

Views

Our Reputation At Steak...



Recently, after Jennings Brewery awarded us the coveted Cask Marque for serving Lakeland's best pint at Wainwrights' it left us wondering - where could we carve our name in glory next?

Langdale's Top Side...

Then, out of the blue, one of our guests kindly put forward the Terrace's steak sandwich as an 'outstanding' entry in the National Farmers' Union Best Beef Butty contest. Langdale chefs Kath Jones and Jason Birkbeck were invited to submit six 'beef butties' to a judges' tasting in Penrith. Assessed on presentation as well as taste, our two chefs expected a good roasting from the judges at the stake-out as they charged up the motorway to deliver six hot sandwiches on the hoof, cooked to perfection and ready for inspection by those who know their beef. But Langdale's steak proved a cut above the others and outflanked the opposition to become the Best Beef Butty in Cumbria! But don't just take our word for it - drop by at The Terrace to sample this award-winning steak sandwich, cooked to a secret recipe.

Don't forget...

The Owners' Club AGM is being held on October 10th in Stratford-upon-Avon. See page 8 for further AGM information.

Langdale Chief Climbs on Board

Langdale's Managing Director, David Banks, has been elected to a leading role at the heart of Lake District tourism.

As a new member of Cumbria Tourist Board's Executive and the Tourism Development Advisory Panel, David has joined others contributing to important decision-making which will lead the way forward for tourism in one of Britain's premier areas of recreation and natural beauty.

The Tourist Board in Cumbria is the leading body for all tourist-related issues, with the principal aim of being "forward-thinking in an exceptionally fast-moving industry, with a strong commitment to quality in every aspect of its work." One of its key objectives is to protect this precious environment and

develop sustainable tourism, which are ideals close to the heart of the Langdale Management Team, as well as to our owners and guests.

As an ambassador for Langdale, David's appointment to the CTB's Executive means that Langdale's voice will be a prominent one on the Board; yet those who elected him are familiar with David's reputation for being an independent thinker, someone who doesn't simply "go with the flow", or agree with everybody for the sake of a quiet life. He vows to represent members, the industry and the county passionately: "I'm not frightened of rocking the boat - without grit in the oyster, there would never be a pearl," he said.

A capital asset

David Banks's wide experience in four-star hotel management both in the private and corporate sectors over the past 20 years will be most helpful to the Board. When he arrived at Langdale three years ago from The Village Hotel, Golf and Leisure Club near Blackpool which he opened and managed, he was already well respected for the energy with which he makes things happen, and for delivering what he promises.

This prestigious appointment of our Managing Director reflects the depth of commitment both he and Langdale place on working for the general well-being of the tourist industry as well as that of the Estate.

Going... Brackens, Langdale's latest and almost certainly last new timeshare is... Going... so swiftly that the chance to buy a week might be Gone... if you don't act quickly!

Buyers have been beating a path to Brackens' door, and it's been first come, first served for the number of owners who have already taken advantage of choosing their week(s) at pre-launch prices. Only one of each week is available, so if you wish to buy, we need to know quickly.

A 'changing' house

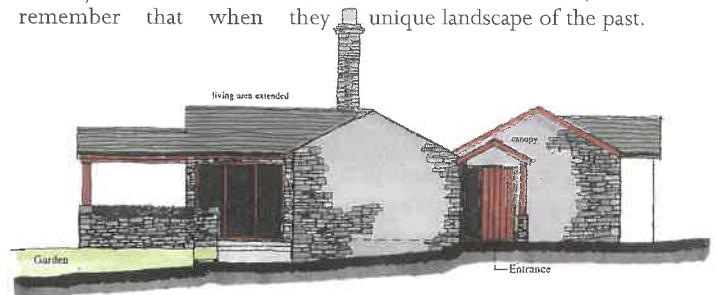
We've been surprised by the number of Langdale owners who did not know its location. Built on the edge of the old Gunpowder Works, Brackens was the watch and 'change' house where workers changed into their regulation working pocketless clothes, to prevent concealment of tobacco and matches. More recently, it has been rented as self-catering accommodation; and while it produced a good income for the

Estate, Brackens has never really been up to Langdale's high standards of accommodation.

In need of substantial refurbishment, it was eventually decided that, as a timeshare resort, we should develop Brackens - using traditional materials with state-of-the-art fixtures and fittings, entirely in keeping with the Langdale brand.

Many of our owners will remember that when they

originally purchased at Langdale, they were buying a share in something more luxurious, modern and more beautifully appointed than their own homes. Once again, through Brackens, Langdale affords us this last opportunity to develop something truly unique, exciting and very special - and for those who buy, the final chance to purchase a share in the future, set in a unique landscape of the past.



Care About Maintenance...? We certainly do!

Recently one of our owners who had not used his week at Langdale for over six years, expressed amazement that his property was 'exactly the same' as when he last visited. Sadly, this cannot always be the case, but we do make every effort to maintain the Estate to the highest possible standards.

Plans are now well under way for this year's Maintenance Weeks to ensure that we make the best use of our resources... given that we have only two weeks for each lodge in which to carry out a tremendous amount of work.

Our plan to photograph every room in every lodge has materialised into a new CD ROM

which provides a 'virtual tour' of Langdale properties and is proving a very valuable sales tool for both our resale and rental programmes. Do come and view this yourselves in our Timeshare Office.

During August, we were busy refurbishing both the Partners' Room and Room at the Top bringing them up to the 'world class' standard of the Pillar and Gateway Rooms. These refurbished rooms have been much admired by our corporate guests over the past year and have greatly contributed to Langdale's reputation as the premier Lake District conference venue.



Chapel Style... this year, we spent a great deal of time and money on improving the Chapel Stile apartments, to much applause by the owners.



Some familiar faces and some new.

New staff working well!

As the years pass by, Langdale is building a reputation for keeping its key staff - something very unusual in our industry. Rather like our owners and hotel guests who come back year on year, many members of Langdale staff recognise that there is something both different and special about Langdale - and they enjoy a continuing and worthwhile

career there.

However, time and circumstance inevitably result in change, and we have recently appointed several new members of staff. Two welcome additions are Victoria Proudlock and Paul Barnes who have recently taken up newly created positions.

Victoria has been appointed to a vacancy that has taken over a

year to fill - we waited for just the right person for this very important job. In her role as Personnel and Training & Development Officer, she is hard at work not only looking after the general welfare of all staff but also developing departmental training plans and policies to ensure that we recruit the best staff, and that they are given the best possible development opportunities. Victoria is particularly suited to this position as she not only has a wealth of knowledge about personnel and training, but has served time as a Junior Manager, Bars Manager, Conference and Banqueting Manager and Operations Manager within the hotel industry. She holds a Hotel & Catering BSC with Honours and is currently studying for her IP&D qualification.

Cathy Marsh's promotion to Hotel Manager left a serious gap in the management of our food and beverage outlets. Then came

Paul Barnes to the rescue. Paul comes to us with a strong F&B background having gained experience over many years not only in four star establishments but also on board the Royal Caribbean Cruise ships. He's a member of the HCIMA and holds an HND in Hotel & Catering. His role will include the important job of managing all food and beverage outlets to ensure that they offer good value-for-money, without compromising quality and choice.

Meanwhile, there's a new face at the prow of Purdey's: we are pleased to welcome Nancy Holden as Purdey's Restaurant Manager, who brings with her to Langdale an extraordinary wealth of experience. Nancy's claim to fame is quite rare... she started her career on the other side of the kitchen door, first as a chef and then as a head chef before moving out front as an assistant F&B manager at the County Hotel in Blackburn.

E-pic Langdale

With the advent of free web services, more and more people are using the Internet not only to obtain information, but also to book holidays and buy products. We are pleased to announce that this is now possible through secure links from our own website. You can make an offer on a week of timeshare, book a rental or hotel room as well as sponsor a

metre of footpath repair, order a Judy Bowes print or a Langdale teddy bear - all from the comfort of your own home.

New features on the site include email postcards - you can select one of twelve photos (some even animated), choose a greeting and type in your own message to send electronically to your friends and family. These are

great fun both to send and receive. Full availability is now live on line for rentals as well as for timeshare sales and our new cd rom provides a link to the site so you can find out what's available and then have a look at each property. Hotel bedroom photos will be added shortly.

In the planning stages is a new interactive e-magazine called Langdale Lifestyle with articles about the Lake District, contests for you to vote in your favourites and win a free holiday. There will

be new photo albums with lots more Lake District images and new FREE screensavers for you to download.

We're also developing a section devoted to Langdale kids, in conjunction with the National Trust... not only fun for them to visit but it will also have an educational angle focused on environmental issues. So watch this space - and pay us a visit whenever you can.

Our website address is:
<http://www.langdale.co.uk>

A break... with tradition

The Lake District is world renowned for its beautiful scenery - but there's far more to do than just admire the landscape nowadays because you can take an action-packed break plus all the traditional scenery too. Recently we designed some very flexible breaks to tempt you to have a go at something a bit different:

Why hike when you can bike?

Walking is Lakeland's premier activity, but what about cycling...? Yes, it's hilly, but there really are some great routes with wonderful views. Our cycling break includes: Mountain bike hire, B&B and our own self-guided routes. Picnic lunches available on request.

Splash out on a Lakes break

The lakes are nice to look at, but they also provide lots of fun. Whether you'd like to learn to windsurf or sail on England's biggest and finest aquatic playground, or perhaps learn to swim in our pool, we can arrange for you to take a suitable course during your holiday. These breaks are very specialised and arranged to suit your own schedule. Prices on request.

Langdale - step by step

Langdale has earned a well deserved reputation for its walking holidays. We offer both guided Walking Weekends or self-guided walking breaks which include a free copy of our "Six of the Best" guide written by well-known author and photographer Tom Lawton. Prices from only £40 per person, per night.

Love being romantic!

The English Lake District was recently voted one of the most romantic holiday locations in Britain - hardly surprising, since it was the home of the great

English romantic poets, Wordsworth, Keats and Coleridge, over 200 years ago. They praised it for its quintessential natural beauty. Poor tortured souls had to suffer for their romantic notions in those days - cold, damp cottages and awful roads, but they found the scenery truly awe-inspiring; nowadays those thundering cataracts and gaping chasms are just as tremendous, but here at Langdale we've made it a lot more comfortable to be romantic. Every season has its own romance, from spring's golden daffodils to summer's wild roses and honeysuckle, and from autumn's bronze to winter's frosty glint of sparkling diamonds. To help you be even more romantic, we've created a special break: From £180 for 2 people Bed & Breakfast, includes flowers and bubbly.

Don't miss the Millennium

There are a few rooms still available to book our very special Millennium Break at Langdale. Based on a combination of guided walks and spectacular themed evenings, this break offers you the once in a lifetime opportunity to see in the new century on the Estate. The price is £1,999 for two people, four days, full-board. If you are already here during the holiday, there will be a few rooms available for B&B, so if you would like to invite your friends and family to join you but don't have room to accommodate, give us a call.

Self-Catering Anomaly Breaks

We also still have a few days available to take a short rental break during mid-December in one of our lodges or apartments.

Prices from £55 per night.

Telephone 015394 37302.

Week in - or Week out?

We're virtually sold out at Langdale, as the owners who have recently attended one of our Monday night meetings will know. However, to bring you up to date, we should explain that just over a year ago, we had a good choice of almost any property available for sale - the majority of these being approximately 700 weeks of timeshare put up for sale by owners. Unfortunately, we discovered that for a variety of reasons, when we came to put in

an offer some owners no longer wished to sell their property. As a result, we introduced a refundable fee (on completion) to ensure that only those weeks truly for sale were included on our lists and we now have only approximately 250 weeks available. Naturally, in the course of time, there will of necessity be less choice. We have listed only a few of these weeks below, but a full list is available from the Timeshare Department, telephone 015394 38012.

Property	Size	Unit	Week	List Price	Asking Price	Discount
Ullswater	Sleeps 8	22	9	9,780	6,825	31%
Windermere	Sleeps 6	39	36	13,765	6,000	57%
Windermere	Sleeps 6	73	41	14,248	8,548	41%
Coniston	Sleeps 6	81	32	13,644	9,000	35%
Coniston	Sleeps 6	18	44	11,712	7,000	41%
Coniston	Sleeps 6	5	9	8,331	4,950	41%
Grasmere	Sleeps 4	52	25	9,899	4,950	50%
Grasmere	Sleeps 4	48	17	9,899	6,000	40%
Elterwater Hall	Sleeps 6	2	8	8,754	5,500	40%
Chapel Stile	Sleeps 6	5	5	4,999	2,500	50%
Chapel Stile	Sleeps 6	9	16	8,222	5,000	40%
Chapel Stile	Sleeps 8	1	44	8,740	4,500	50%

The above list represents only a selection of weeks available for sale. The full list is available live online at www.langdale.co.uk/Offer/

Changing times... Changing places

More and more owners are stopping by our Timeshare Office to enquire about exchanging their week of ownership to a bigger or smaller property or to a different time of year. As we no longer have any substantial amount of stock inventory, it is now rarely possible to help. This has been a very popular service over the years and one we would like to continue. But we can't do it

without your help. We have therefore devised a new system so that owners can exchange with each other on a similar basis to the trade-up facility offered with our own weeks.

So, if your property is no longer ideally suited to your needs, give us a call and we'll be happy to advise you on how to take advantage of this new service.

It's a small, small world By Dianne and Derek Pullman

"Returning from a holiday in France in 1983, we followed the Normandy coast, passed the invasion beaches and paused at Blonville sur Mer to search for those elusive French loos. We pulled up behind another couple in a VW estate car and after exchanging hellos we found they were also on a *cherchez les loos* mission. We strolled along the

promenade talking about holidays and the conversation went something like this.

They said, "We've been camping on the Atlantic Coast."

"Oh, have you! We like camping and used to camp every year in the Lake District but now we have a timeshare lodge".

"That's interesting, so have we, ours is in Great Langdale."

"So is ours, it's Grasmere, Lodge No 6, alongside the beck."

"We don't believe this! Ours is next door!"

After several minutes of laughter, we were all amazed at finding that from 50 weeks possible, it was also the same week 22. That this could happen to total strangers from a chance meeting in France we thought incredible.

We then explained that they hadn't seen us there the first year because we share with our son and have alternate years in the lodge. Since that remarkable chance meeting, we have been friends and thought it worth recounting the day that Dianne and Derek Pullman from Hornchurch met Alwynne and Peter Horsfield from Bournemouth."

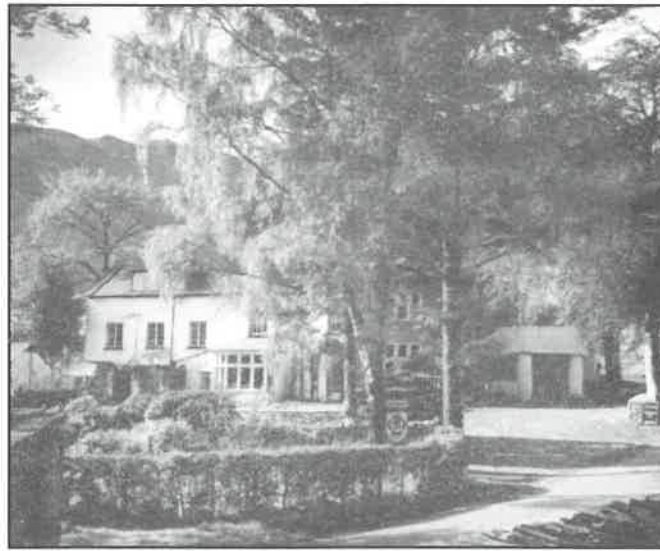
Some things never change!

"Few visitors to the Langdales Hotel will fail to be impressed by the beauty and grandeur by which it is surrounded..."

A quote from our latest brochure pages? Well, no actually, though it might well have been; this, in fact, is Langdale 60 years ago, and the words are taken from an elegant black and silver brochure which lay hidden for years in an American attic, among the papers of a man called Allan Hoey.

'Langdale Estate owes its origin to the desire to preserve a very charming and picturesque corner of Lakeland and make it available to those capable of appreciating its attractions'...

We couldn't have put it better ourselves - though we might never have known of the existence of this early brochure had it not been for the wonderfully speedy convenience of email. Allan Hoey's nephew, Mr Peter Sawyer came across the old leaflet, got on the internet to locate Langdale and emailed us the story of how his Australian Uncle Allan acquired the brochure whilst up at Oxford, though it was never known



Do you know where this was?

whether he actually visited Langdale before he and his wife left Britain for the US at the outbreak of the Second World War.

'It is natural, as life becomes more mechanised, and increasingly difficult and complex, that many people should turn with thankfulness to nature and simple healthy pleasures whenever the opportunity offers; and to these

people, lovers of the country and healthy out-door folk, who desire comfort without ostentatious luxury, good taste in their surroundings, and good food, Langdale Estate has many attractions to offer.'

...which sounds about right to us!

'It is utterly impossible for any pen to describe, or any photograph to depict, the Estate as a whole. It is all so varied that

one can only conjure up a small portion at a time. On the following pages will be found views showing some of the different types of accommodation which we have to offer, and also some general views of the Estate; but those give only a poor impression of the charm of the place itself, which, to quote one of our visitors, 'must be seen to be believed.'

(We had the same problem writing our most recent brochures!)

Whilst we don't actually know if Mr Hoey was one of those 'healthy, outdoor folk' with the good taste to stay at Langdale, the timeless beauty described in the brochure of over half a century ago has lured Allan's nephew, Peter Sawyer, all the way from his Connecticut home to Langdale to spend part of his honeymoon here in autumn, when we look forward to meeting him. And just to prove it's a small world, Peter also has family in these parts - he will be visiting Uncle Allan's daughter who happens to live just 20 miles or so from Langdale, at Arnside.

Country File News from Langdale's Country Club

Ever since Chris Cook took over running the Langdale Country Club 18 months ago, she's been on a team-building exercise of her own, creating a new sphere of sports specialists to take our existing activities into country pastures new, so to speak...

A new string to his bow

Steve is our resident 'Robin Hood' who regularly runs archery sessions; however, he's also a dedicated mountain bike enthusiast who has recently developed 'Five of the Best' - a handful of self-guided mountain bike routes that range from a few hours (rated easy route) to a full day (anything but easy route).

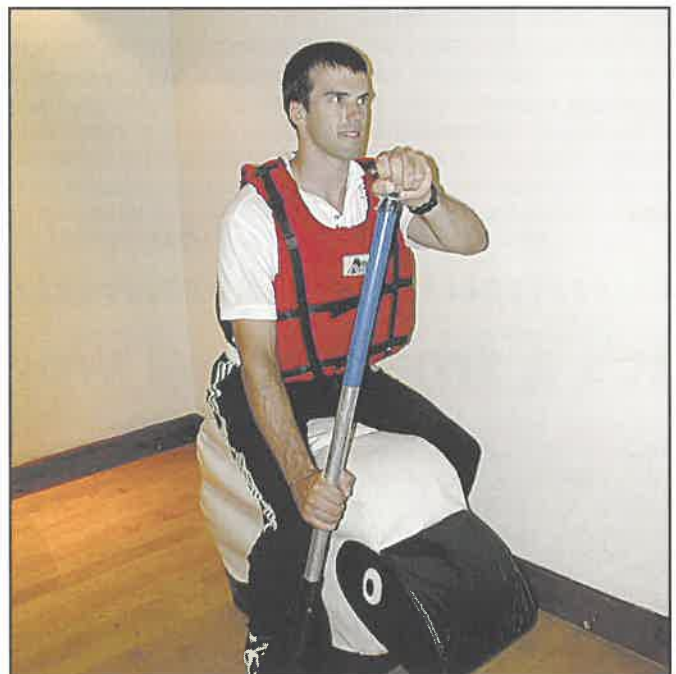
The feel-good factor

If it's fitness you are interested in, you need to talk to Simon... he's the man who can help. With a refreshing attitude about the importance of 'well-being' and not the old fashioned, no-pain - no-gain approach, he provides

personal, up-to-date advice about all aspects of fitness - suited to your own lifestyle. Simon has also been instrumental in the development of a wider variety of fitness classes designed to be fun as well as beneficial. Two innovations this year are the 'Good Life Programme' and an extremely popular 'Weight Management Programme'.

Pooling resources

James and Marie are working well as a team. Both are swimming specialists and working together have developed a full range of 'learn to swim' or 'improve your swimming skills' programmes. They are now offering a free individual consultation. This dynamic pair are also responsible for the development of new and different activities within our regular Country Club programme of events. Look out for indoor volley ball, water polo and new art and craft activities.



Why is Simon on a sheep with a paddle? You'll have to stop by the Country Club and ask!

A Day in the life of Simon Bailey (Trainee Manager)



There can't be a more thorough grounding for life itself than to pass through the Langdale Trainee Manager's training plan schedule. As trainee manager Simon Bailey works his way through operations throughout the Estate from hotel housekeeping to finance, he's learned from experience not to be surprised by anything any more, truth being stranger (and funnier) than fiction.

Take, for example, Simon's first day as Duty Manager, when a minor misunderstanding soon took on the proportions of a Whitehall farce.

Who's been sleeping in my bed?

It all started innocently enough one afternoon just before Christmas when a foreign family arrived for their first RCI exchange at Langdale in Elterwater Hall Apartment 2, and made a map-reading error which led them instead to the Barn. Naturally the key didn't fit, so they asked a couple of groundsmen emptying the bins why their key didn't work - "No matter", said the obliging lads, "Use ours!" Once inside the family were delighted at what they assumed was the welcome box of groceries (specially ordered and pre-paid for by the real owners!). The family made themselves at home, then cooked and ate the food, drank the wine and spread themselves comfortably across the settees. And when, at 6.30pm the owners duly arrived and opened their door to find a family of six already in residence, they were less than happy!

Acting quickly on an irate call from the owners, Simon moved them down to the Bar for free drinks, and accompanied the non-English speaking RCI exchange family into Elterwater Hall. Then it was a quick sprint

back to the Hotel Lounge with more reassurances for the owners plus free dinners all round in Purdey's - then a mad dash to find Annette, the Lodge Housekeeper, to ask her to lend a hand doing a full lodge clean at the Barn... "the family had managed to use everything, including all the beds"! Simon recalled wryly. "It was a bit like Goldilocks and the Three Bears - a question of 'who's been sleeping in our beds?' By the end of the evening, we had them moved into the barn. It was my first ever call-out and undoubtedly my worst - it reminded me of Families at War on BBC1!"

Candlelit Dinner (nine hour!)

No amount of training could have prepared Simon for a legendary Christmas Day power cut at Langdale:

"Langdale power cuts are different", Simon revealed. "We were getting ready for Christmas Day lunch on the Terrace, when all the power went off. Linda Turner, the Terrace Manager reassured us that it happened all the time, and the power would be on within five minutes. The first people came in at 12.30 for Christmas lunch - it wasn't too bad then, as it was still light... just!

The kitchen was dark, though - and hot due to the 300 candles we were using, and no air conditioning! The lunch went quite well considering we had no power, but I did feel like an usherette at the cinema with a torch asking people if they enjoyed their meal!

Search party

When we lost a small child in the dark for half an hour, I did start to panic, but we found her playing in the corner with her father's brand new cam-corder... she had poured Coke all over it. I suppose we quite enjoyed the day, although we were still cooking turkeys at 9pm, and when the power came back on, we could see the (very big) mess! I've never experienced power cuts like this in any other hotels before... then it happened again the year after!

"After six years in catering, the best part of my job is the variety of duties, rather than just food and beverages; as a trainee manager, I get to do lots of other things including administration, but the hardest thing about my job is remembering everything. There's so much to take in... and so many changes."

Casey's Casebook:

Our resident young expert on squirrels comes up with some fascinating observations:

A head for heights

Squirrels have short front legs and much longer hind legs and their strong claws and double-jointed hind legs enable them to climb both up and down. With sharp all-round vision and a good sense of smell, their senses are geared towards finding food and avoiding tree climbing accidents. Whiskers on the head, feet, and tail provide early warnings for bumping into things - an advantage on a windy evening in the tree tops. Their bushy tails help them balance and are used to signal their mood as well as keeping them warm when they are asleep. We now have a feeder in our garden and if ever our cats are sitting at the bottom of the tree the squirrel goes mad. He makes a very loud croaking noise and jerks his tail into a curve then springs it out in

a thrusting movement in order to warn them off.

Are grey squirrels a problem?

Although squirrels may carry a variety of diseases, they are only transmittable to other squirrels. In addition to infrequent nest robbing, grey squirrels may be unwanted visitors at bird tables and eat your garden bulbs. Grey squirrels may also invade your house and are a particular nuisance in lofts where they can chew electric cables. To avoid this, ensure that any gaps under your eaves are too small for squirrels to enter.

Squirrels cause damage in forests and parks by peeling off tree bark. These stripped areas are vulnerable to insect and fungal attack. If a squirrel removes a complete ring of bark from a tree trunk the supply of nutrients is cut off and everything above the

ring dies. Bark stripping can be a problem in beech and hornbeam woodlands. It can affect the long term survival of beech trees and so management of the grey squirrel population may be required.

It is also important to halt the spread of grey squirrels into areas with red squirrel populations. Where both occur it may be necessary to control the numbers of greys to allow the endangered reds to survive.

Survival of the reds

In coniferous forests red squirrels outcompete grey squirrels, being lighter and so better adapted for eating pine seeds from the ends of thin branches.

The survival of red squirrels is not solely dependent on the spread of grey squirrels. Like many species they are directly threatened by habitat destruction and by the erosion of the quality of their woodland homes. For this to continue as "a tale of two squirrels", all these issues need to be addressed.

Thank you for your support - I would like to take this opportunity to thank people who ordered and purchased the T Shirts I designed. The response was absolutely amazing. We have now produced more order forms which are available at the Club Desk and Hotel Reception.

Love Casey



T shirts are not available via the Club shop but you can order on the web - www.edirectory.co.uk/langdale

Buy the metre

Repair work on The Band, the footpath from Stool End Farm to the col between Bowfell and Crinkle Crag is progressing rapidly, thanks largely to our owners, whose contributions have reached record levels. We continue to receive regular donations to pay the salary of our full-time footpath repairman - Peter Entwistle 'The Man at the Top' (over £10,000 this year to date) - and in addition, 23 of our owners and guests have paid for the repair of a metre of footpath each by individual sponsorship, raising over £1,000 for this project alone. Peter and his co-workers are planning a number of walks and talks to include their work on The Band - if you want to meet them, go and visit them at work on the lower section of The Band (Mon-Fri, till late October) or ring the NT Warden on 37131 to check their whereabouts.

If you would like to sponsor a metre of your own, simply telephone 015394 38026 for details or visit our website at www.langdale.co.uk/Talk/fr_sp_onmetre.htm.

Meanwhile, for those of you who are still wondering why stone occasionally drops out of the Langdale skies by helicopter, we have a report from David Wilkinson, National Trust Property Manager:

"The Band is a public right of way that provides access for

walkers and climbers onto popular mountains and to climbing routes on Bowfell Buttress and other crags. It is extremely visible from the valley and surrounding fells and the gradual erosion of this footpath has been of concern for some time, both in terms of scarring one of the most scenic views in the Lake District and because of the damage to the environment in the locality of the path.

In order to halt the erosion and to produce a footpath that is sustainable both in terms of its visual appearance and its maintenance, the National Trust has undertaken to repair and improve it. Work started in June 1998 and the project will last two and a half years, costing £210,000 overall. Work is crammed into the spring - autumn period, but has to stop during winter, and has also involved the National Park Authority, the British Mountaineering Council and English Nature.

The project has been split into three sections: the lower section of The Band (A), the higher section of The Band (B), and the footpath that leaves The Band towards Bowfell Buttress known as the Climbers Traverse (C). During 1998 work concentrated on section B; 350m of footpath were improved including 300m of "pitched" path, repaired with large stones which were gathered



Delivering Victorian footpath repair techniques by means of modern transportation - using the best of both worlds to build a path for the future.

locally. Landscaping the fellside around the footpath involved re-locating stones and soil before re-seeding with a mixture of normal grass seed and rye grass, which is resistant to wear and tear and binds the loose soil allowing the native grass to get established before the rye eventually dies out.

Work resumed in April to finish section B and start C, but because stone was in short supply on the fellside, a helicopter lift of 20 tons of stone from Oxendale Beck took place in early June. The first 150m of section C have not been improved in case it leads walkers unaware of the hazards ahead onto this exposed path. Work on C included pitching, landscaping and "realignment", where several paths have developed and the most suitable is chosen. Improvements on both sections B and C are now complete and work has begun on the most visible scar

from the Valley, section A. In just six hours, a helicopter lift bringing 130 tons of stone saved weeks of hard labour; you can see the stone laid out along the path in white bags, and a further 200 tons will be dropped next year to complete 800m of pitching.

Work should finish by 1st September 2000 and has cost the National Trust £65758 (up till 1 June 1999), being mainly labour costs. We are fortunate and grateful for grant aid and sponsorship towards the cost of this project, from the European Regional Development Fund, the Sports Council Lottery and other more local sponsorship such as Langdale Estate's "The Man at the Top" which significantly contributes towards the costs of employing Peter Entwistle, who is presently working on The Band as part of this project."

A Langdale Diary

It never ceases to amaze Langdale staff how much children love the holidays they spend with us. One young visitor, Emma Cotton, even kept a diary as part of a Year 4 project one exciting snowy spring, and here are some excerpts taken from it:

Sunday, March 5th

We arrived at Langdale at 3pm, had a drink at the café and went to the lodge and unpacked the car we had hired. Then we had our tea and watched TV for a bit, then had a very very bubbly bath. I slept upstairs and Abi and Adam slept downstairs. I woke up at 5am. Mum was cross.

Monday, March 6th

Today we went swimming. Adam's lips went blue so we had

to get out of the pool. Then we went to get a drink. When we had finished, we went back to the lodge and then the rest of that day we were lazy.

Tuesday, March 7th

Today we had a lot of snow. We dressed in warm clothes and went on the hills that we had found on our walk on Monday. We took our sledges and we made a snowman. We had a lot of fun and I kept crashing into the wall at the bottom of the hill. After lunch back at Lodge, when we had finished we had a rest before we went swimming. Half way through the swimming I had tummy ache so me and Mum had to get out and go back to the lodge and I went to bed.

Wednesday, March 8th

Emma was very poorly all day.

Thursday, March 9th

Today we went to go over Kirkstone but it was blocked so we went back. But we went back to Windermere and caught the ferry to Hawkshead and then we had lunch at a café and then we went back round on the lanes and back to the lodge. We had a rest and then we went swimming but I watched because I was still ill.

Friday, March 10th

Today we went over Kirkstone Pass but it was open so we went on it to Keswick and lunch in a café. Then we went to have a look at some camp sites to see if we could find a nice place to stay in our caravan. We went back to the lodge and got our things packed to go swimming. When we got

to the pool we stayed in for a long time.

Saturday March 11th

Today Jeanette and Rod came to see us because we had met them in France and they lived near our lodge. We had some lunch and walked around the estate to the swimming pool. We played splashing each other with water. We got out of the pool and went for a walk round Chapel Stile and Elterwater. When we finished our tea, Jeanette and Rod went home."

Editor's note: I'll apologise now to Abi and Adam Cotton for not featuring their equally wonderful Langdale diaries in this edition - we will try to publish excerpts from them sometime in the future.

“Only the best locally produced ingredients...”

And that includes the chef as well, if Langdale’s initiative to attract Cumbrian school leavers into professional catering is successful.

Recently, Langdale chef Jason Birkbeck and David Rodgie (Head Chef) laid on a practical cookery demonstration as part of Kirkbie Kendal School’s Industry Day and were very impressed at the appreciation and interest expressed by the Kendal staff and pupils. As it happens, Langdale MD David Banks is about to forge even greater links with Kirkbie Kendal School when his 11-year-old son Jonathan becomes a pupil in autumn - so by way of support, it was David’s idea to encourage the budding chefs at K-K by instigating a series of

Langdale prizes to reward pupils achieving merit awards, especially in the field of food technology. One pupil in each of Years 7-10 will receive a Langdale Country Club £50 family voucher, and a similar voucher and plaque will be presented with a new “Langdale Award for Outstanding Achievement” for pupils from Years 11-13. Commenting on the new initiative and Langdale’s link with K-K, David said: “It is always good to have a platform to help convince young people that our industry is not all about low skills, low pay and long hours, and anything we can do to dispel this myth will always be seized on gratefully.”



Jason Birkbeck demonstrating skills to chefs of the future.

Game For Anything

Langdale has always offered a great variety of activities widely used by various group and conference organisers to provide clients with a unique experience they’ll always remember. Over the years we’ve played host to such extraordinary and diverse events, we thought we’d mention a few corporate good ideas.

One way of getting their kicks...

One good example was an Arthur Anderson group who recently played bar football on a huge specially designed inflatable in our car park. It’s like table football, but the delegates (hanging over poles) were the players. Staged by a local company called Active Imagination, it was wonderful to watch.

In high places

You don’t have to be an RAF fighter pilot to experience a bird’s-eye view of Lakeland’s mountains and valleys! Avia Special can offer something

perhaps not so fast but just as spectacular, with a wide variety of unusual planes such as the Morovan Zlin Z526 Trainer or the Avions Mdry CAP 10B, which is a side by side two seater aerobatic monoplane. These planes and many others are available for aerobatic pleasure flights, training, displays and corporate hospitality events.

“...Here be dragons!”

New to Langdale is Gable Events who specialise in outdoor events for motivation, team building and fun. One of their more unusual activities is dragon boat racing which is spectacular, fun, requires no previous experience and is excellent for team building. It is Britain’s fastest growing corporate activity and now available in the Lake District.

For more information about group and conference events at Langdale, tel: 015394 38066.



Subscribe today...

We’ve updated and computerised our Langdale Subscribers’ List with some new software. Not only can you choose what information you receive, but when. And now we can send it by fax as well as email. New features include the Late Break Club for those who can travel within 48 hours of their holiday... these are the best prices

available. We have also started an Early Bird Club... you can receive information about new breaks to be offered prior to general release to the public.

To join go to www.langdale.co.uk/Talk/fr_subscribe.htm or to receive by Fax, simply tel: 015394 38026 and we’ll take down details of what information you require, and when.

Langdale - the present!



Why not give your favourite owner, friends or family a beautiful view of the Estate and Pikes for Christmas?

Judy Boyes’ limited edition print of the “View from the Founder’s Seat” would make an ideal present. To order telephone 015394 38026

A thank you from David Fairs

“Prior to handing over to David Banks at the end of April this year, I received a great send-off from the Board of Langdale Owners PLC, the senior management team of Langdale Leisure Ltd, and all the staff of Langdale as well. The social events were memorable and thoroughly enjoyable, and I am particularly grateful for the gifts received. I would also like to thank most sincerely all

members of the Langdale Owners’ Club who so generously contributed towards my retirement present from the owners, and to say that the lap-top computer that was purchased with your contributions is much treasured and appreciated. Thank you all so much for your generosity.”

David Fairs (former Managing Director of Langdale Leisure Ltd)

A weekend in Stratford - full Bard & lodging!

The Owners' Club AGM is being held on October 10th at the four star Stratford Manor Hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon. The Langdale Owners' PLC meeting will be at the same venue.

Stratford, birthplace of the world's greatest playwright and home of The Royal Shakespeare Company, has been chosen as a location that offers an opportunity to those of you who would like to make a short break of it.

"As you like it...":

You could visit Anne Hathaway's Cottage, only a few miles from Stratford-upon-Avon, (open Sat 9-5pm); this world famous thatched cottage contains the Hathaway bed and many other items of furniture owned by the family. There are many pleasant walks leading from the cottage - or you could glide along the Avon in Edwardian craft on short river cruises starting daily from Cox's

Yard, Stratford, from 9.30am.

New in Stratford is the home of 'Stratford Tales' - a time travel journey to meet the characters, hear the legends and witness events through the centuries. Or try Hall's Croft an impressive C16th house which has outstanding furniture and paintings and an exhibition of medicine in Shakespeare's time.

A rose, by any other name...

There's plenty of autumn blooms to see at Hidcote Manor Garden, one of the most beautiful gardens in England comprising of a series of small gardens separated by walls and hedges, and famous for rare shrubs, trees and its herbaceous border and old roses.

Love's Labours...

Visit Will Shakespeare's birthplace, (open daily 9am - 5pm) a half-timbered house with many fascinating features and furniture from the 16th and 17th centuries and a 'William

Shakespeare; His Life and Background' exhibition.

To find out what's on during the weekend:

Telephone 09001 311 411 for what's on in next 3 months, 09001 311 412 for Shakespeare Attractions, 09001 311 413 Historic Homes & Gardens, 09001 311 414 for Castles, 09001 311 415 Museums & Art Galleries, 09001 311 416 Popular Attractions, 09001 311 417 for Bus and Walking Tours, 09001 311 418 River Boats & Cruises.

Please note these numbers are charged at 50p per minute.

The Board and Committee members would be pleased if owners would like to join us for dinner Saturday night. To book, telephone Lynette Berry on 015394 38002. For hotel bookings at £55pp Saturday night B&B call 01789 731173 quoting 'Langdale Leisure'.



A sad farewell to Fred Ratcliffe, a familiar face around the Estate. Our popular Maintenance Engineer is retiring this Autumn after just over 10 years of service. Fred will be missed by more than our regular visitors... his feathered friends, pheasants Phil and Phyllis will miss feeding time with Fred on the back lawn at Elterwater Hall.

Don't forget to book!

There will be the normal buffet lunch on the day of the AGM at a cost of £15 per person. Please telephone Lynette Berry at Langdale on 015394 38002.

Advertising Feature

Langdale Walking Holidays with David Fairs

We will shortly be publishing the second edition of Walkie-Talkie, our annual newsletter, and if you are not already on our mailing list and would like to receive a copy or information on the holidays shown below, please call us on 01539 735108 or write to Langdale Walking Holidays, PO Box 18, Great Langdale, Nr. Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9GF.

Walkie-Talkie will tell you about places we have been to recently and plans that are being made for exciting new destinations around the world, as

well as return visits to places that have been tried and tested and remain firm favourites.

We have just published the brochure for our first visit to Vietnam, 2-17 February 2001. We will be travelling to Ho Chi Minh (Saigon), Hanoi and some of the more remote mountainous areas, forests and villages. Walking is not intended to be challenging, with more emphasis being given to cultural aspects of the country.

Another holiday that has generated a good deal of interest



Dining al-fresco, taken on our visit to Crete in May.

is our first visit to South West Ireland, 15-22 June 2001, when we visit the Dingle Peninsula and Killarney for great cliff path, beach and mountain walking.

Next year, 9-30 November 2000, we set off for our third visit to South Africa. Starting in the Drakensberg, our tour takes us along the Garden Route, staying at Knysna and Wilderness, followed by Cape Town. Apart from an impressive walking programme, this holiday includes a number of cultural experiences and amazing scenery in areas of outstanding natural beauty.



Vietnam



The Garden Route, South Africa