

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – Edition 4 - Jan 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.

PARISH PLAN

The Implementation Group meets on a regular basis in the Library, Ambleside. Everyone who would like to help putting this Plan into action is welcome to attend. If you can help or would like information please contact Michael Johnson, the Lakes Parish Clerk, on 015394 31656. The Chairman is Chris Morris who can be contacted on 35286.

AMBLESIDE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The rain did not manage to dampen the enthusiasm of those who took part in the lantern procession on November 25th, nor did it put out the candles!! Father Christmas turned up as usual, courtesy of Windermere Lake Cruises, and turned on the lights. He also visited Rowan Court and was accompanied by the Snow Queen, the Lights Princess and Jack Frost together with the Chairman of Lakes Parish Council. All this is made possible by the local community who give generously and commit their time to help. Many visitors now come to this annual event. The fireworks, paid for by the Chamber of Trade and orchestrated by the Windermere and Ambleside Lions, shone through the rain. A grant from the Neighbourhood Forum went towards the new banner lights at the bottom of Church Street. The weather only proved that by acting together the community can win against the odds!!

RYDAL

At a recent bonfire party the Village Society raised £700 to combat Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. A Coffee Morning raised £400 for the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund. A Christmas Dinner was held at Cote How on 10th December and enjoyed by all who attended.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th January 2007 in the Library, Kelsick Road, Ambleside commencing at 7.30pm and fortnightly thereafter at the same time and venue.

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 any person to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes. Past Newsletters and all activities of Lakes Parish Council are on the Parish website www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish

Why not come along to a Meeting and see your local representatives working on your behalf?

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

In setting the Council Tax for the coming financial year, Lakes Parish Council has had to wrestle with a historic financial problem. In 2003 the annual Parish Precept (the amount the Parish requires ratepayers to pay so that they can serve the community effectively) stood at £48000. A decision was taken by the Parish Council at that time to reduce its Reserves. That decision meant that instead of increasing the Precept the Council would reduce it from £48000 to £37000. Since 2003 minimal increases have taken place with the Reserves subsidising the annual Rate. The Reserves are now depleted and can no longer subsidise the Parish Council Tax. An increase in the Precept is needed to bring the Council back in to financial balance. The reasons for the depletion include the recent unforeseen requirement to subsidise the opening of the local Public Toilets, this year to the tune of £12500. Grant allocation throughout all five Parish Wards has also increased and requests for funding have already been made for the next financial year. These requests include and have included, Troutbeck Bridge Swimming Pool, Grasmere Village Hall, Grasmere Visitor Interpretation Boards (following the closure of the Grasmere Tourist Office), Noticeboards in Chapel Stile and Elterwater, Guiding trip to Mexico, Bus Shelters at West Ing, Ambleside and Grasmere, Your Chance Promotions,

Ambleside Community Christmas Lights and many other worthy causes. The Parish Council have decided that for the financial year 2007/8 the Precept must return to just over its 2003 level in order to protect the Reserves of the Council and meet its obligations to you the Council Taxpayer of the Parish. This means that, for a Band D Council Taxpayer, their Council tax demand will include a Parish rate of approximately £20. Putting this in context, it is likely that Cumbria County Council will be asking ratepayers for well over £1000 with South Lakeland District Council and the Police wanting over £100 each. The Parish Council have decided to keep the local Public Toilets open in partnership with South Lakeland District Council and others but this does have a cost to local people. Although the decision has been taken, the Parish Council will welcome your views on this for future funding consideration.

MARIA FRANCIS DANCE GROUP

The Parish Council wish to congratulate this young persons dance group (comprising mainly Ambleside youngsters) on winning awards in a recent Northern competition. The Group meet every Thursday in the Kelsick Centre, Ambleside.

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS

Neighbourhood Forums are informal public meetings that give local people the opportunity to meet their local County, District and Parish Councillors together with representatives from a variety of organisations. Whilst the primary aim of the Forums is to help local communities voice their needs and wishes, they can also award grants to voluntary, non-profit making community groups for community based projects. Your local Neighbourhood Development Officer can help identify other local funding sources and will let you know when your application can be considered by the Forum. For more information on this you can follow the Community information link on the Cumbria County Council's website: www.cumbriacc.gov.uk or call Debbie on 01539 773180. The next Meeting of Lakes Neighbourhood Forum is 17th January 2007 at the Kelsick Centre, Ambleside.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ambleside Ward

Cllr Leslie Johnson 015394 32904
(Chairman)
 Cllr Elwyn Bradshaw 015394 32760

Cllr Nick Martin 015394 31124
 Cllr Margaret Lockley 015394 33363
 Cllr Anne Parker 015394 34369
 Cllr Maureen Colquhoun 015394 34325
Grasmere Ward
 Cllr Elizabeth Braithwaite MBE 015394 35297
 Cllr Allen Green 015394 35238
(Vice-Chairman)
 Cllr Vivienne Rees 015394 35401
Rydal and Loughrigg Ward
 Cllr Don Brookes 015394 31052
 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
 Email – Michael@lakes-council.freeserve.co.uk

South Lakeland District Councillors are David Vatcher 015394 32822, David Earnshaw 015394 33573 for Lakes (Ambleside) and Vivienne Rees 015394 35401 Lakes (Grasmere). Brian Barton 015394 33215 is the Cumbria County Councillor.

LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

In the next edition of the Parish Newsletter we would like to publish details of all the social activities and community based clubs and organisations in the Lakes Parish Area. Anyone from Ambleside, Grasmere, Langdales, Rydal or Troutbeck who would like to be included please complete the form below and deliver or post it to: The Parish Office, Lakes Parish Council, The Old Courthouse, Church Street, Ambleside LA22 0BT

Name of Group.....
 Contact Name.....
 Contact Address.....

 Contact Telephone Number.....

Please indicate what age groups (from toddlers to senior citizens) attend and some idea of your activities
