

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – January 2009

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Lakes Parish Council wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that the year 2009 is everything you wish it to be. In the local government world this year will see both County Council and European Elections to be held on the same day to minimise costs. Thursday 4th June is the day and you are encouraged to use your Vote.

Our Newsletter is produced to inform 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 Parish Councillors on your behalf. The Parish Council welcome any feedback from this Newsletter and any contributions that residents 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 please.

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.** The Parish Handyman recently had to clean up dog mess on one of our public seats. It is almost unbelievable that someone actually allowed their dog to foul a public seat and not clean it up. It is said that there are no bad dogs, just bad owners!! This must be one of the most extreme cases of wilful dog fouling. On a positive note, those responsible dog owners who use Stoney Lane in Ambleside will note the new litter bin at the junction of the lane and the A591. Please use it for your doggy bags!!

PARISH COUNCIL TASK GROUPS

Lakes Parish Council is carrying on the work of the Parish Plan and has established three Task Groups for this purpose. Affordable Housing, Youth and Environment. Task Groups are led by Councillors from Lakes PC who can co-opt members of the public to help with their work. There has already been one successful public meeting on Affordable Housing, and also a 'sold out' 'Up the Wall' project for young people in the Parish.

To have an input into any of these groups, please contact the Clerk to the Council and he will point you in the right direction.

PUBLIC TOILETS

You may have seen something in the local press recently about the problem in South Lakeland. Not too long ago, District Councils accepted responsibility for the provision and upkeep of the local public toilets, something that has gone on since the Victorian age under the banner of public health. It was then discovered that this responsibility was not, in fact, contained within law, and various District Authorities throughout the Country began to withdraw from the provision of public toilets on the grounds of cost. In South Lakeland a number of toilets were closed by the District Council and this provoked a reaction from Parish Councils, who consider it is an essential requirement to have public toilets for the 15 million visitors to our area (and the locals) who need somewhere to 'spend a penny'!!

A partnership agreement was then drawn up in Lakes that involved local traders, the Parish Council and the District Council where each would contribute to keeping certain strategic toilets open within the Parish. In our Parish this meant Stock Lane at Grasmere, Mechanics in the middle of Ambleside, Chapel Stile and summer opening at Rothay Park. The Parish cost to Council Tax payers of keeping these four toilets open during the last financial year was £13000. You may remember the Parish Council consulted widely, asking through this Newsletter if you felt it was good value for money. The overwhelming response was YES and that there was a need for visitors and locals alike to have facilities to use. The Council debated the issue and agreed to support the scheme but to cap the amount from Lakes at £13000 (one fifth of the money received from the Council Tax for Parish Council services). We have now received an edict, without any consultation from SLDC that they intend to increase our share payable to over £20,000, a huge increase that raises the contribution to almost one third of the money the Parish Council receive **from local taxpayers** to

deliver its services. As a result of the outcry and the refusal of some Parishes to accept this massive increase, a meeting has been arranged with Officers of SLDC to explore the way forward. Lakes Parish Council will debate the issue at its December Meeting, after this Newsletter has gone to press, and an update will be given to everyone in the next Newsletter in March/April. Watch this space!!

CHAPEL STILE BUS SHELTER

You may have seen something in the Press about this bus shelter requested by residents in Langdale. The Parish Council agreed to place a bus shelter at Chapel Stile earlier in 2008 and a two bay shelter was erected. To prevent birds flying into this new shelter, the Council agreed that etchings of Langdale Pikes could be placed on the glass. The Shelter did not meet with the approval of a number of local residents and after a public meeting in the village, a Langdale Valley Association has been re-formed to address this issue. Fund raising is taking place to enable a stone built bus shelter to be erected in place of the existing shelter. The Council will be considering a request for funding from the Valley Association at its December meeting. Again – watch this space!!

AMBLESIDE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Ambleside Community Christmas Lights Committee would like to thank all the many people who helped make our switch-on day such a happy and successful one. We rely on the generosity of the community as we strive to raise £10,000, which is the minimum we need each year to keep the show on the road and the lights on for six weeks. We have received donations from many of you but it is not too late to send us a donation if you have not already done so. Donations can be left at Barclays Bank addressed to Gaynor Rhodes (cheques made payable to *Ambleside Christmas Lights*). If, as an accommodation provider or a business, you had a profitable weekend on 22nd/23rd November last year as a result of the thousands who came to Ambleside, please support us.

PUBLIC INFORMATION ITEMS

1.

GRASMERE AND RYDAL, TROUTBECK AND TROUTBECK BRIDGE

Have your say about improvements to:

WALKING, CYCLING, PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND SAFE USE OF THE CAR

	Troutbeck and Troutbeck Bridge Meetings at Troutbeck Institute	Grasmere & Rydal Meetings at Grasmere Village Hall
Meeting 1: Listing the issues	Monday 19th January	Thursday 22nd January
Meeting 2: Scoring the issues	Monday 2nd February	Thursday 5th February
Meeting 3: Explanation of the final plans	Monday 16th February	Thursday 19th February

All meetings start at 7pm

We look forward to seeing you there! If you can't make the meetings but would like to put forward ideas or concerns, please call 01539 713180, email

debbie.binch@cumbriacc.gov.uk or put them on paper and drop them in at the Troutbeck filling station, Troutbeck Institute, or Ambleside library before 19th January (Troutbeck and Troutbeck Bridge) and 22nd January (Grasmere and Rydal).

Minibus transport will be available for people from Troutbeck Bridge to the Troutbeck Institute at 6.50pm from the school road.



2.

Ambleside Parish Centre

A perfect setting for your weddings, parties, group meetings or training sessions

Superb facilities including full kitchen and computer presentation equipment with a choice of room size from 2 to 3 people right up to 120



For further information or to arrange to view the centre to discuss your requirement for either a one off or regular booking please contact

Centre Administrator
015394 34172

email: parishcentre@etherway.net

Or call into the office 9.30am to 1pm Monday to Thursday

Vicarage Road Ambleside LA22 9DH

www.amblesideparishcentre.org.uk

Serving the people & churches of Ambleside

3.

HORTICULTURE

CRAFTS

INTERESTED?

Ambleside Horticultural and Craft Society holds two Shows a year. Spring and Summer. In addition there are Winter Talks and Car Boot Sales, the proceeds of which help to support the Shows. The Spring Show is on 28th/29th March so there is still time to plant your Show Bulbs. Spring Show categories include Flowers and bulbs, Floral Art, photography, handicrafts, Cookery and Childrens classes. Is there something to interest you?? The Organisers need help – No experience needed! To find out more please call David Capstick on 015394 32252

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th January 2009 in the Library, Ambleside commencing at 7.30pm and the one after that on the 28th January 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.

The Parish Council positively welcome 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?

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ambleside Ward (6)

Cllr Leslie Johnson 015394 32904(Chairman)

Cllr Elwyn Bradshaw 015394 32760

Cllr Nick Martin 015394 31124

Cllr Philip Thompson 015394 33410

Cllr Maureen Colquhoun 015394 34325

Cllr Anne Sowerbutts 015394 32691

Grasmere Ward(3)

Cllr Elizabeth Braithwaite MBE (Freeman of Lakes) 015394 35297

Cllr Allen Green 01539435238(Vice Chairman)

Cllr Vivienne Rees 015394 35401

Rydal and Loughrigg Ward (2)

Cllr David Welch 015394 32765

Cllr Fiona Sparrow 015394 32441

Langdales Ward(3)

Cllr Sheila Ogden 015394 32341

Cllr Liz Wilson 015394 37327

Cllr Jonathan Smith 015394 37592

Troutbeck Ward(2)

Cllr Harry Allen 015394 44021

Cllr Roger Westmoreland 015394 33287

Clerk – Michael Johnson JP

lakesparishcouncil@fsmail.net

015394 31656 Parish Office: The Police Station, Rydal Road, Ambleside. LA22 9AY
Open Mondays and Wednesdays 9.45 to 5pm and one other weekday..

FOR DETAILS OF ALL PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES – MINUTES, AGENDAS, PARISH PLAN, DIRECTORY OF SERVICES. PAST AND PRESENT NEWSLETTERS ETC GO TO
WWW.AMBLESIDEONLINE.CO.UK

AND FINALLY

The success of the Highway Steward scheme, introduced by Cumbria County Council earlier this year, is being recognised with a series of photographs to be published throughout Cumbria highlighting the Highways Hotline (0845 6096609). Your Parish Council have been asked to participate in this due to the success of their local Highway Steward, Brian Rollitt, and his delivery of services direct to local people through the Parish Clerk and Highways Hotline. **WELL DONE BRIAN!!**