

# LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER – January 2010

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

Lakes Parish Council wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that the year 2010 is everything you wish it to be. In the local government world last year saw both County Council and European Elections. David Earnshaw, who many of you will know, was elected to serve as County Councillor for Lakes and I am sure you know one high profile figure (who was on a recent Question Time on BBC) who was elected to serve as one of our Members of the European Parliament.

Our Newsletter is produced to inform residents 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 you 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 is always having to address this problem on his rounds. It is said that there are no bad dogs, just bad owners!!

### RED BANK GRASMERE

Lakes Parish Council is working hard to try to achieve signage near Grasmere Garden Centre and in other nearby locations to ban large vehicles including HGV's and Caravans who seem to be making a habit of trying to use this dangerous and narrow road to get to Barrow, Coniston and all points south!! One of the main problems is SATNAV. Drivers slavishly follow the disembodied instructions from this device and end up in all kinds of trouble. Once committed past the Gold Rill Hotel they are bound to come to grief. We have had instances of a 40 tonne HGV being stuck for almost a full day, the driver was trying to get to Barrow from Penrith!!! The Coop

Trucker, having delivered to the Grasmere Store, then tried to get to Chapel Stile over Red Bank. Needless to say it was the driver's first time delivering locally and he was again following his SATNAV!!!

The cost of Police time, County Council time and damage to walls is considerable. Road closure inevitably causes frustration and anger from locals and tourists alike. During the recent floods the only way out of the Langdale Valley at times was Red Bank.

To try to expedite matters and get warning signage in place, the Parish Council have agreed to pay £500 towards the cost of the signs. Hopefully, by the time you receive this letter, we will see some results. In addition the Council are taking up the whole question of SATNAV and its associated problems nationally through the Cumbria Association of Local Councils.

### DUNGEON GHYLL BUS SHELTER

For some time the Parish Council have been negotiating with the National Trust to put a well designed wooden bus shelter at the point where the 516 turns around at Old Dungeon Ghyll. This would have been of great help to those walkers who brave the elements but find that they have some time to wait for the next bus. The County Council awarded Lakes Parish £3700 towards this scheme.

We have now been told that because of the unique character of the valley the Curator of the National Trust cannot agree to a single building in the landscape and therefore our request has been refused. This is a great disappointment to the Parish Council who have now had to return the agreed funding to the County Council. Further representations are to be made but for now the scheme cannot proceed.

### PUBLIC SEATS

Thanks to the generosity of local people, there are now three new seats in and around Ambleside. The one attracting most favourable comment is that placed on Lake Road in memory of Johnny Williamson, the late local barber. This seat replaces the Victorian seat destroyed in a road accident as we were

unable to source a 'like for like' replacement. His family requested that particular location as that was where he was often to be seen at lunchtime. The other seats are on Lake Road near the junction with Mclver Lane and on the triangle of grass near St Anne's Church.

### **PUBLIC TOILETS**

Following on from a previous article, further discussions and deliberations are taking place on how to deliver the public toilet provision 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 Parish 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). A team of Consultants has now been engaged by South Lakeland to consult with the public and come forward with recommendations to address the problem.

A decision will be taken in March 2010 by the SLDC Cabinet. In any event the Stock Lane Toilets in Grasmere have now been given back to the Lake District National Park

Authority and a new agreement will have to be negotiated for this particular important toilet block. Again, watch this space!!

### **CHAPEL STILE BUS SHELTER**

The new stone built shelter is now progressing and should be constructed by the time this newsletter is distributed. Protracted negotiations have taken place with Mitre Housing who own a small strip of land on which part of the shelter will be built. This has now been satisfactorily concluded and work has commenced. Langdale Valley Association has raised a considerable amount of money towards the new Shelter and the Parish Council will make up the shortfall. The original 'urban style' bus shelter has been donated by the Parish Council to Langdale School as a shelter to encourage the use of bicycles.

### **AMBLESIDE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

By the time you read this the lights will have been taken down.

The Committee hope you enjoyed the blue and white festoons and the Christmas trees in Market Place. We have some new ideas planned for next year. We would like to thank everyone who made a donation to our funds and supported us when we had to cancel the lantern procession and fireworks on November 21<sup>st</sup>. We are a small Committee and we are very grateful for the help and encouragement that we get from so many members of the community. Thank you.

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**PUBLIC INFORMATION ITEM**  
**HORTICULTURE**                      **CRAFTS**  
**DAFFODIL AND SPRING FLOWER SHOW**  
**2010. The Spring Show is on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of March in the Kelsick Centre Ambleside.**

Schedules will be available from Ambleside Library or phone David Capstick on 015394 32252 to decide what you would like to enter. There are lots of classes for adults and children, or just make a note of the date and visit us; it's a friendly Show with refreshments available...AND there is still time to plant up bulbs!!!!

### **NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010 in the Library, Ambleside, commencing at 7.30pm and the one after that on the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 of concern.

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?

### **TROUTBECK HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY**

It is planned that a Housing Needs Survey will be sent out with this newsletter to all the households and businesses in the Troutbeck ward of Lakes Parish. This survey has been commissioned by the Lake District National Park, supported by the Parish Council, and is being undertaken by Cumbria Rural Housing Trust, an independent charity that works with rural communities to assess the level and type of housing need and to then find solutions to any lack of suitable housing. So please could all households complete and return the Part 1 of the form to give an overview of housing in the ward, and those households (new or existing) who are planning to move in the next 5 years should complete Part 2 as well. The Trust is covered by the Data Protection Act, so the completed forms are kept confidential, and information included in the survey report is checked to ensure that it is anonymous. The survey report can then be used by the community, the Parish Council, the Lake District National Park and others to find ways forward to satisfy any housing need in the area. Please send your completed forms back to Cumbria Rural Housing Trust by 31<sup>st</sup> January '10 in the stamped addressed envelope enclosed, and if you need extra forms as you have more than one household in need, please ring the Trust on 01768 210264.

### **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 Ella Footit 015394 35918  
Cllr Vivienne Rees 015394 35401

#### **Rydal and Loughrigg Ward (2)**

Cllr Malcolm Parsons 015394 33804  
Cllr Fiona Sparrow 015394 32441(Vice Chairman)

#### **Langdales Ward(3)**

Cllr Sheila Ogden 015394 32341  
Cllr Liz Wilson 015394 37327  
Cllr Mark Dugdale 015394 37447

#### **Troutbeck Ward(2)**

Cllr Harry Allen 015394 44021  
Cllr Roger Westmoreland 015394 33287

#### **Clerk – Michael Johnson JP**

([lakesparishcouncil@fsmail.net](mailto: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](http://WWW.AMBLESIDEONLINE.CO.UK)**

### **AND FINALLY**

The success of the Highway Steward scheme, introduced by Cumbria County Council earlier this year, is recognised with a series of photographs published throughout Cumbria highlighting the Highways Hotline (0845 6096609). Your Parish Council has participated in this due to the success of our local Highway Steward, Brian Rollitt, and his delivery of services direct to local people through the Parish Clerk and Highways Hotline.

### **STOP PRESS**

To the great dismay of the Parish Council, the University of Cumbria has announced that they are to mothball (close) the Ambleside Campus at the end of this academic year. This decision will have a devastating impact on our Parish and particularly in Ambleside. The Parish Council will discuss this at its December Meeting. Many years of higher education in Ambleside will cease at the stroke of a pen. A campaign is already in progress to try to reverse this decision that I am sure the Parish Council will fully support. Watch this space!!!