

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2012

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL WISH EVERYONE
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

**THE FIRST ITEM IN THE NEWSLETTER IS
VERY IMPORTANT AS IT CONCERNS THE
AMOUNT YOU WILL PAY IN COUNCIL TAX
FOR PARISH COUNCIL SPENDING IN THE
NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR 2012/2013.**

2012/2013 BUDGET

At present out of your total Council Tax bill the average Band D property in Lakes Parish pays £29.57p each year. Your Parish Council has recently approved a budget for the next financial year that includes the improvement of a number of public toilets in the Parish. This budget requires an increase for the average Band D property of £11.53 a year (just under 96p per month). It includes a one off £10k charge for improvement to the toilets. In percentage terms it might seem a lot but in fact 96p a month (or 24p a week) for three main toilets to be brought up to modern standards is not a significant amount...and it is hoped that the following year, by introducing a minimal charge of 20p per visit to these upgraded conveniences, it may be possible to bring the rates down by an equal amount. This will be the only increase on your Council rates this year as both SLDC and Cumbria County Council are restricted by Government on what they can charge.

As part of an agreement with South Lakeland District Council, to help with the running costs of the toilets, Lakes Parish Council is being given White Platts recreation area to manage. They are also being offered the Wednesday Market on King Street car park. There will be additional income from both of these.

Taking these public conveniences etc under local management will go a long way to addressing the recently enacted 'Localism' bill and enable hands on management of important local facilities to remain with locally elected Councillors. Your Parish Council would like to know if you, the Council Tax payer in Lakes Parish, feel that this is a prudent use of **YOUR** money. By also managing an additional two public conveniences with an improved financial package from SLDC, the Council hope that

they can continue to operate modern facilities for the benefit of locals and visitors alike. Do you wish this to continue? Or do you feel that the money could be spent usefully in other areas? Please write to or telephone the Clerk or speak to one of your local Councillors listed at the end of this Newsletter and let him or her know what you think.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

New Year's Resolution – help others.

Citizens Advice is the largest advice charity in the UK. Last year we helped more than 2 million people with 7 million problems across the country. Most of the advisers are trained volunteers helping people with their problems – would you like to join us? We give free training through attending a course for 1 day a week.

If Advising isn't for you, then why not get involved in other essential roles such as fundraising, publicity, campaigning or trusteeship? Each bureau is a separate registered charity and needs to find the money each year so we can continue to offer help to people in our local area. Your time is valuable to us so why not get involved?

We're looking for all sorts of people with different backgrounds and skills. Volunteering is worthwhile, fun and hugely rewarding. For more information on any of these volunteering roles contact 015394 46464 or email support@cumbriarural.cabnet.org.uk.

Free, confidential advice and help is available from the Citizens Advice Bureau on any aspect of debt, benefits, employment, and any other problems. You can contact the Grange or Windermere Citizens Advice Bureau by phone or in person. Call 015395 33100 / 01539446464 www.cumbriaruralcab.org.uk

LAKES PARISH HANDYMAN

Following on from the Budget setting meeting, Lakes Parish Council has decided to continue to support the idea of a Parish Handyman with a budget of £5000. This will be the fourth year that our Handyman has operated throughout the Parish. Well done Robin Lees...your dedication to our Parish is very much appreciated. Robin deals with those small

problems within the Parish that the larger authorities seem reluctant to address. No doubt you have seen him about in the Parish in all weathers with his barrow, spade, high viz jacket and brush!! Robin is a community orientated person with lots of local knowledge within Grasmere and Ambleside. He works throughout all communities in the Parish so please let any Councillor or the Clerk know of areas of concern, be it litter, dog fouling, sign painting and cleaning, bench/seat maintenance or repair etc that you feel need attention and we will try to sort it out. The Council is convinced that this scheme is a tremendous success, so continues to put money into the budget to enable it to continue. Again, do you think this is an acceptable way to spend **YOUR** money? Let us know.

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

Big Garden Bird watch weekend 28-29 January.... One of the biggest events of the year is set to take place over the weekend of 28-29 January, but it's nothing to do with MPs, celebrities or sport. This event involves our feathered friends, over half a million people and plenty of cups of tea! Yes, it's almost time for the RSPB's Big Garden Bird watch. This is the charity's most important event of the year when people across the UK look out of their window and spend an hour of their weekend recording how many birds they see. Last year, over 600,000 people counted more than 10 million garden birds. The information from this survey helps the RSPB form a comprehensive picture of how well – or not so well - each species is doing.

Taking part in Big Garden Bird watch not only helps the RSPB track the ups and downs of garden birds, but gives you the perfect excuse to sit down with a cup of tea and enjoy the wildlife in your garden. If you would like to step up for nature and take part, you can request a free Big Garden Bird watch pack over the phone by calling 0300 456 8330. Alternatively, you can visit the RSPB website www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch for more information and to submit your results online. School children and their teachers are also being given the opportunity to learn more about their local birds with the Big Schools' Bird watch taking place 16 – 30 January. A fun and educational activity, pupils spend an hour looking out of their classroom window, recording what birds they can see on their playing field. Visit

www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch to find out more.

AMBLESIDE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Ambleside Christmas Lights Committee would like to thank all those who donated to our funds and in doing so made it possible for us to add to the festive cheer. We also thank all the members of the community who helped us on November 19th when Father Christmas turned on the lights to the applause of many locals and visitors. We were surprised by the size of the crowds and are beginning to wonder how to cope with such large numbers, especially if they continue to increase. We would welcome any comments and suggestions or offers of help that we could then discuss at our AGM next March, at which indeed, members of the public will be welcomed. Please respond to Chairman Andrew Hewitt, c/o the Regent Hotel, or Secretary Fiona Sparrow (32441).

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th January 2012 in the Library Ambleside commencing at 7pm and the one after that will be a Plans Meeting on the 25th January 2012, same time and venue. Early date for your diary is the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in Ambleside Parish Centre (Wesley Room) on Wednesday 2nd May 2012 commencing at 7pm. Last year Liz Beaty gave good news about the University Campus in Ambleside. This year it is hoped to have a guest speaker who will speak on equally topical or local matters.

There are Parish Council Noticeboards in the Library, Church Street and outside of the Parish Office at the Police Station. These carry a list of forthcoming Meetings and other information of interest to the public.

Members of the public are entitled to attend any Parish Council Meeting to listen to items discussed. The Chairman will adjourn at 7.30 to allow the public to speak on any matter concerning the Parish and also on anything you think the Council should know.

The Parish Council deals with a whole range of local issues on your behalf and positively welcomes contributions from electors of the Parish of Lakes.

Why not come along to listen or raise your points of concern?

SPRING IS APPROACHING – PLANT YOUR SPRING BULBS NOW, READY TO SHOW!

Ambleside Horticultural Society will hold our Daffodil and Spring Flower Show

at the Kelsick Centre, Ambleside on 31st March and 1st April 2012.

Classes will include flowers, plants, bulbs, photography, cookery, handicrafts, floral art and children's classes. Light refreshments will be available.

Entry will be £2. Senior citizen £1.50.

Accompanied children under 16, free.

Windermere Reflections - Linking Lakes, Landscapes & Lives

Windermere Reflections is a Heritage Lottery Funded 3 year programme which will work with the whole community (locals and visitors) to encourage positive action for the Windermere catchment. There are 19 projects running, all delivering improvements to the catchment. They include on the ground conservation work, information provision, training and volunteering opportunities, learning opportunities and the chance to celebrate and appreciate our environment. The programme brings together all kinds of people with different skills, knowledge and understanding. It's a partnership working towards a healthy catchment. In addition to HLF the core funding partners are the Environment Agency, Lake District National Park Authority, the National Trust, and the University of Cumbria. Want to know more...ring 015394 34401

Kirkfield Play Area Update

The Ambleside Community Group has now raised the funds needed and work on the play area is due to start in January. The Group would like to thank all the local organisations, businesses and individuals who have helped us raise these funds. We have received donations from Home Housing (£5000), Cumbria Community Foundation (£3000) and the Frieda Scott Trust (£1500). We would also like to thank Esquires who have made their upstairs room available for meetings. By Easter there should be an exciting new play area in place. If you would like to see the plans or discuss the project please phone Ursula (34409) or Fiona (32441).

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ambleside Ward

Cllr Elwyn Bradshaw (Chairman of Council)
32760

Cllr Leslie Johnson 32904

Cllr Maureen Colquhoun 34325

Cllr Nick Martin 31124

Cllr Mrs Anne Sowerbutts 32691

Cllr Philip Thompson 33410

Grasmere Ward

Cllr Ella Footit 35918

Cllr Paul Truelove 35200

Cllr Vivienne Rees 35401

Rydal and Loughrigg Ward

Cllr Fiona Sparrow 32441 (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Malcolm Parsons 32228

Langdales Ward

Cllr Jean Birkett 37237

Cllr Rod Holmes 37475

Cllr Mrs Sheila Ogden 32341

Troutbeck Ward

Cllr Pip Simpson 31014

Cllr Louise Waterhouse 31182

Clerk – Michael Johnson 31656

Lakes Parish Council

Ambleside Police Station

Rydal Road

Ambleside

LA22 9AY

Telephone/Fax 015394 31656

Email - lakesparish@fsmail.net

Webpage www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish

AND FINALLY...QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012 – AMBLESIDE EVENT.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee gives the town the opportunity to celebrate as a community rather than relying on individuals or neighbours to arrange street parties, get-togethers etc.

It has been suggested that an ideal celebration would be to use Rothay Park as a venue for a "Picnic in the Park" event on one of the Bank Holidays of the Jubilee Weekend. Lakes Parish Council has agreed to help with some funding and it is anticipated that national funding may be available for such a community event. A possible date might be Sunday June 3rd 2012.

It is also anticipated that such an event would not be an expensive exercise as those attending would be responsible for their own picnic, seating, gazebos (if required) etc. It would give the town the opportunity to party as a group, couples or as a family.

The idea of a Community Jubilee Event means just that – each town organisation & society will be asked to contribute with help, ideas and possibly a small amount of funding, depending on local & national funding available.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY FOR A FAMILY DAY OUT....WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE INFORMATION