

Views

No. 38

The Newsletter of the Langdale Owners' Club

Spring 2002

Looking Back...And Moving Ahead

A year ago, the Langdale Valley and the Estate were pitched into an economic and social crisis without precedent.

Overnight we became the hapless victims of Britain's foot and mouth epidemic, and although Langdale's livestock escaped the disease, the closure of the fells and footpaths had a devastating impact on tourism and the economy of the Valley.

We suffered... we came back fighting... and now we're moving on, stronger than ever, both as a business and as a small but vibrant countryside community.

Langdale's initial response to foot and mouth losses was to launch LINK, an initiative to unite all businesses in a single organisation, so we could join as one voice in promoting this beautiful Valley.

- We provided alternatives to fellwalking and set up a daily programme of Estate entertainment.

- We fought negative publicity and encouraged visitors to keep coming, by email, website, 'Views' and 'Lifestyle'.

- We planned new environment-friendly activities - cycling the Langdale 'Loop', local talks,

guided history walks, and car-free walks. All new activities fulfil the Government's exacting 'quality of life' indicators and criteria for sustainability.

- After consultation with local people, we identified community priorities including improved parking, a children's playground, shared outdoor recreation and a Valley website and leaflet.

Our first bid for funding failed, but we tried again; Barclays Bank were impressed with our proposals and have donated £5,000 to LINK, for the new website and Valley leaflet.

Hardship - and hope

Langdale is representative of many country communities looking for a more secure future, and LINK is well ahead with its regeneration plans. We are also bidding for further funding from Vital Villages, or through the Rural Development Agency or the Countryside Agency.

"The progress that has been made would have been impressive in a year without the complication of foot and mouth." (Lord Haskins speaking about Cumbria, Autumn 2001).

We've moved on a long way from foot and mouth - and from September 11th too. One important lesson we learned was how much we truly value the treasure we all share -

and how worthwhile it has been, fighting to protect and now to enhance it. We've got a great future to look forward to, and exciting new horizons to explore.



Auchrannie, Scotland

New Horizons

Langdale will always be the jewel in our crown, but it's time to look to new horizons - and the view ahead is exciting. Although our plans are still in their earliest stages, we're out now searching for some stunning locations to build up a completely new and highly desirable collection of excellent timeshare opportunities to offer our owners. In selecting only those resorts and prop-

erties in Scotland and Europe that share the same world class reputation as Langdale, we're using the Langdale benchmark as our guide to excellence, value for money and quality. We're looking in particular at properties in Madeira, Tuscany, the French Alps and Scotland - and we're shopping around, in order to negotiate outstanding arrangements for Langdale owners.

Larry's Making the Best!

Langdale - the badge which distinguishes you as a person of distinction!

Using our latest corporate range, why not kit out your team with the perfect souvenir of a super stay - a Langdale mouse-mat and calculator. Or let your competitors know the place that makes the difference with Langdale's own smart portfolio briefcase, or a logo'd canvas cap, scarf or beautifully designed cotton polo or sweatshirt, all in a range of sizes and super colours.

Keep Langdale close to your heart with a L'al Larry fleece or

gilet - it's the sign of good breeding! You can also buy Larry the Langdale L'ambassador as a cuddly soft toy, a keyring, or even a doorstop. Or take a little Langdale home with a Judy Boyes limited edition print, or the ultimate in collectables - the Langdale Teddy Bear. You can also buy walking books by Langdale authors Bill Birkett and Tom Lawton, and the Collins Ramblers Guide has 30 lovely Lake District Walks. Order, in person, from Country Club Reception or by phone on 015394 38055/ fax 37694, or online.

Drink to Langdale - with a mixed wines standard pack, a luxury pack or a spirits pack, all carefully selected at super prices. Order by phone on 015394 38002 or online at www.langdale.co.uk/orderform.htm.



Points and Holiday Clubs - Check First

If you're considering buying holiday club products, please ring us first for advice. We are concerned at the value they offer, because of what our owners have told us. Over 50% of them reported bad experiences with these products, so check the offer with us first, and tell us of any other bad reports concerning them. For more information, read Fred Crouch's report in the Owners' Club Committee AGM minutes.

Langdale's Website - An Incomplete Masterpiece?

A constantly changing website such as www.langdale.co.uk is never finished. With room to expand and no space limitations, it's Langdale without walls, open to friends old and new and anyone interested too. In addition to our visitors and lodge owners, others come to see us looking for reliable, local information - a reputation the site gained during foot and mouth when Sales and Marketing Director Fredericka Johns' weekly letter gave people at home and abroad a rare insight into Cumbria's crisis.

Webmaster Nigel Harper is always tweaking www.langdale.co.uk - improved access from every page to any page from anywhere on the website ...faster and more user-friendly. A few less well-used pages have been removed and the Availability section has been made easier to access. 'Best Buy' timeshare lodges, offering discounts that average between 25% and 50% also have their own new page, under Timeshare.

Nigel, who has worked at Langdale for eight years is still developing a third version of the virtual tour of the Estate on CD ROM, and he's also promised new, bigger and more detailed Hotel pictures.

Make your views known

Introducing Opinion Taker on the website proved to be a winner in 2001. We can't function without your feedback - and we can't get enough of your views. The convenience of participating in Opinion Taker on the web has swelled the numbers of people willing to fill in a questionnaire,

which can now be done whenever it suits them from home.

The most recent Opinion Taker attracted 650 replies: 48.8% were hotel guests and 17.7% timeshare owners. A massive 98.4% were PC users, with only 1.6% using MACs. Finding accommodation was the reason that 79.1% gave for using the site, with 70.7% looking for information about the Lake District. Overall, 86% thought the site was 'good' or 'brilliant'.

We've already acted on some of your comments, though it's hard when someone requests something the site already contains!

Among the suggestions came one for online booking for Health and Beauty Salon appointments and another for a map showing hotel room locations, and an aerial view of the whole Estate.

Lots of you asked for Purdey's menus for the week, daily weather forecasts and fell conditions, with two webcams on the Estate, internal and external. "More shots of the folks we now think of as family...to bring home the quiet industry of the staff," as one person wrote. "I want to see the friendly staff" wrote another. Several people requested theme weekends and someone also wanted cut-price health farm weekends.

Many of you love our Lake District pictures, and want even more of them, which we have made available throughout the site. Our most popular website feature is the link to Tony Richards' lakelandcam.co.uk, plus our free downloadable screen savers, e-postcards

and calendar wallpapers.

The design of the site itself evoked warm praise as well as a few criticisms, which we took to heart. The following comments were typical of many: "I don't want any changes, the site has a professional quality to it and is very user friendly." "Leave well alone"... "No changes. It gives me everything I need to keep abreast of what is happening in Langdale and also what is available for rent. Keep it up."... "Happy with the content. Regular emails keep us up to date with the Lake District and Langdale news. A very valuable service."

Another wrote: "Excellent, one of the easiest sites to use, very good update time during foot and mouth and have been able to pass on last minute offers we couldn't make use of ...hope this helped to keep the Lakes going, very grateful friends who have said 'we will be back next autumn, we knew we could rely on Langdale'"

Thank you for all your suggestions. See the opposite page for details of the latest Opinion Taker on Country Club activities.

Web Walks

Car Free...Care Free: Start your walk from Langdale - it makes good sense. Car free days mean less traffic clogging Lakeland lanes, less stress for drivers, no parking problems and a cleaner, safer environment.

Help us compile a new section to our website by suggesting walks from the Estate that you can download before you visit, to help plan your days out.



Leg of Lamb

Not a roast joint...but an injured Langdale Larry. Langdale's handsome model Herdwick was ram-raided from outside the Estate last summer, and driven away in the hands of thieves. His triumphant return to the Estate a week later left him with a badly broken leg, so he went to a Penrith sheep sculptor for extensive reconstructive surgery. Larry is back now to resume his role as L'ambassador for the countryside, and to head the Langdale retail operation in time for the busy spring and summer ahead. He'll be counting sheep awaiting your orders by phone, fax, or off the website...or in person at the Country Club reception desk.



Lost Sheep

A number of small but important Hotel notices continue to disturbingly disappear. These colourful and comical Larry 'Do Not Disturb' signs are so popular that guests cannot resist taking them home - So once again, people just can't keep their hands off Larry, it would seem.

Buy Now For The Future

As the years go by, things change. People's altered family circumstances sometimes enable us to offer new properties - however, this year, there has been a spring rush with a higher than normal number of weeks available at outstanding prices. This is a good investment, because over the next few years we plan a major programme of refurbishment, and to buy now puts you in the right place at the right time.

Property	Unit	Size	Week	List Price	Asking Price
Elderwater	2	Sleeps 6	9	9,056	3,500
Elderwater	1	Sleeps 6	10	9,177	3,500
Elderwater	2	Sleeps 6	12	11,169	4,500
Elderwater	2	Sleeps 6	16	12,920	5,000
Langdale	1	Sleeps 4	18	10,143	4,000
Langdale	1	Sleeps 4	19	10,143	4,000
Elderwater	2	Sleeps 6	24	13,041	5,000
Elderwater Cottage		Sleeps 4	27	10,549	4,000
Langdale	52	Sleeps 4	27	9,899	6,000
Elderwater	2	Sleeps 6	35	14,852	6,000
Elderwater	2	Sleeps 6	39	13,765	5,500
Langdale	52	Sleeps 4	41	10,022	6,000

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/

Hotel Offers...

Last year was unforgettable - but for all the wrong reasons. So now we're busy striding ahead to make 2002 memorable for all the best possible reasons.

A Royal Banquet?

...or a party picnic - it's all a big surprise! Planning and negotiations are under way for our Langdale extravaganza, and we're also hoping to invite guests to join a Langdale Estate 'Street Party'. What better place to be on this historic occasion than your favourite Langdale, so book accommodation to join us for the Queen's Golden Jubilee holiday. Details will be available shortly, telephone 015394 38063.

Easter Feast

Easter in the Lakes - all the ingredients of a perfect break. Celebrate spring with a family weekend at £85 per person, per night, bed and breakfast or £105 per person per night, dinner, bed and breakfast, two nights minimum. Or stay the extra day for a 3-night break at £225 per person, bed and breakfast, £285 for dinner, bed and breakfast. Don't forget to book Purdey's three course Easter Day Lunch on March 31st, served from 12 noon till 2.30pm at £16.50 (children's menu at £7.95).

Easter Week rates begin on April Fool's... a day when tricks are played - but these rates are real enough! From Monday, April 1 the charge is £60 per person per night, bed and breakfast, or £80 with dinner. The single room occupancy charge on all the rates quoted is £25 per night.

Spring Forward

Click on availability and book now - because the early bird catches the worm...we're offering some bargain prices which are as irresistible as newborn lambs and hosts of golden daffodils. Bed and breakfast per person per night from £40, or from £60 with dinner - subject to availability, so book now.

Happy Mondays

Langdale is holding a weekly summer barbecue on The Terrace each Monday night from May 6th at £12.95 per head.

Evenings of Good Taste

Dates for Langdale's popular regional wine evenings have been fixed for the next year, at a cost of £30 a head. No need for the driver to miss out - make a real night of it and stay with us at a special bed and breakfast rate of just £50 per person (£25 single room supplement).

Each evening will feature the wine of a particular region, with a menu to complement the bottles we'll be sampling. The evening will begin with a drinks reception prior to dinner in Purdey's, and guests will enjoy an interesting selection of wines throughout the meal. Sip and sup with us by booking a Friday Wine Evening on any or all of the following dates: May 10th; June 28th; July 12th; September 6th; October 4th; November 15th, 2002 and January 3rd; February 7th; March 14th and April 11th 2003. Details are on 0500 051197.

Don't Push Yourself...

No need! We've got power-assisted Easy Rider electric bikes to take the puff out of pedalling, or a range of top mountain bike models to hire, supplied with biking routes direct from the Estate. The national bike hire company Country Lanes have a hire point in the car park; for full details of hire and local routes, call the Country Club for details.

Manage A Good Time?

You're in friendly company at Langdale - so why not bring your own? Langdale mixes business with pleasure so skilfully, it's the ideal place to revitalise your sales team, reward your managers or impress your opposition. "The spirit soars" at Langdale, so allow for some soaring high spiritedness out on the Estate

where your teams could be paint-balling, air rifle shooting, raft building or SCUBA diving in the pool. Langdale is a favourite venue for some of the top events and adventure companies, who specialise in team building exercises and having fun. The Estate makes the perfect natural playground, and the new Country Club facilities are among the best in the north west... all this and the Lake District too!



Pamper Packages

Swim or sanarium, massage or manicure, pedal, push or plunge - the Country Club's got it all. Enjoy one of a choice of three different Pamper Packages: the perfect treat for any body. Starting at just £35 you can choose one of the following treatments: a facial, massage, or manicure plus all Country Club facilities and lunch on The Terrace. Pay £55 and you can choose two of the following: reflexology, aromatherapy massage, Absolue Minceur body treatment plus all facilities and lunch. The ultimate "Get Away" Pamper day (£75) gives you 2 hrs 45 mins of treatments and the rest of the day using the pool, sanarium, exercise studio and all other Club facilities, with lunch. "Get Away" treatment choices are: pedicure, manicure, back massage or a facial. Please book on 015394 38053.

Country Club Activities

Encore...and more?

Do you want lots of new activities - or more of the same? You can decide, by taking part in our latest Opinion Taker questionnaire.

Tell us the people and topics you liked best last year and which ones you'd like to repeat. What new activities would you like us to offer? Go to www.langdale.co.uk then click on Contact (top menu), fill in your email address and we'll email you the access address to the Opinion Taker form.

Did you like meeting Langdale farmer Eric Taylforth - or hearing the rock climbing and walking exploits of the writer and climber Bill Birkett? Or was it ju-jitsu, splashtime, fungus forays or rug-making that made the

day special? Perhaps you'd like more guided walks from the Estate, exploring Langdale's past, or a spot of yoga or abseiling?

When your responses have been processed, the information from Opinion Taker will be used to help formulate what we do in the future.

Owners Special Rate

Good news for 'local' Lodge Owners and others near enough to visit the Country Club when passing, or who come to visit friends. We're offering you discounted Country Club admission at just £8.50 per person, which is effectively half price. For that you can play in the pool, sanarium, steam room and exercise studio all day - which is a good deal of fun!

Calling All Visiting Rotarians... there's a meeting not far from you!

Rotarians visiting the Estate won't have far to go to find fellow-Rotarians. Langdale's MD David Banks is a member of the Rotary Club of Ambleside, which meets each Thursday lunchtime at Rothay Manor Hotel - Langdale Rotarians always welcome. Anthony Hutton (Langdale's General Manager) is also a member of a new group hoping to found one of the first local mixed Rotary Clubs, for men and women of all ages. "Rotarians' wives and ladies throughout South Lakeland need not feel left out any longer, if our plans come to fruition", he said.



Our continuing red squirrel feeding programme brings new and welcome visitors to the Estate. Our thanks for the loan of the picture.

Memorial Stones

Placing a bench at a viewpoint in memory of a loved one is such a popular memorial that there aren't enough benches and viewpoints to go round. Instead, may we suggest a new, simple act of remembrance that also raises money for conservation. By adopting a metre of footpath in the name of somebody you love, your donation will help repair an eroded path, and the name of the person in whose memory the work is done will be inscribed in a Langdale Estate Book of Remembrance.

Our Man At The Top



Come rain or shine, Langdale-funded conservation work continues - and wet weather has its uses, testing the effectiveness of new drainage and culverts on recently repaired paths! Our Man at the Top, Pete Entwistle, was back down to earth during winter, and visitors may have spotted him working by Megs Ghyll. When the weather improves, Pete will be back up the hill, working with the National Trust and others on a major new project to repair several paths on Harrison Stickle.

"Without supporters like you, we would be unable to achieve many of our conservation goals within the Lake District" wrote Sasima Pearce, Regional Fundraising Co-ordinator of the National Trust, on receipt of last summer's donation from you of £3,581.67 to keep OMATT busy.

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Langdale staff joined with hotel and lodge guests to enjoy coffee and Grasmere Gingerbread as part of the world's biggest coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief. The event was hosted by Anthony Hutton and Kath Morton. It raised £141.33, assisted by donations for the coffee and gingerbread, and a raffle with prizes given by the Grasmere Gingerbread Shop.

Langdale's Up and Coming Generation

Eighteen-month-old Amber Jane heralds a new Langdale generation as she strides out confidently in her first pair of walking boots. Amber Jane was bound for Skelwith Bridge on a memorable family day out with her grandparents Barry and Doreen Lea when Doreen took this lovely shot. She sent it to Langdale MD David Banks with a note:

"When I saw this photograph, Amber Jane looked so small and cute, I couldn't help thinking of another generation, growing and loving Langdale and the countryside. This was her second visit and she loved every minute," Doreen wrote.

"Amber Jane certainly cuts a dash in her smart new boots, and we all hope that they are the first of many pairs to be thoroughly worn out whilst marching around Langdale," David replied. "Now that the Estate is 20 years old, we are seeing an increasing number of second and even third generations on the Estate and we hope as they grow up they will develop a fondness and love of the area, and enjoy many happy future holidays here with us at Langdale."



Permanent Swaps

Families change shape and size as the years roll by - and so do their needs. The Owner to Owner Swap Shop gives you the opportunity for a move if you can find a match below.

OFFERED	REQUESTED
Windermere, week 35	Ullswater, mid-March to Sept
Chapel Stile 2-bed, week 1	Estate, consider most weeks
Coniston, week 39	2-bed on Estate, weeks 19 or 20
Coniston, week 18	Coniston or Windermere, weeks 35-40
Coniston, week 40	2-bed on Estate, school hols
Coniston, week 37	Ullswater, school hols
Coniston, week 43	Ullswater, late Oct, early Nov
Grasmere, week 29	Lodge 12, or any Grasmere weeks 37-39
Coniston, week 31	Coniston, weeks 21, 22 or 36, 37, 38
Ullswater, week 32	Brackens, July or August
Windermere, week 7	Ullswater, week 7
Coniston, week 27 & 28	2 or 3 bed, weeks 30-34
Coniston, week 30	Lodge 49 or Coniston, on becksides, ex-school hols
Coniston, week 25	Coniston, in Spring
Coniston, week 8,	Anything but preferably Elterwater Hall

This is a small selection. Contact the Timeshare Office on 015394 38012 for further availability.

Now - or Then?

Among the many interesting letters that drop through the letterbox nowadays, it was an intriguing surprise to receive a small blue envelope, posted locally by 2nd class mail, addressed simply to "Langdales Hotel, Langdale, nr Ambleside." Inside, without a covering note, was an unused picture letter card in the form of a little book featuring The Langdales Hotel, (formerly White Lion Hotel) and now Wainwrights' Inn and Chapel Stile apartments. Illustrated with photographs from the 1920s or early 1930s, the proprietor was William Smith, and the hotel's phone number was Grasmere 53:

"The Langdales Hotel, pleasantly situated in the Great Langdale Valley, the heart of some of the most magnificent

Mountain and Lake scenery in the British Isles, offers comfortable and homely accommodation to visitors to this lovely district," the 1930s copy reads. "About 4.5 miles from Ambleside (bus service operates) and 3.5 miles from Grasmere. Midst mountains, lakes, woodlands and glens... the place for an 'outdoor' holiday - a rambler's paradise and a motorist's ideal centre. The place to which the town dweller comes for a complete change - then comes again."

The picture captioned 'The Langdales Hotel' and taken from the road is clearly Wainwrights' Inn, and other pictures of it from Langdale Beck show where the Chapel Stile apartments are today. But are there any other clues to date the card more accurately?

Motor touring holidays were



obviously well established when it was written and printed by Vulcan Press in London EC4. Climbers were promised "the choice of the highest in England" but those "not so robust" could ascend the lower fells, roam the glens, visit the numerous waterfalls, lakes, tarns etc. "One simply cannot go wrong for beautiful surroundings." "Langdale has the quiet, the peaceful, the restful, with the

great, the rugged and the awesome."

We'd like to thank the sender in person - perhaps the card turned up at the back of a drawer, or on a collector's stall at a car boot sale. To quote:

"Langdale is being more and more appreciated by the increasing numbers who yearly make their visit to this delightful district."...1932...or 2002?

Langdale's Explosive History

There are plenty of clues to Langdale's fascinating past as you walk round the Estate - especially in the company of a guide who knows his gunpowder... someone like General Manager, Anthony Hutton.

Anthony's fascination for Elterwater's Gunpowder Works was fired by the arrival of a letter last year from lodge owner and shareholder Dr D.A. Pittam, Safety Manager for Nobel Enterprises, in whose archives is a collection of ICI monthly magazine articles featuring news from Elterwater. ICI owned the site only in its last few years, but the reports from 1928 to its closure in 1930 are packed with interest about the Company and the lives of the Langdale people who worked for it.

Over the past six months, Anthony has gathered information from various sources, including ICI's newsletters, old maps and books, and transcripts of recordings by former workers made by Ambleside Oral History Group. Using this knowledge, his guided gunpowder walk for guests has become a popular activity every Tuesday - look at this week's "What's On" or ask at the Country Club for details.

Gunpowder production at Elterwater began in 1824. It was an ideal place, sparsely populated and well spread out, to allow each process sufficient room to avoid the danger of a mass explosion. It had abundant water power, and was surrounded by woods supplying timber for charcoal, barrels and sticks for

hoops. It was near enough to the coast for saltpetre and sulphur to be brought in; and the barrels of gunpowder shipped out down Lake Windermere from Pull Wyke Bay, went out to sea by sloop from Greenodd. In later years it was carted to Windermere Station, pulled by shire horses with copper shoes to avoid sparking an explosion. Gunpowder production methods hadn't changed for centuries, and things were particularly old-fashioned at Elterwater:

"We believe that Elterwater is the only factory left with limestone runners and bedplates. If ever it comes that the Company fail to profit from the manufacture of blackpowder, we suggest that Elterwater be turned into a museum for the entertainment of weary works managers." (ICI magazine, October 1929.)

Entire generations of families spent all their working lives at Elterwater, some clocking up over 50 years working a 60-hour week, or longer, six days a week. By the 1900s, workers were given a week's annual leave, at Whit. Retirement age seemed variable, up to mid-70s even; yet to live to 78 was described as an 'advanced' age, according to the magazine's writer.

The Gunpowder workers were

at the heart of the Valley's social life, and so too was the Happy Home Lodge of the Order of Mechanics. The Valley had a bowls team with a green provided by the Company, a brass band and a football team. When in 1928 the football team miraculously survived a death-defying vertical ride down the Kirkstone Pass in a charabanc without brakes, they calmly got out at the bottom and walked the remaining five miles to Ullswater, so as not to miss their fixture.

Anthony's guided gunpowder walk encompasses every stage of production from the site of the incorporating mills, where the raw ingredients were mixed, right through the crushing, glazing, shaping and packing of the blackpowder. If you've noticed the Dwarf Howitzer on display in Purdey's Restaurant, ask Anthony where it was fired; and for those keen enough, he might even introduce you to the Estate's ghosts, take you up on "Beef Hill", or show you the site of an explosion or two - and even have you checking the walls for hidden treasure!

Our grateful thanks to Dr Pittam for making ICI's magazines available to us.



The map of the old Gunpowder Works, on display in the Country Club. This has been presented by courtesy of Dr Pittam, who has also been most helpful in providing accurate historical information.

Cheers!

Raise your glasses to Wainwrights', for being one of the "very finest pubs in the country", according to Alisdair Aird of The Good Pub Guide. Wainwrights' is one of only 1,344 pubs out of 70,000 judged by the Guide's inspectors to merit inclusion in the Guide:

"...the characterful slate-floored bar has plenty of room, and it is here that walkers and their dogs are welcomed. There's a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, an old kitchen range, cushioned settles, and well-kept Jennings Bitter, Cumberland Ale and Sneck Lifter, with a guest beer such as Black Sheep or Barn gates Tag Lag on handpump."

A wright good pub

And it was doubles again in Wainwrights' when Cask Marque inspectors awarded the pub full marks in January 2002 for the quality of their beer, which bar staff say is all down to team effort. Licensees are husband and wife team, Mark and Tina Darbyshire, with assistant manager Paul Greenall and ex-Purdey's barman Kevin Baldwin, who favours a good pint of Barn gate's Cracker himself. The cellar is kept at a

consistent temperature of 10°-12°; each nine gallon cask is checked for quality. The bar menu always features local produce such as Trio of mini-Cumberland Sausage served with Black Pudding, and few can resist Toffee Lumpy Bumpy or Sticky Toffee Pudding to follow. Another favourite is the shoulder of lamb marinated in mint and honey...22,000 shoulders a year! With darts and dominoes, and a regular quiz night, Wainwrights' is so popular "it's best to get there early." (Good Pub Guide)

Now that Wainwrights' has made it to the Good Pub Guide - could we get in the Good Beer Guide too? If you've enjoyed a satisfying pint, tell CAMRA or any of the other excellent beer guides. Wainwrights' reputation for serving excellent real, local ales does more than sell pints. Cracker and Tag Lag are brewed just three miles away at the small Barn gates brewery by the Drunken Duck. Increased sales boosts Cumbria's rural economy as well as preserving tradition and quality, cutting down on delivery miles and keeping our small valley communities alive.

Tall Story



Can anyone beat this for giant Jenga? This is the game that piles up problems, requiring raw nerve and the steadiest of hands to extract bricks from lower down the pile to build it taller. Poised perilously and precariously close to their impressive tower stand Mark Elsey (right) and his brother-in-law Trevor Grant, who built it while on holiday with their families in Lodge 53 and Brackens. Parents Keith and Janet Elsey wrote from Rickmansworth to say how much they all appreciated the changes to the Country Club: "The improvement to the pool and café bar area were given the seal of approval by all of us - the Jenga was a great hit, as you can see from the photograph."

Update on new designs for lodges



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 on certain lodges before Christmas for weeks 50 and 52 to extend, but the majority will fall after New Year from 5-12th January 2003.

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 2 bed sleeps 6 3 bed sleeps 8	£65.00 per night £80.00 per night £90.00 per night

Minimum number of nights 2, unless extending.

A Real Co-op

Shop at Langdale Co-op and you'll be carrying on a Langdale tradition stretching back 122 years.

The Co-op opened in 1884 in a row of three cottages, at the instigation of the Langdale and Neighbourhood Industrial Co-Operative Society. By 1895 the Co-op expanded into new premises and over a century later the shop is still run on traditional Co-Operative lines, managed by a committee of local people. Langdale Co-op has 550 members, who still share in the annual dividend.



Manager Jeremy Lewis has worked at Langdale Co-op for 20 years, and his uncle was manager years before in the 1950s. Langdale's 'Industrial' Co-op reflected that the Valleys a century ago were dominated by a gunpowder works and quarries. Through the Co-Operative movement, Langdale's families could share in the profitability of their own general store, which bought goods wholesale and sold everything from animal feed to a pair of boots or a side of bacon; household items such as linoleum or a double bed could be ordered from the Manchester showroom. The Co-op also introduced a mobile shop in the 1930s which served the Valley for 40 years.

Nowadays the licensed store sells fresh and frozen food, groceries, newspapers, hardware, walking boots, outdoor clothing, toys and gifts.

2002 AGM Weekend

The AGM weekend this year is taking place at Longleat Forest Center Parcs in Wiltshire, with both meetings being held on Sunday 24th November - the AGM for shareholders of Langdale Owners PLC at 11.00am, and the Owners' Club Committee at 2.00pm.

By making a long weekend of it, you would be able to visit Longleat House and Safari Park, and also the beautiful city of Bath. A dinner party will be hosted by the Directors on the Saturday evening. Different types of accommodation are available for the three nights commencing Friday 22nd November at specially reduced self-catering rates for Langdale as follows:

- 1-bedroom Executive Apartments (max 2 people) @ £175
- 2-bedroom Executive Villas (max 4 people) @ £250
- 2-bedroom Comfort Villas (max 4 people) @ £200
- 3-bedroom Comfort Villas (max 6 people) @ £300

Please make your booking for accommodation direct with Center Parcs, by ringing Stefanie Morgan on 01985 842802 saying you are part of the Langdale Weekend. A buffet lunch will be served at 12.45pm on Sunday, and to book for this, please call Lynette Berry at Langdale (015394 38002) and send a cheque for £12.50 per person made out to Langdale Leisure Ltd. We look forward to seeing you there.



Management Fees - 2002/2003

The Management Fees for 2002/2003 which take effect from 1st May 2002, are set out below. With a few exceptions and minor adjustments, these figures are the ones circulated in the document you received in January. The introduction of these new fees should enable the refurbishments to go ahead in a more cohesive way to maintain

Langdale's overall quality as a leading resort, and to protect the value of your investment.

To date, just over half of the comments that have been received concerning changes in the structure of the fees, from which contributions to the Reserve Fund are being made, have been supportive of the action taken. If you have not yet

received a personal response to your letter, you will do so shortly, with apologies for the delay. The main object of the exercise is to increase contributions to the Reserve Fund, which should effectively double.

An interior designer has already been approached to prepare a set of alternative designs for comprehensive re-furnishing. It is hoped

to make all of these available for you to see on the website, and to present them to you at the AGM on 24th November.

In the meantime, you will find a montage of pictures of bedroom furniture on Page 6. If you have not already voted on choices of designs for new bedlinen, please do so via the website or personally at Langdale.

	LODGES					Chapel Stile Apartments			Elterwater Hall		
	Grasmere	Coniston	W'mere	Ullswater	Brackens	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	Apt 5	Hall/Barn	Cottage
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Maintenance Fee	137.40	161.32	170.19	195.74	185.76	107.35	142.97	163.65	140.25	185.76	154.97
Disbursements:											
Rates	45.82	53.79	56.75	65.27	61.94	35.80	47.68	54.57	46.77	61.94	51.68
Water	18.23	21.41	22.58	25.97	24.65	14.24	18.97	21.71	18.61	24.65	20.56
Insurance	0.55	0.64	0.68	0.78	0.74	0.43	0.57	0.65	0.56	0.74	0.62
Lodge Cleaning	35.24	41.38	43.65	50.20	47.64	27.53	36.67	41.97	35.97	47.64	39.75
Staff Transport	3.59	4.21	4.45	5.11	4.85	2.80	3.73	4.27	3.66	4.85	4.05
TV Licences	3.58	3.58	3.60	3.58	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.60
Maintenance Fee plus Disbursements	244.42	286.33	301.90	346.67	329.19	191.76	254.19	290.43	249.42	329.19	275.53
Reserve Fund Contribution	104.87	123.12	129.89	149.39	70.90	81.93	109.12	124.90	107.04	141.77	118.28
Total excluding VAT	349.28	409.45	431.80	496.06	400.09	273.69	363.31	415.33	356.46	470.96	393.50
VAT @17.5% on Maintenance Fee only	24.05	28.23	29.78	34.25	32.51	18.79	25.02	28.64	24.54	32.51	27.12
Total Management Fee for this Year	373.33	437.68	461.58	530.31	432.60	292.48	388.33	443.97	381.00	503.47	420.62

Say 'Cheese'

...303 times in one hour - that's all it took to beat Kendal Mintcake (298 votes), to win our Favourites two-night Langdale break for two.

This is how war broke out on the website 'Favourites' Cumbrian Foods poll one rainy Friday morning between 9.30-10.30am. The Favourite Food was being replaced with a Favourite Poet, and computer man Nigel Harper had just taken out the links from the Langdale website to the votes page. An hour later he couldn't believe his eyes - over 300 votes had been recorded for Cumberland Cheese, making this rank outsider a clear winner over the previous leader, Kendal Mintcake. "Somebody recorded the link address quite legitimately and got people to put their votes in after the link had gone," he explained. 'Cumberland Cheese' had only just appeared on the site, a couple of days before."

As Favourites voters know, the person whose nomination attracts the greatest number of 'Favourites' votes wins a two-night Langdale break - a last minute takeover bid with something as cheesy as the Cumberland variety (a genuine Lakeland rarity) was an ingenious way to win the two-night break.

So it's hard cheese for the proposer of the Kendal Mintcake. Still, all's fair in love and

war...whether it's Favourites or not. In second place came Cumberland Sausage, and licked into third place was Cartmel Sticky Toffee Pudding - Madonna's favourite food. Grasmere Gingerbread came fourth followed by Black Pudding, local lamb in Jennings Beer, and lamb with herbs. Next came Scone and Rum Butter, Jennings Beer (technically it's a food!); Cumbrian fish and chips, and Cartmel venison and venison sausages.

Poll A Poet

Daffodils, and distant hills - we're looking at Lakes poets for the next Favourites subject. Choose a Lakeland poet; tell us the reason for your choice and the poem that inspired it.

Lakeland scenery is pure poetry but nobody thought to write about golden daffodils until the Lake poets took up residence 200 years ago. It was largely poetry that inspired Lakeland tourism, composed by the likes of William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Southey among others. But don't forget 20th century Lakes poets too - Norman Nicholson, David Wright, and Geoffrey Holloway for example.

As with all Favourites, the earlier you nominate your poet, the better chance your nomination has of attracting the greatest number of votes. The winner gets a two-night



Blea Tarn at dawn.

Langdale break for two, with dinner, bed and breakfast - so start reading! But be warned - don't become a boring bard:

"He lived amidst th'untrodden ways,
To Rydal Lake that lead:
A bard whom there were none to praise,
And very few to read!" (Hartley Coleridge).

We will be asking the winning proposer to provide a favourite verse or two from the winning poet for the next edition.

A Message From Fred Crouch

Will all owners who write to him please include their telephone numbers.

Advertisement for: Langdale Walking Holidays

Langdale walkers at Smith Rock State Park, showing volcanic rock formations and the Crooked River. Bend, Central Oregon, August 2001.

www.langdaleholidays.co.uk

Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy of our latest newsletter or brochures on any of our holidays.

Destinations this year include:

22-29 May - Spanish Pyrenees

15-22 June - Tuscany

13-20 July - Swiss Alps (Wengen)

3-19 Sept - The Rocky Mountains

27-29 Sept - Weekend at Langdale

4-7 Oct - Isle of Skye

4-19 Nov - Patagonia (Argentina & Chile)

30 Dec-6 Jan 2003 - New Year in Madeira

2003/4 includes visits to Arizona & Utah, Borneo, Crete, China, Egypt, Ireland, Jordan, Madeira, Mallorca, Nepal, Oregon, Peru and Switzerland

interested?

Please contact us on 01539 735108

Langdale Walking Holidays
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Kendal, Cumbria LA9 5RJ

email: info@langdaleholidays.co.uk