

# Views

No. 35

The Newsletter of the Langdale Owners' Club

Autumn 2000

## “WOW...”



It's the first Words Of Wonder people say as they walk through the front door of the newly re-built Brackens... which, roughly translated, can mean anything from “What Outstanding Workmanship!” (and that's before they see the sink in the ensuite bathroom) to “When's Our Week?”

Other widely heard exclamations include “delightful”... “splendid”...; families welcome the enclosed garden for children, and many comment on the “warm and welcoming” atmosphere inside

created by the colour scheme, which has a “bright, fresh and friendly” feel. Others have commented how cosy Brackens will be in winter.

Hundreds of you followed the virtual re-creation of the building through regularly updated website pictures, watching Brackens bare its beams to the webcam. After the house was gutted, only the shell of the old gunpowder ‘changing’ house remained in January. A month later, the only beam to be seen was the winter sunlight through the space where the roof used to be. But by March 9th, Brackens was beaming anew, with timbers in place for the new roof, which appeared on the website on March 29th. Next came plumbing, plastering and painting and by April 27th the kitchen emerged, completed on May 10th.

Many owners have already taken advantage of buying into Brackens; don't miss this last opportunity to acquire a share in probably the last new timeshare that will ever be developed at Langdale. It's also one of the finest we have: a house for the future set in a unique landscape of the past. Go and take a look! [www.langdale.co.uk](http://www.langdale.co.uk)



## Club Together!

Autumn is a challenging time for the Country Club as refurbishment work begins. Visit our website regularly and share the excitement of watching the Club's transformation into one of the finest in the north of England, with all the advantages of super new facilities, and the increased value these will add to Langdale's reputation as a top quality resort. Work starts in autumn on the ‘dry’ phase, to expand the Terrace and patio and re-build the exercise and squash areas, changing rooms and the sauna.

The pool will remain open until January when the four-month ‘wet’ phase of rebuilding is due to start. During this period we've dreamed up even more reasons than usual to make it worth your while taking a winter break - we'll even pay you to stay! See our Hotel Offers on page 3.

## Tour de force...

Langdale diners have praised our new gourmet wine and dinner evenings for their excellent taste! Both were resounding hits, for which our chefs met the challenge of matching the finest of wines with exciting regional cuisine, to which our diners responded with enthusiasm.

Maison Louis Latour's Simon Hill worked with our chefs to present Langdale's first gourmet evening, which began with a Ruinart Champagne reception. The wines which followed all came from the Latour Domaine's grand crus vineyards in Burgundy, and dinner began with an h'ors d'oeuvres of pork and apple terrine served with a Pouilly Fuisse '97; the Domaine de Valmoissine '98 which followed brought out the subtle flavours of an exquisite bouillabaisse, followed by a Champagne sorbet to clear the palate. Our local Grizedale Forest venison was a match for any

French faune, served with a robust Gevrey Chambertin '96, and after the cheese course, it was amazing how flagging appetites revived at the sight of Langdale's assiette of five plated desserts - with ice cream!

Just three weeks later, Lakeland Vintners were back again with Chilean wines for a Caliterra wine and gourmet dinner evening - a most fitting follow-up to our French evening, for it was Maison La Tour who sent 40 of their top winemakers to teach the Chileans

how to perfect their techniques. Using fresh Cumbrian produce, the menu created some traditional South American dishes, reflecting the Chilean fondness for smoked cheeses, fish and lamb.

Thanks for your letters of appreciation (“*Hopefully our enthusiasm wasn't too much for others... a BIG thank you to your wonderful team at Langdale...*” Betty and Richard Hollingshead, California and many others!), where would you like the next gourmet evening to go? Email, write or phone us!



Cathy Marsh  
Hotel Manager  
visiting La Tour

## What E.ver Next?

### Scroll - not stroll!

Visit the re-designed [www.langdale.co.uk](http://www.langdale.co.uk) and get scrolling for a fly-on-the-wall view of Langdale. You can land on anything that interests you, or buzz about all over the place, darting from page to page - stopping to download something takes a fraction of the time it used to. There's access to all pages at all times, with convenient menus at the top and left replacing the website maps. Drop-down menus on section headings tell you what's inside, and when you place the mouse arrow on any button, a description of the contents will appear in a pop-up box.

The next new section will be dedicated to children, produced jointly with the National Trust, which has given all concerned an excellent excuse to have fun with our new Dreamweaver and Flash software. We hope it will entertain and educate, while introducing environmental issues.

### Keeping up to date

It's cool to have smart wallpaper - and we've got six new Lake District screensavers every month for you to play with. Switch on your computer each morning to combine work with pleasure, enjoying views of the mountains, lakes and wild flowers of Lakeland. To keep you moving with the times, our wallpaper now comes with a useful new calendar attached, and even a ruler guide to download size. To receive it, just subscribe to the email calendar update.

### Beatrix, Buffalo and Boats

Guess what Everybody's Favourite Attractions are... the 'everybody' is you and the attractions are the ones that got your votes in the latest Lifestyle 'Favourites'. Top of the list by far is the World of Beatrix Potter Attraction at the Old Laundry, Bowness. Next best was the South Lakes Wild Animal Park at Dalton-in-Furness; and in third place came lake cruises.

Do you have a favourite Lakeland show? From the smallest valley to the biggest town, almost every Cumbrian community holds a summer or autumn show, featuring such local contests as Cumberland & Westmorland Wrestling, guide (fell running) races, hound trails and sheepdog trials. If you've had a great day out at a Lakeland show, we'd like to know which ones you enjoyed most for our next Favourites poll. Vote on the website - there are still plenty to enjoy this year right through to the end of October. Watch out for a new edition of Lifestyle in September - any contributions to the Picture Gallery would be very welcome. Current No 1 pin-up: Fat Phil, the Photogenic Pheasant.

### Eweser Friendly

Remember Langdale's piano-playing sheep? The music can now be downloaded, and suggestions for suitable sheep music have come flocking in... Ram-bling Rose, I've Only Got Eyes for Ewe, Doing The Lamb-eth Walk, Wool Meet Again to mention but a few.

Fun though it is to visit [www.langdale.co.uk](http://www.langdale.co.uk), the website plays a vital and serious role in keeping everyone up to date with news on the Estate, with regularly updated webcam pictures of major re-building projects such as Brackens and the Country Club.

A wonderful millennium community tapestry has been created by the people of Langdale, depicting the history of the valley. The tapestry hangs in the Parish Church at Chapel Stile; we have taken website pictures for those who haven't had the chance to visit, available by clicking on [www.langdale.co.uk/whatson/tapestry.htm](http://www.langdale.co.uk/whatson/tapestry.htm). Incidentally, there's no need to rack your brains for good Christmas present ideas - Langdale's wealth of local art and crafts make excellent gift choices - for inspiration, go to [www.langdale.co.uk/dining/frmintcake2.htm](http://www.langdale.co.uk/dining/frmintcake2.htm)

### Countryside cache

If you regard the Lake District as a treasure to be protected - give it some money! The cost of caring for the landscape runs into hundreds of thousands every year. Just think of the pleasure the Lakes gives us all - perhaps you would like to put something back into that landscape. To encourage you, we've made it simpler than ever to donate to conservation work. Just follow the link from Langdale to the website we have made for the Lake District Tourism and Conservation Partnership. Here you can view current projects and choose which one/s you would like to support by ticking the appropriate box.

## Best Buys For Autumn

For personal reasons, owners sometimes need to make a quick sale. The need for speed in such cases is often reflected in the price, which represents extremely good value for money. A quick response is essential; so, to be first with the latest best buys, subscribe to our email club through the Offers section on the website, and you will receive a monthly update of all outstanding offers. The following weeks all represent good value:

Property	Size	Unit	Week	List Price	Asking Price	Discount
Grasmere	Sleeps 4	6	20	10,143	Neg	-
Grasmere	Sleeps 4	1	29	10,143	6,000	40%
Grasmere	Sleeps 4	2	29	10,143	5,900	41%
Grasmere	Sleeps 4	67	20	10,143	V.Neg	-
Coniston	Sleeps 6	79	12	10,263	5,000	51%
Coniston	Sleeps 6	33	35	13,644	8,500	37%
Windermere	Sleeps 6	56	6	10,022	6,000	40%
Ullswater	Sleeps 8	82	2	6,641	4,650	29%
Chapel Stile	Sleeps 4	3	32	6,900	4,500	34%
Chapel Stile	Sleeps 6	5	36	8,625	6,468	25%
Chapel Stile	Sleeps 6	9	36	8,625	6,468	25%
Elterwater Cott	Sleeps 4	-	34	11,787	9,429	20%
Elterwater	Sleeps 6	4	21	16,784	10,000	40%

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/](http://www.langdale.co.uk/Offer/)

## Caption Contest

Who's looking at who? Dinner for two in Purdeys is the prize for submitting the best caption for our sheep photograph. Simply post your entry to Marketing Department, Langdale Leisure Ltd., Great Langdale, Nr Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9JD



## More Anomalies

There are still a few "anomalies" available at bargain prices. For those new to Langdale who haven't met an anomaly before, we'll explain. Anomalies date back to the sale of the first 13 lodges in the early 1980s, when ownership weeks ran from Saturdays. Some years, guests had to arrive on Christmas or New Year's day; so fixed arrival dates were introduced for this period, and instead of selling 50 weeks per unit, Langdale sold 49. Anomalies are what we call the days left over either side of these festive season arrival dates; plus sales of 52 weeks x 7 days = 364 which adds to the stock of anomaly days; and don't forget those extra Leap Year days, which give even more opportunities for bargain breaks. We still have a few New Year weeks from £1,185 for a 2-bedroomed lodge sleeping up to six and self catering anomaly breaks are available at 1999 prices, from £55 per night.



## Langdale Hotel Offers... You Stay and We Pay!

Take advantage of us while you can - Langdale's Country Club refurbishment is a licence to print money this winter! We've got some wonderful consolation prizes for guests who stay while the pool is closed from New Year - lots of £5 vouchers we're giving you to spend at Langdale, depending on when and how long you stay, and how many of you there are.

### Good for business

Group and conference visitors can also benefit from this winter's unique Country Club refurbishment bargains. Such rebuilding only happens once every couple of decades and from January - March 2001, Langdale is offering an unbeatable £95 per person 24 hour delegate rate. Miss this at your cost - it might be 2020 before we do it again!

### A Token of Thanks

To thank those of you who recommend others, we'll give you two £5 tokens for every booking made by friends or family members at the Langdale Hotel. All you need to do is quote the recommendee's name and address when booking. Tokens will be sent after the recommended guest has stayed, and these can also be spent during lodge weeks.

### Deer Friends...

Join us at Langdale for a relaxing mid-week Walking and

Wildlife break. The focus will be east of Ullswater exploring the beautiful Martindale fells, with their magnificent herd of 400 red deer. Leave everyday-life behind for two days to visit a place that seems two lifetimes away, accompanied by our wildlife expert and walks leader John White. The first evening will be spent on a Martindale deer watch; the next day's walk will take you deep into the solitude of Martindale's wild fell country where John will share his extensive knowledge of the birds, flowers and animals of this unspoilt area. Mid-week Autumn Breaks feature fungus forays, autumn colours, scenery and stags. Walking is always at a moderate level, away from the crowds, with frequent stops for photography and bird watching. Our two-day breaks allow greater flexibility of dates - just ask for details. If you're a keen photographer, why not take a shot at supplying Lifestyle with a set of new screensaver pictures?

### Nature's Scents

Langdale has a new in-house Country Club therapist to help you relax, unwind, and make the most of a well-earned rest. Liz Yates, who is qualified in aromatherapy, can offer guests a wide range of complementary treatments and massage techniques designed to enhance wellbeing. Using the gentle approach, many of Liz's therapies



rely on traditional remedies, carefully selected for your personal needs. Appointments can be made through the Country Club or by visiting Liz at Nature's Scents.

### Stuff the turkey?

Does the prospect of Christmas at home feel anything but festive? If so, it's time to ring the changes by calling us on 015394 37302, to book a Langdale classic Christmas break in convivial company, with festive food and wonderful walks. There's a choice of 2 nights at £299 per person or 3 night packages at £350, double occupancy only. Two nights over New Year will cost £325 per person; for those lodge guests in family groups who are unable to sleep all the party, we have a few hotel rooms only at £100 per room, per night, for their extra guests. There are also a number of hotel rooms available on a bed

and breakfast basis at £85 per person per night.

### "That's The Way It Is..."

Do you quaver at the quiver of Celine Dion's vocal chords? If so, open your eyes wide for Dion-look-alike Sally Moore as she hosts two Langdale Cabaret Party Nights, on Saturdays January 13th and 20th. Prices available when you book.

### Bed, Breakfast, & Full Bored?

Not likely at Langdale... not with close on 300 organised activities which include, at various times of the year, Splash time, Children's Pool Volley Ball and Water Polo, Beginners' Orienteering, Swim Tuition, Aquafit, Aquacise, Yogasize, Weight management, Personal Fitness, Aromatherapy, Massage and Relaxation, Abseiling, Line Dancing, Swissball classes, Quiz Nights, Archery, Winter Walking Skills, Rock Climbing... oh yes, and Stressbusters.

## Over A Barrel



"Langdale's location is one of its greatest attractions - but the fact that it is on the site of the old Elterwater Gunpowder Works makes it doubly attractive to Langdale owners Alan and Glenys Crocker who are experts on gunpowder production and keen members of the Gunpowder Mills Study Group. We asked them to look at the old stencil that is kept in the safe in Langdale's Timeshare office, and tell us of its significance:

"Each barrel of gunpowder manufactured in Langdale was stencilled with Elterwater's distinguishing trademark," they wrote. "The accompanying illustration is taken from a rubbing of a stencil used to mark the tops of barrels of Elterwater gunpowder. The original, which is held in the Langdale Timeshare Office, is a circular sheet, 4 1/8 inches across, well-used and damaged a little. The EW clearly stand for Elterwater and the

symbol at the centre is 3E, standing for triple fine gunpowder which was used in small guns. This is the only known Elterwater stencil and it is interesting that it is so small. Stencils about 1 3/2" in diameter were used for the standard 100lbs barrels of gunpowder, which suggests that this one was used for barrels containing only about 3lbs. Normally for amounts this small tin canisters were used. However, before they closed in 1928, the Elterwater mills were well known for being old-fashioned, so perhaps they were reluctant to use canisters although these had been used much earlier elsewhere.

We would be glad to hear from anyone who can provide further information on stencils or other gunpowder artefacts or memorabilia associated with Elterwater mills or elsewhere." Alan and Glenys Crocker, email: [alangen@glfd.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:alangen@glfd.freeseerve.co.uk)

# Conservation News



Alan Britten, Chairman of the English Tourism Council and Richard Boddy, Chairman of Cumbria Tourist Board visiting Our Man at the Top.

## Langdale Success: Strike up The Band!

Take a walk up Great Langdale and see how Langdale visitors have helped to repair The Band footpath. It's been quite a plod but now there's just one metre left to go. By adopting this famous path as a 'buy-way' during the last two years, your donations of £50 a metre have repaired and restored 49 metres of it. The 50th and final metre will be auctioned at next February's Lake District Tourism and Conservation

Partnership's Green Seminar by TV botanist Dr David Bellamy. If you missed out on buying a metre, don't fret - our new 'buy-way' will be the badly eroded track up Harrison Stickle.

### Six Hundred Trees... please

Charity begins at home - so look no further than Birch Hill Wood, just behind Elterwater Hall, to see the location of our next conservation project. The plan is to restore this ancient woodland and set up an environmental education project.

To re-instate the wood, the first task will be to clear it of invasive bracken and rhododendron, then plant 600 new trees, all native species. To raise funds, we are asking short-break hotel guests for a £1.50 opt-out levy on each stay, representing the cost of each new tree. The second part of the project involves funding an educational warden employed by the National Trust to give walks, talks and generally inform the public, especially young people, about environmental practices and issues. Watch the Kids' Club website for further details.

### Digging the dirt

Burying soil underground, where there's a lot of it already, seems a little eccentric - but Kirstie Royce, Manager of the Lake District Tourism and Conservation Partnership, has a very good reason for filling a glass vial with dirt, to place it in a Millennium time capsule in an Ambleside park. The soil is from Stoney Lane, a pretty Ambleside footpath which needs re-surfacing to allow wheelchair access. The Partnership has raised £2,000 towards the

work, and in order to explain the principles of conservation to future generations, the vial of soil will be buried with an explanatory scroll along with other time capsule contributions in Rothay Park.

Langdale's support of the Partnership continues in practical as well as financial ways. Our guests have given a total of £60,000 to fund Langdale's Man at the Top over the past few years, working with the National Trust footpath repair team. We've also created the Partnership's website, and participated in "Going for Green", the Partnership's ecology and business conference in spring. Among the current schemes to which you can contribute online through Langdale's website are: habitat protection of birds and small mammals in Deerbolt and Redbank Woods, Grasmere; woodland management to improve the habitat of dormice in the Duddon Valley; footpath repairs, Kentmere bridleway at Longsleddale and Harrison Stickle, Great Langdale.

## The Paris Residence: "Spacious, luxurious and immaculate..."

Not our words, but those used by Langdale owners Shirley and Phillip Camm after their recent stay at the Paris residence, where careful attention to every little detail contributed to a memorable holiday.

"Our visit started on the Saturday before we left for Paris when we received a phone call from the concierge asking if there was any way he could help prior to our arrival, such as booking theatres or restaurants - this was most pleasing as we felt they were really going to look after us," Shirley reported to Views.

Although there were still builders working on the ground floor when they arrived, Shirley's first impression as they walked through the door was one of "calm"; welcoming letters from the General Manager and Operations Manager awaited them and staff explained how things like the air conditioning worked, before leaving the

Camm to explore the beautifully appointed and spacious rooms. The apartment sleeps 6-8 people, and little touches such as fresh fruit and flowers were much appreciated. The contents of the mini bar were reasonably priced and included a selection of wine and cold drinks, with complimentary bottled water, replenished daily. The management even remembered fresh lemon and lime for the gin and tonic and Shirley says that all staff were very friendly, attentive and helpful at all times, with someone permanently on duty at the front desk. Postcards left there were stamped and posted, and all requests dealt with promptly - even for some sewing thread that Shirley needed.

The king-sized bed had six pillows, with fresh bed linen three times a week, and the luxurious bathroom with very large jacuzzi bath and shower had a daily change of towels and



bath robes. Linen table cloths and napkins were replaced as used, with fine cutlery, crockery and glasses: "One night we had a cheese and wine meal from provisions we had bought during the day. At the end of the meal, room service (available 24 hours a day) came up and cleared away for us."

The convenience of room service allowed the Camms to eat in when they felt like it. Both full and light breakfasts are available, and they also had dinner in the apartment one night. With the helpful information provided in folders and magazines, the

Camms were also able to make the most of dining out, and were delighted to find a wide choice of very reasonably priced restaurants, and cheap city transport - most Metro journeys only cost 55 francs.

"Our total bill for the apartment for the week was just over £120, which included items from the mini bar, phone calls and meals: two breakfasts and one dinner each... a brilliant holiday."

If you are an Owner, Langdale is a sales agent for the Paris and Edinburgh properties. Just go and see your good friend, Adam, in the Langdale Sales Office.



## In At The Deep End!

Finding good young managers is always a problem. Langdale's reputation for growing its own to get the quality is well-known, though at just five years old, future trainee manager Anthony Woodcock was probably one of Langdale's youngest recruits!

The year was 1983 when Anthony first arrived on holiday with his mum, dad and two brothers. It was the time when Langdale was still in its first phase... and winters still had snow and ice! A chance visit to see Langdale's famous palm tree growing by the pool tempted the Woodcocks from Worcestershire to buy Week 2 in Lodge 23. The next seven winter holidays were spent sledging on Red Bank, sliding about on the ice, or swimming in the pool before school work put an end to the Woodcocks' term-time week. After leaving school, Anthony's love of cooking prompted him to study for a B.Sc in Hotel and Catering at Sheffield Hallam University. The four year course included a year's practical experience and to his delight, Anthony ended up in the Canadian Rockies at the Banff Springs Hotel in Alberta, one of the world's top ten resort hotels: "The hotel was simply huge; I worked in just one of several restaurants where we had 450 covers; in summer there were 1,300 staff, and 700 in winter. It was a wonderful place; Langdale is quite similar really, with mountain

scenery all round - just smaller! We skied four times a week, and went snowboarding too."

After his return, Anthony completed his degree. Then, one day while looking for his first job, he opened a copy of the "Hotel and Caterer" magazine and found himself staring at his past...and his future. There, on the page before him, was an advertisement for a trainee manager at Langdale:

"And here I am, back again. It's quite strange to look out of my bedroom window in the staff accommodation, and see Lodge 23 right opposite!"

As a trainee manager, Anthony has to work his way through every department. A stint in Lodge Housekeeping took him back in time, to Brotherswater and a host of happy memories: "Everything has been changed since we were there, yet it's still familiar - I know just about every trick a kid can get up to with bubble bath in a whirlpool!"

While Anthony was learning sales and marketing, he used his IT skills to good advantage, helping to re-design Langdale's website and contributing to Lifestyle:

"I enjoyed that very much, and I like working with food and beverages because I love cooking. I've had my fair share of embarrassing moments... I was mixing up a Junior Pina Colada cocktail one day in the Terrace, showing off a bit and spinning the shaker; but I forgot to hold the top on with my thumb when I gave it



a final big shake, and I threw orange juice all over the Assistant Terrace Manager, Matthew Nelson, and down the walls! I don't think that was quite as embarrassing as the day I failed to recognise Mr David Fairs, the former Managing Director at Langdale, and asked him where his Country Club pass was!"

As every trainee manager knows, working in the hotel industry demands a wide range of qualifications, and to refine Anthony's management skills, he took part in Langdale's recent management training day, where he was asked to abseil 140 feet

down a vertical cliff face in company with MD David Banks and other members of Langdale's most senior management team. "The point of it all was to encourage better communications and team work. Luckily I used to be a Venture Scout, but I've never been down a rockface as steep as this, and I managed to scrape both legs. I didn't say anything about it at the time, and when the day ended with an awards ceremony, mine was for 'Falling off a cliff and suffering in silence'!

Anthony's qualifications for management should be impeccable!

## A Job Well Done - The Role Of Honour

Langdale's most committed, caring staff get hung for their efforts... but only along the passage between reception and the Country Club! The latest name on the wall of fame is hotel receptionist Kelly Hughes, whose helpfulness prompted a letter of thanks from four hotel guests. "We had a most memorable stay", they wrote, "It was our good luck that Kelly looked after us from the moment we booked until the time we left..." Other recent employees of the month included Steve Morgan, Maintenance Supervisor: "He's such a character and so helpful,

his name is mentioned over and over by our guests", said Victoria Proudlock, Personnel Training and Development Officer. Assistant "Terrace" Manager Matthew Nelson also won the award for his willingness to take on extra responsibilities outside his own job, as did James Mackereth, Leisure Assistant at the Country Club, who has responded extremely well to taking overall responsibility for the Country Club on several occasions.

### New levels of success

It takes a lot of hard work and personal commitment to achieve an NVQ at Level 4 in

Management, but Langdale Hotel Sales Manager Kath Morton's got it. Kath, a Yorkshire lass who came to work at Langdale four years ago, had to produce a portfolio in her spare time, demonstrating her competence in a broad range of technical, managerial and professional activities which she has now successfully completed. Staff promotions include Paul Barnes, food and beverage manager who has also been appointed a deputy hotel manager; Simon Bailey, who has moved from trainee manager to assistant hotel manager; and Helen Pearson, another of Langdale's successful trainee

managers, who has become hotel manager of the Eltermere Hotel, which Langdale is now managing on behalf of its owners.



Kath Morton, Hotel Sales Manager happily displays her Management NVQ Level 4 certificate.

# York AGM - Mixing Business With Pleasure



Sunday October 15 is the date of the Owners' AGM at the Novotel York, splendidly situated on the riverbank close to the medieval walled city. With so much to see in York, the AGM could be the finale to a super weekend starting on Saturday, with a visit to the Jorvik Viking Centre, or the National Railway Museum. If you've never seen York Minster, take this opportunity to see its extraordinary Rose window, so lovingly restored after the fire a few years ago. On Saturday evening, join other Owners at a special dinner at the Novotel,

where every table will be hosted by Langdale Directors. Early birds might like a Sunday morning walk along the historic city walls before the AGM begins at 10.00am. Please let us know if you are coming by ringing Lynette Berry on 015394 38002, who will also tell you about booking dinner on Saturday evening and buffet lunch on Sunday.

For overnight accommodation at Novotel, ring 01904 611660, quoting 'Langdale' to obtain our specially negotiated price.

## Casey - The Last Word On Squirrels

Sadly, Casey Allum is taking early retirement from her career as Chief Squirrel Monitor for the Estate, to concentrate on her school work. However, as she sat watching a red squirrel in the oak tree outside her living room window, she penned a few last words:

"The red squirrel is something of a paradox - it is one of Britain's best loved and most studied animals, yet very few people have ever seen one. So when I watch the red squirrel in the oak tree outside our living room and observe the grey squirrel from my mum's office, I appreciate what an honour it is...

However, not only I observe them - but so too do my cats, Amadeus and Willow.

One warm summer's morning I was sitting on our patio drawing when I heard a loud chattering noise. It wasn't one I was familiar with, so I looked up to see where it was coming from and what was making it. There was a red squirrel in the branches of the oak tree and I could see it stamping its feet, and flicking its tail, obviously to express anger. As I looked around, I noticed Amadeus, our black cat, lying in the long marsh grass, swishing his tail gently from side to side, hopeful for a catch. He's probably decided to take up squirrelling as we recently stopped him from fishing in our Koi pond, a very expensive hobby as my dad remarked. We'd been blaming the heron for the demise of our stock, and indeed last spring it was the heron... but then one evening we caught Amadeus fishing and decided to control the situation with the aid of blanket nets which lay on the surface of the pond and are not cat friendly. I shouted for Amadeus to come to me and after a while he realised that squirrel for lunch was off the menu, so he crawled over and snuggled in my arms. Actually, while I've been involved with the feeding of the Langdale squirrels, I've read that they are not adverse to chasing or biting anything they find threatening on their patch. And I didn't fancy refereeing a fight between either squirrel or cat."

Casey reminds those who would like to photograph the squirrels that they are most active in the morning and afternoon. On very hot days, they may rest in underground dens or tree homes to escape the heat. In winter they are more active at midday when the temperature is warmer.

"Thank you for purchasing my T-shirts and reading my articles, it has been great. A personal thanks to my Dad, Roger Allum in Maintenance, who helps me carry buckets of feed, and to Lodges 4, 19, 20, 23, 44, and Chapel Stile 1 and 2 for sending me notes of sightings. I have really enjoyed writing for you, but must concentrate on my forthcoming exams."

This is probably NOT the last we'll hear of young Casey. "You never know", she muses, "You may be reading an epic thriller by Casey Allum in the not too distant future..."

## A Fresh Look

Colin Lister and his Langdale Maintenance team have continued the programme of hotel refurbishment in the front fellside rooms. Outside in the grounds, a new rock garden has taken shape, creating interesting colour and making attractive use of local stone.

Refurbishment carries on behind the scenes, as part of our commitment to good staff conditions and accommodation. Those who give their best deserve somewhere pleasant to relax and meet socially, especially considering that Langdale is 'home' to our live-in staff. Among the next areas to enjoy a facelift are the staff restaurant, lounge and TV areas.



## Swap Shop

As the years pass, Langdale owners often experience changing family circumstances which give them different holiday requirements. Whatever your specific needs, we hope that through this regular space in Views you can match requirements with somebody else's needs, to reach a mutually beneficial arrangement. The idea is that you can swap permanently by paying the difference between the list price, or a minimum of £250 to cover administrative costs. The following are your latest requests for permanent swaps:

OFFERED	REQUESTED
Lodge 8, week 21	Lodge 8 outside school holidays
Chapel Stile 1, week 21	2-bed on Estate in May or June
Lodge 3, week 39	2-bed on Estate, weeks 19 or 20 (Lodge 3 week 39 is also up for sale)
Lodge 24, week 40	2-bed on Estate, in school holidays
Chapel Stile 3, week 25	2-bed on Estate, weeks 30-32
Chapel Stile 5, week 42	1-bed apartment or lodge, weeks 42,43 or 7; or 2-bed apartment or lodge, weeks 43 or 7
Lodge 64, week 38	Windermere or Ullswater, in school holidays
Lodge 28, week 18	Coniston or Windermere, weeks 35-40



# Food and Wine? - Sail 'n' Dine

*"This is it. Just perfect"* Pat and Caroline, Southport.

Owners love it! Take a two-day break... spend one evening dining in Purdey's, and the other under sail on board a yacht, Champagne in hand, as the setting sun trails clouds of crimson across Lake Windermere. Drop anchor in some quiet cove, to be served a five-course dinner freshly prepared in the galley; then sail majestically back to the jetty, by the light of the silvery moon...

*"One of those days we shall remember forever - she said 'yes!'"* Alan and Maggie - plus engagement ring.

This celebration sail 'n' dine evening is on board the 34' yacht Excalibur, which combines all the romance of an Arthurian legend with comfort, luxury, and even central heating for cooler evenings. Dinner is an experience in itself with a menu offering dishes including buffalo steak, ostrich, goose, wild boar, swordfish, Windermere char, local Herdwick lamb and Esthwaite trout.

*"Ran out of superlatives. 6.8 knots!"* Tony, London.

From April to the end of

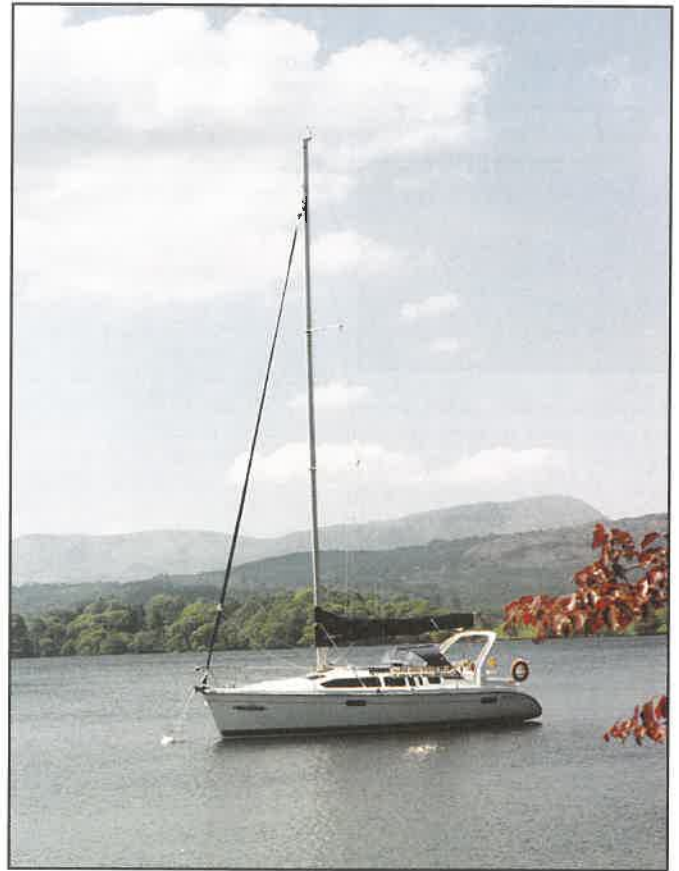
October, Excalibur sails from the Langdale Chase Hotel jetty, between Ambleside and Windermere on the A591, and costs £45 per person for 2-8 people. For special occasions, owners John and Judie Surridge will dream up a Champagne sail for birthdays and anniversaries, with transport from Langdale by request. Winter celebration sailings from Robson's Boatyard, Bowness, can also be arranged, and Excalibur can be hired for sailing tuition at £20 per person for two hours.

*"Can we have one, Dad?"* Amy, N. Yorkshire.

Summer daytime sailings welcome children, with under 14s half price, and under 5s free. Join the 'crumpet cruise', for a 3-hour sail with full Cumbrian breakfast and buttered crumpets (£25 per person) or a luncheon sail, with wine, from 11am-2pm, which costs £30 per person.

Excalibur provides a delightful and memorable setting to enjoy new friendships and renew old ones. For more details, phone us on 0500 051197.

*"This is our 3rd visit. It gets better each time."* Jon and Ann, Wolverhampton.



The yacht Excalibur at anchor in Waterhead Bay, Windermere.

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## Today Langdale - Tomorrow The World

Langdale owners have an exciting new world of exchange opportunities on the horizon.

The World's Leading Resorts, WLR, is to be launched in the autumn to provide high-quality, 'like-for-like' exchanges between owners at first-class resorts. In recognition of Langdale's reputation for quality, it was not only one of the first resorts to be invited to join WLR, but is also playing an active role in its development and is represented on their Board.

Membership of The World's Leading Resorts is by invitation only and resorts in the UK, Madeira, the Canary Islands, and India have already responded positively. In addition, quality resorts are in the process of being identified in North and South America, and in South Africa. The initial plan is to attract 20 to 25 founding-resorts and to increase this to about 100 over the next three years. The intention is that these 100 resorts will be situated

in a variety of different types of locations - mountains, coastal, near places of interest, etc. where there is provision for different types of activities - walking, golf, watersports, sightseeing, etc. and all in first-class locations, offering first-class accommodation facilities.

The reason for the formation of The World's Leading Resorts was that owners in the best resorts wanted to know that when exchanging they would get a resort of comparable quality. The timeshare industry has also recognised the need for such an exchange organisation, and RCI, the largest timeshare exchange organisation, will operate the exchange system. RCI are minority shareholders in The WLR, so the decisions as to which resorts are invited to join rests with The World's Leading Resorts and not RCI. This also means that The World's Leading Resorts is not restricted only to RCI resorts and may approach any resort,

regardless of whether it has any existing affiliations, with the proviso that the resort conforms to their exacting standards.

When operational, an inventory list of the weeks which have been registered will be sent to all the owners who have joined. They then have four weeks in which to choose their preferred exchanges, which must include three destinations and three dates. Over the next four weeks, the match-making process takes place.

If the exchange fails, there are three possible outcomes:

- the week can be returned to the owner;
- owners may select an RCI exchange instead; or,
- points may be allocated in the Club Resorts International, CRI, system.

Because WLR members belong to resorts which by definition are of first-class quality, the number of CRI points they will attract will

be high and an owner may be able to have an exchange of two weeks for only one put into the system, though the quality of the resort which is taken will not be up to the standard of those of The World's Leading Resorts. Any unused points may be saved for future holidays.

One of the main reasons driving The World's Leading Resorts is to provide owners with a more equitable exchange system and pricing is based on the philosophy that owners should, as far as possible, only pay for what they receive. To cover administrative costs, the initial joining fee and annual subscription are likely to be of the order of £25 and £60 respectively. The exchange fee is £100, but if no match is found, the week may be returned to the owner for his, or her, use along with the exchange fee, less a £10 handling charge.

# Braking Records?



Langdale's Leading Ladies revved up once again to drive out the opposition in the Marie Curie Ladies Driving Challenge recently at Carlisle Airport. The results have yet to be announced, but a good time was had by all.

Driving a wide variety of commercial vehicles from a car transporter to a milk float, the truckerettes, some of whom competed last year, raised almost a thousand pounds for cancer patients and steered themselves to what they hope will prove a strong position in the contest.

Regional winner last time of

the highest number of points scored, Head of Hotel and Lodge Housekeeping Annette Sloan again scored highest of the six drivers, beating Fredericka Johns, Victoria Proudlock, Fiona Childs, Claire Smalley and Christina Darbyshire. Vehicles ranged from the whacky to the warlike, with tractors, HGVs, and a steam roller and trailer thrown in.

"I enjoyed it all, the whole event was one big adrenaline rush" Victoria said, "especially the HGV. You think it will be really difficult, and it's not - it's just like driving a car, only bigger, and the fire engine was great. It was a girls' day out, minus husbands and partners. However, the Canadian Navy were there to help, which proved a bit of a distraction!"

About 400 women competed in teams and as individuals over two days, with the final stage devoted to ordinary, everyday driving skills. For some, it was a real climb-down from the cab: "I found it really hard to reverse a car after an artic!", commented one lady trucker.



# Pulling More Than Pints!

Staff from Wainwrights Inn were champions in this year's Langdale Gala tug of war. Well accustomed to being stretched beyond the limits of endurance at busy times behind the bar and in the kitchen, our lads found what their right arms were really for when their accumulated pulling power left the opposition on its knees.

But our gentle giants with their bulging biceps have big hearts, too. The weather on Gala Day was so wet that the event failed to attract as many people as it normally does. So the good-hearted heavers gave back their £50 prize money to the Gala Committee as a generous gesture.



Advertisement for: **Langdale Walking Holidays**



New destinations for 2001/2002 include:

- The foothills of the Pyrenees
- Jordan, including Petra
- Vietnam Adventure

[www.langdaleholidays.co.uk](http://www.langdaleholidays.co.uk)

## Window on the world

Langdale Walking Holidays has completely redesigned its website to offer you an up-to-date guide to our ever-expanding list of destinations.

The new, easy-to-use site contains complete details of all forthcoming holidays and hundreds of photographs, plus an on-line brochure service which allows you to request details of any holiday via your computer.

During the coming months we will also be using the website to create a digital photo album of past holidays which you will be able to browse through and print out.

Langdale Walking Holidays are run by David Fairs. For details visit the website (address left) or call 01539 735 108.