





...your community magazine

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Windermere Reflects



Three years, seven thousand trees planted, 19 projects completed: the work of Windermere Reflections comes to an end this summer. It's been a successful three years for the heritage lottery-funded scheme which has made everyone in the Windermere catchment think about water quality, under the banner of linking "lakes, landscapes and lives". The impact will be measured by scientists over generations to come, but there's no doubt that the WR programme has created an impact already, and changed behaviour significantly.

Those seven thousand trees planted will help prevent soil erosion and run-off into the lake. Hotels and guest houses have signed up to 'Love Your Lakes' by making sure laundry and dishes are washed with phosphate-free products. Local children have learned about the importance of the water quality in their home environment and at school, lake users are being much more careful about spillages when re-fuelling, and swimmers and kayakers have been urged to clean their kit and not carry invasive species from one waterway to another. (Cont. Page 3)

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Civic pride

Windermere and Bowness Civic Society celebrated National Civic Day on Saturday June 21st with an open air event at Millerground, Rayrigg Road.

The main aim of the Civic Day was to enable the Society and its partners to publicise its recent and future work for the Millerground Enhancement Project. Many people filled out feedback forms, which alone made the whole venture a great success. Overall there has been considerable approval for all their efforts and great support for their future plans. This will considerably help in their applications for grants in the future.

The Millerground Enhancement Group would like to express thanks to everyone who helped the day run smoothly. Their special thanks to the Civic Day Organising Committee, led by Diane with help from Debbie, Simone, Caroline and Gillian. Thanks to McClures who donated tea, biscuits and soft drink supplies and Morrisons who helped with cakes. Also to Taylors for bringing the funfair, SLDC for the free car park, WBCCT for the free toilets and NCL for the canoes, bouncy castle and orienteering.

Interested in helping with the project? Please email millerground@windermerebownesscivicsociety.org.uk

Contact the Hub!

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The deadline for the next issue will be the 17th October with distribution from 17th November 2014. Keep an eye on Twitter @HUBWindermere for more details!

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Calgarth Park open to all

Calgarth Park started life as a gentleman's residence in 1790 and remained in the Watson family's hands until the early years of the 20th century when the house and grounds were bought by Oswald Hedley.

The Hedleys lived at Briery Close and converted Calgarth into a hospital to help with First World War casualties from Belgium and Britain. In 1920, the hospital reopened as the Ethel Hedley Hospital for Crippled Children, named after Oswald Hedley's second wife. In 1924, work took place to expand the facilities and numbers of beds available in order to meet demand. The name was changed in 1935 to the Ethel Hedley Orthopaedic Hospital for Children. The hospital was funded by the Hedleys and local benefactors from its inception until the National Health Service took over in 1948. With improvements in health and living conditions, the numbers reduced so much that the NHS deemed the hospital surplus to requirements and it was closed in 1970.

For a couple of years the house was boarded up and abandoned until it was found by the British Federation of University Women who were looking for somewhere to retire to after years of taking holidays in the Lakes. Somehow they got the money together to convert the house into 25 self-contained flats and they founded the Lake District Housing Association to administer the not-for-profit charity. It was formally opened in 1974. We held our 40th Anniversary celebration in July 2014.

Calgarth offers independent living without the worry of house and garden maintenance but with the companionship of others. The monthly rental for a flat includes a home-cooked three-course lunch on weekdays, 24/7 emergency call system, hot water and background central heating. The House Manager is resident on the premises and she would be delighted to arrange a visit, at no obligation.

For the third year, Calgarth is opening for the national Heritage Open Days event and visitors will be welcome on Saturday 13 September from 10am to 4.30pm. Historic photos will be on display and tours of the building take place throughout the day. Please note that we are not open on the Sunday this year. Thia Rawlinson: House Manager, Calgarth Park, Troutbeck Bridge, Windermere, LA23 1LF. Phone: 015394 43016 calgarth.park@btconnect.com [advertorial]

Black & white



A new low cost private dental practice, **Zebra Dental** in Windermere, was officially opened by Alan Hinkes OBE, (the first and only Briton to climb all the world's highest mountains). They look forward to welcoming their new patients. To arrange an appointment, pop in, call **01539 447346** or email **info@zebradental.co.uk**

Windermere Reflections

Three years saw the completion of some 19 projects involving practical conservation activities like riverbank repairs to keep soil out of the water. Projects were designed to encourage everyone to make choices for a "greener" future. Learning opportunities were provided, offering information and practical new skills, and bringing on board an army of volunteers.

Windermere Reflections was led from a small office at Low Nook in Ambleside by programme manager Liz Davey, and two project officers, Debbie Binch and Amanda Luxmoore. They have been working in partnership with a range of organisations including the Environment Agency, Lake District National Park Authority, the National Trust, and the University of Cumbria, and additional delivery partners, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, Nurture Lakeland, and Friends of the Lake District.

Gardeners have been encouraged to use fewer chemicals, and that message was brought home when the BBC turned up to record the hugely popular Gardeners' World radio show last summer. And a woman dressed as a lake and singing a catchy song became a You Tube hit.

The Windermere Song, shown in local cinemas, is one of the more bizarre successes of the WR programme. It had educational value, summing up in three minutes the essence of the WR message, as did a series of street theatre performances. There was also a specially commissioned beer, Mere Gold, launched during a canoe race on the lake. Grasmere's Taffy Thomas has passed on his storytelling skills to others, weaving Windermere Reflections' messages into his stories.

In July folk musician Eliza Carthy headlined at a "lakes and legends" concert organised to mark the end of the programme at the Lakes School. Earlier in the summer, the WR team reflected on their own achievements in a remarkable open air art exhibition which covered seven sites and integrated art workshops with specially commissioned installations.

Reflective Moments highlighted the journey of water through the catchment landscape from source to sea. There was Lookout at Dunmail Raise, thousands of silver reflective baubles attached to the wartime pillbox by artist Steve Messam.

At Allan Bank and Fell Foot, artist Bryony Purvis offered Between Land and Sky aerial photography workshops, with cameras and phones sent up to 1000ft high under a big helium balloon. Irene Sanderson ran a Chinese landscape painting workshop at Rydal Hall's Grotto and at Borrans Park, Waterhead, Messam created a giant kaleidoscope to view the lake in a new way. The Windermere Car Ferry's cabin was turned into one big magnetic poetry 'fridge door'.

At Fell Foot, Messam installed Drop, his giant inflatable raindrop which reflected the surrounding landscape and marked the bottom of Windermere's catchment where water flows into the River Leven and out into Morecambe Bay.

The work of the Windermere Reflections' programme is marked during August in an exhibition at Wray Castle near Ambleside. But as Liz Davey says: "It will be many years before scientists can measure the impact of our work on the quality of the water. We hope that we have helped to make a difference."

The partner organisations (Environment Agency, Lake District National Park, National Trust, University of Cumbria, South Cumbria Rivers' Trust, Nurture Lakeland, Windermere Rotary and Friends of the Lake District) are still going to be working in the Windermere catchment after the end of Windermere Reflections.

If you would like to help them or want more information about the issues the catchment is facing, please contact us on **015394 34401** or email **debbie.binch@windermere-reflections.org.uk**

To see a selection of fun Windermere Reflections' films, go to Windermere Reflections on You Tube.



Superfast Broadband

The villages of Far Sawrey, Low Wray, High Wray, Outgate and the surrounding rural areas are now benefitting from superfast broadband at speeds of up to 50 Meg. The new high speed internet service is being provided by Kendal-based Kencomp Internet and will allow residents to watch catch-up TV, online films and run businesses more effectively.

"The Kencomp broadband service makes a big difference to our business" said Sara Keane, Director of Pullwood Bay, "Our guests appreciate having a reliable, high-speed internet service in such a rural location."

Kencomp doesn't use phone lines like most ISPs, it uses microwave technology which means Kencomp's services don't have the same speed and location restrictions many other broadband companies have in rural areas and once the service is installed there is no line rental charge and no long term contract. You can even have an internet-phone service so you don't need a phone. Kencomp Internet provides superfast broadband to towns and rural communities throughout South Lakeland with specialised services for the hospitality industry.

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Waxing historical

One building that Windermere and Bowness is missing is a museum. Ambleside, Kendal and Keswick have museums though Windermere and Bowness currently do not. It would be great to have a museum; how the local area started from humble farming and fishing to becoming the tourist destination that is still enjoyed today. There could be items connected with the local area as well as local people's memories and stories.

Over the last year their service has expanded to provide broadband to Windermere, Ambleside, Troutbeck, Cartmel Fell and most of the Cartmel Peninsula.

If you'd like faster broadband with a cost-saving phone service call 01539 898145 or sales@kencomp.net [advertorial]





A comment from one of our readers.

Twinning news

Shown playing at the St Mary's Church concert.

At the invitation of Windermere-Diessen Twinning Association in June, the **Diessen Blasergruppe** played to a packed audience in St Mary's Church where they were joined with local Saxophone Quartet 'Take 4'.

During their visit to Windermere they also played at the Glebe Bandstand much to the delight of other visitors! They played again at the Parish Church in Kendal, along with **Kendal Concert Band**, as part of their Golden Jubilee celebrations. Whilst here they also enjoyed other social events and a guided visit to Beatrix Potter's house, Hilltop.

Interested in Twinning activities? Contact **Jenny Borer** on **015394 44995** or email **jsborer@tiscali.co.uk**

Science needs you!

The Freshwater Biological Association based in Windermere are seeking part-time helpers to assist in checking and transferring information to a database in preparation for an online copy of the Fritsch Collection of Algal Illustrations archive. Basic computer knowledge and a keen eye for detail is all that is needed to ensure that the botanical information is correct. For further information please contact the curator of the Collection, Dr Elizabeth Haworth by phone 015394-42468 or email ehaworth@fba.org.uk

Squirrels on Facebook

The Westmorland Red Squirrel Society now has its own **Facebook** page and is able to bring you up to the minute news about reds in SE Cumbria. Recently they reported that an area in Windermere between the mini roundabout at Cook's Corner and St. Mary's Church has become quite a red squirrel hotspot. The animals are leaving woodland higher up the hill, crossing the busy A591 and then heading towards the town where they are being spotted in nearby gardens. They are also putting in an appearance to the south of Bowness with a recent sighting near Great Tower Wood.

If you spot a red squirrel in the Windermere or Bowness area please let them know as your information is vital to the future survival of reds in our area.

email **squirrels@homewoods.co.uk** phone **015394 43948**



"Sparring" partners

Not many people know that **Windermere Boxing Club** hosted the **Nauru Boxing Team** in the run up to the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Prior to going to the "Games" they spent three weeks in Windermere at a Training / Holding Camp under the watchful eye of **Ian Irwin** former GB Olympic Coach. The purpose of the Camp was to enable the Nauru team to acclimatise and recover from jet lag before moving back into intensive training for the Glasgow Games.

A number of local businesses very kindly supported the Nauru team during their stay in Windermere;

- Lake Lovers Holiday Cottages provided accommodation at a reduced rate.
- The Low Wood Hotel granted an occasional Swim and Sauna at their Fitness Centre free of charge.
- Windermere Lakes Cruises sent free tickets for a half day on the Lake.
- South Lakeland District Council have made their Recreational facilities on the Glebe at Bowness available free of charge.
- The Langdale Chase Hotel invited the Nauru team for Afternoon Tea.
- Windermere Bowling Club provided an introduction to Crown Green Bowls.

Fairtrade celebration

On World Fairtrade Day (May 10th), the Windermere and Bowness Fairtrade Town Group held a coffee morning to celebrate 10 years of the Group's work in the community and the first awarding of the Fairtrade Town Status.

Allan Winrow (Mayor) cut the celebratory cake and thanked the group for the work they had done to raise the profile of Fairtrade in the community.

There was a lovely display of collages illustrating the Fairtrade theme made by the students at St Cuthbert's Primary School, Goodly Dale Primary School and The Windermere Preparatory School.

The Photograph shows Jenny Baker, coordinator of the Fairtrade Group, sitting with the Mayor and joined by some of the members of the Fairtrade Group.



Eco-duo

Inspired by TV's George Clarke, builders Paul Taylor and Andy Cahill have managed to create eco-friendly homes and offices in redundant buildings in Oakside Yard. Two houses and two offices will have heat and hot water powered by Windermere's first

community biomass.



The buildings were originally part of a joinery workshop but were abandoned 20 years ago. On one side of the tiny courtyard, two three-storey cottages have been created and on the other side cleverly designed offices, with mezzanine levels for extra space, have been squeezed in. One has already been let to Ditto Solutions graphic design and photocopying services.

Highly insulated with energy efficient LED lighting and built using many recycled or reclaimed materials, the building duo have used their imagination to create four amazing spaces. The homes will be ready to let by the end of the year. The scheme has been hailed by green campaigners Windermere Reflections. Project officer Debbie Binch said, "It is great to see how such a small space can be so well utilised, with its mix of renewable technology, energy efficiency measures and re-use of existing resources".

Town Council online



If you want to know more about the activities of Windermere Town Council why not visit the Council's website?

www. windermere-tc.gov.uk

In addition to being able to access information about your Councillors, agendas and dates for meetings, minutes of previous meetings and information about the specific responsibility of the Council, it also provides an important point of contact to help you resolve any issues that you might have.

Windermere Town Council does not take a political stance and your elected Councillors commit themselves to support this community voluntarily and do not draw allowances. Presently responsibility for much of what goes on in our community lies within South Lakes District Council or Cumbria County Council, and planning issues in the Lake District National Park Authority. However, Windermere Town Council is investigating ways it can take over responsibility for the delivery of some local services and facilities where it believes it can deliver them more cost effectively and efficiently than the larger and far more complex organisations of a District or County Council. More on this in future editions of the Hub.

Queens Park

Queens Park provides a very important centre for community activities and is easily available to a large section of the local population. A few years ago a community led initiative saw the refurbishment of the children's playground and, more recently, there have been suggestions that other opportunities might be available to help ensure that Queens Park as a whole continues to meet local need, most particularly in relation to improving the facilities available.

Responding to these suggestions the Bowness & Windermere Community Care Trust (BWCCT) agreed to fund an investigation as to what might be possible and two local organisations, Iteriad Ltd and Lakes Architects agreed to contribute their time and skills to assist.

Working with a number of representatives from the local community a masterplan for the future management of the park is being developed and one important opportunity that has already been identified is the possibility of developing the building originally built to satisfy the then demand for squash courts.

Now occupied separately by two local and very active sports clubs the building is far from fit for the use to which it is now put. Discussions have led to the development of proposals that could see the squash courts modified, and potentially extended, to provide modern and appropriate facilities for the existing clubs but also able to cater for increased indoor sports and related social activities.

One idea that has already been suggested is that the relocation of the Windermere Youth Project (WYP) from The Phoenix Centre to Queens Park would provide a more accessible and appropriate base for the Youth Project.

Space vacated by WYP at The Phoenix might then be suited to enhance provision of facilities focussed on providing opportunities for active, but not quite so



young, members of our community. The photo shows what the modified building could look like if fully developed. However these are only initial suggestions and the group discussing the opportunity

would welcome feedback as to whether or not the upgrading of the existing building, development of other small indoor/training rooms for sporting activities, possibly a youth cafe and first floor pavilion space, would be appropriate. Cost to develop such a building could be around £700,000 so much work is still needed to ensure that such a building would be wanted, utilised and sustainable.

Please share your thoughts to info@bwcct.co.uk

Community voice

The issue of the impact of on street parking charges was the focus of the extremely well attended public meeting called by the Windermere and Bowness Action Group at The Ladyholme Centre on June 5th.

Whether for or against the implementation of charges, the meeting highlighted very important issues about the manner in which Cumbria County Council had conducted its Budget Consultation. There was clear concern about the consultation process and the implications of the proposals.

Since then many more in our community, and across the County, have made clear that they were also unaware of the consultation processes that led to the very unpopular decisions that were initially taken.

Cumbria County Council did carry out a consultation but it undoubtedly failed to engage the wider public in understanding the importance of responding to the questionnaires. Mind you, with the vast amount of information dropping through our letter boxes and changes in the way we receive our news is it not surprising that many of us 'missed the opportunity' to respond?

The meeting on the 5th June clearly identified to CCC that there is a great wealth of common sense in a community such as ours and, when given the chance to make clear its opinions, it can do so in a very focussed and well considered manner.

Our community should not take the blame for being unaware of the consultation process. We should, however, make clear to those elected to represent us that they must be more engaging with the community, at all levels, to ensure that there is awareness and clear understanding of their intentions.

One thing is very clear: when a large cross section of a community expresses its concerns, Councils listen; and proposals alter as a consequence.

We are sure that there will be much closer scrutiny on forthcoming consultation processes and we can only hope that our District and County Councils recognise the need to approach public consultation in a far more transparent manner in the future.

Comment from the editor of the Hub.

Dementia friendly

Unfortunately an increasing number of residents in South Lakeland are affected by Dementia, either suffering from the condition themselves, or related to someone that is. It is vital to help those affected maintain as normal a lifestyle as possible through ensuring greater awareness and methods of support.

Windermere Town, Lakes Parish and Skelwith Parish Councils (Central Lakes Local Area Partnership). working closely with the Alzheimer's Society, AgeUk South Lakeland and other appropriate health and social partners, are seeking to develop our area as 'Dementia Friendly'. An Action Group is intending to facilitate training to improve dementia awareness, allowing local businesses and service providers to improve their knowledge and better assist those with dementia. These businesses will be asked to contribute a nominal amount towards the cost of training. It is hoped that, "by improving awareness of the challenges faced by those affected, and finding routes to better assist them, local shops and businesses can make a real difference in enhancing the opportunity for those affected to continue to have confidence in using our towns and villages."

For further information on the project or to express an interest in participating in the training please contact **j.draper@southlakeland.gov.uk**

Convenient pickings

Fruity Windermere has added to the interest of the garden area, created last year by the BWCCT to the rear of the toilets it operates at Bowness Bay. Planting includes redcurrants, blackcurrants, lavender, chives, marjoram, chocolate mint and strawberries. The space

is becoming a small oasis created from a redundant piece of fenced off land. It is hoped that the planting will further enhance the appeal of this small, but very 'convenient' plot and further work will be undertaken as resources become available.



Thank you

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Small but very good

The top design team that helped win a major tourism award in Cumbria came together for a celebration in Windermere. Jonathan and Caroline Kaye, owners of the **Cedar Manor Hotel and Restaurant**, threw a party to thank the creative experts who helped them win the **Best Small Hotel in Cumbria Award**.

They were joined by designer **Alison Tordoff**, glass artist **Jo Vincent** and craftsman **Andrew Smith**. Alison, of Windermere's Fidget Design, created the look for many of the rooms in the hotel, including the Coach House Suite and the newly decorated welcome lounge. Jo, from Kendal, created the startling centrepiece of the welcome lounge, a chandelier made from recycled Bombay Sapphire gin bottles. Andrew and his team at Lakeland Fells Furniture in Windermere has made most of the new furnishings in the hotel.

Jonathan said: "We wanted to celebrate the fact that we are surrounded by this fantastic design and creative team who helped us to impress the award

judges, as well as our quests."

Raising a cheer on the hotel's patio are, from left to right, Jonathan, Caroline, Alison, Jo and Andrew.









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No time to sit down

During July five pupils from **The Lakes School** arrived in the Library Gardens to assist in re-building some of the gardens' damaged benches. In total there are four benches revamped in the gardens and a further two in Birthwaite Gardens.



The Bench Project has been ongoing for over a year and is

making excellent progress, thanks to a number of different people and organisations who have worked together to make it happen in the community. United Utilities gave £500 last year and this donation has been spent renewing the timber and treating all the ironbench legs. More benches will receive the same treatment in the coming months.

PC Simone Backhouse who organises the project asked that thanks be passed on to two local residents for giving up their time to make this project happen. "John Brockbank and Ian Irwin have been showing the young people what to do and have been crucial in this current phase," said Simone, adding, "Thanks also need to go to Peter Clarke, the SLDC playground engineer who I have driven mad with emails and site meetings about which benches to do next. He has played a blinder in bringing it all together and I am very grateful for his patience and care."

But the project is not without challenges and Simone told us, "The problem is lack of storage space. We can only buy the timber for what we are doing at any one time and this is very limiting. It would be excellent if we could find a permanent home for the project where we could store materials and ideally use as a workshop facility."

Andy Cunningham, Head at The Lakes School, who encouraged his pupils to take part in this project as part of their enrichment week, must also be thanked for his cooperation. If you have any ideas that might help this project thrive and develop please **contact the HUB** and we will pass on your thoughts.



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