

1818 CELEBRATING 200 YEARS 2018

The Westmorland Gazette

thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk TRUSTED NEWS READ BY 100,923 EVERY WEEK (PRINT & ONLINE) *Page 2 Thursday, August 16, 2018 £1.10

Oink oink! Pigs ham it up as they make debut at traditional Lowther Show

JOSEPH'S Amazing Racing Pigs were 'rashing' to the finish line at the weekend's Lowther Show. Punters were 'hogging' the best spots in the Countryside Arena to watch trotters - including Desert Porchid - demonstrate their jumping ability. There was also a falconry display, food and beer festival, dogs, alpacas and the horse carriage driving trials and prestigious sporting championships. Picture: David Hollins Full story and pictures: ■28-29



INSIDE Will Bluebird come home?



The man behind the vessel's restoration speaks out after successful trials in Scotland

NEWS: 8

K Village hotel plan submitted



A proposal to create a new Travelodge hotel in the Kendal centre has now been lodged

NEWS: 8

Shelbourn



'I don't know what the fuss is about - we've only used this track a few times and now you can hardly tell we're here'

Call for 4x4s ban in Lakes

- Off-roading dubbed inappropriate for WHS
- Lobby group urges action to protect park

A THREAT to the Lake District's world heritage status has emerged over claims "systematic damage" is being caused to the "outstanding universal value" of the national park by off roaders. World Heritage Watch (WHW) - a global organisation which advises UN-

By LLOYD BENT 01539 790247

ESCO - has published a report condemning the degradation of landscape, particularly at Tilberthwaite, near Conistone, due to the recreational use of four-by-four vehicles. The organisation con-

cluded that the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) was "violating" the area's world heritage status. WHW has asked UNESCO to make the continued in-scription dependant on the LDNPA acting to prevent further damage.

continued ■2

LAKELAND KITCHENS

YOUR KITCHEN SPECIALIST

Unit 8 | Dockray Hall Industrial Estate | Kendal | Cumbria | LA9 4RU
T: 01539 725456 | mail@lakelandkitchens.com | www.lakelandkitchens.com



INSIDE



NEWS
Vodka swap leads to fine for Kendal landlord

13

PODIUM
Important to make staff feel like family



31



FARM
120th sheep dog trials take place at lngs - report

58

ARTS
X Factor winner Matt is jungle king



61

PROPERTY 37

MOTORS 72

CLASSIFIED 77

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS 54

LETTERS 32

COMMUNITY NEWS 34

FARM & COUNTRY 58

BUSINESS 60

WEEKEND 61

SPORT 84

Source: *Print readership (Weekly) JICREG data as at Feb 2018, Online based on Adobe Analytics Jan-Jun 2017 (weekly) unique browsers

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Thursday	05.50	20.38
Friday	05.52	20.36
Saturday	05.54	20.34
Sunday	05.55	20.32
Monday	05.57	20.29
Tuesday	05.59	20.27
Wednesday	06.01	20.25

TIDE TIMES

Thursday	03.21	9.6	15.46	9.0
Friday	04.06	9.0	16.32	8.4
Saturday	04.54	8.4	17.24	7.9
Sunday	05.51	7.8	18.27	7.5
Monday	07.03	7.3	19.44	7.3
Tuesday	08.26	7.2	20.59	7.5
Wednesday	09.37	7.4	21.59	7.9

* Tide times given are at Morecambe

THURSDAY

Light cloud and a moderate breeze but should remain dry throughout day. Max temp: 17C

FRIDAY

Light rain in the morning. Heavier rain later in the day. Max temp: 16C

'UNESCO inscription could be taken away'

continued from front

"The disturbance and destruction unquestionably caused by 4x4 vehicles is certainly not in conformity with the values which the Lake District stands for: serenity, harmony, tranquility, nature conservation and traditional rural ways of life," said WHW chairman Stephan Dömpke.

"In its bid for world heritage status the LDNPA used the very attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) that are now being damaged.

"Mass driving of 4x4 vehicles on unpaved roads will inevitably lead to severe and irreversible compacting of the soil.

"As a result, the soil will break up, erosion ditches will form and the roads may become unusable.

"The purpose of world heritage site status is the protection and conservation of sites for which an OUV has been defined.

"Economic, or any other, activities should only be allowed as far as they don't compromise the OUV."

The role of the World Heritage Watch is:

- to support UNESCO in protecting and conserving the WH sites;

- to bring information to the attention of the World Heritage Committee ("UNESCO") which it may not receive from official sources.

- to strengthen the voice of civil society in the procedures of the World Heritage Convention (as called for by UNESCO itself).

Mr Dömpke explained that if action was not taken to preserve the OUV in the Lake District, UNESCO could choose to revoke the inscription.

"The effective protection of the OUV is indeed the key criterion to keep a site on the world heritage list - if the OUV is lost, a site cannot remain on the list," he said.

"If UNESCO should take up the issue and request that the authority stop the degradation caused by 4x4 vehicles, and if the UK government should decide to ignore that, UNESCO can, as a last resort, delete a site from the world heritage list."

Concern for the negative impact of commercial activities like recreational off-roading on the wellbeing of the Lake District countryside and heritage are also rife among those who live in the national park.

The Save The Lake District Campaign has launched a petition to



Above left, a 4x4 on track at Tilberthwaite. Above, WHW chairman Stephan Dömpke. Left, High Tilberthwaite Farm viewed from the air and below, Nick Fieldhouse, from Kankku

"save the Langdale green lanes".

It now has more than 6,000 signatures calling for the LDNPA to impose a traffic regulation order closing green lanes to motor vehicles.

On its website, the group notes an increase in 4x4s in the area from 90 a month in 2008 to an estimated 400 per month in 2017, noting that the routes for these vehicles cut through two National Trust farms: High Tilberthwaite and High Oxenfell.

In a report produced for the campaign, Fritz Groothues said: "The Lake District's key attributes of OUV are centred around three themes: its beauty and harmony, the fusion between the landscape and human activity, and the role it plays in the development of landscape conservation movements.

"All three aspects are being systematically damaged with the consent of the LDNPA."

In April this year, the Gazette reported that hill farmers Glen and Dorothy Wilkinson left their farm as they were no longer able to carry out their jobs at Tilberthwaite

Farm because of the damage caused to an unsealed track that runs through the land.

Speaking at the time, Mr Wilkinson said 4x4s passed through the farm on a daily basis, and said the LDNPA should be closing such roads to recreational off-roaders.

"They have absolutely wrecked the road," he said.

"They have made it impossible for us to carry on with our jobs.

"We have had enough of it so we are getting out. We have given our notice in and we are leaving in November. It is (sad it has come to this)."

Nick Fieldhouse, founder of Windermere-based off-roading company Kankku, argued that 4x4 users had just as much right to use the Lake District as anybody else, and said world heritage status made them more mindful of respecting the landscape.

"UNESCO knew about the 4x4s when they awarded the inscription," he said.

"LDNPA are not unhappy with the activity and they are the people on the ground who manage

the green lanes and know the level of damage being done.

"People need to be aware of other people's opinions. This may not be what some people's idea of a national park should be, but others disagree.

"The world heritage site status means that 4x4 users will amend how they use the Lake District and respect the landscape to fit the status. It is not acceptable for people to go tearing round the green lanes, and as somebody who lives next to one of the routes, I know that is not what happens.

"Using 4x4s is just another way to enjoy the wonderful area, just like walking or paddle boarding."

However, Lord David Clark of Windermere, who was chairman of the Lake District Partnership during the world heritage bid, slammed the damage being done to the national park by commercial 4x4 vehicles, and the lack of action from LDNPA to address the issue.

"I think it is outrageous that the LDNPA are not taking this matter seriously," he said. "They ought to be banning 4x4

off-roading. Sadly though it is all part of the culture at the moment, where the authority encourage commercial activity.

"The World Heritage Site status was granted because of the landscape. It is the duty of the LDNPA to protect that and work for the benefit of the people who live here. These people do not benefit from all the commercialisation.

"I am glad that WHW are looking into this issue, and I think that the officers for the LDNPA should be looking very carefully at what these people are saying.

"I do not think that the Lake District should lose the inscription for this though."

A spokesperson for the LDNPA said: "We are aware of current concerns about certain Lake District National Park unsealed routes, sometimes called 'green roads', including receipt of a petition calling for us to use Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), to stop or limit this use.

"All unsealed routes with public vehicular access rights, including the ones in the Little Langdale, Oxen Fell and Tilberthwaite area, are subject to the same laws as surfaced (tarmac) roads. It would be preferable if vehicles didn't use the routes but applying TRO's is a last resort for us at this stage. We've recorded the current state of these roads and recognise they are out of condition.

"A funded maintenance programme has been agreed and will be delivered this autumn to benefit all users and minimise further damage."

Opinion & Community

Rustling is nothing new

Sheep stealing was reported in Troutbeck (Gazette, August 2, 'Gangs target Lakes farms').

This is nothing new. My grandfather John Wightman began his farming career at Long Greenhead at Troutbeck in the 1890s. He left in 1899 because sheep stealing was rife and lambs for market kept disappearing.

I was told this by mother, but it was also reported in an article about his son, Edmund Wightman, by Joanna Wates, which I believe was printed in the Gazette some years ago.

George Wadsworth
Heversham

Information now missing

PLEASE can someone tell me what has happened to the information which used to be etched on the inner rim of the Mushroom at Scout Scar?

Some of it went missing about two or three years ago and I see another section has recently gone too.

Philip Claxton, Kendal

Slow driving is a hazard

I AM rarely surprised that opinions are expressed that could impact (adversely?) on others from people who admit to having little knowledge of the subject. In fairness to the lady extolling a reduced speed limit from 50mph on the A592 Bowness to Newby Bridge road along Windermere's lakeside, she does admit this (Letters, July 26, 'Limit needs to be lower').

Unlike her, however, I use this road a lot, and I am informed that most of the accidents are shunts, generally caused by someone travelling slowly or erratically. When the road is traffic free, which can occur believe it or not, achieving 50mph safely is not difficult.

I use this road for business and pleasure, and there is nothing more frustrating than travelling behind a car that travels at 20 mph or less, and this is not uncommon. The concentration of vehicles stacking up behind them is an accident waiting to happen, with few opportunities to overtake. In fact, it really does not matter what the speed limit is here as the traffic does, believe it or not, regulate itself.

However, the lady missed the most ludicrous situation along this road and this relates to the numerous coaches that use it, plus double decker buses.

Risk to UNESCO status must focus minds

IT IS barely 13 months since the Lake District National Park achieved World Heritage Status for having landscape of 'outstanding universal value' - but the honour appears to be already at risk.

World Heritage Watch (WHW), a lobbying group which advises the awarding body UNESCO, has claimed 'systematic damage' is being caused to parts of the Lakes by 4x4 off-roaders.

It has suggested in its latest report that the national park was 'violating' its World Heritage status and continued inscription should be dependent upon actions taken by park bosses to remedy the damage caused.

The Westmorland Gazette

COMMENT

This is a worrying development, not least because of the uncompromising language used in the WHW report. However, it is unclear how much notice UNESCO takes of such lobbying.

WHW describes itself as a network of non-governmental organisations and local groups who are committed to their World Heritage sites and who sound an alert whenever dangers threaten them. In that regard, it appears to

be responding to the Save the Lake District Campaign, which has launched a petition to put a stop to the damage being caused to the Langdale area's green lanes by 4x4 vehicles.

This group has reported at least a quadrupling of off-roading activity in the Langdale area between 2008 and 2017, a situation that should be a concern to all those who value the iconic landscape of the Lake District.

That said, the question must be asked what UNESCO knew of these already existent concerns when it was considering the Lake District for World Heritage inscription.

If it did know the extent of off-

roading activity and that it was damaging the landscape, why did it allow the status to be awarded in the first place?

Off-roaders say they have as much right to use the Lake District as anybody else and, perhaps, they have. Yet World Heritage Status has effectively put an extra duty upon them not to cause undue damage to the lanes they use.

Park bosses could use Traffic Regulation Orders to stop or limit off-roading, but currently they consider this a 'last resort'.

Perhaps if the threat of losing World Heritage inscription becomes a real one, they might treat it as a far more urgent matter.

The latter are invariably driven by professionals who are familiar with the journey - the coaches are not and their drivers just leave you speechless at their antics. Perhaps worst are wagons with a six wheel trailer though!

Speed limits are just that - not a requirement to travel at them. I am sure no-one would condone driving at 30mph through a town centre when parked cars and children are about. However, we cannot be regulated through such areas to the 5mph speed you are required to use in a supermarket car park

In conclusion, please do not seek to reduce driving ability and skills even more than exists already.

M. Edwards, Staveley

Why not try volunteering?

WHAT a great article there was in The Westmorland Gazette about volunteering (Podium, July 26, 'Volunteering plays a crucial role in society').

I volunteer with Eden and South Lakeland Credit Union. I joined because I wanted to be able to help people who were struggling.

I've met some interesting people since I joined last October and discovered just how complicated running a community bank is.

For me politics doesn't always provide solutions to people's personal problems. So, rather than just banging on about social injustice, I thought I'd see if there was even a small way I could help someone else.

I chose the Credit Union, because I think a family's finances sometimes need a helping hand rather than a hand out, to help people help themselves. Not to take over, more supporting others, while they find a better way of managing.

I think that applies to most things, for most people, whether it's finances, health, food or life generally. I believe that we like to feel

independent, just supported, while we try to get things right.

There are so many opportunities to volunteer in South Lakeland - for me it was finding one that I thought may give someone hope when they were feeling hopeless.

It's been a learning curve; change, I find happens slowly and sometimes there aren't quick fixes. Mostly people have to fix themselves and they can do that with support. Yet some people simply get lost without it.

So I'd say to anyone thinking of volunteering, give it a go, there may just be someone out there that needs your help. You may not be able to bring about world peace, but you may gain more than you lose.

Hilary Claxton
Board Member, Eden & South Lakeland Credit Union, writing in a personal capacity
Kendal

S. Lakes will be like suburb

IN VIEW of the interest shown by the Gazette for climate change (for example, the July 19 Comment), I follow up my previous remarks on the inability of South Lakeland District Council to have any meaningful input in spite of its public meetings and the concerns of its leader.

China produces twice the greenhouse gases of the USA (often billed as a major sinner, particularly by the Left) and continues to pump out the greenhouse gases CFCs which also destroy the ozone layer.

I still maintain that the major source of world problems is population growth, which although most alarming in Africa, is also a problem in this country. Thus the flood of development in this part of the world, exemplified by the picture in the Gazette of July 19 entitled 'Spadework begins on 110 home Kendal

development'.

The widespread destruction of green fields will certainly not aid climate change in a positive manner.

With the UK population expected to rise by perhaps 20 million in the next half century many more green fields will go and South Lakeland will come to resemble a London suburb and our contribution to a warming planet will be assured.

Kent Brooks, Kendal

Lane benefits

THERE has been a number of comments in the Gazette over past weeks many criticising the introduction of cycle lanes along the A65. Most feel these are a waste of Council Tax payers' money and will be little used.

As a motorist and cyclist, who is also the Chairman of the Kendal and District Cycle Scene club (KDCS), I would making the following observations. We live in an age of poorer health, obesity, fast food etc, with many choosing to use the car rather than walk or cycle.

While it is recognised that times have changed - busy roads, increased traffic, worries about safety of children - perhaps attitudes need to change.

Risk has always been something generations have sensibly dealt with. We don't need lots of rules, regulations and risk assessments but some common sense and advice and maybe support.

If you want to help people get healthier, lose weight and prevent obesity, then encourage them to walk and cycle where they can.

These cycle lanes offer safer routes to school, shops and work premises. Outside of this they offer safe walking, running, cycling for leisure. Disabled users are catered for with wider and smoother paths. They are not perfect, with give way points to allow traffic etc to exit and enter slowing progress, but they are better than what we had.

Shared routes are criticised by some and, of course, there will be some users whose conduct upsets others but, on balance, the positives outweigh any negatives. Think of this as investing in the future of our residents and the generations to come.

You only have to look at the popularity of the 'Go Lakes' tracks to see how progress has been made in the very busy Lake District.

Instead of moaning, why not get involved and help develop safe routes in and around Kendal for all to enjoy?

Steve Warner
Oxenholme

Keep focused

WE'RE all aware of the distractions around us when we're driving, such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorbikes. But how often do we check what potential distractions we have inside our vehicle?

Here are things that could cause a distraction while driving.

- Smoking and vaping. Bear in mind that there are legal restrictions on smoking in vehicles. If you do smoke or vape inside your car, this could be a distraction. What if you drop it? Where would your focus be?

- Technology. As helpful as technology can be, this can also lead to less focus on the road. For example, a sat-nav can tempt you to take a quick glance as you look at the map. To avoid taking your eye off the road, keep your sat-nav out of sight and listen to the instructions rather than looking. It always helps if you plan your route beforehand. If you need to adjust it, pull into a safe place to do so.

- Food and drink. Eating or drinking in your vehicle slows down your reaction time. It's better to take a short break to consume your food; this way you don't have one hand off the steering wheel.

- Phones/radio/CDs. Music

can become a distraction when you've put the volume too high which can prevent you from hearing any key sounds, such as emergency services. Either turn it off or lower the volume so you are still aware of your surroundings.

- Car ancillaries, like indicators, lights, windscreen wipers etc. When we use these while driving and are unfamiliar with the location of the controls, our attention is not 100 per cent on the road. Even worse, we can sometimes take our eyes off the road for a split second. Learn where the controls are to minimise distraction, so you can operate them as safely as possible.

Driving safely requires total concentration - try to minimise any distractions within the car which may affect this. If you do need to make a telephone call or make adjustments to the settings of the vehicle, find somewhere to pull over safely and do it at your leisure.

Richard Gladman
Institute of Advanced Motorists' RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards

Set up a trust

AS THE Centenary of The Great War approaches, I see many local parishes, councils, churches, and residents' groups are looking to provide memorials to the event in the form of plaques, trees, parades and so on.

I wonder if these organisations could come together to pool resources and set up an educational trust to assist young people, the descendants of the combatants, by looking to the future while remembering the past.

Would this be a more constructive, positive and lasting memorial to that generation that gave so much?

M.G. Marvin
Burnside