

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – April 2009

Our Newsletter is produced to let residents of the Parish know about the work of the Parish Council over the last few months and to inform you of the role undertaken by unpaid 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.

PARISH COUNCIL TASK GROUPS

Lakes Parish Council is carrying on the work of the Parish Plan Action Group and has established three Task Groups for this purpose. Affordable Housing, Youth and Environment. Task Groups led by Councillors who can co-opt members of the public to help with their work. Contact the Clerk if you are interested. Cllr Fiona Sparrow, who leads on Youth, would like to have available a list of the organizations and groups that offer opportunities for young people in our Parish. If you would like to be included, and especially if you would welcome new recruits, please let us have a general idea of the activities involved, details of meeting times, their locations, any costs involved and a contact name. Please send details to Fiona Sparrow C/O Lakes Parish Office at Ambleside Police Station.

PUBLIC TOILETS

In the last Edition a full explanation was given on local public toilets and the problems of funding and keeping them open. 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. However this responsibility is not, in fact, contained within law, and various District Authorities throughout the Country have begun to withdraw from the provision of public toilets on the grounds of cost. South Lakeland District Council have withdrawn their original proposal that would have seen the Lakes Parish contribution increase by over 59% from the £13000 that we already pay to keep open toilets in Ambleside, Grasmere and Chapel Stile. They are now undertaking a Review and

will consult with everyone who has an interest in the provision of this vital local service. Your Council consider it is an essential requirement to have public toilets for the 15 million visitors to our area (and the locals). 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 we contribute at present levels.

This remains the position of the Council and we look forward to the debate with South Lakeland on the way forward to keep open our toilets.

CHAPEL STILE BUS SHELTER

You may have seen something in the Press about the bus shelter requested by residents in Langdale. Contrary to recent newspaper reports, it is not a leaky structure and does give some protection to those who use the limited bus service in the Valley. It is constructed to modern day legislative requirements and has been customised to deter birds from flying into the glass. This shelter does not meet with the approval of a number of local residents and the 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 has agreed to allocate funding from the 2009/2010 budget towards this project and will relocate the existing shelter to another site within the Parish once the new shelter is in place.

AMBLESIDE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Ambleside Community Christmas Lights Committee would like to thank everyone who has donated to this wonderful community event. All donations are gratefully accepted and 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 in November last as

a result of the thousands who came to Ambleside, please support us. Due to an unfortunate clash of dates with Windermere, this year Ambleside will celebrate the switch-on on **SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER**. Please amend this date in your Diary.

BROCKHOLE BUS SHELTERS

The observant travellers along the A591 will see the appearance of two new Bus Shelters at Brockhole. These have been funded by Lakes Parish Council in partnership with Cumbria County Council. This is a continuation of the work of your Parish Council improving the travel infrastructure in the Parish. This will be of great benefit for those using public transport to access Brockhole and also the local residents who use the bus service. The A591 southbound shelter will have a tarmac base in due course. The bus stop sign and right of way indicator have been relocated by Brian Rollitt, the Highway Steward. A good example of inter-agency working at its best.

WORK OF THE PARISH HANDYMAN

The Council continues to support the work of Robin Lees, the Parish Handyman, who is employed for 10 hours a week to clean up the mess other people leave and to repair and repaint the infrastructure of the Parish. In one month his work included litter clearance at Rothay Manor, the Football Club and drive, the Graveyard side of the ditch, the School Play Yard, Vicarage Road, Millans Park, Queens hotel rear yard, Lucy4/Priesthole passage, Compston Road, Rothay Holme where the can bank was overflowing. He cleared the south side of the Rugby Club. Loughrigg Meadow, Low Fold car park. Blue Hill road, Old Lake road, King street car park, Lucy4/Priesthole passage (again!!) Cheapside, Rothay road and Rothay Holme (again!!) This was so bad he had to ask SLDC to attend. He then went to Clappersgate and the river walk where he found a large very heavy bag of rubbish in the river.

He has cleared the laybys at Elterwater down to Ambleside and various long stretches of the A591 from Troutbeck Bridge to White Cross bay then on to Brockhole and Holbeck lane taking in Holehird layby. On route from Borrans Road to Lake Road via the Log House he found a Mountain Rescue Box broken and empty.

Another day saw him work from Waterhead to Low Wood clearing laybys and car parks where he found a tent that had been

abandoned with some equipment left in it. Onto Grasmere laybys and to the large layby at the bottom of Dunmail Raise that had obviously not been touched for years. He then worked in Grasmere doing car parks and the general area around the village. However this is just a flavour of his work and he revisits all areas of the Parish regularly and never fails to be disappointed by the amount of rubbish that is deposited by unthinking uncaring people. Robin has cleaned and painted the gates to Rothay Park; refurbished all of the bollards around Market Cross and Kings Street car park. He has re varnished the Parish Noticeboard in Church Street.

It is hoped that you appreciate the work that Robin is doing to keep the Parish clean and tidy. He replaced the stolen 'Smithy Brow' street sign and, **guess what**, it has been stolen again!!! If you know where it is there is a **REWARD** for its return. Contact the Clerk, anonymously if you wish, for details.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

RYDAL AND LOUGHRIGG WARD

Due to the resignation of David Welch, there is a Vacancy on the Council for the Rydal and Loughrigg Ward. No Election has been requested and the Council must fill the Vacancy by co-option at its earliest convenience. Applications are now invited from interested electors who live in Lakes Parish, preferably Rydal and Loughrigg Ward, to be co-opted as a Councillor to serve their local community. If you are interested please write to the Clerk by Monday April 6th to express that interest. Any information regarding yourself and your reasons for wishing to become a Councillor will be helpful to Council in coming to their decision.

ONE YEAR ON

It is now one year since the Parish Council moved into Ambleside Police Station. Has it been a successful move? Undoubtedly it has. The Police Station, closed for the past 8 years, now has a friendly face for visitors and locals alike. The future of the Police presence in Ambleside is secure for at least the next 3 years and hopefully much longer. Over 350 individuals from all walks of life have been directly assisted by the open door policy of your Council. The Council works with Community Police Officers, the Highway Steward, the Parish handyman and many others to give a service to you, the residents of Lakes Parish.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th April 2009 in the Library, Ambleside commencing at 7.30pm and the one after that on the 22nd April 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)

One Vacancy
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.AMBLESIDELINE.CO.UK

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

Could you be a Fire & Rescue Service Community Volunteer?

Are you ever stuck for something to do with your free time and fancy a change?

We are currently looking for volunteers to join our team to get out and about in the community to help spread the community fire safety message.

As a volunteer you'll be able to get involved in all sorts of different activities within your community such as:

- Gaining referrals for free home fire safety visits
- Assisting in the carrying out of home fire safety visits and fitting free smoke detectors.
- Helping at community days and events.
- Getting involved with campaigns and speaking to local residents about community and road safety issues.
- Assisting with youth engagement events
- Supporting us in the delivery of HeartStart Basic Life Skills Training

Community Volunteers are given training, a uniform and are paid any out of pocket expenses.

For more information about becoming a volunteer with Cumbria fire & Rescue Service please telephone 01900 820 247 or email volunteers@cumbriafire.gov.uk
www.cumbriafire.gov.uk

AND FINALLY

Congratulations to the Clerk, Michael Johnson, who has just been appointed as a Tenant Director of the Independent Housing Ombudsman Service Ltd based in London. We will not be losing Michael, as this is a part time appointment that will require him to travel to the capital approximately once a month. It reflects well on Lakes Parish Council and the other work he undertakes within the housing field – Leslie Johnson Chairman, Parish of Lakes.

STOP PRESS

Once again thanks must go to that man Brian Rollitt, our Highway Steward, the Police, and the whole Highways team involved in dealing with a serious incident of vandalism in Lakes Parish on March 3rd.

Brian was in Ambleside by 8am and was appalled by the serious nature of the vandalism involving white paint and destruction of property. Shop fronts, cars, highway infrastructure and seats were all targeted. Brian immediately called the Police and they attended within 30 minutes. He galvanised other Highway teams to attend to deal with graffiti and paint. He got other specialists to come and make safe hazardous electric cables.

By 9.30am the Police had arrested a person responsible and he made a full confession to the crimes he had committed. A further person was then arrested and again made full admissions. A letter of apology from both men has already been received by Lakes Parish Council.

This action by Brian is above and beyond his call of duty and he is to be commended for his selfless dedication to the job he does so very well. The system that is in place worked, with all agencies pulling together to ensure a successful conclusion to this unfortunate incident. – **Well Done Brian and the Police.**