of £20, all of which will go to the RSPB. If you would like to make your donation direct to the RSPB so that Gift Aid applies let me know and I will send you more information.

Numbers are limited for this event, so early booking is advisable, but in any case please book by Monday 20 April.

Sunday 7 June at 12.45- a family orientated walk from Keswick to Threlkeld and back with tea



We will meet at the car park by the former Keswick Leisure Pool, Station Road, Keswick, CA12 4NE for a family orientated walk to Threlkeld and back with tea at the Threlkeld Community Cafe. There will be a treasure hunt for the young (and the young at heart). No charge, everyone pays for their own tea.

This is a 10km (6.25mi) out and back off-road trail which is surfaced with

smooth tarmac the whole distance with very low gradients. It is suitable for both conventional wheelchairs and mobility scooters. There is regular seating along the route.

There is a bus service between Threlkeld and Keswick so walking one way is an option. The June timetable isn't available yet, but if you are interested let me know and I will send you the relevant links.

I've booked the Village Hall (which is next to the cafe) so that we can sit together for our tea. If you do intend to join the walk, could you let me know by Saturday 30 May so that I can confirm that there are enough of us to need the hall?

Payment

Where payment in advance is requested, please send me a cheque (address below) or pay by bank transfer to our account (TT's The Cambridge Society (Cumbria)) at The Cumberland Building Society, sort code 16-52-21, account no 54259864 using your name as the reference and email me to let me know that you have done so. The Cumberland's system does not seem to allow other banks to check that the account number and name match. This might lead to warning messages that you have to accept.
Alun Ellis

Secretary, Cambridge Society (Cumbria)
4 Highcroft Close,
Tallentire,
Cockermouth,
Cumbria,
CA13 0NR
alunellis@aol.com