



The  
**Lakeland Horticultural Society**

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Now that we are at the end of the operation to clean up the diesel spill which affected our grounds and water courses, I should like to record how pleased we were with the way AMW handled the crisis.

The gardens at Holehird have a national, even international, reputation and have 30,000 visitors a year so the impact from the contamination of our water courses could have been disastrous for us.

Our water features rely on water from the fell flowing through the gardens in a series of pools and cascades eventually running into a tarn full of wildfowl and other wildlife.

Any group dealing less sensitively with the clean up could have made the problem worse, both environmentally and aesthetically.

We were impressed by the speed of your team's response from first being alerted to the problem, by the rapid assessment of the most urgent problems and the measures taken.

Within hours of arrival the team had had a boat out onto the tarn and put booms across both to prevent any possible leak beyond our boundaries and to protect the wildfowl. From then on AMW worked with the Society to minimise the impact and has conscientiously monitored the tanks, tarn and pools for months.

It seemed to us that AMW was consistently diplomatic but straight in working for the client who had caused the spillage, the insurers who were paying the bills, the environmental officers who were also monitoring the problem and ourselves, the ones whose grounds were affected by the contamination.

It also cannot have been easy working with a volunteer workforce such as we have here at Holehird. We all have different responsibilities and do not keep regular hours but we are impressed by the way AMW has kept us in touch with developments throughout and with super-efficiency followed up 'phone calls with written reports. All our officers have been most grateful for your advice and very practical help.

We were warned by the Environment officer that there would be traces of such a spillage for months or even years, but now, after six months, we feel that AMW has done as much remedial work as can be expected and we are happy for them to bring the project to a conclusion.

Margaret Thomas (Chairman)