

Views

No. 37

The Newsletter of the Langdale Owners' Club

Autumn 2001

Recovering Lost Ground

The fells are open again - and at last we can start the long road to recovery from the effects of foot and mouth.

Throughout spring and well into summer, businesses ran on 'empty'. Foot and mouth emptied our car parks, villages and towns; our hotels, restaurants, shops and pubs; our tills and our bank accounts. As we head for the hills again the months of closure seem like a bad dream - but more like a recurring nightmare to some, as tourism and farming continue to suffer from the effects of bad publicity and misinformation. Some business debts will take longer to eradicate than the virus itself.

Your continuing visits to Langdale throughout the crisis have been our fighting fund, but we want even more from you now. We need a lifeline, and you

can throw us one by supporting Langdale's recovery plan.

Recovery has meant learning to live with foot and mouth and capitalising on unexpected new strengths which emerged. With greater flexibility, we can make far more of what we already have: a world-class Estate in a National Park of global importance, with luxury hotel and timeshare accommodation and the very latest in leisure facilities - not a bad starting point from which to climb back up.

The valuable contacts we made with the national media during foot and mouth will continue to be put to excellent use. The email news updates that were sent out weekly throughout the crisis helped to develop a strong and mutually supportive relationship between Langdale and its owners, worth building up even further.

These news updates and special offers netted high levels of new business and we will continue to stay in touch this way.

In identifying and opening up new markets, greater use can be made of our superb Country Club facilities by promoting daily memberships for tourists and more local and corporate memberships. There will also be continued flexible discounting of short breaks to keep the hotel beds full, and a drive to attract more group and conference business.

The restructured Langdale website (see page 2) will be one of our greatest marketing strengths, together with a re-designed virtual tour. We'll be asking you all to pass the word and "Tell Ten Friends" about Langdale. We also hope to attract bookings with Hike and Bike breaks, Estate-based electric and

mountain bike hire and two-night Sail'n'Dine breaks featuring gourmet dining aboard the Excalibur, sailing the waters of Windermere.

Promoting Cumbrian cuisine in Purdey's using locally sourced food not only makes environmental sense but will also help the recovery of Cumbria's economy in general. We'll also be continuing Happy Hour, with more Cumbrian themed evenings and seeking ways of bringing campers, walkers and other Valley visitors in greater numbers to Wainwrights', which could also serve take-aways and host talks and bingo evenings.

Thank you for your massive support; please stay in touch. Better still, come and enjoy a late summer or autumn break, celebrating the unique landscape we are fighting so hard to protect.

Phoney Calls?

If you receive any telephone calls about your timeshare that don't ring true - call us and check them out immediately. If somebody asks you for timeshare details, insisting they are required by law for a new EU timeshare register, phone us. We'd like to know who's having you on. There is no legislation that requires timeshare registration other than at your home resort; this information is covered by data protection laws and cannot be made available to anyone without your permission.

It gets worse. Someone recently purporting to work for Langdale rang an owner to try and buy his week, which he claimed was worth only £1,000. He also said the owner would be denied access to his week if hadn't paid his fees. "The call certainly did not come from Langdale; the week, which is not for sale, is worth considerably more than the offer and the

owner has not been sent a management fee invoice," Sales and Marketing Director Fredericka Johns said. "If one of our owners has a problem in paying their fees we work with them to help. It appears that the owner's details, given to an unknown resale company years before, had been used to make the contact."

Beware, also, of being offered a very high price for a week, perhaps between £8-14,000, usually on behalf of a Spanish company, sometimes called Property Transfer of Marbella, who claim they have a buyer. The catch is the owner has to pay a one-off fee of up to £800 per week to register and the agreement states clearly that if the potential sale is not completed, the owner gets no money back.

Our advice is: if you're not sure of a call's authenticity, ring off - and ring us to check it out.



The Ace Of Clubs!

"Brilliant... so spacious... bigger than we imagined..." That's what guests think of the new pool and Country Club facilities. To find out more, just turn to the back page.

An Eye For The Best Site!

Langdale's website is the place to go if you want information. It's all there, local, useful and general, on our newly re-planned website, which is easier to read whilst keeping its familiar structure.

Webmaster Nigel Harper has eliminated most scroll bars, replacing them with simpler links, extra use of 'more' and 'next' links; a standard new banner; a side menu, top menu, more use of pop-windows and a new 'really useful information' option appears on every page.

Nigel has made navigating round the Estate altogether easier, and his side menu runs under six titles: The Lake District (scenery, attractions, poets, green issues); Accommodation (hotel, conference, timeshare/RI/Brackens, self-catering); Club (facilities, Terrace, shop, health and beauty,


activities, membership); To Do (walking, cycling, attractions, activities A-Z); Wine and Dine (Purdey's, Hobson's, Terrace, Wainwrights' and banqueting); Kids' Clubs (school hols, splash time, Kids' Club activities); Shopping (link to E-directory).

The top menu features Availability (Hotel, self-catering, timeshare, conference, Festive Season); Contact (subscribing, brochures, comments, availability and Opinion Taker's current contest - How Do You Like Our New Website?); About (history, Estate map link, Langdale as a unique company, our green policy); Features (Lifestyle e-mag, e-postcards, free screensavers, your 'Favourites', wallpapers, Lakeland Cam daily picture).

In addition, every page carries the 'information' for easy

reference, including translations, rail timetables, 'ask an expert', a money converter, e-reminder, local activities, newspaper, maps, directions, links from all front pages and employment opportunities. Most requested info is Directions to the Estate.

Allow plenty of time for a website visit - time flies and you won't want to leave! As you 'Enter Here' www.langdale.co.uk go straight to the introduction page and from here to a little section entitled "How to get the best out of the site". But beware! Once you reach page 2, you'll be hooked by the tantalising mix of beautiful photographs with pop up windows, highlighted competitions, special offers and what's new on the website. Line your mouse up with the little directional triangles and they'll

take you where you want to go. Put your mouse on  and you'll get the info you need.

We need to know what you think, so we've customised Opinion Taker, creating our own quick surveys with answer options to save you time. Just click and send... and everyone who votes will enter our regular prize draw for one night's dinner, bed and breakfast for two.

PS... Langdale's first cyber kiosk is opening in the Country Club Pool Room. It has a shockproof touch screen, and a free link to the National Park Authority website for the latest footpath information. Buy a card for access to your email and an hour's surfing. Net Nanny comes built-in and other cyber kiosks may open in future.

Langdale Backs Business

Whatever you're doing on your computer, Langdale's always in the background if you download our latest scenic wallpaper from Tony Richards' Lakeland webcam selection. One company emailed us to say they hold regular prize-winning competitions to

identify the wallpaper location from two of our monthly scenics. So we offered them two monthly prizes of one Country Club day pass each for the first two members of their staff to name the subject of each new picture, and the location it was taken from.

Anomalies

Anomalies date back to the sale of the first 13 lodges during Phase One of their being built in the early 1980s, when owners during the Festive Season were forced to start weeks on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. So, to avoid this, fixed arrivals were introduced for this period,

and the remaining units sold for 49 instead of 50 weeks. This left a few days free both sides of the Christmas and New Year weeks, called Anomalies. This winter's all fall between January 5-13th 2002, and our lowest of low price for this year will be £16.25 per person, per night.

The "Real Millennium" Sale



The Paris residence

2001 - the Real Millennium! So, to celebrate we've come up with a double bargain. Firstly, we've got prices to match the year - nine Chapel Stile weeks for just £2001 each - and we've also got a further 15-20 at 60%-70% discount. These have become available due to the discontinuation of our part-exchange system. Secondly, you can make these weeks work brilliantly for you by using them as a bargain way of joining the

Residence International Club and swapping into the RI system. Buying a discounted week is the least expensive route into RI. You put your new week into RI's exchange pot and use it for two short breaks in the first six months without paying for the privilege. If you like it, you can stick with them and pay the joining fee on your next RI booking or carry on using your additional week at Langdale. Residence International has a growing portfolio of exclusive city and country properties in Europe and America. The art-deco romance of the Paris Residence contrasts with New York's exciting Manhattan Club Residence, or there's olde worlde southern charm to be enjoyed on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, soon to be joined by the Miami Residence. In Europe, Vale do Lobo is one of golfing's

prime locations on Portugal's Algarve coast, and Florence will soon have a Residence too. For rural chic, choose Colleoli in Tuscany, a beautiful mansion under preparation in the hills near Italy's west coast between Pisa and Florence. Nearer home for a UK shortbreak, there's Scottish history on the very doorstep at the Edinburgh

Residence - and One Devonshire Gardens in Glasgow has a world-wide reputation for sheer luxury and sophistication.

Remember, too, you can always track the latest best buys by subscribing to the email club through the Contact section on the website. You will then receive a monthly update of all outstanding offers.

Brilliant buys for the Real Millennium

Property	Unit	Size	Week	List Price	Asking Price
Chapel Stile	3	sleeps 4	11	5,715	2,001
Chapel Stile	3	sleeps 4	12	5,520	2,001
Chapel Stile	6	Sleeps 4	16	6,670	2,001
Chapel Stile	6	Sleeps 4	29	6,785	2,001
Chapel Stile	4	Sleeps 4	29	6,785	2,001
Chapel Stile	6	Sleeps 4	42	7,302	2,001
Chapel Stile	10	Sleeps 6	44	7,417	2,001
Chapel Stile	3	Sleeps 4	46	4,657	2,001
Chapel Stile	6	Sleeps 6	47	3,910	2,001

Hotel Offers...

Guided Bike & Hike

It's new and it's fun. Book a guided Bike and Hike midweek break and leave the arrangements to us so you can concentrate on having fun - without the effort! We've got the novelty of a guided electric bike ride (£25, 14 years upwards) each Wednesday and a full-day guided high fell walk with leader John White on Thursday. John actively helped keep things moving at Langdale when the fells were shut during foot and mouth, something he might talk about on the walks that he has called "A Balanced View." Mountain bikes are also available on the Estate, thanks to our new partnership with Country Lanes. Charges are £15 full day, £10 half day and £5 evening ride. The Country Lanes hire model is the Ridgeback with front suspension, 21 gears, pump, helmet and locks. You also get two customised route sheets starting from the Estate for a 10 and 20 mile ride.

Stay and Play

If you'd like a break from the kids, we can take care of it - and them too. Kids' Club for 7-14 year olds runs daily over half-term, 10am-6pm, with loads of organised fun both indoors and out. Angela, Victoria and Karen who run the Club have teaching, PE and pool lifeguard experience. Pool activities will feature and there will be trips out to places like Brockhole and Morecambe Superbowl. Outdoor activities such as canoeing and abseiling will be supervised by a qualified outdoor instructor. The cost is £35 per day.



Whatever The Reason...

...whatever the season: a two-night Langdale weekend is the answer. Enjoy Lakeland's glorious autumn colours in October or November at £45 per person per night, bed and breakfast (when sharing) and £25 per head for dinner; or admire winter's wonders from the warmth of the Country Club on a December or January weekend break for just £37.50 per person per night, bed and breakfast, with dinner at £25, excluding the Festive Season.

Wined up at Langdale on Friday night

Explore some interesting regional wines with the guidance of our experts at our Friday night Wine Evenings. Each begins with a drinks reception, followed by a themed, candlelit dinner to complement some excellent wines. Just pick a country, tick a date and join us on the following Fridays: October 5th (New Zealand); November 2nd (Californian Mondavi); November 30th (Australia: Victoria and Tasmania and Brown Brothers); December 21st (Portugal); and January 11th (South Africa).

Remember, Remember, the 5th of November

Then book it now. Where better than Langdale, the historic home of gunpowder itself, to make Guy Fawkes Night go with a bang! Join us for our Bonfire Night party on Monday November 5th, with lots to eat and an exciting display to watch.

Cabaret Nights

The atmosphere's magic, the songs brilliant and the setting memorable: it's Cabaret time



David Banks: our power-packed free-wheeling MD!

again at Langdale, with two sparkling, sophisticated evenings to entertain you - and maybe your work colleagues or company staff as well. On Saturday December 22nd you can enjoy the fabulous music of Lionel Ritchie performed live by tribute singer Malcolm Pitt. The cost is just £25 including candlelit dinner in Purdey's, and if you want to make a real night of it, we're offering special rates of £37.50 per person in a shared room for bed and breakfast, including use of the Country Club. Our second cabaret night is Saturday January 19th when you can chase away the post-festive blues in thrilling company with the gorgeous Laura Stewart as superstar Cher, appearing at Langdale for one night only - better book now!

Party Bookings

We know how to party at Langdale - but so many people have booked to join us, we can only take a few more for our Christmas Party Nights. The cost, including Christmas menu and disco is £27.50 per head, plus £37.50 for bed and breakfast (sharing). Party Nights are Sat December 1st; Fri & Sat December 7th & 8th; Fri & Sat Dec 14th & 15th; Sat Jan 5th; Sat Jan 12th.

Christmas Day & Boxing Daze?

Langdale at Christmas... organised jollity with community singing and charades round the Christmas tree...? "Well, not exactly," says Hotel Sales Manager Kath Morton. "Our guests just seem to want to sleep and eat in total comfort and relaxation for three days. We do all the hard work - and guests get all the rest!" If that's the kind of Christmas you appreciate, we can offer a 3-night package, Mon-Thurs 24th-27th December, dinner, bed and

breakfast including Christmas Day Lunch, double occupancy only, at £370 per person. By contrast, New Year comes in to the sound of popping corks and a well-orchestrated bang or two as fireworks light the Valley sky, preceded by a black tie dinner in Purdey's for Hotel guests, and a get-together on The Terrace for owners. Our two-night package, Dec 31st - Jan 2nd costs £325 per person. If you're a lodge owner needing extra Festive Season accommodation to sleep your family party, we have a few Hotel rooms, accommodation only, at £100 per room, per night over Christmas and New Year, or just £55 per night for Dec 27th-30th.

A wee dram or two...

"Freedom and Whisky gang together" said Robbie Burns, and you can't argue with that. So, in the true spirit of Burns night, Langdale will be piping in the haggis in traditional style at our Burns Night celebration on Saturday, January 26th. Tickets are £25.00 including dinner and disco, with a special overnight bed and breakfast rate of £37.50 (sharing) per person.

A Valentine Proposal

What could be more tempting than a luxury weekend for two in the very heart of English romanticism? Enjoy by day the wild and lovely beauty that inspired our greatest poets, and by night you can dine in the beautiful candlelit surroundings of Purdey's - that's our Valentine proposal...feel free to make your own! Our Valentine's weekend two-night break on Fri & Sat Feb 15th & 16th is £95.00 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast, or £75.00 for bed and breakfast only. Early booking essential!

To get the best out of last-minute special offer deals on accommodation keep checking the website: www.langdale.co.uk

Tracking Footpath Progress

Although Foot and Mouth restrictions interrupted all major footpath maintenance and repair projects, there was at least some comfort to be gained from the fact that with fewer grazing sheep and no trampling feet, the condition of most footpaths would not have deteriorated too badly in the meantime.

The work had to stop for a few months - but your generosity carried on regardless, and having raised over £20,000 in 2000, we handed over a further £2,815.78 in spring to keep Langdale's 'Man at the Top' busy mending our local footpaths. The money was donated through the Lake District Tourism and Conservation Partnership to the National Trust. The Trust's North West Regional Director Oliver Maurice sent us his thanks personally, with the following comment:

"Although the foot and mouth crisis is currently affecting some of our ability to progress key projects, we hope to be able to carry out the work as soon as possible. In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise how important your help is to us. Without such supporters we would be unable to achieve many of our conservation goals within the Lake District. We hope, therefore, that you will be able to continue to support us in the future."

Ironically, the foot and mouth crisis has boosted the Conservation Partnership's membership from 91 to 104, highlighting as it has the interdependency of farming and tourism. The organisation aims to connect visitors, tourism and other businesses with the conservation

organisations that maintain and enhance the landscape. This summer, the Walkers' Hostel at Broadrayne Farm, Grasmere became the 100th business member: "Foot and Mouth has made us take a hard look at ourselves," its owners, the

Dennison family, commented. "Tourism gives back little direct help to the landscape it so heavily capitalises on, and by joining the Partnership we will be able to see for ourselves the money going directly into conservation work around us."



Jo, Zoe and Bev Dennison with Pip the dog outside their walkers' hostel at Broadrayne Farm, Grasmere.

Man At The Bottom

Foot and mouth closures brought our Man at the Top, Peter Entwistle, right back down to earth this year.

Although footpath repairs stopped, there's never been an idle moment for Langdale's Footpath Repair Team, who have thrown all their efforts into getting footpaths open for walkers by fencing them off from sheep. Peter worked at Tarn Hows, Grasmere Lake, Yew

Tree Tarn and the Langdale Valley, putting up signs, taping areas off and erecting fencing.

"It's been hectic," said his boss John Atkinson, who is Country-side Co-ordinator responsible for the Langdale Repair Team. "The crisis has certainly stretched our versatility - Paul Kier, one of our team, was sent to manage Fell Foot Park near Newby Bridge, and we even had a couple of the lads

working in the National Trust shop when they were short-staffed.

"Some paths may have suffered a bit from lack of maintenance after the spring frosts and rain, while others have improved. Some of the wettest, muddiest swamps now have a nice covering of green that makes people think they're fine to walk on, but they don't realise there's a bog underneath!

One of the Team recently had to go to the aid of a walker who'd got stuck in one."

Guests won't have to go far to see Peter and the Repair Team at work this autumn - they're almost on the doorstep! The next two paths for improvement are Megs Ghyll and Walthwaite, Chapel Stile, which will both benefit from your loyal support and continued financial generosity.

The Great (Langdale) Grand Opening

(No strings attached...)

Saturday June 9th, the day we'd all been waiting for, dawned wet and windy. The first few access

points to the fells were about to re-open and, as Chris Bonington headed up Helvellyn with the media trying to keep up, Langdale's first-up-the-Pikes

walking party set off up the Valley, heading for Harrison Stickle. After weeks of low-level internment, it was a day of release and time to let go... of 500 tagged balloons, which launched the Grand Langdale Balloon Race. Each tag returned represents a £5 voucher for the finder to spend in the Valley and the tag posted back the furthest distance from Langdale received before December 31st 2001 will win the finder a two-night Langdale break. (Winner so far: a tag returned from York). Leading the group were Country Club Manager Angela Langton, veteran of Ben Nevis, Snowdon and the Himalayas, and Adam

Sharrock from Timeshare whose normal walking distance, says Angela, is to the car and back. The damp, windswept Pike pioneers enjoyed a Champagne reception on the Terrace on their return, when the sun finally came out.

"We were expecting more people but the rain didn't help," Angela said. "Among the group of a dozen there were two young children. They were fantastic walkers, and one of them was diabetic and also had a hole in the heart. It was so nice to make new friends, I spent the evening with the family as well. It was such good fun!"



Anthony Hutton, Langdale's New General Manager: A Good Grounding In Conservation!

When Anthony Hutton first came to Langdale as a 17-year-old cadet voluntary warden, litter-picking for the Lake District National Park, he little dreamt he would return one day as Langdale Estate's General Manager.

Anthony is a Kendalian by birth, born and brought up with his three brothers just 16 miles from Langdale - and every Sunday he would catch the 555 bus to Ambleside where he and five other cadets would be given tasks by Chief Warden John Wyatt, which included clearing the accumulated rubbish of decades dumped inside Langdale's spectacular "Cathedral" cave and picking up litter and bottles over Elterwater and White Moss Commons.

But it was catering rather than conservation which finally captured Anthony's imagination, having helped his mum, Mrs Margaret Hutton, run her busy five-bedroom guest house at Woodside on the Windermere Road. A two-month holiday stint at The Priory, near Windermere confirmed his career choice, and Anthony left Kendal Grammar School and signed on for his first formal training at the Prince of

Wales in Southport.

Much of Anthony's earliest experience of leisure and conference hotels was built up during his seven years with the Prince of Wales Group. This included a period at Southport, home of the British Open Golf Championship, and Chester, where Anthony worked closely with British incoming tour operators and the coach business, and gained experience in room management. His next job was at Blackpool's large Imperial Hotel as Food Service Manager, where he was often responsible for serving over a thousand dinners each evening in the 150-bed hotel which also had banqueting facilities for 400 and a night club.

His next career move was to join Forte as Accommodation Services Manager for two years at Alveston Manor, Stratford-on-Avon, where he interviewed a "gorgeous" young lady called Elaine and engaged her as Head Receptionist before engaging her to be his wife. The next job took him north to Aviemore, where he was Deputy Manager at the Post House for three years and Anthony then took on his first General Manager post at The Bear

of Rodborough Hotel in Stroud. He and Elaine were married in 1988 and their daughter and son born in 1990 and 1991. In his spare time, Anthony is an enthusiastic Round Table member and served as Chairman of District 156 in Stroud. He also enjoys classic cars and restoring engines, though he's had to curtail his activities as an amateur car mechanic since oily hands aren't altogether compatible with a job as hotel manager.

There's hardly an area of Britain where Anthony hasn't worked including Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Robin Hood's Bay. Such a wide-ranging career helps him to look at Langdale's strengths and weaknesses in an informed, impartial way - and his first impressions were favourable:

"These are obviously very professional people working at Langdale, with great staff involvement and a real community spirit. The level of communication with staff at all levels is quite exceptional, and I am already very impressed,, though finding suitable staff in country areas is always a problem. My own experience in country-



side leisure and conference hotels has often involved developing leisure clubs, and as custodian of each property I've always tried to promote country activities which have a real empathy with their locality.

"As a Voluntary Warden who used to pick up Langdale's litter 25 years ago, I feel totally at home with Langdale's commitment to the environment, and I might even be able to contribute by re-joining the VWs. Somebody asked me recently where I might go from here. To answer that, I couldn't do better than to quote Langdale's new Park Ranger Steve Gaskell, who said on his first day at work: "I have no ambitions beyond the Lake District."

Permanent Swaps

Families change shape and size as the years roll by - and so do their needs. We've set up an Owner to Owner Swap Shop in the hope that those looking for a move may find a match. It might be a long shot - but worth a try:

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 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, 7, or 2-bed weeks 43, 7
Lodge 28 (Coniston) week 18	Coniston, Windermere weeks 35-40
Lodge 8 (Grasmere) week 38	2-bed, weeks 36-38
Lodge 41 (Windermere) week 35	Ullswater, mid-March-Sept
Chapel Stile 7, 2-bed, week 1	Estate, 1-bed, any weeks
Lodge 74 (Windermere) week 14	similar, out of school hols
Lodge 81 (Coniston) week 25	2-bed lodge, any time June
Lodge 9 (Grasmere) week 26	1-bed Estate, any week 13-21
Lodge 49 (Coniston) week 37	Ullswater, in school hols
Elterwater Hall 3, 2-bed, week 31,	2-bed out of school hols
Lodge 29, (Ullswater) 3-bed, week 35	Ullswater week 34

It's A Gift!

When owner Richard Baker realised that he wouldn't be able to use his week in Lodge 79 this autumn, he offered to auction it for charity, to help fund respite care for disabled children in Surrey, near his home.

The most successful charity auctions of promises combine generous amounts of wine, a professional auctioneer and bidding bravado - and this one had all three. Supporters paid for their dinner... "and they also paid for their wine, a considerable sum in most cases", says Richard.

The Bakers' week for 4/6 people, 2 bed, 2 bath, no pets fetched £360 "largely as a result of one of our friends bidding vigorously against himself...! By comparison a week in a cottage in Lostwithiel fetched £480 - the discrepancy in price we put down to the fact that, by that stage of the evening, many of those bidding couldn't

remember where they were supposed to be next day, let alone in a year's time. In summary everyone was happy. The charity received £360, our friends a week in Lodge 79 at a very reasonable price, and we have made a contribution which cost us nothing more than the service charge, which we would have paid anyway!"



Lodge 79

Owners' AGM: 30th September 2001

Owners attending the AGM on 30th September 2001 at Rheged, Cumbria's £18m all-weather attraction just off the M6 near Penrith, will have the added bonus of a visit to the new National Mountaineering Exhibition which was opened in July by Tony Blair. The story of British mountaineering is illustrated in this outstanding exhibition housed in Rheged, which is Britain's largest grass covered building. Rheged is also a major showcase for locally produced foods and Cumbrian arts and crafts, and is the perfect place to find that special gift or some early Christmas presents.

Within the same complex is a massive screen the height of six

double decker buses showing Cumbrian history romantically re-created in "Rheged - The Movie". To make a weekend of the AGM, why not visit Penrith Outdoor Market on Saturday, and stay overnight at either the North Lakes Hotel, which has a pool, leisure centre and health and beauty salon, and is the venue for the Langdale Dinner Party (to book, tel: 01768 868111). Alternatively, book in at the Westmorland Hotel, which is situated in good walking country (book via Rheged on 01768 868000). Quote Langdale AGM when booking. To book Sunday lunch and/or the Rheged Movie, ring Lynette Berry at Langdale on 015394 38002.

An Appetite For Cumbrian Cuisine And Company

Grazed, raised and braised in Cumbria - our Cumbrian Evenings are such good taste! We don't need to go far afield to find the freshest food, cooked to perfection at Purdey's and served in good Cumbrian company.

Cumbrians never needed much excuse to hold a 'merry meet', which traditionally involved much singing, dancing and ale, and usually accompanied a shepherds' meet where stray sheep were returned to their owners. Our latest Cumbrian Folk Evening was just as spirited, with tickets at only £18 for substantial Cumbrian fayre and a free glass of summer punch to get the plectrums plucking and the eightsomes reeling. Raffle tickets were sold for Man at the Top, and also for the chance to win the exclusive silver-caged bottle of Ruinart Champagne in a rosewood presentation case. This will be drawn on Dec 31st 2001. Watch the website www.langdale.co.uk for the next Cumbrian Evening event.

Maintaining Our Reputation

Located modestly on the boundary of Langdale, the Maintenance Department is the engine room of the whole Estate. Dozens of sophisticated systems work round the clock to deliver the simple pleasures of life at Langdale; but nothing would function properly without the services of Maintenance and its team of eight highly experienced specialists.

Most of us could just about change a plug or apply a sink plunger to a blocked drain - but it all gets very technical when it's a blockage in a hot air and water

jet bath, or six kitchen areas needing a total re-fit, with new surfaces and halogen lighting. The maintenance team who do just about everything and more comprise specialist plumbers, a pool engineer, a heating engineer, joiners and electricians including team leader and technical troubleshooter, Colin Lister.

Their recent assignments included refurbishing nine kitchens at Chapel Stile, all with new Corian granite-hard work surfaces, tiling, halogen surface lights, Amtico 'wood plank'

Wartime Langdale - With Cold Running Water!

The deep impression that the Lake District had on a child's mind became a memory for life, as US Views reader Angus Hellawell of Hancock, Michigan remembered.

It was Easter 1940... and Angus was nine years old. He remembers his first walk on Striding Edge and Helvellyn... duck eggs for breakfast in Patterdale, lambs and streams running everywhere in Ullswater and Sandwick. "Later at Stonethwaite: I seem to remember that it was there I learned that the immediate skyline is never the top. It was, and still is, wonderful magic country - those thrusting skylines and rocky outcrops never fail to thrill. They did then and still do, 60 years later."

Langdale Estate in wartime Britain was a very beautiful place to stay - though fresh running water was the ultimate in mod cons... and extremely cold:

"Langdale and the Estate came on my scene around 1943-1946. Remember it was WW2. There was not much thought for vacations and not much spare money at hand. At that time the accommodation consisted of the Pillar Hotel and Becksides (without the present dining rooms and leisure centre); the Gateway (a few rooms and a restaurant) and five to six stone cabins scattered round the Estate. The cabins were converted from the former gunpowder storage sheds and contained a water-powered generator, spartan beds and a one or two-bar electric heater. There were some nearby washrooms/toilets, with fresh, very cold water. Cabin residents ate at the Gateway, where an avuncular Mr Whittle presided over all matters. The younger generation did the washing up every evening. The weekly inclusive rate for cabin dwellers was, I think, £5. My wife and I went there again in 1954, on our honeymoon. It had not changed significantly since the 1940s, though the price was up a little..."

Even the fells appeared less steep through the eyes of an energetic child:

"For some reason most visits to Langdale seemed to occur around Easter and the weather was always mixed. In those days distant gradients and heights seemed to be irrelevant - so it would be, for example, Wetherlam in the morning and back for a quick lunch before running up the Pikes in the afternoon. Or, for a full day, up Rossett Ghyll, on to Bow Fell, along Crinkle Crag, down to Red Tarn and over Pike'o'Bliscoe... or across to Rydal, up Fairfield, down to Grisedale Tarn and up Helvellyn, possibly including Striding Edge and across to Swirral Edge or over the Gable and Pillar and so on, Scafell Pike and Scafell itself. On our recent visit, November 2000, we managed to get up Lingmoor and return via Blea Tarn and Dungeon Ghyll. Fortunately, the weather precluded a more ambitious day and we made do with Little Langdale and over to Grasmere soaked through on both days!"

flooring, and new dishwashers, hobs, ovens, and fridge-freezers. In Elterwater Hall, four apartments have been newly decorated, and all the Hotel's Becksides rooms have had their jacuzzi units replaced with the latest air and water-type baths, which give improved, more hygienic water distribution through thousands of holes in the base of the bath. In the main Hotel, several rooms have been completely refurbished with new furniture, fittings, carpets and curtains, and five front Fellsides bedrooms have been

refurbished, with underfloor heating and re-tiled bathrooms including two with very big double baths.

Having such an experienced in-house skills' base means that the Estate can keep its rolling programme of refurbishment on the move all the time, while attending to emergencies as and when necessary, and maintaining the pool and Country Club. During the coming winter, finances allowing, the team hope to refurbish another 12 Hotel rooms, doing all their own joinery, plumbing and decorating.

What's To Do?...as they say



When foot and mouth restricted the fells, we couldn't sit back and do nothing. So, we made our super Langdale location and facilities into a natural playground, both indoors and out. Empty floor area is a waste of space when people might be doing yoga or relaxation or an aerobics class on it. Based on the belief that holidays are a grand time for trying something new, Country Club Manager Angela Langton has come up with some wonderfully whacky ways of spending a day.



T'ai Chi is so popular, there are currently two beginners' and one advanced course running with Sven Gilder each week; Steve Emmett's Yoga is also stretching comfortably into three weekly sessions now. Staff in Health and Beauty can also offer a wide variety of therapies, including reflexology and Indian head massage for you to try out and enjoy at leisure.



Many staff bring to their jobs at Langdale a wealth of rich and varied experience from other fields. Colin Lister, our Maintenance Manager, has been a black belt karate instructor for 30 years, training the police among others in self defence. Colin, who is a 3rd dan, is giving guests an introductory session to the art of karate, during which he will also

offer an insight into its philosophy and cultural background, and the extent to which karate relies on mental powers.

Country Lanes, one of the UK's leading bike hire companies, have agreed to go into partnership with us at Langdale to provide mountain bike hire direct from the Estate. Book at Country Club reception, and the bikeshed is in the main Hotel car park. For those who love cycling but would prefer to take it nice and easy, we've got Easy Rider: the electric bike which takes the puff out of pedalling. These environmentally clean machines have an 18-hour re-chargeable battery, and can be hired through the Country Club. In addition, each Thursday guests can join a guided Scenic Electric Bike Ride from 10am - 3pm starting from Waterhead, Ambleside, which includes a boat and ferry ride too. Advance booking through the Country Club.

We've all felt the effects of foot and mouth - but what's it been like for Lake District farmers? Did MAFF get it right - or should the men from the ministry be culled? Find out what Valley sheep farmer Eric Taylforth thinks each Thursday evening at 7pm when he'll be sharing his forthright views with anyone who cares to listen - or better still, buys him a pint.

Corporate groups have enormous fun on the Estate using its natural features for their team building games. But when it comes to abseiling, John White got out of his tree. Temporarily unable to use the Lakeland crags, he got very excited about a massively tall cedar near the Gateway and made his own Langdale abseil, which put us top of the tree recently for conference delegates from Loughborough University, one of the UK's leading outdoor education colleges.

Some of Angela's Activities might be beyond the fringe for some people; others will love dabbling in some of her more unusual and unorthodox ideas:

"Langdale is my ideal holiday but the problem is, I come here to work! I love holidays with loads to do, but when it's my turn, I'm struggling to find anywhere that offers as many activities as Langdale!"

Not hard to believe - especially in view of Angela's latest offering, kinesiology. This helps people towards healthy eating by identifying foods they should avoid by means of a simple test which shows up food allergies and reactions.

An afternoon's entertainment or a life-changing experience? It's up to you!

Active Imagination

Langdale makes a perfect holiday location - but we're also very experienced at mixing work with pleasure. Why not test us out and see if a Langdale conference would work for your company and colleagues? The Langdale Estate is the ideal location, being a natural outdoor playground within which we can accommodate exciting activities for adventurous companies.

It took little more than Active Imagination, the events specialists, to introduce a handful of companies to a Customer Weekend of typical activities recently. Delegates came from BUPA Care Services, Skipton Building Society, Elida Fabergé, SEMA Group, Royal and Sun Alliance, Fox IT, and Lever Fabergé, and the weekend started with a pub lunch in

Wainwrights'. To combine a treasure hunt, Scrabble skills and rocket science in one activity gave Active Imagination no trouble, and they skilfully engaged and involved teams in working together. While one group struggled with the winning Scrabble word, another assembled various rocket parts gathered with their Scrabble clues. The missile, once fired, reached 1000ft, releasing a parachute which floated back to earth. Participants also enjoyed a clay pigeon shooting session. After a leisurely session in the Pool and Country Club, dinner followed in the Partners' Room, where Active Imagination put delegates and their partners under the "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" spotlight before acting out a game of Monopoly with real-life

creations such as a Pontoon game on Mayfair. Sunday was devoted entirely to relaxation and leisure:

"It was a brilliant weekend and our customers loved Langdale - they had beautiful rooms, some with four-poster beds, and the Country Club is lovely. Some of them made their own private bookings as well," Active Imagination's Jill Simpson said. "We had enormous fun, and although it was only a taster session for a few of the activities we can offer, the things they were doing soon got people who hardly knew each other working together as a team, and co-operating with each other."

Our daily delegates' rate is just £95 this winter for full board and accommodation, use of the Country Club and all conference



An Active Imagination clay pigeon shooting activity

suite facilities. Your business is our business - and we're so keen to get your bookings, we'll give any owners or guests who bring us a corporate booking to the value of £5,000 a free two night break for two, dinner, bed and breakfast in a double room, at any time, subject to availability.

Sizing Up The Club!

"It's so much **bigger** than we expected - and nicer than we could ever have imagined," many people have commented on the newly-refurbished Country Club. You love all the little surprises and our brand new spectator sport - the Deluge bucket, a tiptop facility - it tips cold water over you then tops itself up again. Then there's the underfloor heating which keeps the changing rooms constantly dry; the spaciousness of showers and loos...and that useful little spin dryer for wringing out your costume. Feeling bubbly? Just take a seat in the pool and wait

for the water massage jets! Steam room, sun shower, sanarium, splash, squash or serious swimming... spa bath or exercise studio are all winning widespread approval: "We were all very impressed with your new facilities," wrote Ian Hamilton from BT... "A number of people have re-booked for private visits to Langdale..." Teenager Heather Bradder was equally impressed: "I came with my family to Langdale Country Club for the day, I had a brilliant time and the food was excellent, we will come again in summer and maybe stay in the Hotel..."



Advertisement for: **Langdale Walking Holidays**

Grand Teton National Park, included in our Rocky Mountains holiday 3-19 September 2002, along with Yellowstone, Sun Valley, Jackson Hole and Snake River.

Another full and interesting year planned for 2002.

The full programme for the coming year promises to be even more exciting than previous years and is already about half full. Please let us know if you are interested in receiving information about this or any of the following:

- 31 Jan-25 Feb - New Zealand (fully booked)
- 20-25 April - Tresco, Isles of Scilly
- 15-22 May - Pyrenees
- 15-22 & 22-29 June - Tuscany
- 13-20 July - Swiss Alps (Wengen)
- 3-19 Sept - Rocky Mountains
- 27-29 Sept - Weekend at Langdale
- 5-12 Oct - Cyprus
- 4-19 Nov - Patagonia
- 30 Dec-6 Jan 2003 - New Year in Madeira

interested?

Please contact us on 01539 735108
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