

YOUR LAKES PARISH NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2006

(encompassing Ambleside, Troutbeck North, Rydal, Loughrigg, Grasmere and the whole of the Langdales)

HELLO FROM LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors have agreed to seek Quality Parish Status and, as part of that process, various key items need to be achieved. One of these is the publication of a Newsletter for the Parish four times a year and this is the first. The Parish Council welcome any feedback, good or bad, on the content of this newsletter and hope that as further issues take place the content will be interesting and informative.

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY 2006

South Lakeland District Council has commissioned David Cumberland Housing Regeneration Ltd to undertake a housing needs survey of the whole of the South Lakeland District which includes Lakes Parish. The survey will be undertaken by sending a questionnaire to a sample of households including every household in **AMBLESIDE**. These forms will be sent out in February with the results published in June. **This work is very important and will make a difference because it will be used to assess the range of housing needed by permanent residents both now and in the future.** It will assess the need for houses to buy or rent and will provide up to date evidence on the need for affordable housing. It is essential to obtain evidence in this way to obtain Government funding and secure planning permission for affordable housing schemes. Since a similar survey in 2002, over 300 more affordable dwellings have been provided throughout the District of South Lakeland. **It is vital that if you receive a form, you complete it and return it in the prepaid envelope provided.** You should do this even if you don't need re-housing yourself as by returning the form you will be helping others – maybe a son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter- to obtain appropriate housing in the future.

Lakes Parish Plan

After many months and a lot of hard work we now have a Lakes Parish Plan. The next thing

is to try to implement all the recommendations contained therein. This Plan covers Ambleside, Rydal, Grasmere, Langdale and Troutbeck. It looks at what local people value in their community and what they want to change. It sets out an action plan to bring about positive changes. The work was carried out by volunteers on behalf of the Parish Council and now it is time to try to get things moving. A Meeting has been called on Tuesday February 21st 2006 in the Beehive, St Martins College, Ambleside starting at 7pm. If you are interested in joining a working group to develop projects in Lakes Parish covering many topics such as Environment, Housing, Transport, Highways, Parking, Public amenities, Health, community care and children/Young people, then please come along to this meeting. If you cannot come but would like to be involved with the work then please let the Clerk to the Parish Council know (Tel 31656) and we will keep you informed of future meetings. There are reference copies of the Lakes Parish Plan in Ambleside Library, online at www.amblesideonline.co.uk or you can obtain a copy from the Clerk.

Parish Council Elections May 2006

Lakes Parish Council is due for election on Thursday 4th May 2006. 6 Councillors for Ambleside Ward; 3 for Grasmere Ward; 2 for Rydal Ward; 3 for Langdale Ward and 2 for Troutbeck Ward. To achieve Quality Parish status, at least 13 of these Councillors MUST be elected (even if they are elected unopposed!!) If YOU feel that you would like to take an interest in YOUR Parish Council then please contact Michael Johnson, Clerk to the Lakes Parish Council at the Council Offices in Church Street, Ambleside Telephone 31656. He will provide you with all the necessary information. The Parish Council Office is open every Monday between 10am and 4pm and also on two other unspecified days during the week. Nominations for this election will close in early April so it is vital that you take steps now to find out how YOU can become a Parish Councillor.

RYDAL PROJECT

Annual Accounts 2005/6

The Annual Accounts and Financial Statement for the year 2005/6 are always available for public inspection in the Parish Office and are published annually, usually about May/June time after their Audit by the Auditors to the Council. The next Newsletter will hopefully carry a précis of the Accounts so that you can see where YOUR money is being spent in Lakes Parish. One of the major items of expenditure is the Partnership with South Lakeland District Council to keep open Public Toilets. In the coming financial year, Lakes Parish Council will spend over £12000 of your money keeping toilets open. One major achievement in 2005 was the re-opening of Rothay Park toilets in partnership with the District Council. These toilets are closed from November to February inclusive but provide an essential service during the Spring, Summer and Autumn months. The Parish Council are also part funding the erection of two bus shelters in the Parish during this financial year. A bespoke shelter in Prince of Wales Lay-by at Grasmere and a cantilever shelter is on order for the A591 at West Ing, Ambleside.

REVIEW OF SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Lakes Parish Council have been asked by the Boundary Committee for England to produce evidence to show that the present District Council arrangements covering Lakes Parish reflect the identities and interests of local communities, the need to secure effective and convenient local government and the need to secure equality of representation. It has been suggested that the Langdales could be incorporated in to a new Coniston Ward and that Troutbeck could be incorporated in to a larger Windermere Ward. The Lakes Parish Council is opposed to any change in South Lakeland Ward boundaries that would compromise the integrity of Lakes Parish. They believe that the people of Langdale generally use the services and facilities in Ambleside and that Troutbeck should not be removed from the Lakes – Ambleside Ward. The Parish Council welcome written observations and representations on this, or send to jpenney@boundarycommittee.org.uk. Full details can be found at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

This is to let people who live in Rydal know that a Village Society has been formed. A meeting was held on January 9th 2006 in the Badger Bar, Glen Rothay Hotel. A start has also been made on the Rydal Village web site. Anyone who has contributions to make telephone 31052 for further information. The Village Society organised a pre-Christmas dinner at the Glen Rothay Hotel on Sunday 11th December when a splendid evening was enjoyed by all who attended. On Saturday 17th December the annual Rydal Gathering was held in Bishop Bulley Barn. This is a tradition that has spanned many years and always offers an opportunity to meet residents to socialise and enjoy a jolly good evening. Well done the organisers.

Rydal Hall is undergoing a large refurbishment programme. Most rooms will be provided with en-suite facilities and there will be other improvements to other parts of the Hall. Rydal Hall Gardens are also being restored to their original design. Rydal Hill and the A591 have been inundated with building and road works due to a new water supply being provided. The Village Society would be delighted to receive news or items of interest for inclusion in their newsletter. These need to be submitted before the third Sunday of each month for the following months edition. Please submit these to Pam Coates on 32449 email pam@coatesrydal.plus.com

Parish Councillors

Chairman

Mr Rod Sutton Telephone 37396

Members

Mr. L Johnson Telephone 32904

Mrs E Lassey Telephone 32085

Mrs M Lockley Telephone 33363

Mr G Middleton, Wood View, Park Street

Mr E S Bradshaw Telephone 32760

Mr N C Martin Telephone 31124

Mrs E M Braithwaite MBE, Telephone 35297

Mr A Green Telephone 35238

Mrs V Rees Telephone 35401

Mrs A E Garlick Telephone 37637

Mrs E Wilson Telephone 37327

Mr G H Brookes Telephone 31052

The Hon. C.C. Morris, Telephone 35286

Mr W H Allen Telephone 44021

Mr J R Westmoreland Telephone 33287

Parish Clerk – Michael Johnson Tel 015394 31656

Council Offices, The Old Courthouse

Church Street, Ambleside, LA22 0BT

Website www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish

Email michael@lakes-council.freeserve.co.uk

The Parish Council will issue a news letter every three months. If you wish anything to be included please contact the Clerk.