



# 25 Happy Years

This year Andy Dawson will have been employed by Langdale for 25 years! He joined us in 1983 as a 16 year old on a Youth Opportunity Scheme. His role back then was simply, "Groundsman" and his address was, "The Caravan, Wainwrights".

Andy remembers that in 1983 70% of the lodges were still to be built, the Chapel Stile apartments were actually the Langdales Hotel, and Elterwater Hall was staff accommodation.

Throughout his years at Langdale Andy has gained qualifications in Agriculture & Forestry, Chain Saw Operation, Horticulture and a whole host of Health & Safety related certifications. He has gradually been promoted through the ranks and in 1999 became Head Groundsman, in charge of the Grounds Department of which he is very proud. Whenever he is praised for his work he is quick to deflect attention from his own endeavours to those of his team – which is a truly commendable leadership skill.

More recently Andy has been instrumental in developing Langdale's environmental objectives and targets, taking a lead in re-cycling and waste management. This initiative is not only helping to save the planet but also has resulted in significant financial savings. He is a vital member of the Environment team.

Andy lives in Tilberthwaite, Coniston with his family, with whom he spends his spare time when he's not out riding his Harley Davidson! We congratulate Andy on his commitment to high standards, "can do" attitude and hard work over the last 25 years and wish him every success for the next 25.



## Lake District Self-Catering Holiday figures are up ...

Lake District self-catering holidays up on last year.

Despite the doom and gloom of the current economic crisis, it seems that missing out on their holiday is the last thing on people's list of spending cuts.

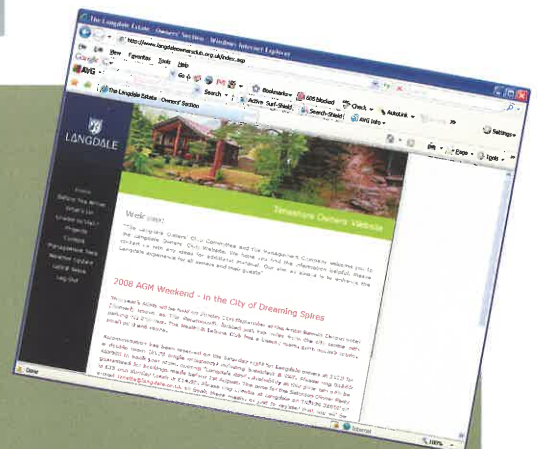
UK summer holidays are proving extremely popular this year with a surge in the self-catering category. This is due to the strength of the Euro and a reduction in flying due to fare increases, delays and baggage handling problems.

The Lake District is high up the list of requested destinations, ahead of Devon and Cornwall this year. Therefore, to guarantee a bargain, it's advisable not to leave it too late, as demand is so high.

## Electronic Communications

Thank you to all who have signed up for the Langdale Owners' Website – [www.langdaleownersclub.org.uk](http://www.langdaleownersclub.org.uk). The number of members is now over 1500 and growing. We would still urge owners who haven't yet signed up to the website to join. The website contains details of projects at Langdale and useful information, including the What's On covering a three week period. We will, in time, be placing notices of Accounts and Views on the site and communicate via e-mail to inform owners when this information is available. This will save £1,000's each year in print and post costs and help to reduce Langdale's impact on the environment from paper usage.

For information on Langdale Swaps please visit the Owners' website or contact Sheila Crouch direct on 01661 823 548



# [www.langdaleownersclub.org.uk](http://www.langdaleownersclub.org.uk)



# Beware of Timeshare Sales Companies

Langdale does not in any circumstances share details of timeshare owners with other organisations. Some owners have recently reported telephone calls from two companies – Extra Weeks and Planet Vacations – claiming to have information about Langdale owners, and in one case claiming to be working on behalf of Langdale. Neither company is working

on behalf of Langdale, and we do not believe that they have obtained copies of our database. We are pursuing enquiries as appropriate, and in the meantime owners are advised to be extremely cautious about any claims made by the companies. Owners should be particularly careful about revealing any personal information.

## Welcome

Sarah O'Boyle joined Langdale on 2nd June 2008 – her target areas are to improve the management reporting packages with deeper cost analysis. This should enable better control of expenditure, particularly on payroll, and hence reduce costs.

Sarah has extensive experience in retail, manufacturing and engineering companies, including a high profile blue chip company. She lives in Grange-over-Sands with her family and is a member of the National Association of Ladies Circle and last year was the Area Chairman. She describes her first two months at Langdale as "hectic and interesting". She is looking forward to leading and developing her team to better meet the requirements of the Company.

Having joined the Company at a time when the year end accounts had to be finalised, a full audit required Sarah's supervision, and she has blended in seamlessly with all her Langdale colleagues. As a member of the Senior Management Team, Sarah has brought a fresh and lively approach to her



role and has already had an impact upon the functioning of that team. We sincerely hope this will continue and that Sarah's contribution will go on from strength to strength.

## 2008 AGM Weekend

in the City of Dreaming Spires

This year's AGMs will be held on Sunday 21st September at the 4-star Barcelo Oxford Hotel (formerly known as The Paramount), located just two miles from the city centre with parking for 250 cars. The Health & Leisure Club has a beauty room, gym, squash courts, small pool and sauna.

The price of £135 for a double room (£120 single occupancy) for bed & breakfast was only guaranteed up to 1st August but the hotel has agreed to hold these prices. As availability may now be limited, you are advised to book your accommodation with the Barcelo as soon as possible – tel: 01865 489900 and quote "Langdale AGM".

To book for the Saturday Dinner Party at £35 and/or Sunday Lunch at £14.95, or just to register that you will be attending the AGMs, please ring Lynette at Langdale on 015394 38002 or e-mail [lynette@langdale.co.uk](mailto:lynette@langdale.co.uk). Final numbers for the meals have to be notified two weeks prior to the event.

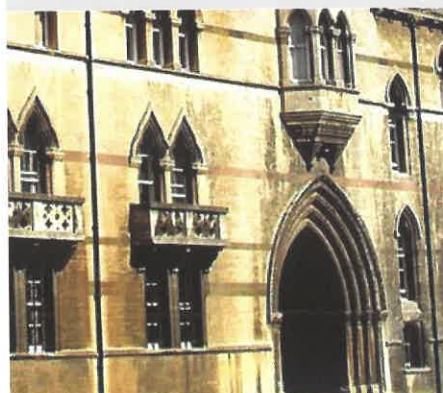
## News from Purdey's

We are pleased to announce the appointment of John Adler-Conner as Executive Chef for the Estate. John has worked in Purdey's Kitchen for 18 months and under his guidance the restaurant won an AA food quality rosette for 2008. The rosette award has recently also been confirmed for 2009.

John played a major supporting role in the recent refurbishment of The Terrace, as well as offering guidance and advice to Wainwrights' Inn.



Oxford University







# Project Re-Views

## Timeshare Refurbishments



### Bathrooms

Plans are being developed for the next round of refurbishment of timeshare units. Water supply, bathrooms and boilers are coming together into one coherent scheme, building on the experience gained in the last couple of years. Most of the lodges on the main Estate use water supplied via large storage tanks on the hill below Founders' Seat. We are looking into replacing them with a new single, larger and raised tank to get better pressure. At the same time the possibility of using pressurised hot water systems is being explored, together with the appropriate boilers. That would give a good basis for the completion of the bathroom refurbishment programme (in lodges and Chapel Stile).



### TV Update

TV and entertainment systems remain under review. Our aerial contractor is working on a proposal for a network across the Estate to deliver a good digital TV signal. In the meantime, new developments come along all the time, and the arrival of Freesat may be a very good option for Langdale. Owners' views on Bang & Olufson against a standard flatscreen set have been heavily in favour of the standard model. We are currently considering a range of models from Panasonic, Sony and LG, though the final decision on model will not be taken until early next year, in order to take advantage of the latest developments in TV technology. The middle of next year remains the target for installation of new TV and entertainment systems in the timeshare units.



### Furniture

The trial leather furniture for the lounges has not resulted in the "wow" response for which we were hoping. The search continues, hopefully sharing refurbishment practice with the experience of other five star resorts, and also linking in with plans to appoint an interior designer to prepare for refurbishment of the lounge and kitchen areas.

## Lodge Living Area Refurbishment

The objectives for the new lodge living area designs have been set. The design will concentrate on taking the original concept and creating a new 21st Century feel. The very best of the original design will be blended with the new. The design process will include both living areas and kitchens and will be incorporating the quality, comfort and design needed to stand the test of time. Modern products, techniques and finishes will be used whilst staying true to the original thematic Scandinavian style – creating a timeless feel.







# The Terrace gets a new look

In late April this year we closed The Terrace restaurant for five days in order to refurbish the kitchen and redecorate

the restaurant areas. The kitchen equipment was replaced and saw the installation of a charcoal fired 'Josper' oven. The oven imported from Spain is one of only a handful in the north of the country.

Paul and Linda also took the opportunity to give the menu a more contemporary Mediterranean feel whilst still using good quality locally sourced ingredients.

So far this combination has proved very successful.



## Tarns

Repairs to the tarn at Lodges 57 to 61 are due to take place shortly. This should result in much improved water levels throughout the year. The works will take four to five weeks and need to be scheduled outside the winter months. We apologise in advance for any disruption, but hope that owners will feel that the end result will make it well worthwhile.

## Coffee Time

Many owners will be pleased to see that coffee filter machines have been restored to the timeshare units. There has been continuing high demand, and a suitably-sized machine has been sourced which will meet the needs of coffee drinkers without taking up too much space. The search is on for a small food processor and hopefully these will be returning soon – in the meantime, food processors are available on request from Housekeeping.

## Sustainable Energy

During September and October this year we will be installing a Biomass Boiler to provide 1.5 million KW or approximately one third of the Estate's heating needs. The boiler burns wood chip which is a carbon-lean source of sustainable energy. The fuel (wood) will be sourced within 25 miles of the Estate. The use of wood fuel will provide cost savings, reduce our reliance upon LPG and benefit local biodiversity by helping to promote the management of local woodlands.