

VIEWS

Winter 1986

No. 9



THE LAST LANGDALE LODGE

Early in the misty autumn morning of Monday, 22nd September, whilst most of the Langdale Estate lay sleeping, a large articulated lorry with the last Langdale Lodge trudged wearily up the twisting lanes of the valley.

The construction team, headed by Manager Dave Garrick, were there, ready and waiting to pounce on Lodge 80 and, for the last time, work with those familiar pieces of material to complete the five year building programme.

Helped by one or two rudely awakened lodge owners, the reception committee marked the historic event with a sip of



champagne and a cheer. It was 57 months since the first lodge was delivered on 20th January 1982, when the bemused construction team pored over the first plans.

It now only takes 14 days to get the roof on a three-bedroomed lodge, while a one-bedroomed lodge can reach that stage in half the time.

And so, some may shed the odd tear, while others shout the odd cheer as the last slate goes into position on lodge 80 and the Estate is finally put to bed!

LOCAL thoughts

Any development the size of Langdale must be aware of the impact on the local community of its presence. In the initial stages of planning a great deal was done to inform our neighbours of our plans, but over the next months, the speed of progress within the Estate had distracted our attention from this most important responsibility.

However, recently, a couple of Senior Managers from the Company called a meeting to discuss mutual problems out of which a whole new relationship is building up.

Rather than dominating the local scene, we are seeking to merge in with it, and play our part in protecting local interest and fostering a neighbourly spirit.

Already, we have assisted in the writing, editing and circulation of a local newsletter — The Langdale Valley News — which some of you will have seen at Reception. We are further involved in helping the local bowling club to repair their Green and surrounding areas. The Club expect to be able to extend the use of the Green to lodge owners in return.

We have further plans for the future protection and development of the community in an area we all enjoy so much.

THE FORMATION OF LANGDALE LEISURE LTD

The whole of the business activities and assets of the Langdale Partnership has been incorporated into a new limited company, so that all transactions are now

conducted in the name of Langdale Leisure Limited. The Partnership was originally formed in 1981 to develop the Langdale Estate and has remained largely as formed since that time. As the wider business interests of the Partnership have grown over the intervening years the Partnership structure became less and less appropriate for their expanding commercial activities. With advice from their Bankers, Lawyers and Accountants it was decided to form Langdale Leisure Ltd. from the Partnership, because a company structure was considered to be more suitable to cover current and future

expansion. You will be pleased to learn that each of the Partners remains a shareholder in the Company and retains a keen interest in all that goes on at Langdale. This development has no effect on the rights of timeowners or the service provided by the Langdale Management Company, which your Lodge Owners' Committee together with the Company's management will ensure meets the requirements for owners to enjoy all that is good at Langdale.



ALL LODGE OWNERS
STAYING OVER XMAS
AND NEW YEAR MUST
PRE-BOOK ALL MEALS &
FESTIVITIES IN WRITING
A.S.A.P. TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT

Notice Board

• COMMENTS FROM THE OWNERS' CLUB COMMITTEE •

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

We are looking for an extra member to join the Finance Sub-Committee and widen the experience at its disposal in the increasingly important work that is required. Many of the services at Langdale are performed jointly for the lodges, the Pillar Hotel and Club and, to a lesser extent, for the building operations. We need to feel confident that lodge owners are being charged no more than their fair share of the cost of these services.

The Finance Sub-Committee would, therefore, welcome the assistance of an owner with experience in work measurement to support their efforts in the interests of lodge owners. The Sub-Committee meets three or four times annually, usually at Langdale on Sundays, and any owner willing to join is invited to send details of his or her experience to Douglas Whipp at the address below.



INSURANCE

Many owners have expressed confusion about what is or is not covered by the insurance for which they pay through the management charge or as an optional extra.

We are glad to report that, as from 1st May 1987, "All Risks" cover will be included in the management charge and owners will not have to worry about whether or not to take extra cover.

It will be particularly important to report any damage or breakages promptly so that the management can claim under the All Risks policy and so avoid bearing the cost of repairs or replacements.



WASHING MACHINES

We are glad to report that the two washing machines and a drier are proving to be in great demand, so much so that their heavy use has led to occasional breakdowns!

The experience shows that the demand is there and the machines are to be replaced in due course by heavy duty industrial models to ensure trouble-free operation in future.



MICROWAVE OVENS

Very little demand for the hire of microwave ovens has emerged as yet. To date, the average hiring rate is only 1.5 ovens per week (how the users of the .5 of an oven cope we can't imagine!)

As this low demand is possibly because of insufficient publicity, the availability of a microwave is now being notified to owners in the letter accompanying their management charge invoice.

The popularity of the hire scheme is being kept under review. A report will be made at the Annual General Meeting on 18th January and a decision taken then on whether to continue with the scheme.

PERSONAL NEEDS AND PREFERENCES

We often receive requests from owners for their lodge to be equipped with this or that utensil, or fitted with some additional item or other. Taken in isolation these are usually not unreasonable requests and often of quite small cost.

There is, however, a standard lodge inventory which goes towards determining the cost of our lodges. It would be manifestly unfair to have some lodges of similar size more fully equipped than others in order to meet individual owners' personal preferences.

Usually, there is a simple answer, already adopted by some families — if you cannot live without a non-stick frying pan, a tea strainer, or a tea cosy — bring your own!



ENERGY MONITORING SYSTEM

In the past few months, considerable effort has been channelled into ensuring that the Energy Monitoring System (EMS) provides consistently accurate information on the energy consumption of each lodge.

Modifications have been made to the EMS to improve its functional security and repairs carried out as required.

In the future, the EMS will be the subject of regular checks which should provide the necessary confidence in the system demanded by both the Management Company and lodge owners.



LODGE SWAPPING

At the time of writing (mid-November), there have been 72 requests for swapping and approaching one third of these have been successfully matched. This is getting easier as the "bank" is growing, but a "reserve bank" of people who are not tied to any particular week, so long as they visit Langdale, would be useful.

There is, of course, a great demand for the weeks when the schools are on holiday. For example, in 1987 there are many requests to move to week 8 from week 7, with nobody wanting the reverse; there is of course no guarantee a swap can be arranged.

We apologise if it was not made clear in the information and forms which were circulated that the £10 fee was not returnable. It is used to cover the cost of printing, telephone calls, etc., with the surplus helping to keep down management charges.

The list of weeks to which people are prepared to move is quite long and we therefore give here only the weeks which at the moment are available in 1987:

Grasmere (1 bedroom) 6, 7, 9, 13, 15, 22.

Coniston and Windermere (2 bedrooms) 1 (not New Year — begins 3/1/87), 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 19, 20, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 42, — in 1988 21 and 36.

Ullswater (3 bedrooms) 1, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 18, 19, 25, 39, 41, 42.

Mrs. Crouch expects to be present with all the information at the AGM. In the meantime, if you require information about the scheme and/or forms, please contact her at the address below.



CAR PARKING

May we ask lodge owners to try to restrict the parking of their car(s) to the reserved space(s) for their lodge. Please park "extra" cars in the Hotel car park.

YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS WELCOME HEARING FROM YOU:

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NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Howard Fradley joined the Group on 4th August as General Manager of the Hotel and Club, and the Management Company.

After qualifying in Hotel and Catering Management at Stafford College, he spent a large part of his career to date with Greenall Whitley.

More recently, he has managed the Lord Hill Hotel at Shrewsbury and the Cavendish Hotel at



Eastbourne.

Howard has already set an example of how he intends to become involved in the operations at Langdale by entering for a charity parachute jump at Flookburgh. He was saved at the eleventh hour by deteriorating

weather conditions!

His condition hasn't deteriorated however, and he is looking forward to maintaining the high standards laid down at Langdale, and the introduction of improved ideas.

EXCITING CONFERENCE NEWS!!!

To fill in those mid-week blues we have begun to actively promote the Pillar Hotel and Country Club as a conference centre for small board room and training conferences. To this end we have produced a new conference brochure. If any Lodge Owner would like further information, please contact Diane Blain, Conference Co-Ordinator.

SALES OFFICE NEWS AND NOTICES

Sales this Autumn have been particularly brisk even by our own standards. We have now sold over 99% of phases 1-6 and over 60% of the current phase 7 which is due for completion at Christmas. Beech Tree House and Cottage have been especially popular with many existing owners taking the opportunity to increase their stake in Langdale before we sell out. There is no doubt that these final lodges have some of the best mountain views anywhere on site.

Short Break Promotion

As winter draws near we thought you would like to be the first to know about our Short Break holidays here at the Pillar.

Why not get away from it all and let us look after you for a few days in the beautiful surroundings of Langdale.

For a mere £37.50 per person per night inclusive of service and VAT we can offer you the following: Accommodation in one of our luxurious Studios Full English Breakfast Dinner to the value of £15.00 in our attractive Purdeys Restaurant.

Special rates available for children.

As the evenings will soon be drawing in wouldn't it be nice to have something to look forward to? So, look no further, come and stay

with us here at the Pillar where, as you will have found on past visits, you can be assured of good friendly service and a stay with us that will be a memorable one.

Purdeys

As regular visitors to the Pillar we thought you would be interested in the new and varied 'delights' awaiting you on a visit to Purdeys Restaurant.

Every Friday evening we will now be holding a Dinner/Dance so not only will you be sampling the wonderful cuisine but if you choose, you can also dance the night away to the sounds of our new Band.

For those not wanting to 'trip the light fantastic', on the other evenings we will have a pianist playing lots of your favourite tunes for your enjoyment.

To add to all this, Purdeys now has a new and varied menu to tempt you. Our new 5 course menu gives you a choice of over eight dishes for most courses.

So, come visit us at Purdeys, where the beautiful surroundings and very helpful staff will give you a night to remember.



Christmas Programme

As Christmas is drawing near you will probably be thinking of ideas for where to spend it. So why not come and spend the festive season at the Pillar Hotel and Country Club and let us do the work whilst you sit back and relax and enjoy yourself.

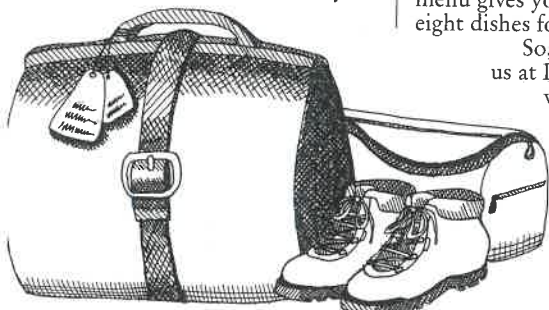
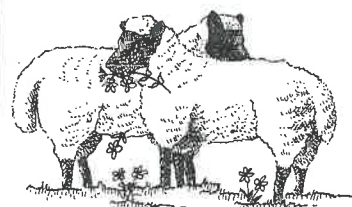
We have prepared a special Xmas programme which should appeal to everyone, with special treats for the children, which include a visit to Santa's Grotto and Magicians and a disco.

The programme together with rates is available on request from Reception.

So come and spend Christmas with us in the beautiful setting of Langdale, where you can be assured Christmas will be a memorable one.

LOCK ALL GATES

Please ensure that all gates onto the Estate are closed after use, to prevent sheep eating all the plants!!



THINGS REALLY DO HAPPEN ...

at the Pillar Club

We all know how disappointing it is to come to the Pillar Club and discover certain pieces of equipment out of order. Unfortunately, as with anything mechanical, this is inevitable at times so we unreservedly apologise to those who had to tolerate an empty pool or non-functioning spas for 3 days. Luckily, they didn't both go out of commission at the same time!

Despite these disappointments there have been many, many people who have apparently had some good times at the Pillar Club. For those of you who have missed out, sorry, but the events calendar is gaining momentum and will continue to do so.

Recently, we have had Doug Scott presenting two superb slide shows and lectures about his life and times as a mountaineer in the far reaches of the Himalayas. We have also had two presentations by our local professional touring "Pocket Theatre" company who have played to full houses: their first production was Dario Fo's "Can't Pay? Won't Pay!" and then we had the two-man satire "Woza Albert": the Pillar Club audience's verdict on the first — "hilarious!", and on the

second — "brilliant".

We have also held two superb firework displays — the first helped us celebrate the Royal Wedding on 23rd July, the whole day was a party here culminating in the fireworks, and during the day we held a balloon race. Since then the balloons have been slowly finding their way back here, some from the Langdale Estate! Further away we've had balloons from Darlington in the east and as far away as Ellesmere in Shropshire. Our bonfire night party was equally spectacular with the Salami Brothers' juggling and conjuring acts all adding to the fun.

The Pillar Club also arranges lower key events. The Chess Club will remember the Volleyball,

and the series of Waterpolo and our local "Brain of Pillar" quiz are both well underway, squash tournaments are also held from time to time and they have proved very popular with wins by both local members and lodge owners. However, the most memorable event has to be the "Great Pillar Egg Race" — there were self-propelling boats of various designs — paddle boats, power boats but the most ingenious was the water-jet powered boat. It definitely won for creativity but alas, came third in the race!

This is a review of just some of the events on at the Pillar Club. Those of you who have missed out; don't worry, we have many, many more events planned for the future.

Wildlife at Langdale

— *Summer/Autumn*

What a mixed up jumble we had to call Summer this year! Overall it was about normal but we certainly had extremes — the September rainfall figure at Windermere was just a quarter inch; August was a washout.

Many birds nested much later than expected and some, untypically, raised second and even third broods during our Indian Summer.

The nest boxes were homes to both pied and spotted flycatchers, blue and great tits and one brood of nuthatches. Other breeding birds included great spotted woodpeckers (on the hill above lodge 11), tawny owls (near lodge 36) and treecreepers (on the riverside above lodge 30). There were many others, too.

A lot of lodge owners were delighted by the sight of young red squirrels but very few saw the foxes which have now visited the estate almost every evening since St. George's Day. To my intense displeasure mink have again been seen around the grounds — these indiscriminate predators are not nearly so attractive as they appear. Unlike most predators, which control prey populations, mink have a tendency to exhaust them and then move on to pillage elsewhere.

On Great Langdale Beck dippers increased and kingfishers were, at least occasionally, in evidence.

Swallows could often be seen sipping water while on the wing alongside the Skelwith to Elterwater track and, during the driest periods, chaffinches were lined up like Edwardian ladies and gentlemen taking the waters.

One last thing — during Winter feed the birds as you like but if it is really cold they'll be equally grateful for a drink.

GOLFING NEWS

July 1986 saw the best of our golfers compete in Langdale's first Mens' Singles Open Golf Championships.

All competitors fought hard for some magnificent trophies, including a crystal putter that can actually be used in a round of golf. However, perhaps the most exciting reward was an automatic entry for the first three competitors into the Rayrigg Motors (Austin Rover) Northern P.G.A. Championships and Pro-Am competition.

In September S. Sherrington (Ashton-in-



Makerfield), J. Carr (Wigan), and K. Lancaster (Bolton), teamed up with professional Graham Walker as 'Pillar Champions' to compete in the biggest event ever to be held at Windermere Golf Course.

— Finishing with a score of 127, our representatives

did extremely well, however did not manage to overthrow the winners, Tiro's Newsagents, who finished with 116 — well done lads!

The following week Graham Walker became the first winner of the Sunderland Masters Green Jacket.

HELLO SAILORS!

The "Vixen" will come off Coniston water at the end of November, and will be put back again at the end of March. No, she's not competing for the Americas Cup, in case any of you were wondering!!!