



**Cumbria**  
Wildlife Trust

# The year's highlights:

2013-2014 Annual Review

## Chairman's introduction



The last year has been a time of both project completions and new starts. Like species in the natural world, projects have arisen, bloomed and ultimately reached the end of their term. In doing so, many have seeded new possibilities – and like new species in evolution, new ideas provide excitement and the chance to take on new challenges. This year has certainly been an exciting time for the Trust.

One of the key achievements of the year is completing the restoration at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve. The sheer scale of the project and huge amount of work to be done seemed daunting when we started 15 years ago. Naturally, proposing dramatic changes met resistance from some, but we held to the vision of what 'could be', and remained dedicated to our goal. Our reward is that wildlife is returning to a place where so much was lost. Eycott Hill presents another opportunity – one where we can

achieve something special for wildlife conservation and upland management, but we recognise that, once again, it may take many years.

In March we celebrated the end of two Trust projects: Uplands for Juniper and Barrow's Wildside. Both were important, yet very different in execution and audience; the former has achieved a great deal to conserve one of our county's iconic upland species of tree, while the latter succeeded in bringing local people closer to wildlife in familiar places – and perhaps more interestingly, in less well known places! These parallel projects highlight the need for ecologists and expert knowledge, but at the same time for the support of the wider community in order to succeed.

It is good to remember that the Trust does not carry out work alone; often it is only by working in partnership with other organisations that we can achieve success. Coronation Meadows has brought all 47 individual Wildlife Trusts



▲ Trust Director, Peter Bullard (far right), led a guided walk to mark the county's first Coronation Meadow at Piper Hole

Photo: Michelle Waller

together, and in July 2013 we enjoyed an open day and guided walk to mark Cumbria's first Coronation Meadow at Piper Hole, near Ravenstonedale. The event was well attended and the sun shone, accentuating the colour and beauty of native wildflowers.

It is difficult to pick out and highlight particular items in a year so rich in success, but I would like, in particular to thank everybody who has given so generously (in time, effort and money) to our appeals throughout the year. Donations of money have enabled us to secure grants; your letters helped us to petition for Marine Conservation Zones; and your gifts of time have enabled us to achieve a great amount of practical conservation work across our nature reserves. Now we are looking ahead to next year, and I am certain it will be as exciting and important for wildlife conservation as this year has been.

**Anne Powell**

## A word from our President



It is increasingly apparent that the environment, in its widest sense, is one of the most important economic attributes for Cumbria. This is true whether it is from the perspective of the quality of life of those who live here, or as the economic foundation of our tourist industry, which probably underpins more jobs in the county than any other economic sector.

This has become very clear to me as I have recently become chairman of the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership.

As well as having economic importance, the extent and quality of the natural environment means our priorities are sometimes different from others in England.

Cumbria Wildlife Trust plays a very important role in this, and while focussing on our own particular activities is obviously a priority, this wider function is in its own way just as important and we should not overlook it.

**Lord Inglewood**  
Hutton-in-the-Forest

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Our goal is a Cumbria rich in wildlife and valued by all. To achieve it, we need nature reserves as wildlife havens, but we also have to safeguard species and habitats throughout the county. We're doing this by working with partners, including farmers and landowners, to create a Living Landscape.

Throughout 2013 we worked especially in Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) and a Nature Improvement Area (NIA). The Trust is at the forefront, providing the co-ordinating secretariat for a Cumbria LNP that spans the whole county, and we're also collaborating with a Northern Uplands LNP that covers the hills of Northumbria, the North Pennines and the Central Pennines, and both an LNP and an NIA in Morecambe Bay.

Within the Morecambe Bay NIA, the Trust is focussing on a three-year project to improve and connect the area's special wetland, limestone grassland and woodland habitats, as well as inspiring community action and supporting

sustainable farming, woodfuel production and wildlife tourism. The Trust hosts the NIA Grassland Adviser, who's been working with land managers to restore, maintain and enhance over 57 hectares of species-rich grassland including Kirkhead, Kendal Fell and Holme Stinted Pasture. Our nature reserves at Latterbarrow, Brown Robin and Hutton Roof Crag add to the overall pattern of connected habitats, and have benefitted from measures such as seed re-introduction and winter scrub control as part of the restoration and management programme.

Our Meadow Life project is also contributing to the Cumbria LNP and our goal of a creating a Living Landscape by restoring hay meadows in several parts of the county. Much has already been achieved during the first phase of this three-year project: 47 hectares of meadow have been improved or restored and 11,000 plug plants have been planted – all with an enormous contribution from volunteers.

Meadows have also been a national theme. In the summer of 2013, the Coronation Meadows initiative was launched by HRH the Prince of Wales to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. The idea was to identify a flagship meadow in each county and then collect the seed and use it to create new meadows, so restoring lost habitat. Piper Hole meadow, near Ravenstonedale was selected as Cumbria's flagship meadow, with the first receptor site at Carsa Brow, near Orton. Our Director, Peter Bullard, is leading a nation-wide project on behalf of the Wildlife Trusts, and with our partners PlantLife and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, we've been seeking funding for a three-year programme that will create a further 300 hectares of flower-rich meadow across the whole country. As we go to press we're delighted to hear that our application to Biffa Awards has been successful.

► *Piper Hole meadow, Cumbria's flagship Coronation Meadow.*  
Photo: Michelle Waller



Cumbria is, of course, an upland county and our fells are a cherished area of wild habitat. Those uplands also provide important 'ecosystem services' beyond their familiar contribution to food production and outdoor recreation. Their peaty soils and mires are a major store of, and sink for, atmospheric carbon, and by retaining rainwater and slowing run-off they also help to mitigate flooding. For the past three years the Trust's Upland Wetlands project has been restoring such peatlands, and we're delighted that it has now been funded until April 2015.

As the Chairman notes in her introduction, the Uplands for Juniper project has given us new insight into the needs of an iconic upland habitat. We have a particular responsibility because half the nation's juniper woods are in Cumbria. Thanks to the project

- ▶ *Juniper is an important species in the Cumbrian uplands; one which must be conserved for the future through targeted survey and restoration work*

we now have the most comprehensive map of juniper woods ever made, 6,400 trees have been planted at eight sites; and management plans have been drawn up. Juniper in Cumbria has suffered many decades of decline, partly due to over-grazing, and it now faces a new threat from disease, but we're better placed than ever to give it a better future.

Building a Living Landscape in Cumbria can only be done step-by-step, but in all these ways the Trust is advancing on this vitally important road!



▲ *Oblong-leaved sundew can be found in thriving wetlands*

After almost 15 years of restoration to reverse much of the past damage on over 300 hectares of raised bog, the long-term health of Foulshaw Moss and Meathop Moss nature reserves is now secure. Work to remove thousands of non-native conifer trees, block a myriad of drains and create cell bunds so that peat can accumulate again is now complete.

Now, *Sphagnum* and cotton grass are spreading back across the site; key insect species such as the white-faced darter dragonfly, bog bush cricket and large heath butterfly are increasing; grasshopper and sedge warblers are breeding well and stonechats, tree pipits and other species are all benefitting from the habitat improvements. For the first time, ospreys have settled at Foulshaw Moss, and while they did not breed successfully in 2013, as we went to press we had the good news of chicks in 2014.

- ▶ *The completion of major restoration work at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve means a variety of insects, birds and plants can benefit from the habitat improvements*





For many years the Trust has been hoping to establish an upland nature reserve in the north of the county, and when Eycott Hill came on the market in 2013 we sprang into action. This outstanding 216-hectare area near Mungrisdale has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on both geological and biological grounds. It's a complex of rocky hills and basins, the former with species-rich grasslands and the latter supporting a series of peat mires. Although damaged by past over-grazing, we know that it can be restored as an outstanding series of upland habitats. A 'bio-blitz' held in June recorded an impressive 362 species, and juniper has already been planted as part of our plan to create a rich mosaic of heath, mire, grassland and scrub woodland. Our aim is for it to become a showcase of upland management for the benefit of wildlife.

◀ *Trust staff and volunteers have already started planting juniper at Eycott Hill*

The Trust, however, does not have the funds for a major purchase of this kind. We're immensely grateful to the Esmée Fairbairn Finance Fund who stepped in and bought the land on our behalf. They've given us two years to raise the money to acquire it from them, and thanks to the generosity of members and supporters a significant amount has already been raised towards this goal. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded us £52,000 to support the development of our application for a grant that will ensure the purchase and subsequent restoration of the site, and we're on course to submit that application in the summer of 2014.

Elsewhere, steady but vital work has been taking place on our nature reserves. In the west of the county, cattle have been introduced to help improve biodiversity and manage the sand dune grassland on Eskmeals Dunes Nature Reserve. This small herd will graze year-round to reduce the level of the grasses and allow the wild flowers that grow in the dune habitat to flourish.

Funding of £247,099 has also been secured to undertake habitat improvement works at South Walney and Foulney Island nature reserves, as well as Natural England's North Walney National Nature Reserve thanks to a successful bid to the WREN Biodiversity Action Fund led by the Morecambe Bay Partnership. A variety of techniques – including scrub control, removal of invasive plant species, grazing, and the creation of wet dune slacks and wader scrapes – will be used to gradually restore these specialist dune habitats.

We were also sharply reminded in the winter of 2013-2014 of nature's powers! The storms that caused havoc across the UK hit South Walney Nature Reserve in January. On the western side, 20 to 30 metres of land along 150 metres of coastline washed away to reveal clay beds, while the Spit, where you're most likely to see grey seals, has been remodelled into small islands. Gull Meadow was covered with two feet of shingle and sand, damaging the electric fence erected in

2012 to protect the breeding lesser black-backed gulls, and the only road to the nature reserve now floods at very high tide. Habitats were also reshaped at the nearby Foulney Island Nature Reserve, and although this meant some changes in our detailed management plans, it also provides opportunities. Our work to protect nesting birds and enhance habitats is continuing in the changed landscape.

Elsewhere, a number of nature reserves, including Drumburgh Moss, Grubbins Wood, Eskmeals Dunes, Augill Pasture and Waitby Greenriggs, have received new information signs and leaflets which feature maps alongside details of the history, species to be found and habitats to discover. Combined with the launch of new downloadable audio trails for Grubbins Wood, Hutton Roof Crag and Clint's Quarry nature reserves, visitor experience of these special places is now even better.

▶ *The winter storms had a dramatic impact at South Walney Nature Reserve*





▲ *We urgently need to protect our marine habitats.*  
Photo: Paul Naylor

It's common knowledge that many of the world's seas have been damaged by pollution and over-fishing and their wildlife has been seriously depleted. The good news is that over many decades – and especially recently – efforts have been made to restore the situation, even if progress has not been as rapid as we conservationists would like.

There's now international agreement that we need an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas not just around the United Kingdom but throughout the North-East Atlantic. This network of European Marine Sites (EMSs) will take in existing Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) alongside our national coastal Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and a new series of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

In Cumbria the seagrass meadows found off our South Walney and Foulney Island nature reserves lie within the Morecambe Bay EMS. Seagrasses – the only flowering plants able to live in the sea and pollinate

while submerged – are nationally rare and we're pleased that, partly because of pressure from environmental groups, the approach to fisheries management within the EMSs has been reviewed by the Government. For the first time activities such as bait digging, which can cause damage to this important and sensitive habitat, have been prohibited.



▲ *It's important that legislation protects habitats like these nationally rare seagrass meadows.* Photo: Paul Naylor

However, there's a big gap to fill, and like all Wildlife Trusts we warmly supported the Marine and Coastal Access Act of 2009, which provided a legal basis for MCZs in England and Wales. We welcomed

the selection of 127 candidate zones and were therefore disappointed when the Government decided to proceed in stages and designate only 27 of them in the first tranche, announced in November 2013. However, two of these sites are in the Irish Sea, and we're delighted that one is on the Cumbrian coast, stretching from St Bees Head to the mouth of the Ravenglass Estuary. We now await further designations, and will continue to press for a truly comprehensive, scientifically valid network of MCZs.

To carry this vital work forward we need expert staff, and we were thrilled when we heard in February that the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation had awarded a grant of £110,000 towards the North West Trusts' Marine Conservation Officer post and our marine programme for the next three years. Working in partnership with the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside and Cheshire Wildlife Trust, we will now be able to continue shared conservation projects that will protect wildlife in the Irish Sea.



## April

▶ A new audio trail is launched for Hutton Roof Crags Nature Reserve. Guiding you through a fascinating variety of habitats, there are 10 tracks to listen to along the route, which tell you all about the wildlife and habitats to see along the way.

## May

▶ Training for dwarf willow surveyors starts with a walk over the Wainwright summits of Coniston Old Man and Brim Fell.

▶ Hundreds head to St. Bees for the Trust's festival of marine life and enjoy a host of marine-themed events and activities, including the popular sand sculpture competition.

◀ *Sunshine, sand and sea set the scene for the 2013 Cross Bay Walk*

## June

▶ The Trust hosts a tea party and guided walk at Plumgarths during national Volunteers Week as a thank you to volunteers for their valuable hard work and commitment to the Trust.

## July

▶ Over 200 people celebrate Cumbria's first Coronation Meadow at Piper Hole at our open day and guided walk event.

▶ Over 100 walkers hit the sands to raise money for the Trust's annual Cross Bay Walk event, led by the Queen's Guide to the Sands, Cedric Robinson. In total, **£4,165** is raised.

## August

▶ Families enjoy a wildlife safari at Humphrey Head Nature Reserve! Nets are dipped in the tidal channels and everyone makes the most of a guided walk to discover the geology, habitats and wildlife.

## September

▶ Following in the footsteps of Alfred Wainwright, Trust members join other charities and organisations to walk sections of the Pennine Journey from Settle to Hadrian's Wall and back to Settle, raising funds for the Trust in sponsorship for their nine-mile section of the walk.

## October

▶ The Trust's Annual General Meeting is held at Hutton-in-the-Forest. Venue hosts Lord and Lady Inglewood also present Trust Director, Peter Bullard, with a cheque for **£642** after funds were raised by a theatre production held in their grounds. A raffle on the night increases the total to **£979**.

## November

▶ A full-time warden post returns to South Walney Nature Reserve, thanks to funding from WREN.

## December

▶ A two-month exhibition of watercolour paintings opens at the Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal. Inspired by Cumbria's hay meadows, the paintings were created by artists who took part in workshops organised as part of the Meadow Life Project.

▶ A total of **£54,756.78** is raised towards the Trust's purchase of Eycott Hill thanks to generous donations through the Big Give Christmas Challenge appeal.

## January

▶ Skelton Squirrels Wildlife Watch Group receives a well-deserved Commended place in the Watch Group of the Year competition.

## February

▶ The Trust assesses the impact of the winter storms and flooding at South Walney Nature Reserve, which not only have a dramatic impact on the landscape, but reveal some interesting finds: massive deer antlers and some strange, shingle-filled channels, thought to be medieval, dug in the clay.

## March

▶ Winning the Environmental Award of the Year 2014 at the Love Barrow Community Awards is the perfect finale for the end of Barrow's Wildside – the Trust's hugely successful three-year project to transform landscapes and inspire the local community about wildlife.

### Trust volunteer



The past year has been my first full year as a volunteer with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, and has turned out to be far more rewarding than I had imagined when first deciding that conservation work was the direction I wanted to go in after taking early retirement two years ago. Volunteering with the Trust can be as physically challenging as you want it to be, and interesting work is available for all ages and abilities. Highlights of the year for me have been involvement in the early stages of work on the prospective new nature reserve at Eycott Hill and working with the Meadow Life team. For me, volunteering is a great way to keep physically fit, to meet new people and to improve habitats for nature conservation. What could be better?

Malcolm Rogers

### Meadow Life Project Officer



It's been a busy but exciting year for the Meadow Life project. With the crucial help of over 40 practical volunteers and 22 volunteer surveyors, we managed the fantastic achievement of working to restore 47 hectares of Cumbrian upland hay meadows and to survey 40 meadow sites. Our end-of-season volunteer event proved to be very well attended and it was a fantastic way to say thank you for the hard work and commitment of all of our Meadow Life volunteers. Helped along by the wonderful weather we experienced last summer, our painting days, guided walks, 'learn to scythe days', and workshops in primary schools throughout Cumbria were very well received, and proved a fabulous way of introducing people to this stunning habitat so iconic of our Cumbrian countryside.

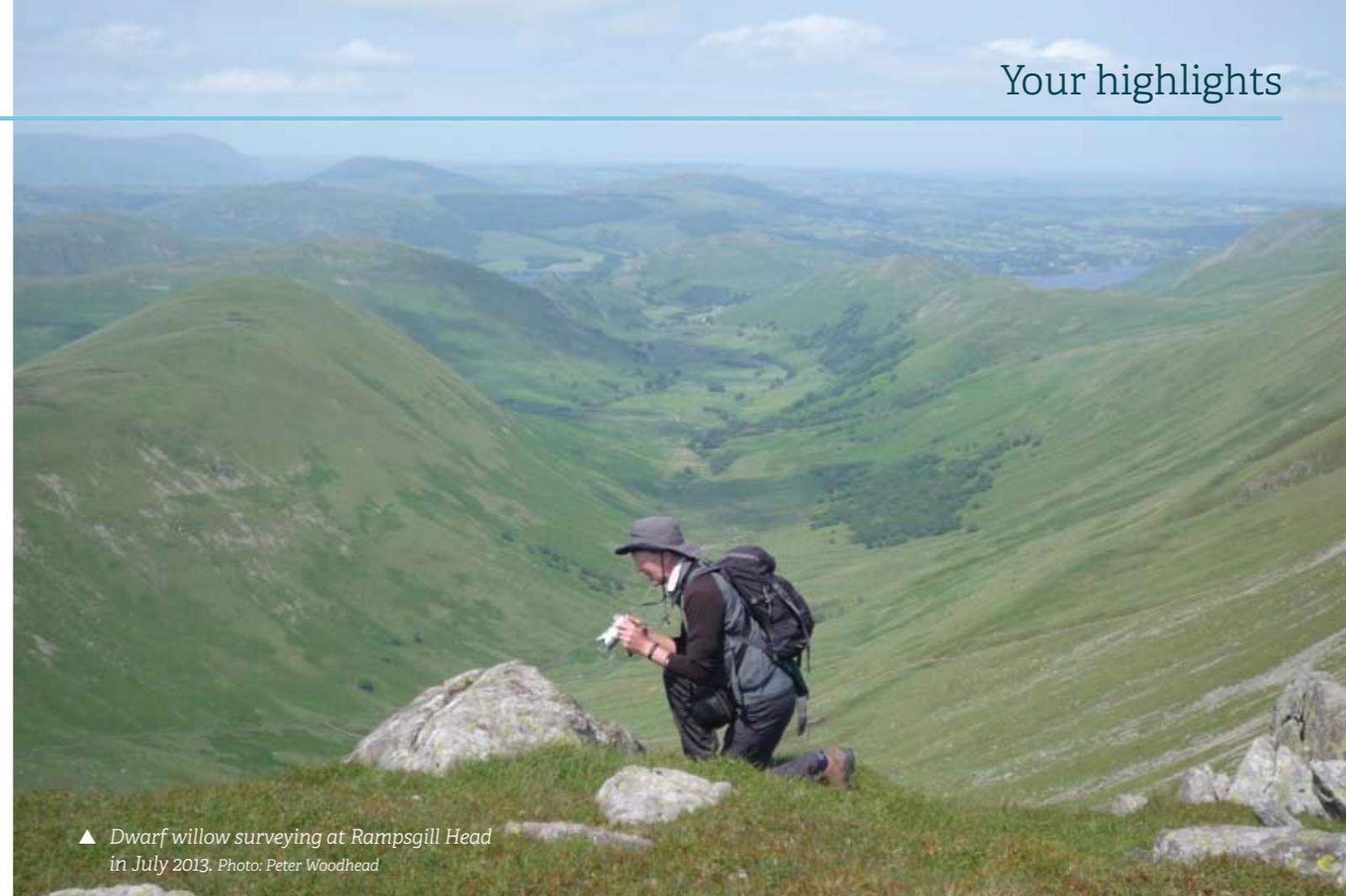
Claire Green

### Conservation Officer



A real highlight has been the team of fell-walking volunteers who've been out searching Wainwright summits in order to map the distribution and abundance of the tiny plant, dwarf willow (*Salix herbacea*). This has been no mean feat – as its name suggests, dwarf willow is one of our smallest native trees and can be only an inch tall, even when it's tens, if not hundreds, of years old! The team has so far walked close to 100 summits; covering over 500 miles and climbing 33,000m (or the height of Everest – and then some!) in the process. Cumbria is the last remaining stronghold in England for this upland speciality, which is found mostly above 600 metres and therefore often only found near to the summit of the higher 'Wainwrights' – the fells listed in Alfred Wainwright's 'Pictorial Guides to the Lake District'. Dwarf willow's niche on cold mountaintops means this survey could help measure the effects of global warming, as well as the effects of future management changes in the Lake District hills.

Sarah Johnson



▲ Dwarf willow surveying at Rampsgill Head in July 2013. Photo: Peter Woodhead

## Inspiring people

The future protection of wildlife depends on inspiring and training people to follow a career in conservation. In partnership with the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside, the Trust has hosted four trainee marine graduates each year for the last three years. After starting in May, the graduates began their work-based training in marine conservation and community engagement. They've been extremely busy undertaking ecological surveys of important marine species and habitats; participating in bird identification workshops; working in schools to educate children on the impact of marine litter; campaigning for Marine Conservation Zones; and delivering a wide range of public engagement events, including planning for the Trust's Marine Conference and organising our Beached Art event.

2013 has also seen the launch of a new placement scheme with students from the University of Cumbria. Two students completing courses in Wildlife and Media, and Animal Conservation Science have gained placements with the Trust, which provides the ideal opportunity for them to



▲ *An exciting find! Many community and educational events have been hosted thanks to the Barrow's Wildside project*

get involved in a broad range of activities and gain 'on-the-job' experience. The overall aim of the work placement scheme is to help improve their job prospects after graduating from university.

Barrow's Wildside – our project to highlight the importance of the urban environment for wildlife and its connection to the community –

has reached its third and final year with enormous success. Green spaces such as grass verges have been improved by volunteers planting wildflower plugs; training has included courses in tree and wildflower identification; and whale and dolphin surveys have taken place at South Walney Nature Reserve. Local people have also been enjoying a substantial programme of guided walks, talks and family events – July's Barrow's Wildlife Bonanza at Barrow Park was the ideal occasion for families to learn about and celebrate their local wildlife. Schools too have enjoyed workshops and students from Furness Academy have been getting involved in practical tasks such as beach cleans.

Meadow Life – the Trust's hay meadows project to restore and recreate one of the county's rarest habitats – is also having a direct impact on the wider community. Over 20 volunteers have surveyed 40 meadow sites during the summer of 2013, and 47 hectares of meadow has either received green hay, brush harvested seed, or been plug-planted

with native wildflowers. Our partners at HMP Haverigg are also making a much-welcomed contribution to our planting efforts, and have so far produced over 16,000 plugs, thanks to parts of the prison farms being made available to produce hay meadow plants from seed. In turn, two prisoners involved in the project have used the experience to gain levels 1 and 2 City & Guilds qualifications. As part of the project's community and education work, 31 workshops have been delivered in 17 primary schools across the county, teaching children about hay meadows and their importance, with the opportunity to sow and grow their own hay meadow plants. Guided walks, informative talks, scything training days, painting and photography days have ensured an action-packed programme of events.

Volunteers are invaluable to all aspects of work undertaken by the Trust; from office administration to monitoring species, practical conservation to surveying, and events to education, much less would be achieved across

the county if it wasn't for the hard work and commitment of volunteers. Local Support Groups continue to provide a huge amount of support in delivering a vast and wide range of interesting and informative events, including visits to nature reserves and summer walks. Penrith and Ullswater Local Support Group's walk at Lamonby also collected donations towards the purchase of Eycott Hill. A host of evening talks have also been organised, such as Sedbergh and North West Cumbria Local Support Group's talks on 'Our disappearing swifts' – all of which continue to raise much-needed funds for the Trust.

Wildlife Watch groups form the Trust's junior membership and are where children enjoy a wide range of wildlife and environmental activities delivered by the group's volunteer Leaders. 2013 saw the launch of a new Wildlife Watch group, Skelton Squirrels, which attracts 20 children who have a superb time den building, gardening for wildlife and making a variety of arts and crafts – in fact any activities the children suggest!



▲ *Over 20 volunteers have received training for meadow surveys*

## Supporters of Cumbria Wildlife Trust

The many achievements in the year would not have been possible without generous and wide-ranging financial assistance from the Trust's supporters. Thanks go to individual members, corporate members, donors, grant-giving organisations and legators. On the right are details of some of those who have supported the Trust's various projects.

*Donations were also received from many individuals towards a large number of projects and nature reserves. Many members generously supported a number of special appeals, including one to raise match funding used to secure grants, at a multiple of ten times the match funding contributed.*

## Grant and donations income

### Barrow's Wildside

Access to Nature (BIG Lottery and Natural England)  
Barrow Neighbourhood Forum  
Barrow Wildlife and Heritage Group  
The Hadfield Trust

### Coronation Meadows

Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

### Eycott Hill

Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust  
Cumbria Wildlife Trust members  
Heritage Lottery Fund

### Irish Sea

Esmée Fairbairn  
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

### Local Nature Partnership

Co-op Community Fund  
Defra  
Eden District Council  
Natural England

### Marine Heritage Skills for the Future

Heritage Lottery Fund

### Meadow Life

Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust  
Heritage Lottery Fund  
The Wildflower Society

### Nature Reserves

Barrow Borough Council  
Carillion  
Cumbria Wildlife Trust members  
Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust  
Defra  
Environment Agency  
Forestry Commission  
Heritage Lottery Fund  
Low Wood Bay Resort Hotel & Marina  
Natural England  
The Old School House  
SITA Trust

### North West Living Seas

Cheshire Wildlife Trust  
Cumbria Community Foundation  
Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside Wildlife Trust  
Midland Hotel  
Wildlife Trust members

### Red Squirrel project

Furness Building Society

### Uplands for Juniper

Cumbria Wildlife Trust members  
SITA Trust  
The Wainwright Society  
WREN

### Unrestricted

Furness Building Society

### Upland Wetlands

Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust  
Defra  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts  
SITA Trust

## Corporate members during the year

### Gold members

Booths Supermarkets  
Haven Holidays  
Lyon Equipment  
United Utilities

### Silver members

H&H Reeds  
Studsvik UK Ltd

### Bronze members

Center Parcs  
The Cumbria Grand Hotel  
Eco-Tech Systems  
Greg Thompson Quality Landscapes and Treecare  
Hesketh Ecology  
Rathbone Brothers plc  
Ropax Ltd  
Tarmac  
Veritas Financial Planning

### Standard members

Aggregate Industries, Alan Air Media Services,  
The Castle Green Hotel, Choice Hotels,  
The Daffodil Hotel, English Lakes Ice Cream,  
Highgate Veterinary Clinic, Holker Hall,  
Kingfisher Ground Services, Lakeland Limited,  
Langdale Hotel and Spa, LightBringer Essences,  
Pure Leisure Group, Stringers Brewery,  
Sykes Cottages, Wildroof Landscapes.

### Complimentary members

Cumbria Waste Management  
Furness Building Society  
James Cropper  
Lakeland Radio  
Park Cliffe Holiday Park  
Vine House Farm

Our aim is to stand up for wildlife, create wildlife havens and raise environmental awareness. However, our work is always limited by the amount of money we can raise and we need to keep our expenditure under control.

The Trust's income for the year to 31 March 2014 was over £2.3 million. This was almost £1 million less than in the previous year, which was abnormally high due to grants for the extensive work by subcontractors at Foulshaw, Meathop and Drumburgh Mosses. Accordingly, expenditure was also significantly lower than last year and totalled £2.2 million.

Following a long period of difficult economic conditions, during which membership subscriptions had been falling, the trend appears to have reversed. Although the increase was relatively modest, as a proportion of

total income it was more pronounced due to the almost £1 million reduction in income from other sources.

Restricted funds increased by £55,000 during the year. This includes donations from you, the members, particularly for the Eycott Hill fund. The Trust's restricted funds will help with the many conservation projects we are working on during 2014/15 and beyond, not least the purchase of Eycott Hill. Funds which have been designated by the Trustees for specific purposes grew by £74,000 in the year. These funds will help to ensure that the Trust's work continues to flourish.

The Trust recognises the invaluable contribution of its members, both financially and through working as volunteers in a wide variety of ways. Without you, we would achieve so much less.

## Trustees' statement

These figures are extracted from the statutory accounts which were approved by the Trustees on 10 July 2014. The full statutory Annual Report and Financial Statements, on which the auditors, Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP, gave an unqualified report, will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and submitted to the Charity Commission. These extracts may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information the full statutory accounts should be consulted together with the Auditors' report and the Trustees' Report. Copies of these may be obtained from the Trust's Registered Office at Plumgarths, Crook Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 8LX.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees' by:

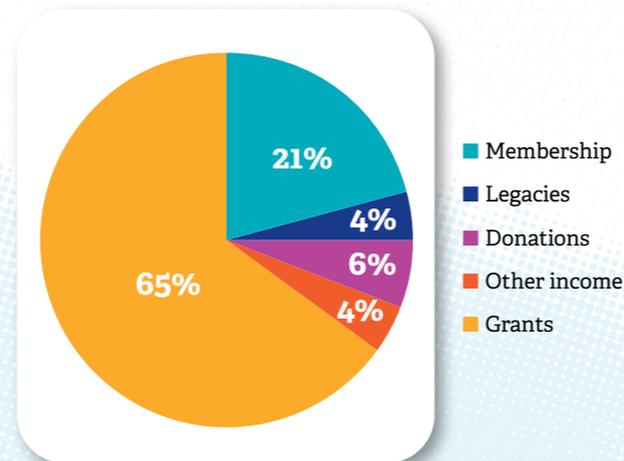


**Anne Powell**

**John Farmer**

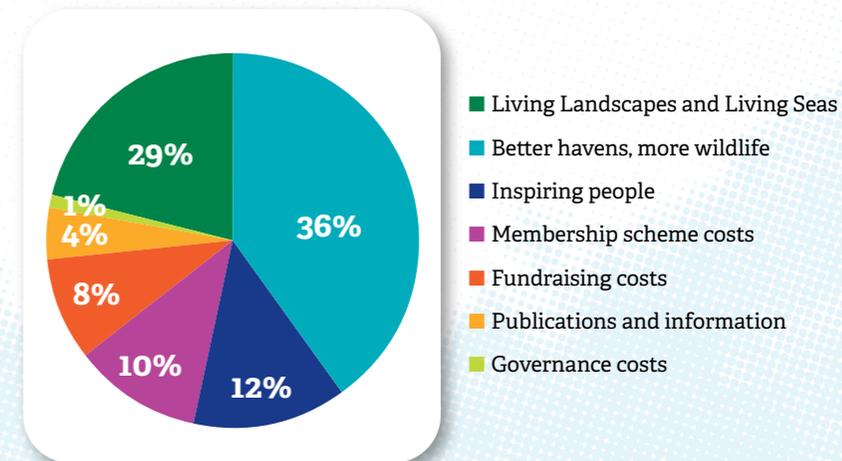
## Income

Income in the year ended 31 March 2014



## Expenditure

Expenditure in the year ended 31 March 2014



## Legacies

A legacy gift is the final and often the most significant gift any of us make. During the year the Trust was grateful to receive legacies from **William Poole, Neville Birkett, Auriel Mason, Evelyn Allday, Eileen Wallace, Dorothy Finch, Margaret Coupland** and **Ronnie Weightman**.

## In memoriam

The Trust is indebted to the many individuals who contribute so much to the success of our organisation and who have given so much in their lifetime.

**Sadly, a number of well-known members died during the year:**

### **Mrs Jennifer Newton of Hornby**

Jennifer was a county grasshopper recorder by the age of 13, and went on to become an outstanding naturalist with a special interest in invertebrates, especially spiders. Jennifer surveyed a number of our nature reserves, including Hutton Roof Crags and Burns Beck Moss to identify a range of rare and threatened spiders and other insects. Jennifer was awarded an MBE for her services to conservation in 2007.

### **Professor Mike Delany of Brampton**

Michael was a member for over 30 years and became a Trustee during that time. Michael was a professor at the University of Bradford, when Conservation Manager, David Harpley was a student. David remembers Michael as a quietly spoken but very knowledgeable man who passed enthusiasm onto his students.

### **Dr Neville Birkett of Kendal**

Neville was a founder member of the Trust and a member of the Council in the 1960s. He enjoyed a life-long interest in natural history and was a fellow of the Royal Entomological Society. Neville made a number of discoveries, including a midge never seen before in Britain. Over 70 years he built up a collection of over 20,000 butterflies, moths and other insects.

### **Juliet Frankland of Ravenstonedale**

Juliet was a longstanding and committed member of the Trust. She was recognised as a world expert on fungi and was President of the British Mycological Society for many years. She published over 80 scientific papers and wrote a definitive book on the subject. Both Juliet and her husband Raven were also farmers and early ambassadors of traditional hay meadow management. Their meadows at Piper Hole and Bowber Head were exemplary, and this dedication was recognised by Piper Hole becoming Cumbria's Coronation Meadow.

### **Marjorie Guthrie of Ayside**

Marjorie was an energetic member and former Trustee with an interest in the micro fauna of ponds and lakes. Marjorie was a university lecturer and biology teacher, and author of *Animals of the Surface Film* – a natural history handbook of the creatures inhabiting the outermost layer of ponds and lakes. She was also a committed volunteer and spent time assessing our nature reserves and leading guided walks. For several years Marjorie was also Chair of the Education Committee.

### **Tessa Wilson of Kendal**

Tessa was an amateur botanist who recognised the special flora at Waitby Greenriggs railway cutting, and she became an instrumental figure in the site becoming a Cumbria Wildlife Trust nature reserve in 1981. Tessa was dedicated to the conservation of wildflowers and was an active recorder for the *Flora of Cumbria* – the definitive book about wildflowers in the county.



Cumbria is famous for its uplands, and securing the future of Eycott Hill as a nature reserve is a key priority for the coming year.

We hope to receive funding for the purchase and ambitious restoration of this wonderful upland site between Keswick and Penrith.

The major programme of works at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve will continue with a new focus on making the site more accessible to visitors, whilst new interpretation and leaflets will provide information about the restoration and some of the species to be found as a result. Monitoring the habitat creation works put in place will remain a key part of our management of the site.

Our goal to push for a coherent network of Marine Conservation Zones will be an on-going priority for the Trust as we encourage people to understand why they're important and how they can be protected. Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, we will also start a new marine training programme and recruit four trainees who will gain invaluable work-based experience in marine conservation.

Projects to conserve upland wetlands, red squirrels, dwarf willow and hay meadows will continue to be delivered, and we're delighted to be leading an exciting new project to help create Coronation Meadows across northern England. Priorities established for seeking new funding are a project in the Westmorland Dales, conserving montane habitats, and a woodland project with a focus on the important ash populations in Cumbria.

The Trust will continue to take a leadership role in the process of establishing a Local Nature Partnership, and also work to deliver Nature Improvement Areas in Cumbria. At Gosling Sike Farm the next stage of our ambitious plans to create an environment centre on the farm will focus on how we can raise funds, and improved access facilities will be put in place. The Trust will further reduce its carbon footprint by installing a wood pellet boiler at its headquarters, replacing storage heaters and an old oil boiler.

**Peter Bullard, Director**



## Cumbria Wildlife Trust: 2013-2014

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Cumbria Wildlife Trust is the only voluntary organisation devoted solely to the conservation of the wildlife and wild places of Cumbria. The Trust stands up for wildlife, creates wildlife havens and seeks to raise environmental awareness. Formed in 1962, the Trust now cares for over 40 nature reserves, works to protect endangered habitats and species such as peat bogs and red squirrels and helps adults and children to discover the importance of the natural world.



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