



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

The year's highlights:

2014-2015 Annual Review

Chairman's introduction



There are a great number of conservation organisations working to protect species and habitats at local, national and international levels.

They all have different visions and missions but we summarise our purpose as: 'Cumbria Wildlife Trust is the only voluntary organisation devoted solely to the conservation of the wildlife and wild places of Cumbria'. This is our vision for a Cumbria rich in wildlife, valued by all. Our mission, therefore, is to create Living Landscapes and Living Seas for future generations.

We need a strategic approach because the challenge is vastly greater than what we can accomplish, especially in these times of financial stringency. Also, it is essential for the Trust to work to a Five Year Plan, where specific objectives lead to strategies and long-term programmes of work. To do this effectively, the Trust must work

in partnership with other organisations, land owners and agencies, and support a network of volunteers whose role is vital in achieving success and to whom we are truly grateful.

This year, an important priority has been to secure Eycott Hill as a nature reserve, which has been achieved thanks to the support of members and generous grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), WREN, Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation and Banister Charitable Trust. We are now presented with an exciting opportunity to restore this special upland site between Keswick and Penrith, and demonstrate how uplands can be managed so that wildlife can flourish.

We have also been, and will remain, committed to Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) and the urgent need to establish a coherent network of these protected areas in the Irish Sea. Our objective has



▲ *Dr. Tavis Potts was just one of many speakers at our Irish Sea Marine Conference in April 2014*

been to inform people and encourage them to support marine protection by responding to the Government's consultation. To receive so many letters calling for the designation of Allonby Bay and West of Walney as MCZs highlights growing public support for conservation of the sea as well as the land.

The Irish Sea Marine Conference in April was a particular highlight of the year, with inspirational speakers and delegates united in a desire to see our

seas safeguarded for the future. This was made possible thanks to the Skills for the Future programme, funded by HLF, which enables up to six trainees each year to gain work-based experience in marine conservation, including organising the hugely successful conference! With two new conservation apprenticeships also starting in 2014, it is with great pleasure that I can reflect on the last year and be proud of the expansion in training across the organisation.

The variety of projects we undertake (including upland wetlands, dwarf willow and hay meadows etc.) make real contributions to large-scale restoration, mapping and habitat creation. However, there is (and will always be) much more work to be done, so I look forward to the next year knowing it will be just as exciting as the news of osprey chicks this year but aware that there is a long way to go before we can relax knowing all is safe!

Anne Powell

A word from our President



The last year has seen real progress for Cumbria Wildlife Trust, and in particular the completion of the acquisition of Eycott Hill near Berrier,

which is an important site as well as a strategic area for the Trust.

Clearly we do not acquire land for its own sake – not least because land ownership brings with it a range of responsibilities and problems, and expenditure. However, where we

feel there is a positive case from our perspective we are open to doing so, as in this instance.

In a world where immediate financial problems appear to dominate so much of the news, the importance of wildlife – and our responsibilities towards it on behalf of both the present and future generations – must not be forgotten. We won't!

Lord Inglewood
Hutton-in-the-Forest

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Our vision to create, conserve and connect wildlife-rich places in both rural and urban areas of Cumbria to form a Living Landscape is at the very heart of everything we do. To accomplish this we work in collaboration with a number of different organisations and groups, including Government agencies, other charities and local landowners, as well as local businesses and communities. Often, this is through the Local Nature Partnership (LNP), with the Trust playing a central role and providing the secretariat for Cumbria.

In 2014 we launched a new five-year project to improve, regenerate and protect coastal wildlife habitats in the sand dunes around Barrow-in-Furness. Working with the Morecambe Bay Partnership and Natural England, with funding from WREN, practical restoration is now well underway. At our South Walney Nature Reserve, the first phase of the grassland restoration has been completed to benefit specialist dune plants including the unique Walney geranium, with excess material used to create 1km of bunds to screen sensitive areas and create a

disturbance-free sanctuary for coastal birds. Improvements for flora diversity have also commenced at Natural England's North Walney Nature Reserve, where we have installed 2.2km of stock fencing to bring the whole site under conservation grazing management for the first time. Further work at these nature reserves, as well as our Foulney Island Nature Reserve and BAE Systems West of Airfield site, will gradually restore these unique habitats to improve them for a variety of species from natterjack toads to little and Arctic terns.

Within the wider Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership (LNP), we have been involved in the Morecambe Bay Limestone and Wetland Nature Improvement Area (NIA), hosting the Grassland Advisor to deliver a specific project to achieve wildlife-rich limestone grassland that maximises benefits for biodiversity and local communities. This project, now at the end of its three-year term, has involved us working with land managers, supported by the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, to return native, hardy cattle such as belted Galloways and

red poll to graze the limestone grasslands. This approach benefits both the diversity of plant species by opening the sward, and also the local grazier and community in the form of high-quality meat. Where grazing alone has been insufficient, scrub management works have been necessary to recover the habitat balance within the wider landscape.

Another aspect of our work to help Cumbria's landscape to flourish is our Meadow Life project. With hay meadows suffering serious decline in recent decades, the Trust has been committed to working with farmers and volunteers to return these meadows to wildlife havens across the county. In 2013 we improved or restored 40 hectares of meadow, and 46 hectares in 2014. This is a significant contribution to Cumbria's total area of hay meadow, which was estimated to be 278 hectares in 2008. To date, we have planted over 25,000 plants with the plugs provided by HMP Haverigg. This partnership benefits not only the restoration programme, but also the

► *Summertime planting at Mallerstang, near Kirkby Stephen.*

Photo: Michelle Waller



Living Landscapes

prisoners who find the work to produce meadow plants from seed interesting, rewarding and a route to gain City & Guilds qualifications. Planting on this scale would simply not be possible without the continued support from volunteers, many of whom are also involved in other aspects of the project such as surveying meadows and verges, as well as seed collection.



▲ Plug plants supplied by HMP Haverigg make a vital contribution to the success of the Meadow Life project

Nationally, Coronation Meadows – a vision of HRH the Prince of Wales to create a meadow in every county to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation in 2013 – has progressed even further. The second stage, funded by Biffa Award and led by the Trust on behalf of The Wildlife Trusts with partners Plantlife and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, will see a further 27 meadows restored across the country over three years.

In August 2014, green hay harvested from Cumbria's flagship Coronation Meadow at Piper Hole, near Ravenstonedale was spread by staff and volunteers at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve. As we go to press, we can see the new hay meadow thriving with yellow rattle – a key species in establishing new hay meadows and attracting bees and other insects.

Practical restoration has continued in the uplands too. This not only conserves our fells as iconic features of the Cumbrian landscape, but also helps to protect the wider community from the effects of water pollution, valley flooding and carbon release. As part of the Trust's



▲ Our work to improve limestone grasslands has included Farleton Knott, near Burton in Kendal

Upland Wetlands project, we have been working with Penrith business Barker and Bland, who have developed innovative techniques and built new machinery to help restore eroded peat faces. At Forest Hall in the Shap fells, the Environment Agency's Catchment Restoration Fund has enabled 80km of damaged peat faces to be re-profiled and laid with turf.

As we look forward, knowing there are many challenges ahead, we will continue to focus on specific areas of habitat restoration and work with land managers and partner organisations to conserve wildlife and create a thriving and connected Living Landscape for the future in Cumbria.

Better havens, more wildlife

When the opportunity to purchase Eycott Hill arose in 2013, the Esmée Fairbairn Finance Fund generously agreed to buy the land on our behalf, and the enormous task of fundraising to secure this Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as

the Trust's newest nature reserve in the north of the county started in earnest. Two years on, our vision became a reality as news in January 2015 revealed we had been awarded a £1.6million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards the

purchase and the delivery of a five-year restoration and training programme. With help from volunteers we have undertaken an ambitious programme of woodland planting, including large areas of oak, birch and alder, as well as juniper



▲ This wonderful view of Eycott Hill Nature Reserve, with Blencathra in the background, shows the intricate mosaic of wetlands and rocky rides that make this place so special

Better havens, more wildlife



▲ *Native Luig cattle are now grazing at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve a result of our partnership work with Newton Rigg College*

to ultimately create a mosaic of woodland, heath and scrub. In partnership with Newton Rigg College, native Luig cattle have been introduced as part of the new conservation grazing regime to help manage the vegetation and demonstrate how careful upland management can benefit wildlife. We are also pleased to welcome two new members of staff who will deliver the restoration and training, and the marketing and communications aspects of the restoration project for the next five years.

The last year has proved to be an incredibly exciting chapter for Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve. Following 15 years of restoration to re-establish the conditions that allowed peat to form originally, this lowland raised mire near Witherslack is once again a thriving wetland. With visitor access restricted during the restoration period, we have been busy replacing around 400 metres of boardwalk so that visitors can now use the wheelchair and pushchair-friendly routes to two areas of the nature reserve. One is through fen and



▲ *We ringed three osprey chicks at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve in July 2014*

wet woodland to reach the dragonfly pool, while the other crosses the best remaining area of intact raised mire to the platforms that provide exceptional views over the moss. From here, stonechats, reed bunting and tree pipits can be seen, as well as a host of impressive birds of prey including marsh harrier, hobby and peregrine. A pair of ospreys established a nest at Foulshaw Moss for the first time in 2014, successfully rearing three chicks. It was with great delight that we welcomed the same adult pair back at Foulshaw Moss to settle on the nest again – all of which is captured by the new high-definition cameras we installed in early spring to stream live footage of the birds to a growing audience of over 500 viewers each day.

Across our other nature reserves, we have continued working to manage some of the best areas of coastal habitat, limestone pavement, woodland and grassland. At Eskmeals Dunes Nature Reserve, major works have taken place over the winter to eradicate sea buckthorn across the site. This invasive shrub stops the natural movement of the dunes and creates shade, which in turn has a negative impact on



▲ *We have been working to restore the dunes at Eskmeal Dunes Nature Reserve to benefit specialist species such as heartsease pansy*

the native heartsease pansy and other specialist dune plants that ought to thrive. We have also created several new ponds and restored two existing ponds for breeding natterjack toads. Further along the coast at South Walney

Nature Reserve, we have been working with Barrow-in-Furness charity Art Gene, which is developing proposals for two new hides at the nature reserve, as well as undertaking research and engaging in community discussion in order to compile a plan for improving visitors' experience in the future. Regrettably, news at South Walney has not all been positive as the breeding success of a variety of sea bird species fell significantly. The number of breeding pairs of herring and lesser black-backed gulls was estimated to be 4,500 in 2014 compared to 6,000 in 2013 – a devastating reduction in numbers that could have been worse without the protection of an electric fence we installed to help shield the nesting birds from predators. Eider ducks suffered a difficult year too as only 10 chicks fledged successfully due to predation, and sadly common terns also failed to breed both here and at neighbouring Foulney Island Nature Reserve.



▲ Important habitats like the honeycomb worm reef at Allonby Bay will be protected for the future if designated as a Marine Conservation Zone

The last year has been an important time for marine conservation and we have seized the opportunity to try and secure further Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in the Irish Sea and off the coast of Cumbria. It is hoped that these nationally important sites will contribute to the network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) throughout our seas. Following the initial designation of 27 MCZs nationally in 2013, the Government launched a second round for public consultation in January 2015 to gather opinions on areas next in line for consideration as MCZs. The 12-week consultation included two areas off the coast of Cumbria – Allonby Bay and West of Walney – which, if successfully designated will bring the total number of MCZs in the Irish Sea to four. However, there was deep disappointment that Mud Hole – a significant habitat for delicate sea pens and starfish, as well as the commercially important Dublin Bay prawn – was postponed for further consideration.

Allonby Bay contains some of the best examples of honeycomb worm reef in the UK. The reefs support a wealth of other

species, from crabs and anemones to a variety of seaweeds. This picturesque coastal site is also important for the local community who use the area for recreation and benefit from tourism. Mud and sand are the dominant habitats in the West of Walney recommended MCZ. The area supports rich communities of urchins, seapens, molluscs, and brittlestars as well as providing a nursery ground for many species of fish.

Securing the designation and management of MCZs is a major priority for the Trust's objective to achieve Living Seas, an aspiration where wildlife – and people – can thrive. We therefore asked our members to respond to the public consultation. Over 1,230 members took action by writing to Defra, urging the Government to designate the two Cumbrian sites and reconsider other important sites for protection. It is necessary for special habitats throughout our seas to be protected in order to create a truly ecologically coherent network of MPAs, particularly as the pressures on our seas continue to grow.

The Trust is committed to developing knowledge and understanding of marine issues, and in April 2014 we hosted the second Irish Sea Marine Conference to raise awareness about the Irish Sea.

A host of speakers with a wide range of expertise spoke about MCZs, the diversity of species and habitats found around our coast, how to engage people about the Irish Sea, plus the impact and benefit of offshore windfarms. Amazing footage of some of nature's most fascinating marine species was also shared by award-winning cameraman Doug Allan who spoke to delegates about his experience in educating people about conserving the marine environment.



▲ We were thrilled to receive over 1,230 responses to the Marine Conservation Zone public consultation



April

► Local teacher Dan Duxbury set off on an ambitious challenge to scale all of the 282 Munros in Scotland in a single self-propelled journey by running, cycling and kayaking between summits. He completed the challenge in just 42 days, raising **£1,301.50** for the Trust.

May

► Families enjoyed the Trust's Beached Art festival of marine life despite inclement weather on the day! Prizes in the best sand sculpture competition were awarded for creations depicting sea shells and a dolphin.

June

► Osprey fever reached a high as we received news that all three chicks had hatched at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve.

◀ *Dan Duxbury raised over £1,300 for the Trust by tackling all of the 282 Munros in Scotland*

July

► Over 150 people took to the sands in glorious sunshine for the Trust's annual Cross Bay Walk. Led by Cedric Robinson, this important fundraising event raised over **£3,400**.

► A rare hybrid between the dark red helleborine and the broad-leaved helleborine was discovered at Hutton Roof Craggs Nature Reserve by local orchid experts Bryan Yorke and Alan Gendle.

August

► As part of national Marine Week, a host of events took place at South Walney Nature Reserve, as well as a seascapes painting day at Allonby Bay.

September

► Winners of the Meadow Life photography competition were announced! Four categories ensured a diverse selection of winning images, each of which starred in the Trust's 2015 calendar.



▲ *Local orchid experts Bryan Yorke and Alan Gendle discovered a rare hybrid at Hutton Roof Craggs Nature Reserve*



▲ *In September the winners of our Meadow Life photography competition were revealed*

October

► The Trust's Members' Conference, which featured a wide variety of topics and speakers, was also the perfect opportunity to recognise the exceptional commitment and contribution of volunteers. In total, 11 people were presented with Badger's Paw Awards in recognition of their work to conserve wildlife in Cumbria.

► The Trust won the award for 'Combating Climate Change' in recognition of our restoration at Foulshaw Moss and Meathop Moss nature reserves at the North West Green Heroes Awards event.

November

► School children from south Cumbria created a series of brilliant art sculptures inspired by the wildlife at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve.

December

► Thanks to generous donations from members and through the Big Give Christmas Challenge, **£26,819.80** was raised as part of our appeal to help raise funds for our marine work.

January

► With relief and huge thanks, we all celebrated the news that after two years of fundraising, Eycott Hill would become the Trust's newest nature reserve.

February

► In the run-up to the General Election we wrote to each of the prospective parliamentary candidates to highlight the important wildlife and wildlife habitats within their constituency, and asked them to support the Trust's four environmental 'asks'.

March

► New high-definition cameras were installed on the osprey nest at Foulshaw Moss shortly before the pair of ospreys made their migration back to the UK. Now, everyone can watch the drama unfold as the birds breed and raise their chicks before returning to Africa.

Wildlife Watch group leader



The past year for our Wildlife Watch group (Kendal Kingfishers) has been another amazing adventure. Some of the highlights included pond dipping at Plumgarths in May. In June we walked from Plumgarths to Cunswick Fell and got muddy, but this only added to the fun. In September we met on a lovely evening at Gooseholme and Tony Marshall led a fantastic walk spotting pipistrelle and Daubenton's bats. In autumn a young volunteer led an excellent interactive quiz with different wildlife activity stations, and on a cold snowy Saturday in January we did the Big Garden Bird Watch at Plumgarths – neither the birds or children were put off by the weather! In February the children made bird boxes to take home, and we also had South Lakes River's Trust and Marine Trainees from the Trust hosting excellent informative sessions. The biggest highlight of all was seeing children having fun learning about nature.

Seb Sillito

Apprentice Conservation Officer



The highlight of my year has definitely been having the opportunity to learn so many new and varied skills, from getting my chainsaw licence to learning to use GIS mapping software and becoming a first aider. I particularly enjoy learning to identify new species, both by sight and by sound, as when I first started in October I had a less than basic knowledge and was keen to improve. Whilst I still have a very long way to go and an awful lot to learn, I have made significant progress since I started and love the satisfaction of knowing what species I am looking at and being able to tell others about them. Although this has led to me spending a small fortune on guide books, it does mean I have discovered a new hobby – birding!

Kate Cartmell-Done

West Coast Local Support Group Chair



Perhaps not what most would regard as a 'highlight', obviously important to me and my family was the sad passing of my mother last October. She was the person who gave my sister and I our love for the countryside and interest in all aspects of wildlife. When the Trust decided to appeal for funds to install cameras at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve I decided that a donation, in her memory, towards the cameras was something she would have appreciated. My family are pleased that the donation helped to provide an important facility for the continued progress in osprey conservation in the county.

Rosemary Hutt

▼ Kendal Kingfishers Wildlife Watch group enjoy a walk to discover signs of spring on Cunswick Scar



Inspiring people

Alongside our direct work to create Living Landscapes and Living Seas, another of the Trust's key priorities is to inspire and engage people to value nature. There are a number of ways in which we do this, and one area that has grown in the last year is to not only motivate, but create active training opportunities for the next generation of people who will be responsible for conserving the natural environment.

Our successful marine traineeship, which is run in partnership with the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside, has seen 12 trainees gain work-based training in marine conservation and people engagement since 2011. Last year, this scheme was extended to create a further 16 Trainee Marine and Coastal Conservation Officer posts over the next three years, with four specifically created to provide opportunities for local people to improve their prospects of a career in marine conservation. Each trainee benefits from wide ranging on-the-job experience, including organising community events such as Beached Art; encouraging volunteers to take part in marine surveys; and delivering wildlife workshops for children.

Training opportunities are also provided through apprenticeships. We created a new two-year Apprentice Conservation Officer post in 2014 as part of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's rural trainee scheme, which finds young people apprenticeships with various companies and organisations. The apprenticeship is wide-ranging and work varies from responding to wildlife queries to surveying and practical restoration. In the north of the county the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership has also funded a new apprentice, hosted by the Trust and Natural England, to restore and conserve the wetland habitats of the Solway Plain while working towards a work-based Level 2 Diploma in Environmental Conservation.

Our existing partnership with the University of Cumbria has continued, with another student completing a degree in Animal Conservation Science gaining a work placement this year. With increasing pressure on students to have significant practical experience to support their education when entering full-time work, this opportunity provides them with the chance to develop a wide range of practical skills to help strengthen their job applications. All trainees,



▲ As well as planting and surveying, we ran a number of free training courses such as scything as part of our Meadow Life project

apprentices, students and staff continue to benefit from a wide range of additional courses from outdoor first aid to species identification to help maintain a well-informed team who are able to pass on their knowledge and experience to others.

Volunteers continue to contribute a huge amount to the Trust and support all areas of our work. From office assistance to surveying and practical conservation, volunteers provide hours of time and expert skills. Last year over 250 people registered as new volunteers and we have been fortunate that one of our previous placement students from the University of Cumbria has gone on to become an Honorary Reserve Manager at Thacka Beck Nature Reserve in Penrith. As well as honorary reserve manager roles, we have recently created a new live-in Volunteer Assistant Warden position at South Walney Nature Reserve to help the warden with the day-to-day management of the nature reserve over the busy summer months.

Thanks to our volunteers, hundreds of adults and young children enjoy opportunities to learn about and explore their local environment through our Wildlife Watch and local support group networks. Last year 75 summer walks and talks covering a wide range of conservation topics were organised by our Local Support Groups, while 6 Wildlife Watch groups ran a total of 49 engaging activity sessions for children. We have continued to work



▲ A University of Cumbria placement student in 2013–2014, Ian Kane is now the Honorary Reserve Manager at Thacka Beck Nature Reserve in Penrith

with schools and colleges across Cumbria, making over 60 classroom visits and supporting field trips to work with over 1,500 children over the year.

Inspiring people would not be possible without communication. One of the ways we seek to regularly engage and update our members about our work is through our magazine, *Cumbrian Wildlife*. In April, we launched a new digital version of the magazine to provide another opportunity for accessing it in an increasingly paperless world, while taking advantage of the digital format that allows for live links and additional media-rich content, such as videos and downloads. In return, we can benefit from immediate response to appeals that allow for easy click-through to the donations page on our website. With this in mind and an awareness that the online world is continuing to grow, we have made a strategic investment to develop our digital communication

Inspiring people

through social media and the web to engage with more people, and ultimately increase our membership base and income.

This approach has also been effective in our campaign work, which has seen an increase in people connecting and responding online. In March, The Wildlife Trusts launched a UK-coordinated My Wild Life campaign, which seeks to inspire more people to value wildlife. To date, over 100 people have shared their 'stories' – a snapshot of their precious moment connecting with nature.

Our active campaign work was directed in two main areas last year; one was the General Election and the other was the Government's consultation on Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) – both of which appealed to members to take action for nature. In the run-up to the General Election we wrote to all of the prospective parliamentary candidates in Cumbria outlining and asking them to support our key 'asks'. We then published their responses on our website so that people could have a clear overview of the candidates' commitment to wildlife.

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. Below 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

Coronation Meadows

Arcadia
Biffa Award
Natural England
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

Eycott Hill

Banister Charitable Trust
Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust
Cumbria Wildlife Trust members
Garfield Weston Foundation
Heritage Lottery Fund
WREN

Grasslands NIA

Arnside and Silverdale AONB

Green Transport Corridors

Natural England

Irish Sea

Esmée Fairbairn
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

Local Nature Partnership

Cumbria Farmer Network Ltd
Eden District Council

Marine Heritage Skills for the Future

Heritage Lottery Fund

Meadow Life

Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust
Heritage Lottery Fund
The Wildflower Society

Nature Reserves

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

North West Living Seas

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Wildlife Trust members

Red Squirrel project

Furness Building Society

Uplands for Juniper

Cumbria Wildlife Trust members
SITA Trust
WREN

Unrestricted

Furness Building Society

Wetland Restoration

Environment Agency
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Natural England
RSPB
SITA Trust

Corporate members during the year

Platinum members

The Lakes Distillery
Nestlé UK & Ireland

Gold members

Lyon Equipment

Silver members

H&H Reeds Printers Ltd
Studsvik UK Ltd

Bronze members

Arnison Heelis Solicitors
Center Parcs
The Cumbria Grand Hotel
Eco-Tech Systems
Greg Thompson Quality Landscapes and
Trecare
HolidayCottages.co.uk
Rathbone Brothers plc
Tarmac
Twisted Tree Games

Standard members

Aggregate Industries
Carrs Milling
The Castle Green Hotel
Choice Hotels
English Lakes Ice Cream
Fortis Remote Technology
Highgate Veterinary Clinic
Holker Hall
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
Vine House Farm

Our aim is to create Living Landscapes, secure Living Seas and inspire people to care for the natural environment. However, our work is always limited by the amount of money we can raise and we need to keep our expenditure under control.

Successful fundraising for Eycott Hill has had a major impact on the Trust's overall finances, with £363,000 of income raised and received during the year but not spent, as the purchase happened just after the year-end. As a result the Trust's finances showed an overall increase in funds of £317,000 at the year-end, part of which was spent on the purchase of Eycott Hill on 2 April 2015, and the remainder will help to fund this project over the next five years.

Overall income showed a slight increase to £2.4million but setting aside the Eycott Hill impact, both income and expenditure decreased slightly compared to the previous year.

Following a recovery in membership numbers in 2013/14, subscriptions increased for the second year in a row and again provided over 20% of total income. The importance of this source of income cannot be over-emphasised since it supports all areas of the Trust's work.

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

The figures shown above are extracted from the statutory accounts which were approved by the Trustees on 9 July 2015. 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:

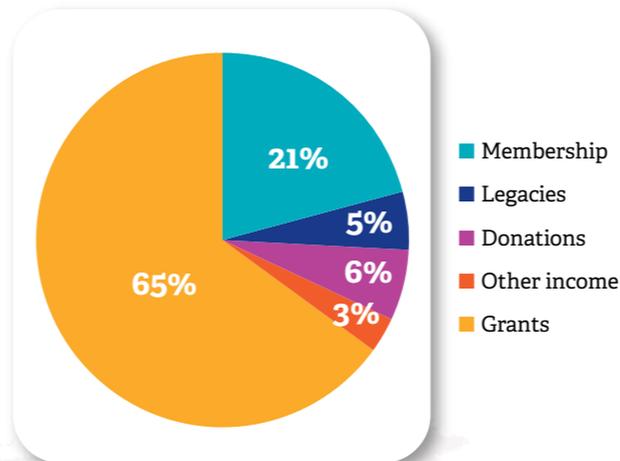


Anne Powell

John Farmer

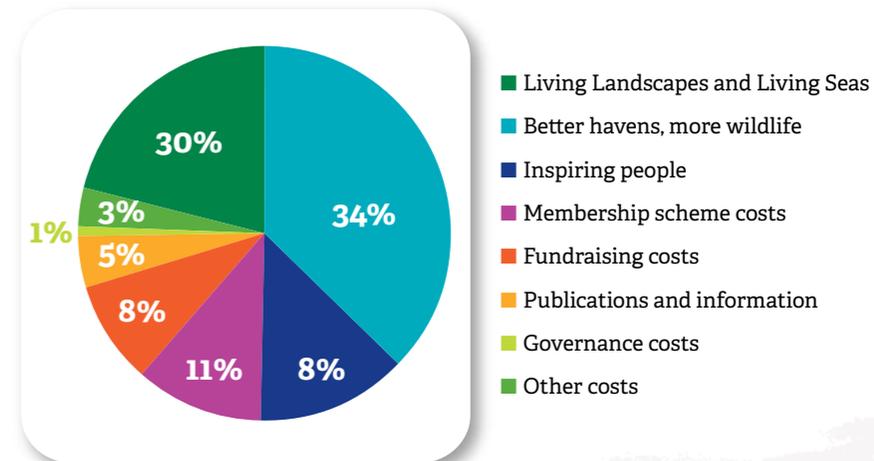
Income

Income in the year ended 31 March 2015



Expenditure

Expenditure in the year ended 31 March 2015



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 **Dorothy Barnes, Madge Donnelly, Ronald Graydon, Christine Jones, Audrey Lambert, Marian Page, Elsie Seggar, Elizabeth Wilson, George Wilson** and **George Woods**.

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:

Dr Helga Frankland of Ravenstonedale

Helga was one of the founder members of the Lake District Naturalists Trust, now Cumbria Wildlife Trust, when it was established in 1962 and she remained a key figure throughout the 52 years it has existed. She was a trustee for 40 years and became Vice President in 1981. Helga worked in conservation for most of her life, joining the Nature Conservancy Council (now Natural England) in 1959 and ultimately becoming regional Director. Her upbringing on the family farm ensured a personal knowledge of farming and she was committed to her belief that upland farming should be balanced with nature and support wildlife. She was also an excellent botanist and would train Trust members and volunteers to identify plants. Helga was awarded an MBE for her work for nature conservation in 1999.

Mary Burkett of Isel Hall

Mary is best known for her life-long support of the Arts, but she was also Vice President of Cumbria Wildlife Trust. She supported our local support groups and was Chair of the Fundraising Committee during the 1980s. She also looked after wildlife on her estate and often encouraged others to recognise the inspiration of the natural world in art.

Margaret Coupland of Kirkby Lonsdale

Margaret was a member of the Trust for over 25 years and became treasurer of the 'Trust for Conservation: Kirkby Lonsdale Group' when it was established in 1984. Now known as local support groups, she remained heavily involved in the Kirkby Lonsdale group until she resigned from the committee due to ill health in 2005. Margaret was involved in many aspects of the Trust's work locally, including organising events and fundraising.

Jean Aldred of Penrith

Jean was a committed member of the Penrith and Ullswater Local Support Group committee for over 20 years, having retired to Cumbria with her husband in 1990. She was instrumental in organising the group's summer programme of events and continued to attend meetings despite her deteriorating health in recent years.

Jean Scott of Askam-in-Furness

Jean was a life member of the Trust since 1986 and a trustee for many years during that time. She was dedicated to supporting the mammal group, the badger group and her local group, and was presented with a Badger's Paw Award in 1994 for her commitment to conserving wildlife in Cumbria. She regularly helped with surveys, local planning applications and the production of *Cumbrian Wildlife* magazine.

Audrey Smith of Underbarrow

Audrey and her husband Edward became members of the Trust in 1985 and had active roles as volunteers. They were central in setting up the Windermere Local Support Group and became honorary reserve managers for Barkbooth Lot Nature Reserve. Audrey remained a leading figure in the local group, where she organised events including glow worm hunts at Barkbooth Lot, led conservation work parties and helped with office-based work. Audrey was presented with a Badger's Paw Award in 2007 for her commitment to conservation and dedication to the local support group.



It has always been important that we define our strategic priorities, which are reviewed by the Trustees on a regular basis. Last year we revised our planning process and created two new documents; a five year plan 2015–2020 and a one year operational plan for 2015–2016, both of which are available on our website and at our head office.

In the year ahead, creating Living Landscapes and securing Living Seas will be the main overarching priorities for the Trust. Having purchased Eycott Hill at the beginning of the year we will continue an ambitious programme to restore this wonderful upland site near between Keswick and Penrith.

The major programme of works on Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve will continue with a focus on making the site more accessible to visitors – especially with a new camera to monitor and protect the ospreys which nest there. At South Walney Nature Reserve we will review access arrangements and continue an ambitious programme of dune restoration.

We will recruit six trainees to our marine training programme and continue to engage in the national programme to create Marine Conservation Zones, finding new ways for people to understand better why the Irish Sea is a very special place. Projects to conserve red squirrels, dwarf willow and hay meadows will continue to be delivered across Cumbria and the project creating new Coronation Meadows across northern England will also continue.

Funding to start two new projects will be sought, and when successful, new project officers will be appointed. The first will be to re-start our programme of

upland wetland restoration in Cumbria while the second will be to work with the Environment Agency to create a series of new Slow the Flow projects across the North West of England. Both of these important projects will use natural processes to help communities at risk of flooding.

The Trust will also continue to support the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership and work hard to ensure it achieves its potential. At Gosling Sike Farm the next stage of our plans to create a training centre at the farm will focus on how to raise the funding.

In 2014 we installed a wood pellet boiler at Plumgarths, replacing an old oil fired heating system and storage heaters. The year ahead will be our first complete year for the new system, helping us to reduce our carbon footprint by a massive 36 tonnes of carbon. This is a 45% reduction in one year and helps us deliver our 3% a year target we set in 2008.

Peter Bullard, Director



Cumbria Wildlife Trust: 2014-2015

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.



Cumbria Wildlife Trust
Plumgarths, Crook Road,
Kendal, Cumbria LA8 8LX

T 01539 816300
mail@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

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