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75 years of the Glaramara Centre

Following on from 75 years of **Friends of the Lake District** it is the turn of Glaramara in 2010. The largely treeless land was purchased by the Co-Operative Holiday Association (CHA) from the

Leconfield Estate in 1934 and the building was completed in 1935. It was known as the 'Association's new Holiday Hostel and Youth Guest House at Seatoller'. The formal opening before local dignitaries and representatives

of the Association, took place on August 14 of that year. The 'Host and Hostess' 'helped organise evening gatherings in the Common Room (now the main lounge) where songs, games and dancing were the order of the day.

Celebrations in 1960 and 1985.....

Morning prayers were a strong feature of the daily routine.

In 1960, the Association celebrated the **Silver Jubilee** of Glaramara House with a formal Event. The current annex was erected during

1978 and coincided with a successful tree planting scheme on the site (as there has been again in 2009). Again, a formal opening followed with a large marquee on the field.

On Easter Monday 1985, the **Golden Jubilee** was

celebrated at Glaramara House and included organised walks, dancing, games and an Easter Bonnet parade and a Jubilee cake.

Mention must be made of **Revd. TA Leonard** of the CHA, the prime mover behind building Glaramara.

Try a Guided Walk with a difference



Force Crag Mine is situated at the top end of the Coledale Valley, close to Keswick, but can seem 'a million miles away'. Abandoned in 1991, it has a long and interesting history and has only recently been accessible to the public. Restoration of (non-working)

machinery and buildings by the National Trust was as recent as 2004 and the site now has **English Heritage status** as well as being a **site of special scientific interest**. With the current deterioration of water quality in Bassenthwaite Lake concerns

over contaminants from the site are having to be addressed by the Trust, the Environment Agency and other interested bodies.

Contact us for more information on a half or full day guided walk including a tour of the processing plant.



An industrial landscape in the heart of Lakeland

Why not let Glaramara take you on a visit to **Hodge Close Slate Quarry and the Cathedral Quarries at Little Langdale**. The Hodge Close area was worked on a large scale from the 19th century to the early 1960s. Access to the base of the main quarry is gained

via a tunnel hidden at the end of a stream, via a steep scramble or for the more adventurous – **an abseil down the rockface**.

The Cathedral quarry close by is a small network of inter-linked quarries above Little Langdale. The system is best known for its main chamber, which still stands forty

feet in height, and is lit by two windows off the main quarry. The area is well worth a visit and is a sharp contrast to the surrounding lake district countryside. The drive from Glaramara is also a pleasure.

Contact us for more information



You, Your Guest & The Environment

Glaramara hosted an Event in March for members of **Keswick Tourism and the North Lakes Accommodation Providers** aimed at giving hoteliers and guest house owners information on the ever increasing need for environmental awareness as part of business.

Organised by **Nurture Lakeland and**

Bassenthwaite Reflections, the Event included presentations on:

Love Your Lakes

Fix The Fells

The Osprey Project

Energy Saving

Sewage & Septic Tanks

Simple steps to 'going green'

Head of the Love Your Lakes campaign - Ruth Kirk said, "We had a brilliant turn out for the event and

would like to run more workshops in the future. The workshop enabled us to give free practical advice on how accommodation providers can help protect our lakes through the use of phosphate-free cleaning products and help the environment by supporting "visitor payback" schemes."

Photo of delegates hearing a presentation on the Osprey Project



Two Awards within a month

We are pleased to advise that we have been recognised on two quite separate fronts during March. First, we were proud to receive **5 Stars** from the Local Authority as part of the '**Scores on the Doors**'

hygiene ratings for food businesses.

On a separate front we have been working very hard over the past twelve months to improve our environmental performance. From a long list of businesses

awarded Bronze status by **Cumbria Business Environment Network** Glaramara won the **Excellence Award** for this category. We are 'closing in' on Silver Status and hope to confirm this Award in the next newsletter.

Gareth, David & Paul

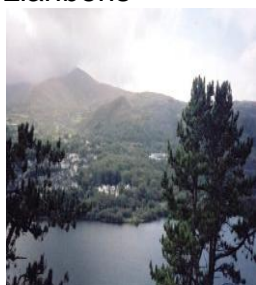


Activity Holidays in Snowdonia

Royal Victoria Hotel



Llanberis



High Ropes



Why not let Glaramara arrange a visit for you to North Wales where you have a choice of superb outdoor activities, and a variety of bars and restaurants to

finish off your day. You will be based in the fine setting of **Llanberis in the foothills of Snowdon.**

As well as the Activities which we run in the Lake

District there are others to enjoy, as detailed below. In the evening you have a choice of hotel or hostel accommodation.

Please contact us for more details

High Ropes, White Water Kayaking, Coasteering...

High Ropes - once on the top of the highest outdoor activity tower in the UK. you are faced with aerial challenge courses including tight rope walks, balance beams and swings jumps.

White water

kayaking - down fast-flowing rapids and rivers. Snowdonia is very popular with white water enthusiasts, with a range of rivers at all grades of difficulty.

Coasteering (sea kayaking) -

takes place within easy distance of Llanberis including the west coast of Anglesey, in the Trearddur Bay area. Why not get out of your boat and cliff jump and swim!

And why not include an Award programme as part of your visit to Glaramara

We are running the John Muir Award at Glaramara in 2010.

This award is open to individuals of all age groups (not just youngsters) with further detail on our website.

Whilst we generally

offer the Award Scheme as part of our activity programmes we are happy to provide information, contacts and resources for you to run the Scheme through your own self-led activities

whilst at Glaramara. Believe us, it is very simple to set up and it may be something slightly different for your group members.

Please contact us for more information.



New Activities Manager for 2010

Graham Derbyshire comes with a great deal of experience as well as technical knowledge, having worked in the Outdoor Activity industry since 1982 as an Instructor and Independent Activity Provider. He holds professional level instructional

qualifications in both **Mountaineering and Caving (MIA and CIC)** and is a member of their relevant Professional Associations.

As an approved **Trainer/Assessor** Graham provides training and assessment for the LCMLA scheme. **Guided Caving Trips** are available for those with some

previous experience.

Graham is a family man living close to Penrith and is making a great impression on both his colleagues and our customers.



'I am very pleased to join Glaramara and look forward to working with its highly skilled and experienced outdoor instructors. I hope I can bring a new dimension to the Activities available to both our loyal customers as well as new ones' – Graham Derbyshire

Joanne 'notches up' 10 years at Glaramara

Not only have we owned Glaramara for a decade, it's the 10th anniversary for, our only original member of staff, **Joanne Weir**. I don't think Joanne would mind us saying that she has a niche role in the business – if there is a problem to sort around the Centre

or a mucky or unpopular job to do, Joanne is your woman! Able to 'turn her hand' to almost everything, she has had a varied career at Glaramara – bedrooms, kitchen, dining room, bar, grounds and 'everything else in between'. From a local farming

family, Joanne is Borrowdale born and bred but now lives in 'the big city' - Keswick - with her partner Mike and their two children.

Glaramara is very grateful to Joanne for her long service and here's to another 10 years for both the Centre and Joanne!



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Training Suite

Christopher Walker – A Tribute

It is impossible to complete this Newsletter without mentioning our friend and colleague, Chris Walker who very sadly died in an avalanche in Glen Coe on 24th February, aged a

mere 29 years. Chris only worked with us for a short period but was extremely popular with our guests as well as our staff. A 'free spirit', he enjoyed life to the full. He travelled to many of the worlds mountaineering hotspots and, yet,

still managed to gain the prestigious MIC qualification. He will not be forgotten.



Future Events in 2010 at Glaramara

23rd May (1.00pm) – the Annual **Glaramara Fell Race** – both runners and spectators welcome. Entry available on the day.

Wine, Food and Guided Walk Weekend

with a professional experienced wine educator. It is aimed at those with only a limited appreciation of wine and will also feature walking under the supervision of our Outdoor Instructors.

Borrowdale's Industrial Heritage Revealed

In partnership with Honister Slate Mine, this weekend involves visits to both the Plumbago wad mine at Seathwaite and the Slate Mine at Honister as well as presentations from local experts combined with winter guided walks. *We have not set dates for either of these Events but if you are a group organiser and feel they may be of interest, please contact us for more details.*

Activity Schedule – we will shortly be revealing dates for Spring and early Summer. Each activity session will be on a first come, first served basis so don't hang around! There will be a range of activities on offer including ghyll scrambles, Via Ferrata and cave exploration. Details on the website.

Hire our facilities:

Hire our Training Suite – set in a building separate from the Centre, the facility is wi-fi enabled and the first floor is suitable for teaching and training as well as providing a venue, with a difference, for meetings, presentations and discussion groups. *Contact us for more details.*

Please see our **Venue Hire page** on our website for examples of what the Glaramara Centre can do for you . From Wedding Receptions to Birthday Parties to Business Meetings we can meet your needs.