

Views

No. 41

The Newsletter of the Langdale Owners' Club

Autumn 2003

Beckside – The Wraps Are Off!

Langdale's beautiful new timeshares, Beckside East and West, were finished this summer, to reveal tantalising interior details, as the new building rose from the rubble of old Beckside.



As summer turned to autumn, the plastic wraps were off lounge suites and dining chairs, and the floors were stacked high with cardboard boxes. The kitchen fittings gleamed, curtains hung at the windows and the arrival of the first owners was only weeks away. Yet six months ago, Beckside was a large heap of rubble.

Throughout the building process, Nigel Harper's digital archive pictures gave website viewers a continuous progress report on this exciting development. The Beckside CD ROM's guided tour, with five virtual reality 360 degree images, persuaded many to buy. As a result, the three-bedroomed Beckside East has completely sold out of school holiday weeks, and only a few remain for the two-bedroomed Beckside West.

Every Saturday morning, at 10.30am, Langdale is holding an 'Open House' to give everyone a chance for a guided tour - whatever the reason! Some want to purchase, others to browse....but the reaction of all our viewers has been similar - it simply takes their breath away.

One of the smallest rooms is making the biggest impact: the cosy little 'Snug'- Beckside East's cleverly rafted entertainment den. Here people go wide-eyed at the sight of the impressively big, broad Bang & Olufsen home-cinema plasma screen with automatic light sensor, plus the built-in platform CD player with six individual CD stations and the cosy log-effect stove, so homely to cuddle up by when it's cool outside. The deep red colour scheme is an inspiration - the perfect contrast to the cool,



Like every other aspect of Beckside, when you see the riverside balconies, you imagine yourself there, whether dining al-fresco or sitting, watching the water flow gently by, or even relaxing quietly with a drink in your hand.

streamlined elegance of advanced technology.

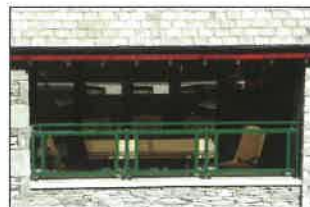
Walk into the open plan lounge/kitchen/dining area, and your eyes are drawn at first to the fireplace, like no other you are likely to have seen before. Wonderful, remote controllable flames sparkle, yet warm the entire living space, and as your eye scans round the room, the mingling of traditional, natural materials coupled with the ultimate in style appears as though taken from the cover of some glossy designer magazine. The first awesome impression gives way to a sense of amazement at the way each individual object delights, and yet fits perfectly within the whole.



Clean, crisp, design characterises the kitchen's stylish beauty, which is only surpassed by its brilliant functionality. Each carefully designed drawer and cupboard is cleverly built-in to provide maximum storage and working space, a place where cooking becomes a pleasure.

The two-person steam and shower rooms conjure up images of total relaxation after a day in the great outdoors....while the pleasing design of contemporary bathrooms combines convenience with luxury, to make them sheer pleasure to use.

To find out more about Beckside, a dream come true, phone on +44(0)15394 38012 or email info@langdale.co.uk for your Beckside brochure and CD ROM. You can watch the final touches being put to Beckside East and West on www.langdale.co.uk



EASIER BY email!

info@langdale.co.uk

If you would like us to correspond with you by email, please tick the box on the enclosed form, and update your email details, so we can amend our records.



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AMBLESIDE'S NEW DISC ZONE

A new one-hour parking zone is being introduced in Ambleside town centre and surrounding area this autumn, requiring motorists to display a time of arrival disc.

For your convenience, a disc will be provided in every lodge, and there are more available at Hotel Reception and in local shops. Please leave the disc in your property before you go home, for the next lodge occupant.

Langdale AGM - Mixing Business with Plenty of Pleasure

The choice of Newcastle for this year's AGM on Sunday 16th November 2003 has proved such a popular one, that the luxury four star Copthorne Hotel has only limited space left. Every bedroom at the Copthorne enjoys a panoramic view of the Tyne and its famous bridge, with full leisure facilities, and a 14m swimming pool. The only few rooms still available are 'Quay' rooms, at £109 per night for room and breakfast or 'Connoisseur' at £124 per night for room and breakfast. Please book accommodation direct with the Copthorne by ringing Stina Maynard on 0191 201 1386, mentioning Langdale. For alternative accommodation, phone Lynette at Langdale.

The riverside Copthorne is the perfect base from which to visit Eldon Square for shopping, the Laing Art Gallery, the Gateshead Millennium Bridge and the awesome Baltic building, Newcastle's answer to London's Tate Modern. You can also see a precious little bit of Langdale in Newcastle by visiting the

Merzbarn Wall, constructed in a barn opposite the Langdale Estate in 1947 by Kurt Schwitters. The Merzbarn was the last major work by this German genius of modern art and was moved to the Hatton Gallery at Newcastle University in 1965 and valued recently at somewhere between £5-15m.

Wherever you are staying, join us for Saturday night's Langdale Dinner and Ceilidh at the Copthorne, which should be a very lively and enjoyable evening. Business on Sunday begins at 11.00am with the Langdale Shareholders' AGM, followed by a buffet lunch. The Langdale Owners' Club AGM starts at 2pm.

Both the Dinner on Saturday, and Lunch on Sunday must be booked in advance through Langdale. Please ring Lynette Berry at Langdale on 015394 38002 to reserve your place. Payment must be made by cheque, payable to Langdale Leisure Ltd.

Royal Visit

Langdale MD David Banks was impressed with the Duke of York's grasp and knowledge of local issues when the Duke met local business representatives for lunch at the Drunken Duck. The meeting took place during the Royal Family's promotion of UK tourism, when individual members spent the day at resorts and attractions.

"Prince Andrew talked to each of us in turn in the group, which sparked off a number of general discussions, such as the problem of acquiring skilled labour, and the environmental impact of tourism." David said afterwards. "We also discussed affordable housing, and the second homes issue. None of us would expect the Duke to take direct action, but we made sure he got the message, and being Royalty, you never know how far that message might reach."

"People in high places often achieve things by means of a quiet word in the right ear, and when it's a Prince talking, people listen!"

Scroll up...scroll up...for Tony's new screensavers

Tony Richards and his daily Webcam pictures have so many enthusiastic fans, we've decided to add an extra saver to the existing wide choice of Lake District scenic screensavers. There are lots of topics to choose from, featuring some of your favourite digital photos including ones from 'Walking with Wordsworth', 'Six of the Best' walks, and 'Favourites' from past issues of Lifestyle. Click 'Features' on the Langdale website, top right hand corner, and select 'Screensavers'. There are also some stunning wallpapers for you to download.

Management on the Wing

Elterwater Common recently became a venue for a UK record speed attempt, thanks to Langdale Leisure Ltd's Managing Director, 'Captain' David Banks, with Hotel Manager Anthony Hutton in support, as Safety Officer. The two were flying the 'Wing', a radio-controlled aerodynamic structure made of high tech black foam, covered with a special plastic film, capable of reaching speeds of 120mph. This wasn't quite fast enough to topple the UK speed record for electric powered aircraft, which stands at 127mph! Carbon fibre propellers and Lithium Polymer batteries are eagerly awaited!!

Not that this will deter David Banks, plane-maker, boat builder, racing car driver and car builder whose 'Wing' is just the latest of a series of self-built transport systems. Others include an 11ft cedar boat called Tom Kitten, which is used as a tender out to his bigger boat, Tom Kat. David's self-built vehicle was a Honda-based racing car, built on a Ford Fiesta body shell, which is categorised as a Modified Saloon/Hot Hatch for racing.

David's passion for building engines and craft began with an interest in school science, coupled with the sort of mind that enables him to read the theory, and translate it into practice. This means that David places his own safety in his ability to get things right.

Sailing has been a serious hobby for over 20 years and last year David qualified as a Yacht Master: "I've never been seasick, not once. When we were doing the Skipper's test, everyone else was sick, including the examiner, but not me! I was really pleased about that - it was very rough!" David has sailed some extremely impressive trans-ocean passages but also enjoys domestic events, particularly the Isle of Wight



Round The Island annual race. When he and his three sailing friends head off from the west coast of Scotland towards Ireland, they sail a 'Moody', the Rolls Royce of yachts. Predictably, when it comes to navigating, David prefers using his own skill rather than making use of a GPS, although it's comforting to know he has one, just in case!

As captain at the helm of Langdale Leisure Ltd, how does his job compare with the thrills of risk-taking and self-reliance in tricky situations, on the high seas or the race track? "There are definite similarities; the hospitality industry is a very simple one, but one with many potential pitfalls. On a boat, if I am off watch, my life is in the hands of the navigator, the helmsperson and the crew. At Langdale, the Estate's reputation is in the hands of the customer-facing staff. Both rely on good selection, recruitment and training, followed up by monitoring, and ultimately the trust that they will do a good job for you. In both cases, good performance must be rewarded. Running Langdale is similar to racing a boat: it glides along through the water, but there's a lot going on under the surface."

Hotel Offers...

Party Time and the nights get cooler!

Stay and play - turn a Langdale Party Night into a mini-break. You can have fun in the Country Club; or face the music with a pre-party Pamper Package!

The Best Haunt for Hallowe'en

Langdale - Friday 31st October there'll be spooks, ghosts and ghoulies galore at the Children's Hallowe'en Party from 6-10pm. Stay on for a walking weekend, just as the autumn colours hit their peak of perfection.

Bonfire Barbie

Wednesday 5th November - join us for fizzing fireworks, flickering firelight, bangers, bonfire, and a barbecue on The Terrace. Why not make Langdale's Firework Display into a short break, and stay for a couple of nights?

Xmas Party Nights

Dinner, disco, and dance your socks off! Langdale's Party Nights get snapped up so fast, you'll have to book soon. You and your friends can make a night of it, then get your heads down in luxury hotel accommodation at £72 per person (based on 2 people sharing) including Xmas menu, disco, bed and breakfast. The dates are: Sat 29th November; Fri 5th & Sat 6th December; Fri 12th and Sat 13th December; Fri 19th & Sat 20th December; Sat 10th January & Sat 17th January 2004. Ring freephone 0500 051197 to book.

Who's spending Christmas in the kitchen?

We are - but you needn't! Enjoy all the fun of a family Christmas in your lodge, and book Christmas Day lunch with us, £42.50 per adult, £21.25 for children. To reserve a table, as soon as possible, ring us on 015394 38051.

New Year Festivities - for all ages!

New Year's Eve - would you like to spend it with your children and grandchildren? Or maybe you prefer it to be an adult occasion. Langdale's got the answer for everyone, starting with a Children's Party, 6-9.30pm, £20.00 per child. For those who like to enjoy New Year en famille, there will be a Family New Year's Eve Buffet, at £55.00 for adults, £27.50 for children on The Terrace. Alternatively, Purdeys has a festive New Year's Eve Dinner at £65 a head, for adults only. Advance booking is essential. Talk to staff about which of these options best suits your family group. To book, phone Hotel Sales on 0500 051197.

Discovery Breaks

If you think the Lake District is just a lot of scenery, you've only got half the picture!

It's a place for princes, prime ministers, and presidents: (Prince Charles visited Borrowdale in 2001 & 2003; Tony Blair in 2001 and US President, Woodrow Wilson holidayed at Rydal several times between 1906-1921).

It's a place which inspires fiction. Think of Peter Rabbit, Squirrel Nutkin (100 years old in 2003) or Tom Kitten: they were hopping about the hedgerows of

Beatrix Potter's home at Hill Top, near Hawkshead, a century ago. Postman Pat was Lakeland born and bred too; you'll see the small, bow-fronted former post office, which inspired author John Cunliffe to write Postman Pat, on the left hand side of the steep hill going down into Kendal. Pat's fictional postal round was based on Longsledale.

We've already made a number of connections between those famous now, those in the past and some people we believe will become famous... www.langdale.co.uk/discovery.htm

Newcomers to the Lakes can sometimes feel that sense of 'déjà vu', probably because they've seen the area as a setting in several well-known films: Across The Lake (Donald Campbell's story); Swallows and Amazons (the classic interpretation of Arthur Ransome's books) and The French Lieutenant's Woman (partly filmed in a house on Windermere.) Recently, Lake District residents Sting and his wife Trudy Styler, transformed Ambleside into a filmset, for a tale called "Cheeky", yet to be released. Watch this space!

Book a Bed for the night?

Is your Lodge full up this Christmas? If you need overflow accommodation, we can offer 'room only' over the Christmas and New Year, to sleep extra friends and family, at £130 per night, on the nights of 24th, 25th & 26th December and 31st December & 1st January. The cost of 'room only' for all other dates close to the Festive season is £75 per night.



Burns & Bagpipes o'er the Border

You don't have to be in Bonnie Scotland to swing your sporran for Burns Night. Langdale's traditional Burns Night supper with piper and disco takes place on Saturday 24th January 2004. The cost is £80 per person, for Burns supper and disco, plus luxury bed and breakfast accommodation, based on 2 people sharing a standard room.

Singing Sensation

Who's the UK's sexiest senior singing super-star? Tom Jones - or lookalike Ray Dean? You decide! Valentino from the valleys comes to Langdale Valley on Cabaret Night, Sat 31st January 2004, £115 per person, based on two people sharing a standard room for a two night stay, Jan 30th & 31st. This includes bed and breakfast accommodation, plus dinner and cabaret on Saturday evening.

A Weekend for Wooing

Valentine's Day 2004 falls on a Saturday, which is perfect timing for lovers seeking a two-day weekend break, at £150 per person. This is based on two people sharing, for two nights minimum. The price includes a half bottle of Champagne, a Langdale teddy, and a red rose, to put you in the mood for romance.

If you can't say 'thank you' enough to Mum...

Langdale can help! Book a weekend's break, and make Mother's Day Sunday lunch, on 21st March 2004, a family occasion to remember.

CommunityMark



Langdale Leisure was the first, and remains one of only a few companies in Cumbria and the Northwest, to achieve Business in the Community's prestigious CommunityMark. The BitC Award recognises Langdale's contribution to the community, and its environmentally and socially responsible business practice.

Langdale Leisure's triumph turned into a double celebration for local enterprise, when Langdale's friends at the Lake District Tourism and Conservation Partnership won BitC's Sieff Award, sponsored by Marks & Spencer, as: "the community-based organisation that has best collaborated with the corporate sector to benefit society."

Community involvement is part of our ethos, and lodge owners have raised well over £85,000 in the last ten years with an 'opt-in' donation scheme for Langdale footpath repairs, co-ordinated by the Conservation Partnership. We also support the new Lakes Market Town Initiative, the Armit Museum at Ambleside, and the Chamber of Trade, and we always try to buy local produce, also encouraging our visitors to shop in the area. We are able to help many local causes, including Langdale's 1st Responders, by donating free use of meeting rooms, printing posters, fundraising, and donating raffle prizes.

"The CommunityMark award is recognition for doing what we've always done - community is at the heart of good business, and we would like to think Langdale Leisure plays its part in making the Valley a lively, sustainable and economically vibrant place," Langdale's Sales and Marketing Director, Fredericka Johns, said.

Keeping Conservation Afloat



Equally delighted with its BitC Sieff award was the Tourism and Conservation Partnership, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with a Fun Fair on the Lake on board a Windermere lake cruiser. Langdale's circus arts guru, Jak Hirst, provided the fun fair games and musical entertainment, which delighted passengers of all ages, and Windermere Lake Cruises generously provided the boat

free of charge. The Langdale Valleys' Link Initiative was happy to arrange funding for the band.

The Partnership's Super Raffle 2003 was launched at this event, and tickets are still available from Fredericka Johns at Langdale, or through www.lakespartnership.org.uk First prize is a week for two in Tuscany, with many other wonderful prizes. The raffle will be drawn at the Partnership's annual lunch in December.

In the past decade, the Partnership has raised over £325,000 for conservation. Langdale's opt-in 'Our Man At The Top' footpath repair scheme was ground-breaking in every possible sense, and now there are more than 155 businesses and organisations in Cumbria and beyond involved with the Partnership, some of them choosing specific schemes similar to our own. The simple aim of the Partnership has always been to raise money for conservation through tourism, and its success confirms what Langdale has always believed - that voluntary levies do work, and that, given the opportunity, visitors are keen to contribute generously to the environment they come to enjoy.

A Few Days To Spare? We've Got Them!

Due to fixed arrival dates for Christmas and New Year, we always have a few days for rental to spare. These represent probably the best value in accommodation any time, any place at Langdale. This year there will be a couple of nights in certain lodges before Christmas and a longer break after New Year, between 5-11th January 2004. These are now available on a first come, first served basis, so make your booking NOW! Phone 015394 38012.

Grasmere Lodge	1-bed sleeps 4	£70.00 per night
Coniston Lodge	2-bed sleeps 6	£85.00 per night
Windermere Lodge	2-bed sleeps 6	£90.00 per night
Ullswater Lodge	3-bed sleeps 8	£95.00 per night
Elterwater Hall	2-bed sleeps 6	£90.00 per night
Elterwater Cottage	1-bed sleeps 4	£70.00 per night
Chapel Stile	1-bed sleeps 4	£65.00 per night
	2-bed sleeps 6	£80.00 per night
	3-bed sleeps 8	£90.00 per night

Minimum number of nights 2, unless extending.

Best Buys...

Property	Week	Size	List Price	Asking Price	Discount
Chapel Stile 10	49	2-bed sleeps 6	3,967	2,800	29%
Lodge 44	5	3-bed sleeps 8	7,848	4,700	40%
Chapel Stile 6	36	1-bed sleeps 4	6,785	2,900	57%
Lodge 76	49	2-bed sleeps 6	5,192	3,000	42%
Lodge 81	47	2-bed sleeps 6	6,943	3,250	53%
Lodge 52	4	1-bed sleeps 4	4,226	2,250	47%
Lodge 59	4	1-bed sleeps 4	4,226	2,250	47%
Lodge 1	13	1-bed sleeps 4	8,573	4,000	53%
Lodge 77	44	2-bed sleeps 6	11,712	3,500	70%
Lodge 79	50	2-bed sleeps 6	4,588	2,003	56%
Chapel Stile 7	4	2-bed sleeps 6	4,999	2,003	60%
Chapel Stile 2	47	2-bed sleeps 6	4,600	2,225	52%
Elterwater 2	9	2-bed sleeps 6	9,056	3,500	61%
Elterwater 1	47	2-bed sleeps 6	6,999	3,000	57%
Elterwater 2	3	2-bed sleeps 6	6,399	3,000	53%
Chapel Stile 8	50	2-bed sleeps 6	3,622	2,800	23%
Lodge 9	40	1-bed sleeps 4	10,022	5,000	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/availability

Langdale On-Line www.langdaleonline.co.uk

For those who long for winter sunshine, **Madeira** and the **Algarve** are evergreen favourites, but Pestana properties make the proposition even more tempting. Pestana, established 30 years ago, is one of Portugal's foremost hotel and resort businesses, which acquires stunning locations to build luxury hotel and time-ownership accommodation. Pestana also buy concessions on good golf courses, and the company have now become major players in the Algarve golf scene. For owners and guests, this means priority access to two golf courses, with another two or three in the pipeline.

Langdale On-Line's Pestana portfolio in **Madeira** is sufficient to banish the bleakest of winter blues. Madeira, with its sweet, temperate climate and the enchanting beauty of its landscape, is only just over 30 miles long and about 15 miles wide, but has picturesque mountain hamlets, fishing villages, lush forests and vineyards. For those feeling energetic, there is golf, tennis, big game fishing, scuba diving and long mountain walks. Within this island paradise, Langdale On-Line has a choice of five Pestana resorts.

The Pestana Miramar, opened in 2000, was built on the site where the venerable and elegant Hotel Miramar once stood, close to Funchal, and has all the gracious beauty for which its predecessor was famous. Pestana's winning formula combines hotel accommodation and holiday ownership within the same 3-acre site, where guests can also enjoy indoor and outdoor pools, a health club, and four restaurants. As an added bonus, guests at the Miramar also enjoy full access to facilities at the neighbouring Pestana Village.

For breath-taking sea views, the Pestana Carlton Madeira offers the ultimate from its spectacular cliff-top location. The resort has direct access to the sea, with three pools, sea sports and a fitness centre, and the gardens are a riot of flowers and colour. Pestana Palm Gardens is another delightful place to find winter warmth, while relaxing in luxurious apartments. Each has a spacious sun terrace onto the garden, which features a fine clubhouse converted from a 19th century villa. The Pestana Madeira Beach Club is a five-star apartment resort, also extremely popular among its owner families. Within a short time, the new Pestana Carlton Grand Hotel should also be coming online.

Sea, sunshine, and golf

Pestana's beautiful **Algarve** properties have a great golfing bonus: the company own two golf courses at Carvoeiro, to which owners have temporary membership, together with the services of a golf academy.

The new village resort of Pestana Palm Gardens is in a garden setting on the clifftop, only a few minutes from Carvoeiro, and a short walk from the secluded Centeanes Beach. Accommodation is in two-bedded, white-washed town houses, sleeping up to six, each with two bathrooms, central heating and air conditioning, and private patios set amidst the bougainvillea and hibiscus. There are two pools, tennis courts, and preferential access to the golf courses, just a short drive

away. Other activities include water sports, jeep safaris, and beach, mountain, and hill walking.

The Pestana Carlton Alvor, which overlooks one of the most beautiful beaches in the area, offers seven tennis courts, and is only 20 minutes' drive away from the Carvoeiro courses.

Auchrannie - Isle of Arran

Arran is a unique island, which encompasses everything for which Scotland is famous: highlands, lowlands, mountain glens, craggy cliffs and glorious golden beaches - not forgetting history, golf and whisky!

The island is 20 miles long, or 56 miles round the coast, divided by the Highland Boundary Fault into rugged hills to the north, and rolling lowland to the south.

Owners of lodges in this spacious spa resort with full indoor leisure facilities, are never short of things to do. The choice includes sea and river angling, mountain and glen walking, cycling, horse riding, tennis, paragliding, and a choice of seven golf courses on the island catering for all abilities. The substantially built lodges are 2-3 bedded, sleeping up to 8 people, set in neatly-kept gardens against a backdrop of Scottish hills.



Reduce Your Next Year's Management Fee by £350!

We've found the perfect way to thank all our owners who recommend their friends to look at our super Langdale On-Line resorts.

Anyone you introduce to Langdale On-Line, who subsequently becomes an owner in Tuscany, Madeira, Scotland, London or Portugal, will automatically qualify YOU for a credit of £350 off your next year's management fees. (Two successful introductions will qualify for £700 credit, and so on.)

An Offer Which Sounds Too Good To Be True?

Then beware, it probably is!

Timeshare is a brilliant idea, which brings wonderful holidays and beautiful places within reach of 4 million owners worldwide - but there are criminal scams designed to cash in on hard-working people's hopes and dreams. Among them are bogus Holiday Clubs.

Of course, there are many legitimate clubs - check the

Organisation for Timeshare in Europe's website at www.ote-info.com to find the bona fide ones. The two-week cooling off period introduced two years ago put some bad boys out of business, so they changed tactics and many set up holiday clubs. Sales tricks involve giving holiday-makers scratch cards, or 'cold calling' people at home, duping them into thinking they have won a prize, which can only

be claimed by attending a high-pressure holiday club sales presentation. Victims are then asked to pay from £2,000 to £25,000 for exclusive membership of holiday clubs, which offer them discounted holidays for life, in glamorous locations. Victims pay up, and the company often disappears before 'members' even have time to book a holiday. Those that do, find themselves in low-grade

accommodation at inflated prices, which could be bought more cheaply from a travel agent. One woman paid a holiday club £274 for a £199 break. Holiday club membership is not a property right, neither is it a guaranteed use of a property at a particular time. Be wary - because it isn't timeshare, there is no two-week 'cooling off' period after signing the contract.

In Step with Everest Celebrations



'Climbing' Everest on the revolving step machine in the Country Club Exercise Studio may not have quite the same thrill as that first successful ascent 50 years ago, but at least Langdale's Everest team didn't have to acclimatise first. To celebrate the 50th anniversary, volunteers 'climbed' 8,850m, to

raise funds for Langdale's 1st Responders. The 1st Responders are the team of trained first aiders, whose skills and life-saving equipment help anyone locally suffering sudden life-threatening illness or accident.

The 'climb' took place on the Everest anniversary, May 29th,

and began with a 'Good Luck' email from Everest veteran Chris Bonington, who also donated a signed copy of his book 'Everest - Fifty Years' for a prize draw. To achieve the summit, each of the participants had 15 minutes on the machine to complete at least 1000m each, or more if possible. The prize of Dinner for Two in Purdey's for the fastest, fittest climber went to Jonathan Smith, who is himself a Langdale 1st Responder and Mountain Rescue team member. Winner of the highest total of sponsorship money was Simon Boyd of the Tourism and Conservation Partnership, who won a £75 voucher from Field and Trek. A final prize was presented to the slowest, least fit Everest 'climber' - a fitness assessment from the Country Club's trainer, Simon Cole!

Langdale's Climb Everest raised over £300 for Langdale 1st Responders, whose equipment is kept in safe storage on the Langdale Estate. The Chris Bonington book was won by Lodge guest Sebastian Lewis, who was one of the dozen 'climbers'.

Elterwater Gunpowder Canister - A Rare Find...

A little green canister with a spout and a mysterious label has emerged recently, as the rarest relic ever found from the Langdale Estate's industrial past. Its function and origins have been especially interesting to Glenys and Alan Crocker, who are Langdale owners with an expert knowledge of gunpowder history.

The tin plate canister originated from Elterwater, and held only four ounces of gunpowder. Such small quantities were normally sold for sporting use. It is the only such canister from Elterwater ever seen, and is such a rarity, it may even be the only one to survive. Elterwater normally sent out its gunpowder in large kegs, chiefly for use in mines and quarries. To find a canister as small as this, originating from a keg mill, is very unusual indeed. This is because such quantities would have been uneconomic to pack and market for bulk producers such as Elterwater.

The little green tin has an unusual spout, still with its original cork, and a green label on the side bears the emblem of the double-headed eagle, and a shield with stars and bars. The canister must date from sometime after 1824, when the Elterwater company was established, and probably before 1866, when it was registered as a limited company. The Crockers commented "The symbolism of the label suggests an even more specific date. The double-headed eagle is usually associated with central Europe, but has been used since prehistoric times, and is also linked with Freemasonry. However, the shield is reminiscent of the Stars and Stripes of the USA, and the single-headed bald eagle is also symbolic of America."

There is a special reason why Elterwater might have been interested in the American market in the 1860s. The Crockers wondered if the Gunpowder Works could have supplied, or wished to supply gunpowder to the Confederate States during the Civil War - hence the special label, though its designer may have been confused as to the number of stars and bars used by the Southern States.

However, the tin's present Canadian owner pointed out that the Confederates needed such huge quantities of gunpowder, that they would not have been importing or using gunpowder in such small amounts. He thinks the emblem of the eagle was more likely to have had continental Hapsburg connections, and that the canister was probably designed for European use.

The remaining contents of the canister, which were removed before it travelled to Canada, proved as puzzling as their container. "The grains are about 1mm across, and it is interesting that about one per cent of them are shiny black spheres, whereas the rest have the usual irregular shape. Spherical grains of this type are not usually present in gunpowder," the Crockers explained. However, these grains may not have been the canister's original contents, but may merely be the remains of one or more refills.

The Crockers would like to hear of any other examples of Elterwater gunpowder canisters, or from anyone who can clarify the meaning of the label, (including the six double-headed arrows beneath the feet of the eagle), or the nature of the gunpowder sample. Please contact Glenys and Alan Crocker, 6 Burwood Close, Guildford, Surrey GU1 2SB. Tel 01483 565821 or email alanglen@glfd.freemasonry.co.uk



Jamie Hopkinson - Poet in Residence



If ever Langdale appoints a lodge poet in residence, Jamie Hopkinson should apply for the position. He has excellent r h y m i n g credentials - and he's a keen walker, too.

Twelve-year-old Jamie has been spending walking holidays at Langdale ever since he could toddle up the Pikes and Crags. In fact, he was so small when he had his first boots, it took four pairs of socks stuffed inside to keep them on! Every year since then he has joined his grandparents during their February lodge week, and is a seriously enthusiastic Wainwright-reading fellwalker. Back in February this year, he arrived with his usual anticipation of a week's good walking, but it rained...and rained...and rained. Undeterred, Jamie decided to catch up on his latest school project - to write a poem which included all five senses: touch, taste, sight, hearing and smell. As the raindrops ran down the window, he looked up towards the misty Pikes - and saw the perfect subject for his project:

A Lake District Mountain

*I tower majestically in the sky
I've lived forever and I'll never die
But my feet stay firmly on the ground
To the rocks in this valley I'm forever bound*

*I can hear everything loud and clear
From birds gliding round and chirping in my ear
To the ocean that crashes far away
And distant traffic on the motorway*

*The summer brings warmth, and size nine boots
Trampling on my head and all the new shoots
The winter's snow and ice provides a thick warm coat
But fearless climbers' crampons dig into my throat*

*The air that I breathe is clear and thin
Only tainted by smoke from the fire at the Inn
I taste the fresh water that falls on my neck
Before it then tumbles down into the beck*

*The cloud level changes my view every hour
I see from vast skies to the tiniest flower
When darkness falls and covers the skies
The moon and the stars reflect in my eyes.*

History in Close up...

In 2001, English Heritage carried out a detailed history survey of the Langdale Estate's industrial past, in the years when it was the Elterwater Gunpowder Works, from 1824-1931. As such, it was the Valleys' biggest employer, which supported a thriving, hard-working community with its own social activities, as well as bowls, cricket and football teams. There are important relics of the Works and its manufacturing process in every corner of the Estate, and judging by the numbers of guests joining Hotel Manager Anthony Hutton's Thursday morning Gunpowder History Walk, many of you are fascinated by this history. For those who would like to know even more, English Heritage has recently published its survey report, "Elterwater Gunpowder Works, Cumbria", which contains enough detailed plans, diagrams and photographs to satisfy the most avid historian. The report costs £15 and can be ordered through Lynette Berry on 015394 38002.

SCHWITTERS - A Genius in Langdale
Kurt Schwitters, the German genius of modern art, is part of local history in Langdale. Almost sixty years ago he lived in Ambleside, and spent his final months working on a major sculpture in Elterwater.

Schwitters was a painter, a poet, and a pioneer in the development of art forms such as collage, sculpture assemblages and installation art. Hitler found him too disturbingly modern, and by 1938 his art had been branded 'degenerate'. He fled for his life, first to Norway, and then to England. Having survived internment, and life in wartime London, Schwitters and his friend Edith Thomas ('Wantee') chose the Lake District as the place where they would live. The importance of his final years in the Lake District are now acknowledged, both in England and his native Germany. This is exciting news for Langdale where so many of the artist's final days were spent, working in a barn called Cylinders opposite the Estate.

The Armit Museum in Ambleside, working with the Sprengel Museum in Hanover, is committed to finding more works dating from Schwitters' Lake District period, prior to his death. In September 2003, four previously unrecorded portraits were brought by their owners to a Schwitters Roadshow at the Armit. The first-hand memories of the artist contributed by those who brought their portraits were taped by Ambleside Oral History Group - the first oral testimonies ever recorded about him.

Schwitters, who was in very poor health, lived from hand to mouth,

often painting a portrait or landscape to settle his grocery bill or buy medicine. In 1947, Harry Pierce, a Langdale farmer who was creating a garden in the woodland opposite the Langdale Estate, gave Schwitters permission to create a sculpture in Cylinders, his old barn. With his health failing fast, Schwitters worked feverishly on the 'Merzbarn' sculpture, travelling out to Langdale daily by bus. Cylinders remains untouched, though the Merzbarn is gone. The sculpture was moved to the Hatton Gallery in Newcastle in 1965 for its safekeeping.

The Armit and other interested groups believe that Cylinders should be sensitively conserved, without destroying its peace and sense of sanctuary. The Armit is also committed to finding and cataloguing works from this last period of Schwitters' life, so that this extraordinary painter can take his rightful place in local history. You can see work by Schwitters and find out more about him throughout this winter at The Armit Museum in Ambleside, where an important new Schwitters exhibition "I Build My Time" runs from 11th October - 30th January 2004.

Schwitters' Lake District work includes a wealth of drawings and sketches of still life, portraits and local landscapes. He also created small assemblages incorporating little fragments of nature, or things that others discarded. These were sometimes glued and painted, often with KS scratched in a corner. If your family visited Langdale after the war between 1945-8, look carefully at any family portraits or local landscapes that were painted around this period, in case you have one by Schwitters. Not all his works were signed - and there are also fakes in existence! The Armit would also like to see any old photographs of Schwitters and his friend Wantee. If anyone in your family ever spoke of the tall, eccentric German artist working in Langdale after the War, whose brief presence was of such significance, please contact the Museum on 015394 31212.



Up in the Air!

Management skills often involve juggling priorities and keeping balls in the air - and to help them do this with even greater skill, staff at Langdale have added plate spinning, magic tricks, face painting and juggling with diabolos to keep things running smoothly!

Hotel Manager Anthony Hutton and five other members of staff have been learning circus skills from Jak Hirst of Jesters, to use whenever the occasion arises. Sometimes all it takes is a spot of spontaneous circus to defuse an awkward moment, or turn a frown into a grin!

Fun though it all is, there is a serious side to circus skills, according to Anthony Hutton: "We've found it helps staff to communicate with customers, especially if they lack confidence. A little spontaneous juggling, or a quick magic trick, can ease a difficult situation or even resolve a problem. If children are bored in the dining-room, for example, we might take them into the bar area, and spin some plates. These skills have now been incorporated into children's activities. They will help especially with baby-sitting and child minding, and also give staff a portfolio of additional skills."

Among those practising their new circus skills with Anthony were staff from Reception, the Country Club and Housekeeping.



FAMILY ROOTS

Many staff at Langdale have family roots in the Valley, including Lee Walker, who has joined Langdale's Grounds Staff. Lee's grandfather, Mr Gaskell, planted the maple by the Britannia Inn at Elterwater, after which Mapletree Corner is named. This beautiful landmark was planted in 1937 to mark the Golden Jubilee of George V.

Two other 'locals' have joined us at Langdale. Helen Westmoreland is our new Country Club Manager and Derrian Parkinson Jones, the Hotel Assistant Manager. Both come from Troutbeck.

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Telephone: 01539 735108

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