

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – Edition July 2010

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 welcomes any feedback from this Newsletter and 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.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th July 2010 in the Library, Ambleside, commencing at 7.30pm and the one after that on the 28th July 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 make representations in the Meeting and the Chairman will adjourn at 8pm to allow the public to speak on any matter that concerns them or on anything that they think the Parish Council should know.

The Parish Council deals with a whole range of local issues on your behalf and 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 or raise any issues or concerns that you may have.

PARISH DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

You may recall that in September 2008 and again in 2009 this Newsletter carried a comprehensive list of local Organisations and Services that had been compiled by a Project Officer working under the direction of the Parish Plan group. It is intended to make this an annual event and publish an updated list in the next Newsletter to refresh and remind you of what is going on within Lakes Parish and how to contact the relevant people within each particular group or specialisation.

The Parish Council welcomes any updates from those listed and any additions that people may think would be useful to those living in the Parish.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Writing an Annual Chairman's report was once simply a 'One Off' list of what we had been doing throughout the year. Now we send you a regular update through your letterbox four times a year. Many thanks to our Parish Clerk who pulls together the news of our Council activities and also includes notices of Community Events sent in to him. At a time when money is short in the Public Sector, I report to you on the challenges facing us now and in the future. As ever, our job is to focus upon what our Electorate needs and try to deliver it at the lowest possible cost. The 'Flavour of the Month' at the behest of Central Government, is 'Local Area Partnerships'. The principle is to devolve decision-making on the needs of the local community down from District and County Councils to a more local level. Highly commendable, despite the extra work involved, but we need the money to come down also. There are concerns that this must not be merely an exercise in making even more demands on the Parish Precept. We have had that problem for some years in paying over £13000 each year of your money in order to subsidise the Public Toilets in our Parish. This continues to be one of our main priorities and we press the District Council constantly. Clearly we need our Toilets and to keep our streets and parks in good condition for locals and the tourists on whom our economy depends. On the positive side the very visible results delivered by our Highway Steward, Brian, and by Robin, our Parish Handyman, are good examples of what can be achieved through joint working.

A good Parish Council must be pro-active with a professional Parish Clerk and a dedicated **unpaid** team of Parish Councillors working throughout the year to use their local knowledge on behalf of the Community. This I believe we have, and I thank them all for their support and hard work during this past year.

Finally I could not end this report without noting the passing of a long serving and dedicated Lakes Parish Councillor, Elizabeth Braithwaite MBE, Freeman of Lakes. Elizabeth served for many years as both Councillor and Chairman of the Parish. Her

breadth of knowledge and her willingness to share that for the benefit of everyone, particularly in her home village of Grasmere, is an example to us all. We do miss her.

Leslie Johnson
Chairman of Lakes Parish Council



WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED DURING 2009/10

It is interesting to list some of the things the Council has been involved in during the last year.

- Ongoing dialogue with the police on matters of local concern, including vandalism, on-street car parking, drugs and criminal activities. Supporting the Stronger Safer Neighbourhoods campaign.
- A continuing partnership with the Police. The Parish Council Office is part of Ambleside Police Station offering a Counter service to members of the public, when the Community Volunteers are not available, reporting minor Police matters, including lost or found property,.
- Continuing the appointment of a Parish Handyman working 10 hours per week to address basic issues including litter, sign cleaning, hedge trimming, seat and bus shelter cleaning and general small maintenance matters within the Parish.
- Continuing liaison with the Cumbria County Council Highway Steward for Highway matters, minor road repairs, hedge and vegetation trimming.

- Parish Councillors serve on many Committees, Charities and Organisations within and on the periphery of the Lakes Parish Council area.
- The Council made recommendations on over 115 planning applications and was represented at 5 Lake District National Park Authority site visits
- The Council responded to consultation documents from South Lakeland District Council, The Lake District National Park Authority, Cumbria County Council, Central Government, Morecambe Bay Health Authority, Cumbria Association of Local Councils, the Police and others.
- As a result of Parish Council initiatives White Platts at Ambleside is now open on Sundays and warning signs are in place on Red Bank road, Grasmere.
- As a result of Parish Council representations, together with the local community, an application for a right of way running from North Road to Chapel Hill is in the list for consideration by the County Council.
- The Council continues to lobby and work with Cumbria Association of Local Councils for better public toilets.
- The Council has lobbied Government and the University of Cumbria to retain the undergraduate presence in Ambleside but with limited success to date.
- Lakes Parish Council continue to keep a watching brief on any proposals for alternative cycle routes around Ambleside and from Bowness to Waterhead.
- The Council has Task Groups to continue the work of the Parish Plan Action Group all chaired and led by Lakes Parish Councillors. A major success has been the 'Up the Wall' project for young people in partnership with the University and Police.
- Ensured the retention of public toilets at Chapel Stile, Ambleside, Grasmere and Rothay Park as a result of giving your money totalling £14722.19p in this financial year,
- Assisted in the replacement of seats in memory of Johnny Williamson, the well-known local barber, and 3 seats in memory of others. They are located at the top of Compston Road, near St

Anne's Church and at the top of Mclver lane. All these seats have been donated and paid for by relatives in memory of their loved ones.

- Assisted with the planning, finance and installation of the new stone built bus shelter in Chapel Stile.
- Continued with the quarterly Newsletter (the pink sheet) informing the Parish of the work of the Council and also including items of general information and interest. **This list contains only a few examples of the Council's busy schedule in support of local people.**

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2009/10

Receipts 2009/10		Payments 2009/10	
Balance b/f	14941.85	Office supplies	602.62
SLDC Precept	65000.00	Telephones	567.48
VAT refund	2669.83	Salaries (Clerk)	16099.43
NSB interest	34.24	Handyman	3877.86
Barclays Interest	20.46	Expenses	49.00
Parish Plan grant	0.0	PAYE (tax)	3233.80
Up the Wall donation	1117.50	NI Employer	2953.06
Donated seats	3513.81	NI Employee	503.48
Bus Shelter Grant	2000.00	Election Costs	0.0
		Chairman	100.00
Total	89297.69*	Postage	400.00
		Grants	3700.00
		CAB Grant	1000.00
		Toilets SLDC	14722.19
		Subscriptions	151.00
		CALC	419.00
		F/way Lighting	1296.00
		Bus shelters/seats	7726.00
		Insurance	963.52
		Rent (Office)	4316.50
		Audit Fee	600.00
		VAT	2176.06
		Training	98.00
		Lakes in Bloom	679.24
		Up the Wall	886.61
		Maintenance	415.00
		MTI Officer	0.0
		Newsletter/	2644.38
		Repairs etc	956.57
		Bank charges	150.23
		Year End Balances	
		NSB	11853.95
		<u>Barclays Current</u>	<u>6156.71</u>
			89297.69*

* Balancing figure

Grants awarded included the following:-

SLDC – Toilet grant	-	£14722.19
Ambleside Christmas Lights	-	2000.00
Holy Trinity Langdale - graveyard	-	250.00
Cumbria Rural CAB -	-	1000.00
Grasmere Players	-	250.00
St Mary's Ambleside - graveyard	-	200.00
Ambleside Brownies	-	500.00
St Johns Ambulance	-	250.00
Learning Plus Ambleside	-	200.00

A full Annual Report is available at the Parish Office or at www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish
The Annual Accounts have been available for inspection in the Parish Office up to 14th June. They have been verified by the Parish Council Internal Auditor and have received a clean bill of health. Electors of Lakes Parish can question the External Auditor of the Council about the accounts from June 18th 2010. Details are available from the Parish Clerk.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

We now have a Vacancy for one Councillor to serve in the Langdales Ward and one to serve in the Troutbeck Ward. No election has been requested for either Vacancy and the Council will fill both by co-option at its Meeting on July 14th. Some interest has already been expressed, however if you wish to be considered for co-option, please write to the Clerk at the Parish Office **before July 13th** giving some details about yourself and your reasons for wishing to become a Lakes Parish Councillor.

LOCAL ROADWORKS THIS AUTUMN

We have received advance notification that resurfacing works will be undertaken during September on the A593, Skelwith Bridge to Clappersgate (various sections) that will involve night time closures for approximately one week that will be similar to the work that took place on this road a few months ago. There will also be work on the A593 Rothay Road Ambleside with the working area closed for two weeks approx and the one way circuit suspended with diversion route under traffic signal control. All queries on this to Steve Gibson at Capita Kendal 01539713006.

AMBLESIDE SPORTS 2010

It isn't long now to our Traditional Sports Day which will be taking place on Thursday 29th July – make a note in your diary! As always there will be a full programme: Cumberland & Westmorland wrestling, Hound trailing, Track running and Cycling races, Fell races, and Children's races. Once again we will be linking up with the Rushbearing Sports - the first 3 boys & first 3 girls in the fell race will be invited to run in the Junior Guides Race, and bring their families to watch.

Some children who have been running regularly in the Children's Races are now too old and so we are going to introduce races for

them in the main arena starting with 400m races for U13 and U15. In a bid to attract more local runners at the senior level we are also introducing a Men's 800m race. These events will not be handicapped and entries will be accepted on the day (unless previously full). Entry forms for all events can be downloaded from our web site www.amblesidesports.co.uk

All the usual attractions will be there – children's rides, bouncy castles, quad bikes, climbing walls, etc. There will also be plenty of trade stands, craft stalls and catering units. There will also be a live brass band playing in the beer tent.

SUMMER FLOWER SHOW

*The 68th AMBLESIDE SUMMER FLOWER SHOW & CRAFT FAIR will be held on **The Rugby Field, Borrans Road, Ambleside, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 6th, 7th and 8th August. (note the change of venue)***

Still the same friendly traditional Show with good level access, Indoor and outdoor attractions including plant, horticultural and Craft stalls, as well as 250 competitive classes under cover: Flowers, Fruit, Vegetables, Floral Art, Handicrafts, Cookery, Wines, Eggs, Honey, Children's Classes. Parking and disabled parking all free. Refreshments available. Show schedules free from Ambleside library. Enquiries: David Capstick 015394 32252.

RED SQUIRREL GROUP

Red squirrels are just about surviving with very low populations in the central lakes including the Lakes Parish. The grey squirrel was introduced from North America in the mid nineteenth century and as it has spread north through England it has caused extinction of reds almost everywhere except the Northern counties and a few islands. Firstly, the grey is larger, stronger, a more prolific breeder and eats approximately eight times as much food than the red. Secondly, it carries the squirrel pox virus which has little effect on itself but when passed to the red, results in a painful death. Hence, if red squirrels are to be preserved in our region, it is important that it is kept grey free. Unfortunately, this can only be achieved by eradicating the greys from the area. This is done in a humane way. Many volunteer groups are active in grey squirrel control across Cumbria. Their efforts have almost certainly prevented red squirrels from becoming extinct in a number of areas.

You can help red squirrels by reporting sightings of greys and reds asap by leaving a message on the HOTLINE: 07878 061880 or on-line at <http://northernredsquirrels.org.uk/sighting.htm> . You

can volunteer to help a local squirrel group using the same contact details.

Northern Red Squirrels are organising a 'Squirrel Fest' for later this year at Brockhole (Lake District Visitor Centre, Windermere) on Sunday, 26th September. This will be an informative and fun event for young and old alike.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ambleside Ward (6)

Cllr Leslie Johnson 015394 32904 – Chairman of Council

Cllr Elwyn Bradshaw 015394 32760

Cllr Nick Martin 015394 31124

Cllr Anne Sowerbutts 015394 32691

Cllr Maureen Colquhoun 015394 34325

Cllr Philip Thompson 015394 33410

Grasmere Ward (3)

Cllr Paul Truelove 015394 35200

Cllr Ella Footit 015394 35918

Cllr Vivienne Rees 015394 35401

Rydal and Loughrigg Ward (2)

Cllr Malcolm Parsons 015394 32228

Cllr Fiona Sparrow 015394 32441 (Vice Chairman of Council)

Langdales Ward (3)

Cllr Sheila Ogden 015394 32341

Cllr Liz Wilson 015394 37327

Vacancy – to be filled by Co-option

Troutbeck Ward (2)

Cllr Roger Westmoreland 015394 33287

Vacancy – to be filled by Co-option

District Cllrs – David Vatcher and Vivienne Rees.

County Cllr – David Earnshaw

Clerk – Michael Johnson J.P. 015394 31656

lakesparish@fsmail.net

The Police Station

Rydal Road

Ambleside

LA22 9AY

For online details of the Parish Council you may like to visit

www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Welcome to Paul Truelove who has been co-opted onto Lakes Parish Council to fill the Grasmere Vacancy that was advertised in the last edition of the Newsletter. Paul lives in the Ward and is well known in the local community.

Goodbye to Harry Allen from Troutbeck who has decided to take a well earned retirement from public life. He has served the people of Troutbeck and Lakes Parish since 1980 and was the longest serving Councillor on the Authority. We wish Harry and his family all the very best for the future.

AND FINALLY

A **BIG** thank you to Paul Renouf who is the creator and hands on editor of the website www.amblesideonline.co.uk. His dedication to the community and unseen work on behalf of us all is very much appreciated.