

Views

No. 29

The Newsletter of the Langdale Owners' Club

Autumn 1997

Langdale twinned with Craigendarroch



Left: timeshare lodges at Craigendarroch. Above: the Country Club

Two of the UK's leading resorts join forces

We are pleased to announce a twinning arrangement with Craigendarroch in the highlands of Scotland.

Craigendarroch, meaning "Hill of the Oaks" in Gaelic, is set in woodland on a hillside just outside the village of Ballater in Royal Deeside. The 29-acre resort was built with the same care and attention as Langdale – in fact, they were so impressed with what they saw at Langdale that they employed the same interior designer.

Since Craigendarroch opened in 1985, many Langdale owners have visited the Scottish resort, and a good number are owners

at both. Now we have joined together, more owners will have the possibility of holidaying at Craigendarroch.

The resort has 92 timeshare lodges and a 44-bedroom hotel. The lodges have one, two and three bedrooms, sleeping four, six and eight respectively.

All lodges are a short stroll from the Country Club, which offers extensive leisure facilities. There are also two restaurants: The Oaks for fine dining, and The Clubhouse for less formal occasions.

David Fairs, Langdale's Managing Director, said: "The success of our previous twinings led us to look for another suitable part-

ner. The most popular exchange destination among our owners is the UK. Since Craigendarroch is, like Langdale, regarded as one of the finest timeshare resorts in Europe, the two resorts are natural partners."

The twinning is part of our continued effort to provide our owners with a service beyond that offered at other resorts. Langdale pioneered resort twinning in 1992 when we linked up with Four Seasons Fairways in Portugal. Since then, dozens of owners have holidayed at our twin resorts, and many of their owners have come to Langdale.

The new twinning means that Langdale owners can arrange to

swap their weeks for time at Craigendarroch. Anyone wishing to do so should contact Sheila Crouch (tel/fax 01661 823548) for an application form. There is an administration charge of £50 including VAT for each exchange, payable on confirmation. Exchanges are subject to availability and the agreement of owners.

This new twinning will operate alongside our existing arrangement with the Madeira Beach Club and Carlton Palms in Madeira. Swaps available at these resorts are listed in the table on page seven.

Like Langdale, Craigendarroch also organises rentals on behalf of its timeshare owners. If you are interested in renting, call Craigendarroch direct on 013397 55558.

"I'm delighted that the long association between the two resorts has been taken a step further," said Richard McIntosh, General Manager at Craigendarroch. "I'm sure it will be welcomed by owners at both resorts, and enhance the goodwill between us."

Surfers' paradise

Owners can keep in touch through our new internet chat service

INTERNET USERS can now visit Langdale from the comfort of their own home – and owners can correspond with other owners via our new chat page.

The Langdale website is growing all the time and gives browsers information about the Estate, including pages on history and local walks as well as descriptions of our facilities. New innovations include The Green Pages, dedicated to environmental

issues, and a special offers page.

Since its launch, the site has attracted visitors from all around the world, and particularly the United States.

The website is the brainchild of Simon Ford, our computer manager. While it is proving to be a very useful marketing tool, it is also being adapted to serve as a chat forum for Langdale Owners' Club members. This will allow you to post your

views, exchange ideas and generally keep in touch with other Langdale lovers.

The chat page is a private service for our owners only. To join, all you have to do is e-mail Simon. You will be issued with a password which will give you access to the chat page.

• **Simon's e-mail address is: simon@langdale.co.uk**

• **The Langdale website is at: <http://www.langdale.co.uk>**

Langdale work of art safe

THE HATTON GALLERY in Newcastle has been saved from closure by a donation from novelist Catherine Cookson – and along with it a work of art produced just yards from the Langdale Estate.

German avant-garde artist Kurt Schwitters was given the use of Cylinders, a barn located in woodland just opposite the main entrance to Langdale. The barn, once part of the Elterwater Gunpowder Works, was renamed the Merz Barn by Schwitters, who began to turn the building into a three-dimensional sculpture.

The project was incomplete when Schwitters died in January 1948 and the Merz Barn deteri-



Schwitters (right) with friends outside Cylinders in 1947

orated until 1965, when the one completed wall was dismantled and taken to the Hatton Gallery.

Cookson's gift of £250,000 guarantees the gallery's future

for the next five years.

The Langdale Valley has become a place of pilgrimage for fans of Schwitters, regarded as a pioneer of modern art.

See the dawning of a new era

THE YEAR 2000 is almost upon us, and preparations are well under way for what promises to be the most memorable event ever held at Langdale.

Enquiries continue to pour in regarding our millennium celebrations. Rooms are still available at the hotel, where we are arranging a four-day programme of events, including a welcome

cocktail party and a gala dinner with live entertainment – and that's just the first day!

The last New Year's Eve of the 20th Century will feature dancing, a piper and a fireworks display, with an optional dawn ascent of the Langdale Pikes to see the first sunrise of the new millennium.

Further walks and themed din-

ners complete an unforgettably stylish celebration. The price is £1,999 for two, and reservations are being taken now. Please call Sales on 0500 051197 for more details.

Lodge owners who do not plan to use their New Year weeks in 1999/2000 should get in touch with us as we have a waiting list for rentals over the period.

Our Man needs you

OUR MAN AT THE TOP is still going strong. Since 1994, Langdale owners and guests have raised over £15,500 to help pay for our sponsored footpath repairman, Clive Stretton.

But we still need your help if the good work is to continue. We hope that all of you will continue to support Clive: if every family gave just £10 per year, Clive's job would be secure.

We are inviting owners to contribute by adding a donation to their management fees. This will help us administer donations more easily.

Clive is employed through the Lake District Tourism and Conservation Partnership Ltd, a non-profitable organisation that aims to encourage the tourism industry to help conservation projects in the Lake District.

Since Langdale introduced the Man at the Top scheme, other Lakeland companies such as Heart of the Lakes and Lakelovers have introduced similar initiatives.

Interval turn us red, too

AFTER exchange organisation RCI's decision to reclassify all Langdale timeshare weeks as high season red time (see last issue), Interval International have announced that they are to follow suit.

This means that owners who exchange through II will be able to exchange with high-season weeks regardless of the weeks they own at Langdale.

Views
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Spa with me

NOW that the refurbishment of The Terrace is finished, work has begun on upgrading the Country Club. The job of replacing the two old small spa baths with a new twelve-person spa is complete and looks great.

The opening of The Terrace, as the revamped Tamarind is now known, marked the return to Langdale of Jak Jones, the Langdale Estate's original architect. We hope to work with Jak again in future.



Top: The Terrace. Bottom: work in progress on the new spa



Weld done: Fred with his creation

Fred passes the screen test

WHEN Langdale engineer Fred Ratcliffe heard that we were concerned about late-night swimmers sneaking into the pool, he came up with a solution. Not only did he propose a screen and gate to keep the nocturnal dippers out, but he also said he would make it himself.

The result is an incredible work of art which saw Fred going way beyond the call of duty. Fred, a qualified welder, has

created a beautiful filigree steel screen decorated with scrolls, a dolphin and the Langdale shield.

Langdale Operations Director David Banks commended Fred as a "service superstar", saying: "Fred has made a feature that we can be proud of for years to come."

Success hasn't gone to Fred's head, though. "If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well," he said modestly.

John White comes to the rescue

Rugged mountaineer and Langdale Valley resident John White has written a book about his experiences with the local Mountain Rescue Service

FORMER National Park Ranger John White was involved in the Lake District Mountain Rescue Service for 15 years.

His new book, RESCUE!, recounts real-life incidents and gives an insight into the lives of the men and women who risk their own lives to save others.

Many of you will already know John. His company, the John White Mountain School, organises outdoor activities for Langdale

owners and guests, and John often leads walks in the area.

An accomplished mountaineer, John has climbed all over the world, and also advises film and television companies of location and safety work.

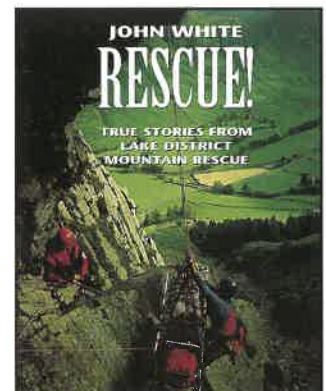
The book includes accounts of dramatic cliff-face rescues, fascinating tales of Lakeland life and history, and useful tips on mountain safety.

John will be popping in to

Langdale in the near future to sign copies of his book, which will then be on sale at the Club Shop.

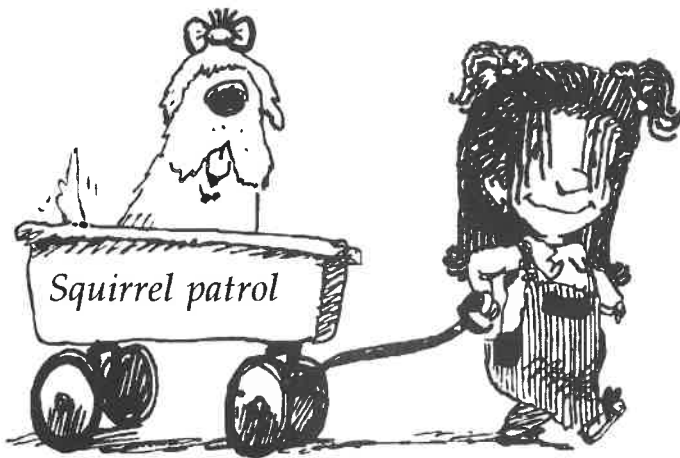
• John's book would make an ideal Christmas present for a Langdale lover. To order a signed copy of RESCUE! send a cheque for £15.00* plus £1.50 post and packing per book to: John White book offer, Langdale Leisure Ltd, Great Langdale, Nr Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9JD.

*Normal retail price £16.95.



Casey's squirrel patrol ends peanut butter menace

Langdale now has its very own squirrel monitor. Local girl Casey Allum, 12-year-old daughter of maintenance man Roger, has taken an interest in our project to help red squirrels (see last issue). She is monitoring the feeding boxes set up on our Nature Trail and at Elterwater Hall. Here is her report



I check that the squirrels have enough food in their feeders twice a week. I do this by opening the hatch and placing my hand in to decide whether they need more food or not. Then I pull the bottom pin out and empty out the waste.

My equipment is: a ladder (or someone tall if cars are parked in the way), a bucket (Dad gets this from the storeman), feed (Kirk from the stores gives me this), and a notebook.

Here are my notes.

February

Nature Trail: No squirrels seen. A lot of food being left. But when some food was left on top of the box and under the box the food started to go more. I noticed how the food box works. I have observed a bird trying to get in. This was quite amusing.

Elterwater Hall: The Hall is much noisier than the Nature Trail. I think the squirrels will need to get used to having people and cars around. The feed

doesn't get eaten as quickly as in the Nature Trail but I will keep at it until they get used to me and the people. Have left food out near to the feeder to see if they will come and start using it.

March

Nature Trail: Again the food has been used up. It's really weird seeing the food they don't like all over the ground. They must really wallop through the feed and push out all the nasties. The other animals in the Nature Trail must really have a feast after their feed time.

I saw two squirrels today when I went to draw the feeder for a school project. I sat on a bank for ages and waited on my own for what seemed absolutely hours. I saw a squirrel who has a lop-sided walk. He seemed quite tame at first but when I followed him on the ground he shot off up a tree and ran all over the branches.

Elterwater Hall: The feeder has been moved and the bottom

was jammed. I wondered if any of the guests from the Hall have been interfering? I wish they would leave it well alone. The food had not been touched so I emptied out all the old food and restocked with the fresh.

April

Elterwater Hall: Was quite mad today because someone is feeding the squirrels with peanut butter toast. It has taken ages to clean out the container. Loads of bread was stuck to the inside. I have made a sign for the Elterwater Hall residents, which reads: "Please do not feed the squirrels as they have a monitor. Signed Casey Allum, Squirrel Monitor."

The squirrels seem to dislike the corn seed. They always leave it and I always empty loads out onto the floor. Other animals appear to like what they leave so everyone is happy. A lodge

"Was quite mad today because someone is feeding the squirrels with peanut butter toast."

owner saw me today and asked what I was doing. I told him that I was the squirrel monitor of Elterwater Hall and the Nature Trail. He asked me if I'd seen many squirrels.

Checked on Sunday to see which lodge owners were to

blame for the mess. No peanut butter or bread in sight. The sign I made must have worked.

Nature Trail: At least the squirrels here don't have to put up with people who think they know what they like to eat. They must have seen that advert on telly where the squirrels pinch the cereal.

The feeder here is working brilliantly. It's always in need of refilling.

May

Nature Trail: Today, 12 June, I went up to the Nature Trail to feed the squirrels. On the wall nearby there was a squirrel. It went away as soon as I approached. The normal waste was left: sweet corn and small yellow seeds. I give these to the birds.

Elterwater Hall: I went down to make sure that no-one had fed the squirrels peanut butter toast again. Unfortunately there was a car parked very close to where I wanted to be, but luckily another girl from the village who is taller than I managed to reach and help me clean out the trap and restock the feeder.

I have noticed that the squirrels are not eating their food much lately. I wonder if they are being fed by other people?

As I was down at the Hall a lady questioned me as to how often I fed them, how I fed them and which squirrels I was feeding. I filled her in with the details and she was very interested and pleased that the squirrels of the red variety were being looked after.

by Casey Allum

My special place

Dale Matthews, 13, was asked to write about a special place for a project at her school in Cheshire. She chose to write about Langdale

**By Dale Matthews, aged 13
Lodge 60, week 20**

The rolling emerald green hills stretch before me and the mottled brown and snow-capped peaks of the Langdale Pikes tower above me. This is my special place, neatly tucked away in the Langdale Valley in the Lake District.

We've seen Langdale when it is carpeted in snow: quiet, secluded and cut off from the rest of the country. We've seen Langdale as it bursts forth in spring, new life abounding.

Newborn lambs gambol from rock to rock, though never venturing far from their mothers' sides. We've enjoyed Langdale in torrents of thundering rain rushing down the mountainsides. We've seen it in autumn, when the summer's bright green leaves begin to turn into a dazzling array of colours that scatter as a crisp blanket across the ground.

Year after year we travel to Langdale. Before we get to Elterwater we cross a cattle grid and drive over a small rise in the ground. After coming over the

rise there is a most magnificent view of towering hills, swaying trees and a rocky green area. 'Matthew's Picnic Rock' lies in the middle of this area and many a happy time has been spent there. Past the rock stands the Langdale timeshare development where our second home is. It is so secluded that you would not know that you share the site and excellent leisure facilities with five hundred other people.

In the mornings when I wake up in our comfortable lodge, from the window I can see the bobbing ducks swimming by the

waterfall. Langdale has its own, personal, friendly smell, and for years as a child I didn't know what it was. Now I know it is just the smell of pure, unpolluted countryside and crystal-like water.

I close my eyes and think of Langdale. There is a squirrel running ahead of me, past the lodge and up the hill. I decide to follow it.

As I get higher I look around and view my surroundings. When I look to the left I see the friendly river flowing past the lodge; if I look to the right I can see the small village of Elterwater and the little shop where I often buy my lunch. However, up ahead I can see a bench in a clearing.

I decide to see what is there and I see the squirrel, sitting looking out over Langdale. The two Pikes and all of Langdale lie before me, framed by the trees like a photo, and I feel happy.

Long-distance Langdale lovers

Here we introduce three couples from the far corners of the world for whom Langdale is a very special home from home.

Americans John and Joyce Ambruster began with one week at Langdale; now they have three.

"We have been coming to the Lake District for 25 years," they told us. "We are avid walkers and stayed regularly at the Old Dungeon Ghyll. About ten years ago, when we were living in France, we saw an advert for Langdale timeshare lodges in The Times.

"One visit was enough to convince us, and we were delighted to be able to buy week 23 in lodge 36, with its spectacular views towards Loughrigg.

"A few years later we got a letter from Langdale offering us first refusal on week 22, which had just come up for sale. We jumped at the chance, as we felt that we were having to pack up to leave as soon as we settled in.

"Earlier this year we were offered week 24, which we also took. We have three children

who, despite living in America, dearly love to join us here at every opportunity. When we acquired our third week one of them was heard to say: 'Great! This will avoid a bitter fight over the inheritance!'"



Originally from Glasgow, Jim and Margaret Burrows emigrated to Australia 20 years ago but visit Langdale every June.

"We originally discovered Langdale when we were staying in rented accommodation at Chapel Stile," they said. "We purchased two weeks, and jumped at the opportunity to buy a third.

"The contrasts between Australia and the Lake District are enormous and we enjoy being able to get away to an English summer and leave behind Australia's rainy season."



Brian and Pennie Ridyard live in Canada but prefer to travel to the lakes and mountains of Cumbria for their holidays. Their affection for Langdale is such that they have given the name to both their Canadian home and their management business.

"I first visited Langdale in 1954 when my Boy Scout group, who were camping at Wray Castle, visited the valley," writes Brian.

"After that I made numerous camping, hiking and climbing visits to the area until I emigrated to Canada in 1968.

"In 1979, I brought Pennie to the Langdale Valley for the first time. Fortunately, she fell in love with the area, and soon became addicted to the peculiarly British habit of fell-walking.

"From then on we visited regularly, bringing our young son Ashley for the first time in 1983. We stayed at the old Langdale Hotel in those days.

"We returned in 1987 to find that the hotel had been bought by the Langdale Estate. We decided to take a look at the timeshare lodges, and immediately bought a week.

"Now we come to Langdale every May, and if we find ourselves in England at any other time of the year we make sure we spend at least one day in the valley, and one night in the hotel."



Winter offers for Langdale owners

Come and recharge your batteries at Langdale this winter. Here are details of our special seasonal promotions



The Langdale Pikes in winter. Photo by Tom Lawton



Winter wonderland

Walking weekend

Enjoy good food, excellent company and beautiful low-level walks on our walking weekend on January 16th and 17th.

David Fairs will lead the walks, and dinner parties will be held in Wainwrights' and on The Terrace. Guaranteed to cure the winter blues.

• £50 per person per night (minimum stay two nights). FREEPHONE 0500 051197 for details

Rental offers

The usual blip in the timeshare calendar throws up two opportunities for renting Langdale properties this winter.

We are offering special rates on periods of three to five days before Christmas and in early 1998. The dates in question are 19-23 December and 5-11 January, and the prices per night are outlined below.

A deposit of £50 will secure a reservation, with the balance payable six weeks before your rental period.

- One-bed lodges and Elterwater Cottage£50
- Two-bed lodges, Elterwater Hall and Barn£65
- Three-bed lodges£75
- One-bed Chapel Stile£45
- Two-bed Chapel Stile£60
- Three-bed Chapel Stile£70

For bookings call the Sales Office on 015394 38012

Christmas & New Year

Spend the festive season with us and forget all about peeling the sprouts and eating cold turkey for a week afterwards.

The famous Langdale Christmas includes a dinner serenade by handbell ringers and a visit from Father Christmas (the real one, of course).

New Year is also a stylishly traditional affair, with a piper on hand to help say goodbye to 1997 and welcome in 1998, and dancing late into the night for dedicated revellers.

Naturally, great food and drink feature prominently, as do the famous Langdale festive walks, with mulled wine served at the halfway point as an incentive.

Views readers can save 10% on the price of two-night Christmas and New Year packages.

• FREEPHONE 0500 051197

Wonderland Break

Enjoy the tranquillity and superb hospitality of the Langdale Hotel this winter.

The Winter Wonderland Break is available from December to February and offers dinner, bed and breakfast for just £45 per person.

This represents exceptional value when compared to the normal tariff (£100) and the special owners' rate (£65).

Minimum stay two nights, double occupancy. Subject to availability.

• FREEPHONE 0500 051197 for details

Christmas parties

Langdale hosts festive parties for groups and companies.

Bring a group of 20 or more to Langdale for a Christmas bash and we'll give you a free case of wine to enjoy.

• Call 015394 38066 for details



Timeshare resales

Savings of up to 50% compared to list prices are available on a selection of timeshare resales. The table (right) shows just a selection of the current offers.

We have now computerised our resales service; the full list is available on request.

• For details, call Sales on 015394 38012

Unit	Type	Beds/sleeps	Week	£ list	£ sale
EW1	Elterwater Hall	2/6	47	6,999	offers
EW3	Elterwater Hall	2/6	30	14,852	offers
EW4	Elterwater Hall	2/6	16	12,920	7,752
54	Windermere	2/6	48	6,520	3,912
70	Windermere	2/6	1	13,705	10,000
75	Windermere	2/6	38	13,765	offers
7	Coniston	2/6	51	10,000	6,540
21	Coniston	2/6	35	13,644	7,800
21	Coniston	2/6	48	5,977	4,185
43	Coniston	2/6	2	5,554	3,332
76	Coniston	2/6	31	13,644	10,500
81	Coniston	2/6	46	8,211	4,105
8	Grasmere	1/4	14	10,505	9,000
48	Grasmere	1/4	40	10,022	offers
67	Grasmere	1/4	52	8,999	offers
10	Ullswater	3/8	22	14,852	13,000
44	Ullswater	3/8	30	17,388	16,500
50	Ullswater	3/8	4	7,486	offers
CS4	Chapel Stile	1/4	31	6,900	3,450
CS5	Chapel Stile	2/6	42	9,257	8,000
CS1	Chapel Stile	3/8	19	9,660	offers
CS1	Chapel Stile	3/8	44	8,740	5,245

1997 AGMs: make a weekend of it

With a black-tie dinner dance and a buffet lunch, this year's AGMs at Cheltenham promise to be the social event of the year for Langdale owners

THIS YEAR'S AGMs provide the perfect opportunity to enjoy a pleasant weekend in the Cotswolds in the company of other Langdale owners.

As well as being able to visit the charming spa town of Cheltenham and the Cotswolds, the weekend of October 4th-5th brings two glittering events in the Langdale social calendar.

We are organising an exclusive Langdale Owners' black-tie dinner dance on the Saturday night before this year's AGMs, and a buffet lunch on the Sunday. We very much hope you will support the events, which will be a great opportunity for meeting up with



The Golden Valley Hotel

old friends and making new ones.

The dinner dance, buffet and both AGMs will now be held at Cheltenham's Golden Valley Hotel, and not at the venues stated in the last Views. This will be far more convenient for guests attending all three events.

The 4-star Golden Valley has been chosen for its quality, loca-

tion and facilities. It has particularly good sports and leisure facilities.

We have negotiated a rate of £37.50 per person, B&B, for Langdale owners and friends. The Golden Valley Hotel is on the A40, one mile from junction 11 of the M5 and 1.5 miles from Cheltenham.

- To book accommodation, call the Golden Valley Hotel (01242 232691) stating 'Langdale AGM'.
- For the dinner dance, send a cheque for £25 per person, payable to Langdale Leisure Ltd, to Lynette Berry at Langdale.
- To book the buffet lunch, send a cheque for £10 each to Lynette.

Dinner Dance Saturday 4 October

£25 per person. Dress: black tie. Executive Suite 7.30pm for 8.00. Entertainment and dancing to Ipso Facto. Carriages: midnight

AGMs

Sunday 5 October

- 09.30 Tea & coffee
- 10.30 Langdale Owners PLC AGM (shareholders)
- 12.30 Buffet lunch at £10 per person
- 14.00 Langdale Owners' Club AGM (all owners)
- 16.00 Tea, coffee and biscuits

Please complain ...properly

LANGDALE'S management team occasionally receive complaints about problems and faults that have not been put right – and sometimes the same ones crop up year after year.

On investigation, we have found that many of these problems have not been cleared up because they have not been reported correctly. Often, complaints have been written up in the lodge diaries.

Lodge diaries were introduced so that owners could exchange information with each other. Management do not read them and they were never intended as an official means of reporting problems.

If you do want to complain about anything, please call Hotel Reception, who will then inform the appropriate department for you and arrange for someone to attend to the problem.

Should you not get a speedy and accurate response, call the Duty Manager.

Lodge swaps

The tables below show owners at Langdale and Madeira (Carlton Palms and Madeira Beach Club) who would like to exchange their weeks. If you are interested, contact Sheila Crouch (tel/fax 01661 823548) for details.

Langdale swaps

Offered	Requested	Offered	Requested
	1997	48	43
	1-BED — SLEEPS 4	48	earlier, 36, 44
42	any school hols		1998
44	school hols		1-BED — SLEEPS 4
44 (CS)	39	8	later
49	school hols	13	school hols
50	any	20	18, 19, 21, 22
	2-BED — SLEEPS 6		2-BED — SLEEPS 6
36	38-41	6	7
36, 37	43	1 (CS)	15, 31-43 (1-bed?)
39	42, 43	9	later
39	later, 40-44	11	school hols
42	43	13	15
42	43	14	summer hols
42 (Barn)	43	14	summer hols
43 (CS)	beginning Oct	31	13, 14
43	52	38	Easter, summer hols
43	earlier (3-bed)	39	19, 20, 22, 23 (C'ston)
44	school hols	40	7, 14, 15, 21, 34, 30-35, 43
45	43 ('97), 14, 15 ('98)		school hols
50	40-45, 36, 37 (2-bed)	41	
52	May		3-BED — SLEEPS 8
	3-BED — SLEEPS 8	12	7, 14, 15, 21, 30-34, 43, 51, 52
42	43	15	35
47	46, any		

Madeira swaps

Week	Sleeps	Wanted	Persons
		1997	
41/42	4	37-40	2
42	4	17-20, 36, 37	2
49	4	any	4
		1998	
1	2	after March	2
1	4	36	2
3		20-26	4
8	2	Sept '97	2
8/9	6	any after 1/4	
9/10	6	20-35	6
15/16		36-40	2
17	4	24-26, 36, 38	2
18	2	22-39	2
21	4	21	3
21	2	April, Oct	4
25		May-Oct	6
27	6	27-30	4
29	4	26-28	4
41 or 42	4	Sept, Oct	
43	2	43	
43	2	24, 25, 10	2
46/47	6	7, 43	6
48	4	23, 27, 35	2
49	4	any	4

Leave your boots behind

Langdale Walking Holidays have planned a trip for those who like to put their feet up on holiday (and several others for those who don't)



Left: Palace of the Winds, Jaipur. **Right:** Langdale walkers in Madeira

The land of Maharajas, desert fortresses and opulent palaces beckons. Our trip to Rajasthan, India, in February 1999 represents something of a departure for Langdale Walking Holidays: it will be the first trip not to include walking.

We will instead focus on culture, visiting exotic cities such as Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur.

Often staying in former

palaces such as the world-famous Lake Palace Hotel in Udaipur, we will experience a level of luxury normally reserved for royalty. We will also be getting off the beaten track to experience little-known castles and holy sites.

We also visit the exotic east in October 1998, when we travel to Nepal – and there will be no shortage of walking here.

Our goal is the Annapurna

Sanctuary, a pristine nature reserve high in the Himalayas and surrounded by dramatic peaks. The walking takes us deep into the heart of Nepal, home to some of the world's friendliest people – and its most amazing scenery.

Before and after the trek, we will stay in Kathmandu's lovely Summit Hotel, with time to soak up the unique atmosphere of this intriguing city.

Another far-flung destination is Borneo, which we return to in April 1999 after a highly successful first visit earlier this year. The highlight of the trip is the optional ascent of Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in South-East Asia. Apart from the ascent, the walking on this holiday is fairly easy.

The last Langdale holiday of the twentieth century will be to New Zealand in November 1999. This trip has been added because a similar holiday in 1998 has sold out. The interest in this second trip has been

excellent, so you will need to act quickly if you want to go.

Closer to home, we have also added a second holiday to Crete in May 1998, again because the first is full. The walking programme includes the incredible



Peak of comfort: the Summit Hotel in Kathmandu, Nepal

Samaria Gorge – one of Europe's great natural sights.

July 1999 sees us heading once more for Madeira, now a firm favourite among Langdale walkers. We are also planning trips to the Pyrenees, Slovenia, The Grand Canyon and Austria.

For details, and to receive our new regular newsletter, call 015394 37302 (office hours) or 01539 736493 (other times). Alternatively fax your name and address to 015394 37394, or post to: David Fairs, Langdale Walking Holidays, PO Box 18, Great Langdale, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9GF

Snapshot

EVER WONDERED how the Grounds Department keep Hobson's Tarn free of litter? This picture reveals how they do it. New boys Ian and Steve regularly take to the water in a kayak to scoop up cans, crisp packets, tennis balls and the like.



Edible garden

Steve, Head of Langdale's Grounds Staff, solved two problems at once when he was looking for a suitable use for a patch of land outside the Hotel.

He was thinking of planting flowers or shrubs until he heard that the kitchen was having difficulty finding fresh herbs, so he

set about transforming the area into a herb garden.

The Estate is now self-sufficient in extremely fresh herbs, and an untidy patch of land is now looking very attractive.

Steve appeared in Views last year, when he won an RCI award for his work at Langdale.

