

Artist's barn hosts events on migration

EVERYONE is welcome to attend a weekend in celebration of migrants to Cumbria past and present, at the Merz Barn, Elterwater, on October 19 and 20.

Workshops, exhibitions, talks and a film screening are planned for the Lake District venue where German-born Kurt Schwitters created his last work.

One of the founders of the modern art movement, Schwitters fled the Nazis and ended his days living in Ambleside. He completed one wall of what he called the Merz Barn, at Cylinders Estate, Langdale, before his death in Kendal in January 1948.

Cumbria Development Education Centre and the Merz Barn are hoping people will come along for an afternoon of workshops and food on Saturday, October 19, with a bonfire and barbecue from 6pm.

The Sunday will see a screening of the film *To the Four Winds*, which portrays attempts to ease migrants' plight on the Italy and France border.

To sign up for the free events, go online at <http://bit.ly/MerzBarnToTheFourWinds>



A photo provided by protestors showing 4x4 vehicles at Tilberthwaite

Brakes put on 4x4 ban in park

• Use of two Lanes in Lake District to be 'managed'

By ELLIS BUTCHER
Local Democracy Reporter

A TENSE hearing about the use of two 'green lanes', in the Lake District has stopped short of banning 4x4s drivers and motorbike trail riders.

Two unclassified roads stretching between Coniston, Langdale and Skelwith in the national park have become a toxic battleground between walkers, horse riders, mountain bikers, 4x4 off-roaders and motorcyclists.

The national park's rights of way committee heard from opposing sides at a two-hour meeting in Kendal on Wednesday, attended by around 50 people.

Nick Thorne, the park's countryside access advisor, called on the six-member panel to base its decision on evidence, not 'emotion and rhetoric'.

At the centre of the argument was the 1.5-mile stretch of the U5001 Tilberthwaite Road between the A593 at Yewdale and Fell Foot, Little Langdale. Also debated was the third-of-a-mile section of the U5004 which runs between the A683 near Colwith and Hodge Close, near Coniston.

Charlie Shepherd, chairman of the Lake District area Ramblers, said 'noise and fumes' spoiled the 'peace and tranquility' of the area, while 'minor' roads were not made for 'rallying'. Objector Diane Malinson claimed the park's report 'cherry picked, distorted or ignored' evidence and that a management solution would not control



Nick Fieldhouse giving evidence

'off-roading'.

However, Steve Stout, for the Cumbria Trail Riders Fellowship, said he had been left 'speechless' by the 'hate, bullying and discrimination' of those campaigning for a traffic regulation order.

Geoff Wilson, of the Motoring Organisations' Land and Access and Recreation Association, also accused the 'expertly-orchestrated lobby group' of 'misrepresentations, exaggeration, half-truths, and fear'. "The Lake District should not and will not be saved from anything, if indeed it needs to be, by reacting hastily to this sort of harassment," he said.

There were calls that conservation of the landscape should come first whenever there was a conflict between users, although the meeting heard the number of vehicles using the two lanes was 'not exactly Piccadilly Circus'.

After a 74-page assessment report into the issues by park officers, the committee voted five to one to agree to a management solution for the U5001 to bring key stakeholders together. The U5004 will be 'monitored'.

Peter Allen MBE, deputy chair of

the LDNPA, who proposed the officer's recommendation be agreed, said: "We have conflicting arguments here and I always think when you get conflict the easiest way is to try and manage it."

Ian Wharton said: "It's a park for the enjoyment and pleasure of all people - whether they are walkers, cyclists, motorcyclists or 4x4 drivers." Vicky Hughes said the panel 'struggled' with the decision and had to strike a balance. "There is congestion on those roads at certain times with 4x4s and the overuse of motorcycles," she said.

Louise Waterhouse said 'banning' 4x4s would not solve the problem and the park was for all and not just for some. "We have to respect everybody has a right to use these roads until there is some sort of law on them, and that may be a TRO in the future."

Committee chairman Geoff Davies voted against the officer recommendation and had 'considerable misgivings' about the conflict being solved through a management plan. "It's essential for the various groups of conflicting opinions to try and sort this out, with goodwill on all sides, in a way that brings peace and harmony," he said. Commenting afterwards, Nick Fieldhouse, of off-road driving company Kankku, said: "It's now for us to deliver. We have to put a management plan in place. We may end up more restricted than we are now, but maybe that's no bad thing. We are trying to keep the activity of an old Landrover rattling down a quarry road alive for future generations."

The Save Langdale Green Lanes Campaign said: "This is not how you preserve the special qualities of the national park and the World Heritage Site for future generations."

Help to navigate no-deal Brexit

TOURISM businesses are being offered advice on last-minute preparations for a potential no-deal Brexit.

With three weeks until Britain is due to leave the EU, Cumbria Tourism has secured £26,000 from the Government to tackle "several key areas of concern for the county's £3 billion tourism industry".

They include:

- recruiting and retaining staff from home and abroad
- ensuring European visitors still feel welcome and businesses can "confidently advise them" about travel arrangements
- and making changes to finances and data protection.

Cumbria Tourism is to hold its Are You Ready for Brexit Conference on Tuesday, October 29 at the Low Wood Bay Resort and Spa, Windermere, from 10am.

Any tourism-related businesses can sign up for free at www.trybooking.com

Two customer service workshops are also to be held for "front-end staff" such as receptionists, concierges, bar and restaurant workers.

"No-one knows for sure whether Brexit will take place on October 31 as the Government plans, and whether that will be with a formal EU agreement or without one," said Cumbria Tourism managing director Gill Haigh.

"With this continuing uncertainty it is essential businesses are as prepared as they can be for the different scenarios, so they can remain strong and competitive for the future."

Park chief praise for festival

THE Lakes Alive festival held in Kendal last month has been praised by the head of the Lake District National Park Authority.

Chief executive Richard Leafe said the September 6-8 festival had brought the town 'alive' with 'fantastic installations and performances'.

He declared it as the park's busiest festival ever with an estimated 25,000 people enjoying it.

"In the run-up to the festival, Lakes Alive has also engaged with over 5,000 young people and community groups in Barrow, Workington, Preston, Blackburn, Kendal, and Lancaster in issues of significance to the Lake District," said Mr Leafe.

"This year we have explored dark skies, pollution, and recycling."

Mr Leafe will update national park members at a full meeting of the authority on Wednesday, October 16.

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