

# LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER – Edition 6 June 2007

This Newsletter is produced to inform the residents of the Parish about the work of the Parish Council over the last few months and to inform you of the role undertaken by your Parish Councillors on your behalf. The Parish Council would welcome any feedback from this Newsletter and any contributions that people would like to make to the next one. Volunteer organisations may wish to use this Newsletter to let people know of their work. Details to be sent to the Clerk.

### PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan was completed in October 2005 and highlighted many issues within the Parish. The Parish Plan Action Group is meeting on a regular basis in the Library, Ambleside. June 18<sup>th</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup> are the next scheduled meetings both commencing at 7pm. Everyone who would like to be involved are welcome to attend and listen to the discussion or to raise issues. There are geographical groups representing all five of the Parish Ward areas, Ambleside, Grasmere, Rydal/UnderLoughrigg, Troutbeck and Langdales.

The Plan is now updated with progress markers and monitoring bodies. Items include Dog Fouling and Litter, Affordable Housing, Disc Parking system, Local bus services and transport, road surfaces, traffic calming, NHS services, public toilets, environmental improvements, recycling facilities, local shopping, facilities for young people, late night noise, Community Police, reduction in speeding, winter gritting, Village Societies, traffic management and many other matters. Troutbeck now have a thriving Village Association and has recently held its first AGM. Rydal Village Society provides a strong action group and a social focus for the Village. It meets monthly and has an extensive neighbourhood watch scheme that has been extended to UnderLoughrigg. If you are interested in anything in this Newsletter, please contact Michael Johnson, the Lakes Parish Clerk, on 015394 31656. The Chairman of the Action Group is Margaret Lewis from Troutbeck who can be contacted through the Clerk.

### DOG FOULING

Lakes Parish Council once again request dog owners to clean up after their animals. **It is the duty of every responsible dog owner to clean up after their dog.**

### PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Lakes Parish Council have a Vacancy for a Councillor in the Ambleside Ward. It may be that an Election will be requested for this Vacancy or if not, the Parish Council can co-opt to fill the post. If an Election is requested then it will be advertised within Ambleside Ward and any person on the electoral roll for Ambleside Ward can put themselves forward for election to the Council. The Clerk (31656) will be happy to supply details to interested persons.

### NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007 in the Library, Ambleside commencing at 7.30pm and the one after that on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at the same time and venue.

Members of the Public are entitled to attend any Parish Council Meeting to listen to items discussed. They may also participate in the Meeting and the Chairman will adjourn at 8pm to allow the public to speak on any matter that concerns you or on anything that you think the Parish Council should know.

The Parish Council deal with a whole range of local issues on your behalf. It positively welcomes contributions from people who live in the Parish of Lakes. If you receive one of these Newsletters – that means YOU!

Why not come along to listen?

### RESOLVE MEDIATION SERVICE

Resolve Mediation Service is an independent voluntary organisation and a registered charity helping people throughout Cumbria to resolve conflict and negotiate agreements. Mediation services include: community mediation, youth and family mediation, workplace mediation and peer mediation training. Further details on becoming a mediator or accessing the services of Resolve can be obtained from Anne Barnes 01900 603229.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

### CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Each year the Chairman of Lakes Parish Council is given the additional task of presenting his Annual Report to the people of this Parish. It is a time to look at our challenges and also to the achievements of the last year. It is also a time to look forward to what we hope for the future in an ever changing world. Last year we had to report the illness and death of our Chairman, Rod Sutton, a much respected and long serving Member. This is a good opportunity to thank Allen Green, our Vice Chairman, who very ably kept us in order until the Parish Council elections in May 2006. We were happy to welcome some new Members and we do thank those Councillors who retired for their services to our Community. The wealth of experience of our new Council has been a great contribution during this past year. It was my privilege to be elected to the position of Chairman of Lakes Parish to represent the interests of the people of our Parish, hopefully in the tradition of our dedicated Chairmen, who have served this Parish with such distinction over the years.

The perception of Central Lakes is that we are a 'honeypot area' but we are a low wage economy and have many problems to address. We are happy to live in this beautiful environment, but, within our 52 square miles, there are many areas of deprivation, not least the lack of affordable homes for our young people. Much as we welcome our visitors as the lifeblood of our tourism industry, our future depends upon keeping our young people working in the community. Without young children coming along, our villages wither and die – no village schools, no local shops, no rural Post Offices and certainly no affordable public transport. One of our main priorities is to encourage and support the provision of Affordable Housing. There have been some notable successes but very much more needs to be done. We welcome the apparent changing attitudes of the LDNPA to a more positive view of Planning Applications within and on the fringes of our villages. We will all feel a great deal happier when we see lighted windows in our villages in the depth of winter. Let us not forget the needs of our Farming community who are struggling in a hostile world and whose contribution is much under rated by Central Government. Without their efforts our landscape would be very different.

Discussion in the media on the proposed Local Government White Paper has mainly focused on the division of Cumbria into Unitary Authorities or enhanced District Councils. However a major aim

of the new system is to acknowledge the contribution of Parish Councils as the layer that is 'nearest to the grass roots'. There will be opportunities for Parish Councils to take on more roles to respond to the needs of our local communities. This is a great challenge and has provoked a great deal of discussion in our work with the Cumbria Association of Local Councils. Your Council is working to achieve 'Quality Parish' status. Local involvement with our Neighbourhood Forums is very productive as is the work done by volunteers in our five settlements in formulating the Parish Plan. A most encouraging product has been the establishment of Village Societies in Troutbeck and Rydal. The whole ethos of Whitehall funding is the need to prove a need which has been identified by local people. There are many reasons to feel optimistic that the work we will continue to do at all levels will improve our Parish, but so much depends upon the dedication and perseverance of people who care.

Your Parish Council meets formally on Wednesday evenings at Ambleside Library on at least 22 occasions each year. One of our major functions is to make recommendations to the National Park Authority on Planning Applications within Lakes Parish. They recognise that our local knowledge is helpful in coming to Planning decisions. The Chairman always adjourns the Meeting at 8pm for the public to speak on any cause of concern. Our great joy recently was when 32 people attended a Council meeting to comment on a Planning Application!!

Do come along; we want you to feel that the unpaid work that we do is really useful and relevant.

*Leslie Johnson* Chairman

### AMBLESIDE SPORTS 2007

You are invited to come to Ambleside Sports on **Thursday July 26<sup>th</sup>**. The Sports have a new patron as Lord Inglewood has taken over from Lord Jopling. Keeping the traditions alive is important and the Sports Committee would like to build up a collection of photographs and memorabilia. They will be happy to hear from anyone who can contribute or loan items. Please contact Jak Hirst on 35351 or Fiona Sparrow on 32441. The Gates open at 10am and there is plenty going on prior to the first event at noon. A traditional Fun Fair, bouncy castles, climbing walls etc will keep kids of all ages happy. There will be Trade stands, a Made in Cumbria village and a Craft marquee. There will also be a lively display area to entertain you or you can opt for a Beer tent and listen to live music. There will also be a large range of catering facilities offering every type of food. **Put this date in your diary and come along to enjoy the day.**

## PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2006/7

Receipts 2006/7		Payments 2006/7	
Balance b/f	35275.92	Office supplies	1012.70
SLDC Precept	40700.00	Telephones	525.50
VAT refund	1121.94	Salaries (net)	12040.72
NSB interest	597.95	PAYE adjust	1148.64
Barclays Interest	257.76	Expenses	141.10
Bus Shelter grants	9000.00	PAYE (tax)	2648.95
Launch Key	5.00	NI Employer	1098.92
Insurance – shelter	3878.00	NI Employee	987.10
		Chairman	775.00
Total	<b><u>90836.57*</u></b>	Postage/Bank	610.05
		Grants	6315.00
		CAB Grant	1000.00
		Toilets SLDC	13322.79
		Subscriptions	411.00
		CALC	371.50
		F/way Lighting	912.40
		Bus shelters/seats	14468.40
		Insurance	978.89
		Rent (Office)	4084.82
		Audit Fee	550.00
		VAT	3738.51
		Training	0.0
		Lakes in Bloom	561.92
		Market Cross	0.0
		Office repairs	253.66
		MTI Officer	2500.00
		Newsletter/Plan	<u>2233.56</u>
			72691.13
		Year End Balances	
		NSB	14814.56
		Barclays Current	<u>3473.88</u>
			90979.57
			<u>(143.00)</u>
			<b>90836.57*</b>

\* Balancing figure

Less unrepresented cheque

The Annual Accounts have been available for inspection in the Parish Office up to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2007. They have been inspected by the Parish Council Internal Auditor and given a clean bill of health. Elector of Lakes Parish may question the External Auditor to the Council about the accounts after 28th May 2007. Further details are available from the Parish Clerk.

Grants awarded were as follows:

South Lakeland District Council – Toilets	13322.79
Ambleside Christmas Lights donation -	2500.00
Langdale PCC – upkeep of graveyard -	175.00
Cumbria Rural CAB -	1000.00
Langdale Easter Egg Run -	60.00
Town Centre Manager SLDT -	2500.00
Ambleside Guides	880.00
Tourist Interpretation Boards Grasmere-	1150.00
Your Chance Promotions -	1500.00

A full Annual Report is available at the Parish Office or at [www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish](http://www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish)

## ROTHAY VALLEY SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT GROUP

The first meeting of the RVSEG was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007. The group has been formed to raise awareness, fundraise and coordinate the eradication of Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. The group is represented by various individuals from the different Parish Wards with members of the National Trust and the National Park. The action this year will be based on a thorough survey undertaken last year, coordinated by Steve Gaskell, from the Park Authority. The main areas Grasmere, Rydal and Ambleside will be coordinated by 3 individuals – Bev Dennison, David Welch and Brian Sparrow respectively. Infestations have also been reported in Troutbeck and the Langdales. Fund raising is already underway to spray the Knotweed and to hire specialists to supervise the Balsam pulling throughout the whole of the Lakes Parish. Several hundred pounds has already been raised in Rydal from a Bonfire party and donations from guests at Cote How Guest House. **Your help is needed.** The group will be extremely grateful if people can report any infestations within their gardens or countryside. Balsam pulling dates are being organised throughout the year. Please contact David Welch on 32765 for further information.

### YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

#### Ambleside Ward

Cllr Leslie Johnson 015394 32904  
 Cllr Elwyn Bradshaw 015394 32760  
 Cllr Nick Martin 015394 31124  
 Cllr Ann Parker 015394 34369  
 Cllr Maureen Colquhoun 015394 34325

#### One Vacancy (see this newsletter)

#### Grasmere Ward

Cllr Elizabeth Braithwaite 015394 35297  
 Cllr Allen Green 015394 35238  
 Cllr Vivienne Rees 015394 35401

#### Rydal and Loughrigg Ward

Cllr David Welch 015394 32765  
 Cllr Fiona Sparrow 015394 32441

#### Langdales Ward

Cllr Edna Garlick 015394 37637  
 Cllr Liz Wilson 015394 37327  
 Cllr Jonathan Smith 015394 37592

#### Troutbeck Ward

Cllr Harry Allen 015394 44021  
 Cllr Roger Westmoreland 015394 33287

**Clerk** – Michael Johnson 015394 31656  
 (Michael@lakes-council.freereserve.co.uk)