



**Cumbria**  
Wildlife Trust

# The year's highlights:

2015-2016 Annual Review

## Chairman's introduction



In last year's *Annual Review* I emphasised the need for planning where we: design policies that are set against specific objectives; undertake conservation projects; create wildlife havens through the acquisition of nature reserves; and engage and inspire people to value nature, supporting a network of volunteers who are vital to our success and to whom we are truly grateful. Happily, I can report that this year we have honoured our intentions and achieved most of our plan.

Partnerships with other organisations, land owners and agencies are very important to the Trust, helping us meet the challenges we face – especially in these times of financial stringency. This year our partnerships with friends and colleagues in other organisations have produced excellent work. The Local Nature Partnership is chaired by our President,

Lord Inglewood, who has steered it through a very difficult year of financial constraints, of which he speaks in 'A word from our President'.

After years of work on lowland mires and bogs at Foulshaw Moss and Meathop Moss nature reserves we have recently turned our attention to upland peat habitats and formed the Cumbria Peat Partnership, (CPP) which we lead. Peat is an extremely important habitat although it covers only 12 percent of the UK. Healthy peat provides many benefits: it stores carbon (it has four-times the storage capacity of forests) and it helps to regulate water quantity and maintain its quality. This vital service, provided for our county by our extensive upland peatlands, is all too easily impaired when the peat is in poor condition. We estimate 80 percent of our upland peat suffers from erosion or is dried out and the CPP aims to restore its function and its wildlife.



▲ *Thousands of people from all over the world watched the ospreys via a new camera installed at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve*

In December when Storm Desmond hit, water swept down from damaged peat areas and inundated settlements at lower levels. Decision-makers realised the truth of the message we had been trying to give them about the importance of 'slowing the flow' and of peat as one of the suite of natural flood management techniques available to us. Natural flood management emphasises the connection between naturalness, sustainability and

overall resilience of our habitats to reduce the effect of the increasing variability and intensity of the weather systems we are experiencing. Let us hope that we learn quickly how to make the most of natural techniques to repair the functions of upland ecosystems in order to minimise the effects of future floods in Cumbria.

On a more positive note, there has been a magnificent reward given to the Trust for all its work on Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve, a lowland wetland. Three osprey chicks were closely watched online by thousands of people who shared the thrilling experience of watching these youngsters develop and finally fledge, thanks to the new cameras we installed in 2015. Plans are also afoot to provide similar viewing of young seals that were born into the colony at South Walney Nature Reserve for the first time.

**Anne Powell**

## A word from our President



Our chairman, Anne, has pointed to some of the Trust's major achievements over the last year. I would like to look forward into what is almost certainly one of great uncertainty.

I anticipate we may find money is tight, and hence doing things may become increasingly difficult.

We must not be too downcast, since Cumbria Wildlife Trust is for the long term, and as I said at the opening of Eycott Hill Nature Reserve, the view from its top is one of the least changed things in Cumbria over the last half millennium. We must enable the things that matter to us to go on for our children's and grandchildren's generations, and in doing that we are succeeding.

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

## Contents

Creating a Living Landscape through conserving habitats and species	4-6
Creating a Living Landscape through bigger, better nature reserves	7-9
Securing Living Seas	10-11
Our 2015–2016 achievements	12-13
Your highlights	14
Inspiring and engaging people to value nature	15-17
Thank you!	18-19
Financial report	20-21
Legacies and in memoriam	22
Looking ahead	23

## Creating a Living Landscape through conserving habitats and species

Cumbria has so many special and unusual habitats, and our work to conserve them – to create a Living Landscape – has gained pace this year. In December 2015, Cumbria suffered some of its worst ever flooding with over 6,000 properties flooded, bridges washed away, sewage treatment works damaged and roads closed. It was therefore especially appropriate that funding had been secured at the beginning of the year from the Environment Agency to run a project called Slow the Flow. The project started in July 2015 with two aims: to raise the profile of natural flood management, and to form partnerships to deliver projects which protect communities from flooding. Slow the Flow had only been running for five months when the floods in December brought into sharp focus the importance of this work and our upland peatland restoration. By the end of the financial year it was clear that natural flood management would be an integral part of the Cumbria Flood Recovery process – a major achievement for the Trust and those who live and work in the county.

Early in the year, a five-year grant was secured by the Cumbria Peat Partnership to restore peatlands, and three sites were identified for restoration. Work to remove trees, re-profile hags and gullies caused by erosion and block drains began at Ulpha Fell. Work on the two other wetlands at Whiteoak Moss and Mungrisdale Mires will hopefully begin this year. A peatland restoration trainee was recruited to help support the project and work has been carried out to survey potential new mires for restoration and to gain funding to do so.

The national Biffa Award Coronation Meadows Project, led by Cumbria Wildlife Trust, carried out training days across the country, including vegetative grass ID and monitoring and the use of wild flower seed in restoration. Work also focused on ensuring that meadows for restoration were identified for the coming restoration season in counties currently not involved in the project. In Cumbria, the surveying and monitoring of restoration work of meadows at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve showed a positive result and it is well worth a visit to see them in full bloom in summer. In total 19 meadows were restored nationally in the year, covering 83 hectares.

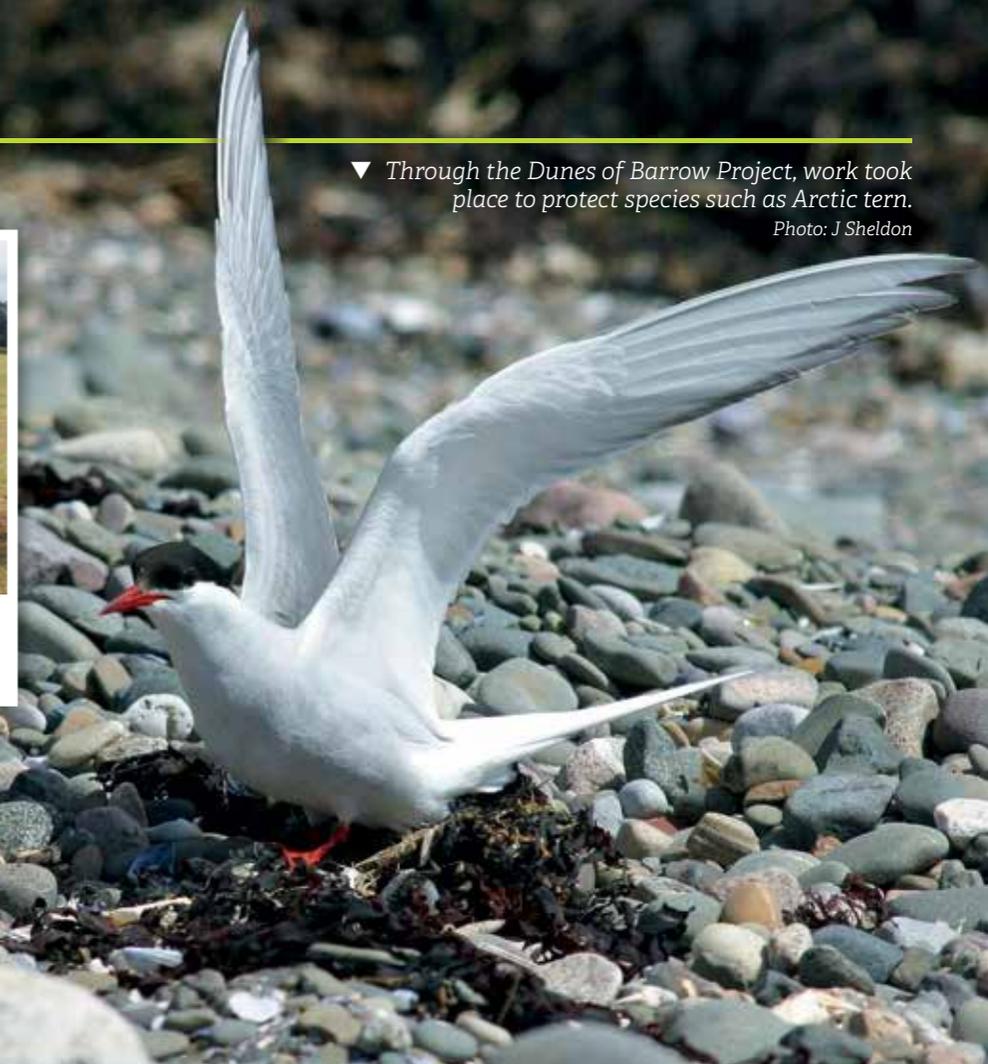
Locally, our initiative to increase the number of hay meadows across Cumbria, enabled by Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, resulted in Cumbria Wildlife Trust restoring 34 meadows, covering 39 hectares. Volunteers, who are vital in achieving these numbers, attended various training courses to bring their skills up to scratch for the coming survey season. Many volunteers also helped with the huge task of planting wild flower plugs, including groups from Kendal Conservation Volunteers, the University of Cumbria and Barclays Bank. Raising awareness of hay meadows as an important wildlife habitat was achieved through a beautiful and inspiring film, *To The End We Will Go*, featuring local people and their experiences and views of hay meadows. Painting and scything days also engaged new people and a photo competition saw photography enthusiasts produce some stunning entries. Ruth Dalton took the overall prize for her photo 'On the Mend' featuring a jam jar of meadow flowers taken in a hospital ward, showing the health benefits of nature.



▲ Many volunteers helped with plug planting in hay meadows, including a group from Barclays Bank

▼ Through the Dunes of Barrow Project, work took place to protect species such as Arctic tern.

Photo: J Sheldon



## Creating a Living Landscape through conserving habitats and species

Funding for hay meadow restoration and education was due to finish this year but an extension until October 2016 was granted in February by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Work to restore dune systems at nature reserves in the Furness Peninsular continued for a second year. Bracken was removed from several areas of sand dune at South Walney Nature Reserve to improve the sand dune flora, and fencing was erected at North Walney National Nature Reserve to enable grazing by cattle – again to improve the numbers of wild flowers. Foulney Island Nature Reserve also underwent restoration activity to encourage terns to nest higher up the beach away from the potential impact of high tides destroying nests.

A previously neglected but important wildlife habitat became the focus of new activity this year. Discussions with Highways England and Network Rail resulted in the identification of 11 potential pilot projects on the A590, the road between Kendal and Barrow-in-Furness, and the Carnforth to Ulverston section

of railway line. Five of these have been chosen for a trial to enhance woodland and grassland for pollinators, to control invasive species and to trial a sustainable drainage project. This work has led to a new partnership with Kier Highways to restore wildlife habitats on the roadside verges between Meathop roundabout and Brettargh Holt roundabout on the A590, which connects with both Foulshaw Moss and Latterbarrow nature reserves. This project will see improvements for butterflies, birds and deer.

Work to conserve red squirrels across the north of England continued in partnership with Northumberland Wildlife Trust and The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside. In Cumbria, the red squirrel spring monitoring programme was completed; this is the sixth time that almost 300 sites have been surveyed across northern England using a mixture of Wildlife Trust staff and volunteers. Red squirrels were detected, either by trail camera, observed at feeders or seen during transect walks, in 44 percent of sites and grey squirrels were detected in 47 percent of sites. This result

was slightly disappointing but not entirely unexpected following a second year in which natural food supplies were plentiful – particularly in broadleaved woodlands where it is well documented that grey squirrels have a competitive advantage. Work will continue in 2016, including a new UK project, Red Squirrels United. Funding for this project has been secured to enable an early warning system to be established around Kielder Forest reserve at Kershope and Spadeadam Forests in Cumbria, and at Kidland and Uswayford in Northumberland: currently the only forests in England that are still (almost) grey free.

Cumbria Wildlife Trust continues to monitor major developments that could impact wildlife in the county. The North West Coastal Connections Project – a major infrastructure project to connect new energy projects being built in Cumbria and Lancashire to homes and businesses – could potentially impact on wildlife-sensitive areas. This has been and will continue to be closely monitored by the Trust.

## Creating a Living Landscape through bigger, better nature reserves



▲ 27,200 plants of 12 different fen species were planted into newly created wetlands around the boundary of Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve. Photo: Michelle Waller

▲ Lois Harbron discovered an unusual hybrid orchid at Augill Pasture Nature Reserve. Photo: Andrew Walter

## Creating a Living Landscape through bigger, better nature reserves

One of our main priorities, to acquire new nature reserves and extend existing ones, came to fruition this year when the purchase of Eycott Hill was completed in April, after two years of fundraising. The following months saw the recruitment of two new staff members and work begin on improving both the habitat and the access for visitors, including many interesting and fun events and a new car park. Working with Newton Rigg College, native Luing cattle grazed the nature reserve and produced offspring, which goes some way to fulfilling our aim to demonstrate a different but still profitable way of managing through grazing on the fell.

Our partnership with Prism Arts, a charity based in Carlisle dedicated to providing accessible art activities to all, began with the first of several workshop programmes, involving 122 primary school children who got to work illustrating and writing their own stories about the nature reserve. Restoration at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve saw five hectares of dwarf shrub heath habitat scarified and then seeded with heather, bilberry, cowberry and crowberry. Over 700 metres of drystone wall has been repaired and 1,200 metres of fencing put

in place to help manage livestock. Narrow artificial drainage channels have been dammed to improve and maintain wetland habitats and to create wet flushes that are rich in *sphagnum* moss and sedges. Cattle handling facilities have also been installed at the nature reserve.

At Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve 27,200 plants of 12 different fen species were planted into newly created wetlands around the nature reserve boundary. Ospreys returned to breed in April, raising three chicks, and a rota of staff and volunteers were on-hand to help visitors. Live camera footage, available on our website, proved very popular. Following a reintroduction programme that began in 2010, white-faced darter dragonflies were surveyed and an amazing record of at least 1,071 individuals emerged this year. Recognition of our work at Foulshaw Moss reached a high when the Trust won the 2015 Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management Best Practice Award. This was a major achievement and a testament to the restoration work undertaken over the last 15 years. Many species did well on our nature reserves this year. Most exciting of all was



▲ 122 primary school children visited Eycott Hill and wrote their own stories about the nature reserve. Photo Jody Ferguson

the discovery of two grey seal pups born into the colony at South Walney Nature Reserve – the first pups to be born in Cumbria. A keen botanist and volunteer at Augill Pasture Nature Reserve was thrilled to discover an orchid hybrid – a first for Cumbria. The orchid is a cross between a frog orchid (*Dactylorhiza viridis*) and a common spotted orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) and has only been found at about 15 sites in Britain.

The bird breeding season at Foulney Island Nature Reserve went well with more clutches reaching hatching stage than in the last few years. Some 67 pairs of nesting Arctic tern hatched 40 chicks, and 39 eider nests hatched 122 chicks. Oystercatchers, ringed plovers and little terns were also successful.

The severe flooding in December impacted a handful of our nature reserves. Wreay Woods Nature Reserve, south of Carlisle, lies on the River Petteril and has always had some trouble with path erosion during times of high water. In December, however, the impact was much greater and it remains closed until footpaths both through the nature reserve and those that reach it are repaired. Walls and fencing at Barkbooth Lot Nature Reserve were washed away and a landslide at Smardale Gill Nature Reserve affected a wall and a watergate. On a positive note, Thacka Beck Nature Reserve, which was built as a natural flood prevention scheme for Penrith, did its job and filled with water, holding it back to leave homes in Penrith unscathed.



▲ In July 2015 we celebrated the 40th anniversary of Barkbooth Lot Nature Reserve

Volunteers, as always, have been crucial to managing our nature reserves this year. New fencing was installed at Orton Moss Nature Reserve to allow cattle grazing for the first time in many years, which will improve the habitat for invertebrates.

Volunteers cleared brambles at Brown Robin, Himalayan balsam at Boathouse Field and planted plug plants at Thacka Beck nature reserves; just a few of the examples of the hard work carried out among many tasks.

It is only hard work by a wide range of staff and volunteers that makes our nature reserves the havens that they are. So it was nice to take some time in July to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Barkbooth Lot Nature Reserve, near Crosthwaite. The main part of the nature reserve was given to Cumbria Wildlife Trust in 1975 by Mrs Sheila Caldwell, with Helen Caldwell giving an additional meadow in 2004. Relatives of the Caldwells and John and Barbara Handley, who lease part of the nature reserve to Cumbria Wildlife Trust, came together to raise a glass in celebration of this wonderful place.

## Securing Living Seas



▲ The second seal pup discovered at South Walney Nature Reserve was named Finley in a children's competition run by the North West Evening Mail. Photo NW Evening Mail Lindsey Dickings



▲ The Elliot family won first prize in the sand sculpture competition at the Trust's Beached Art event at St Bees

In January 2015 we asked members to respond to the latest Government consultation on Marine Conservation Zones which included two locations off the coast of Cumbria: Allonby Bay and West of Walney. It is thanks to those who responded to the consultation that in the following January it was announced that the two proposed Marine Conservation Zones had been accepted. The response from Cumbria was so large that it in fact accounted for 14 percent of the whole response that the Government received! There's now a total of 50 Marine Conservation Zones in English and non-devolved UK waters.

Irish Sea mud habitats were also the focus of our marine conservation activity this year. A chapter on the Irish Sea was written for a 'Big Gaps Report', which will be used to inform the campaign for the next round of Marine Conservation Zones in 2017. The chapter focuses on the lack of protection for vulnerable and highly damaged mud habitats and will be used in the next phase of the campaign to engage MPs, members of the public and other stakeholders.

A new joint stakeholder initiative started this year, facilitated by the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, to look at protecting bivalve molluscs (cockles and mussels) and securing sustainable fisheries within the Morecambe Bay European Marine Site. Mussel and cockle management plans are being created and will be implemented in 2016. These plans will ensure sufficient shellfish stocks remain as food for wading birds and as spawning stock for future years.

Cumbria's only grey seal colony, which is found at South Walney Nature Reserve, has been expanding over recent decades. During the 1970s and 80s seals were seen only in low numbers around Walney Island, and gradually over time their numbers have increased with nearly 250 individuals now recorded on and around the island at certain times of the year. Until now, the seals have used the protected shingle spit on the reserve to rest and moult, forming a non-breeding colony. This year however, this all changed.

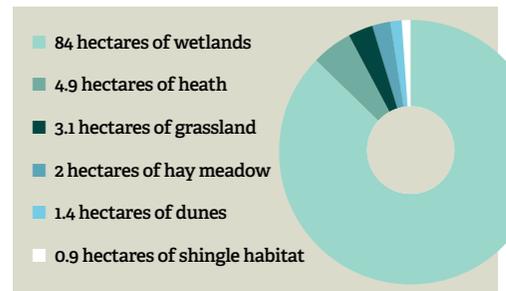
The discovery of two seal pups at South Walney Nature Reserve caused a flurry of media interest, resulting in newspaper and online articles, and radio and TV coverage. Thanks to a photographer from the North West Evening Mail we got some wonderful shots of one of the seal pups and some film footage. This was followed by the newspaper running a naming competition for the second seal pup, which was given the name Finley by a local school pupil; the first pup having already been named Glen. Raising awareness of our marine wildlife through the press, newsletters and events is vitally important to achieving our long-term aims to secure a network of Marine Protected Areas, and to generally create a sense of value for our marine wildlife in the Irish Sea. National Marine Week saw another busy and successful Beached Art event at St Bees, attracting 33 teams to take part in the sand sculpture competition.

# Our 2015-2016 achievements

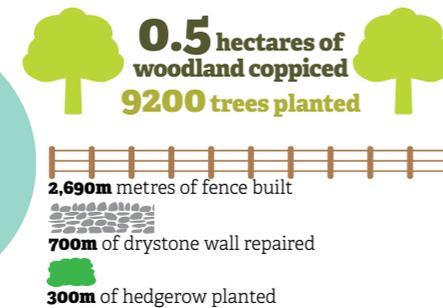
## Looking after our Living Landscape



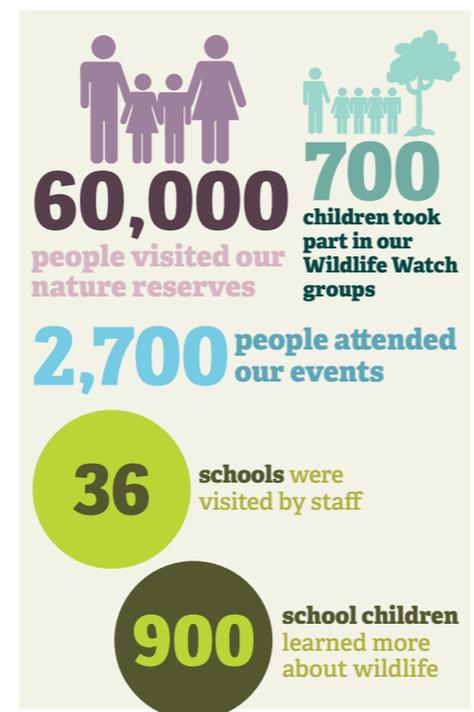
## Nature reserve restoration



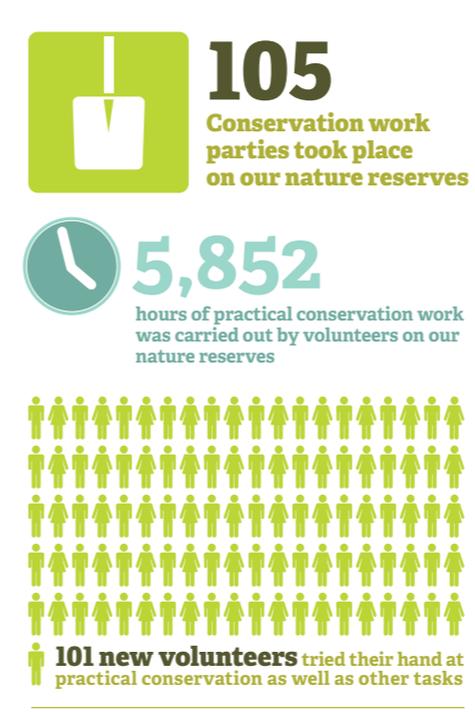
## Nature reserve management



## Inspiring people



## Volunteering



## Corporate members



## Marine trainees



## Your highlights

### Marine Training Programme Manager



I'm new to the Trust and I already have many, many highlights I'd like to share! The first highlight has to be getting the job in the first place. My background

is in human resources and training in industry – to be able to do this type of role for a conservation charity is a dream come true. The next highlight was meeting the four marine trainees who have the most amazing opportunity here at the Trust; to know that I am playing a part in developing them and their skills for the future is really special to me. My final highlight to share is a gloriously sunny day back in November, when in the morning I was on the beach at Earnse Bay observing two trainees hosting a Shoresearch for students of Kendal College, and then in the afternoon I was lying on the spit on South Walney Nature Reserve with the other two trainees, observing the seal colony and recording their numbers and behaviours for the annual survey that the trainees complete.

**Mari-Ann Park**

### Hay Meadow Volunteer



It was a privilege to be part of the Meadow Life project again this year, helping to reverse the decline of our species-rich hay meadows.

Conducting meadow and roadside verge surveys offers a fantastic opportunity to experience so many natural highlights. One meadow was a dry stone wall-to-wall carpet of red clover, intoxicatingly fragrant. Another was a sea of orange hawkbit and purple melancholy thistle – like an impressionist's palette, even on a rainy day! Along roadside verges it was a joy to come across 'mini-meadows' amongst the sad tangle of less desirable species. But the highlights weren't all of the floral variety: wildlife treats whilst out surveying included an array of nectar-loving insects cruising at flower height, skylarks singing up above, a curlew calling from the nearby fell and a brown hare pausing briefly to stare before disappearing through a gateway.

**Joan Hunter**

### Eycott Hill Student Placement



The highlight of this last year was working with Cumbria Wildlife Trust through a placement scheme with the University of Cumbria; an

opportunity that I have been grateful for ever since I started. In particular I have been working with a special needs class at Ullswater Community College. These sessions would be my favourite part as I have seen the project from beginning to end, creating lesson plans and finding the activities through to actually taking them out onto Eycott Hill Nature Reserve. It is great watching the students do something they have never been given the opportunity to do before. This placement has reassured me that working in the education side of conservation is what I want to do in life – hopefully in Cumbria!

**Rowena Hargill**

## Inspiring and engaging people to value nature



▶ *The Trust's Marine Trainees learnt a range of on-the-job skills such as leading events like this rockpool ramble at Earnse Bay*

## Inspiring and engaging people to value nature

It's important to the Trust that everyone who lives in Cumbria cares as much as we do about wildlife and wild places. This is a big ambition that we try to achieve in several ways. One developing area this year is our increasing effort to train and inspire the next generation of nature conservationists through our various traineeships and degree sandwich placements for students.

In July, the Trust's first peatland trainee began a one-year traineeship. The new graduate traineeship, set up by the Cumbria Peat Partnership and funded by the Environment Agency, was created to develop ecological skills and knowledge in young people. It focuses on training in the identification and mapping of peatland and delivery of upland restoration through a programme of formal training and direct practical experience. Training has focussed on learning skills in plant identification, including *sphagnum* moss, peatland plant community ecology, identification and mapping of peatland erosion features, peatland restoration techniques and the economics of upland Cumbria.

The Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership apprenticeship post ended this year following a three-year project that saw two apprentices work with our Northern Reserves Officer to learn on-the-job skills and gain more formal qualifications in preparation for a career in nature conservation. A similar post based in our Plumgarths office, now in its second year and funded by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, has seen the apprentice gain experience across our hay meadow, wetlands and marine projects as well as carrying out practical work on nature reserves, which should prove vital experience in securing a job following the completion of her degree starting in 2016.

Our degree sandwich placement from the University of Cumbria completed a nine-month post as Eycott Hill Student Placement, learning on-the-job conservation skills with a focus on wildlife education. Seventy first-year students from the Outdoor Studies course at the University of Cumbria visited Humphrey Head Nature Reserve to learn more about the natural world. Younger students also learned more about their natural surroundings this year. Staff



▲ Apprentices Kate Cartmell-Done and Jordan Ross have learned essential skills, such as installing a fence, to prepare them for a career in wildlife conservation

visited 36 schools where pupils learned both inside the classroom and outdoors about woodlands, marine creatures and nocturnal wildlife.

The marine trainee scheme continued to provide young people with the skills needed to work in marine wildlife conservation. The four trainees focused on a wide range of activities, from ocean giants fun days to leading people in SeaWatch surveys to spot marine

mammals. The trainees also took on research projects, with their final reports covering bird disturbance and seal activity at South Walney Nature Reserve, honeycomb worm reef and interactions between wading birds and mussel gatherers at Heysham Flat.

Some 62 events for families and children took place in the year. Events included rockpool rambles, pond monster hunts and family days at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve. This year saw the launch of a series of new identification courses for adults covering coastal bird and winter wading bird identification. These courses will be expanded next year to include tree identification and a green wood working day.

Hay meadow conservation staff continued to run popular events including two painting days, a landscape photography day, a sketching day and two guided walks, plus a meadow restoration demonstration day. Two educational workshops were delivered at Goodly Dale School in Windermere and Church Walk School in Ulverston, along with a family day at Ford Park. A second demonstration event was held at the beginning of July in the Ravenstonedale area, aimed at farmers.



▲ The Trust's Chairman, Anne Powell, was awarded The Wildlife Trusts' Christopher Cadbury Medal which was presented to her by our national President, Simon King OBE

In our ambition to bring people closer to understanding wildlife, we installed high-definition cameras on the osprey nest at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve. This brought a huge number of additional people to our website to see the live footage, with a total of 160,983 views occurring during that time.

There are many volunteer opportunities across the Trust, from working on our nature reserves to analysing data in the office, and every volunteer makes a vital contribution whether large or small. Many of our volunteers contribute to inspiring other people to care about wildlife. Badger's Paw Awards – our annual accolade for those who have made a long-term commitment to wildlife conservation – were awarded at this year's Members' Conference to Sue Shiels, Bryan Yorke, Barbara O'Connor, David Hussell, Adrian Banford, Irene Downing, Gayle Crollman,

Mike Langley and Geoff Lines. Dr Anne Powell, who volunteers as our Chairman, was recognised for her services to nature conservation by being presented with The Wildlife Trusts' Christopher Cadbury Medal by our national President, Simon King OBE.

Around 370 events were organised by both volunteers and staff in the year, ranging from conservation work parties to mud dipping. Cumbria Wildlife Trust's eight local support groups organised 90 events this year, taking people on walks to wild places or helping them to learn more through educational talks, and Wildlife Watch leaders organised 49 fun nature events for children. Our main fundraising event, the Cross Bay Walk, was a success, with good weather on the day helping to raise over £4,000. Beached Art, our annual sand sculpture event at St Bees, was also a success, drawing in a wide range of people from the local area as well as holidaymakers. The Members' Conference was held once again at Newton Rigg College and around 100 members enjoyed talks about fungi, the Solway shore and farming and wildlife, as well as the Annual General Meeting update from the Trustees on our activity in the previous year.

# Thank you!

## 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. Here 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 of our members generously supported special appeals throughout the year, including one to raise match funding to secure grants.*

## Grant and donations income

Bannister Charitable Trust  
Barrow Borough Council  
Biffa Award  
Center Parcs  
Cumbria Farmer Network  
Eden District Council  
Environment Agency  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
Furness Building Society  
Heritage Lottery Fund  
Morecambe Bay Partnership  
Natural England  
North & West Cumbria Fisheries  
Local Action Group

Nurture Lakeland  
Peter de Haan Charitable Trust  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew  
RSPB  
SITA  
Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership  
South Lakeland District Council  
Story Homes  
The Arts Council  
United Utilities  
Vine House Farm  
WREN  
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust

## Corporate members during the year

### Platinum members

The Lakes Distillery  
Nestlé UK & Ireland

### Gold members

Booths  
Eden Insulation  
Lyon Equipment  
United Utilities

### Silver members

H&H Reeds Printers Ltd  
Hrafnsmal Engineering Ltd  
Studsvik UK Ltd

### Bronze members

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

### Standard members

Aggregate Industries  
Carrs Milling  
Choice Hotels  
The Castle Green Hotel  
English Lakes Ice Cream  
Fortis Remote Technology  
Lakeland Limited  
Langdale Hotel and Spa  
LightBringer Essences  
Pure Leisure Group  
Stringers Beer  
Sykes Cottages  
Wildroof Landscapes

### Complimentary members

Cumbria Waste Management  
Dobbies Garden Centre  
Furness Building Society  
James Cropper  
Vine House Farm  
MacDonald Old England Hotel  
Sherburn Stone  
Swarovski Optik  
Radiata Trees

# Financial report

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.

Completing the purchase of Eycott Hill at the beginning of the year has had a major impact on the Trust's overall finances. The final £785,000 received during the year, together with significant legacies, pushed total income up to £3.7 million. £1 million was used for the land purchase and, because this is an asset, it does not feature as part of the year's expenditure. We are also extremely grateful to have received significant legacies during the year, and as a result of these two factors the Trust's funds grew by £1,241,000 at the year-end – the majority of which represents an increase in the size and value of our nature reserves. The remainder will help to support our work during the next few years, which currently look set to be financially challenging ones.

In addition to the impact of grants received to purchase Eycott Hill and that of legacies, the Trust's income from grants, donations and membership subscriptions was up by £280,000 from the previous year. This funded a similar increase in expenditure on our nature reserves. Some of this expenditure supported our work with the ospreys at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve, the success of which attracted much interest. One effect of this was to underpin membership recruitment and subscriptions, which increased for the third year in a row. 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 7 July 2016. 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:

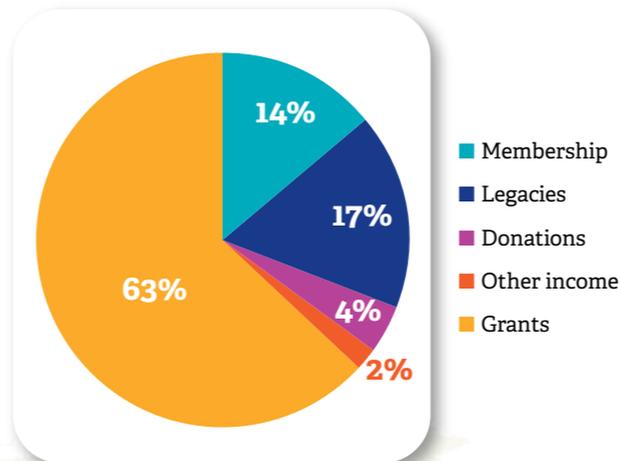


**Anne Powell**

**John Farmer**

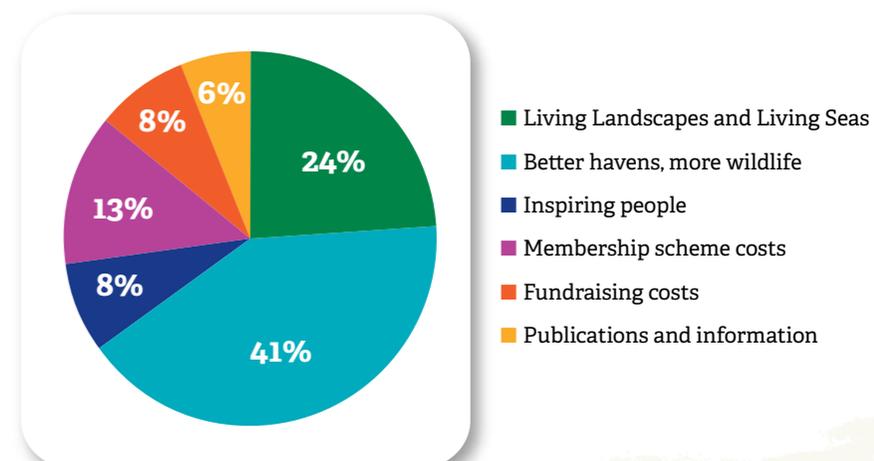
## Income

Income in the year ended 31 March 2016



## Expenditure

Expenditure in the year ended 31 March 2016



# Legacies and in memoriam

## 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 **Michael Bell, Elizabeth Crowther, Margaret Dunlinson, Helga Frankland, Maurice Hodgson, Juliet Kay, Patricia Nuttall, Marian Salway, Helen Park and Beryl Thompson.**

## In memoriam

### Mr John Horne of Ravenstonedale

John volunteered as editor of *Cumbrian Wildlife* after his retirement in 1983 and he contributed many interesting articles to the magazine. He remained editor until the early 1990s, and was a longstanding supporter of 45 years. John's best-kept secret was his award of an OBE for his work for the Forestry Commission in Nigeria, where he was Director of the Forestry Research School in Ibadan: he claimed, with typical modesty, that it was 'just for doing my job'.

### Jenifer Leech of Gosforth

Jenifer came to live permanently in Cumbria in 1993. Wildlife always held a fascination, from the swallows nesting in the porch of the cottage to the natterjack toads on the coastal dunes and the flowers and butterflies in the fells. She was active as the Treasurer of the West Coast Local Support Group in the 90s and was a generous supporter of all aspects of the Trust's work.

### Judy Dunford of Orton

Judy was a keen recorder of wild flowers and campaigned tirelessly to protect the special roadside verges around Orton. In the year of foot-and-mouth she went out every day to the verges and photographed every wild flower she saw. This 'domesday' type record became a touring exhibition. Judy also delivered wildlife photography courses for the Trust, sharing her tips on taking digital photographs of wild flowers. She was always happy to share her photographs with the Trust and local groups.

### Baron Kirkby de Claremont of Virginia, USA

Baron Kirkby became a life member of the Trust following several visits to Cumbria and his support for our work led him to set up the Kirkby Fund in the 1990s. This is an endowment fund and the interest from the fund has contributed to the expansion of some of our nature reserves and the restoration work at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve. The Trust is extremely grateful for the support that Baron Kirkby has given us throughout his life.

### Jean Corlett (nee McCormack) of Outgate, near Hawkshead

Jean was a founder member of Cumbria Wildlife Trust. She was an early trustee, joining the Council in 1964, and became the first Secretary of the Property Management and Conservation Committee. She served on both until 1972 when the committee evolved and split into the Reserves Committee and Scientific and Advisory Committee. As secretary she produced minutes of the meetings (the Trust had no staff in those days) and wrote regular updates and articles for the Trust newsletter.

### Constance (Connie) Kingston of Penrith

Connie became a member of the Trust in 1984 and she was active in the Penrith Local Support Group. When the Trust started roadside verge surveys, Connie joined the group to survey a number of verges in the Greystoke and Lamony area. Anne Simpson, the group's treasurer, said: "We benefitted from her extensive knowledge of grasses, sedges and flowers."

### Les Robertson

Les Robertson was an active member of the Trust who served on the committee of the West Coast Local Support Group and had a keen interest in amphibians and reptiles, bats and red squirrels. Les worked at Sellafield and he helped to get protection for natterjack toads on the Sellafield site. He received a Badger's Paw Award in 2010 in recognition of his commitment to the West Coast Local Support Group and also for the outstanding contribution he made to the conservation of wildlife in Cumbria.

# Looking ahead



Much of our work in the 2016–17 financial year will build on the work we have achieved over the previous 12 months. As outlined in our Five Year Plan, which runs

from 2015–2020, our priorities continue to be to create a Living Landscape through conserving habitats and species, to create a Living Landscape through bigger, better nature reserves and to secure Living Seas.

Hay meadow and wetland habitats continue to be at the forefront of our efforts in the wider countryside, and although our Meadow Life project will come to an end, we will still continue to work with partners and landowners to restore hay meadows in parts of Cumbria. Effort is currently underway to bring together committed volunteers to form a group who can provide advice and services for those who wish to restore their own meadows in the future.

Upland wetland restoration is not only a priority for wildlife but recent flooding has brought into sharp focus the need to manage these areas to help slow the flow of water into our towns and villages. In conjunction with the Environment Agency we started work on this last year, but this year should see even more effort put into slowing the flow of water off our uplands. The Trust has completed wetland restoration work this year and has some new locations lined up for the coming year.

We have made progress with our plans for a new centre at Gosling Sike Farm and the coming year should see the erection of a new office and facilities. Our plan remains for training and education project staff to work from this new building, reaching people across the north of Cumbria and inspiring them to do more for wildlife. We are now into our second year of our five-year project to restore Eycott Hill Nature Reserve and to attract people of all backgrounds to visit. Plans on site for the coming year include the continuation of the meadow restoration and the creation of new scrapes in the wetland, as well as completing the viewing point and information panels. We will also continue

to work closely with local arts charity, Prism Arts, to engage local school children and disability groups – many of whom have already created some wonderful stories, artwork and an animation focused around Eycott Hill Nature Reserve. South Walney Nature Reserve will also be improved for visitors with the installation of two new hides, created by Art Gene, providing a unique visitor experience, and Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve will have new boardwalk and information panels to improve the visitor experience.

Muddy Marine Conservation Zones are the focus of this year's activity to raise awareness of our campaign to secure Marine Conservation Zones in the Irish Sea. Sadly, muddy habitats are missing from the suite of zones that have been designated so far, but they are vitally important in sustaining a marine wildlife food chain in the sea off Cumbria. We expect the government to open its consultation on three proposed new areas: Mud Hole, South Rigg and Sileve Na Griddle in 2017, when we'll again be asking you, our members, to respond as brilliantly as you have over the last few years.

**Peter Bullard**, Director



## Cumbria Wildlife Trust: 2015-2016

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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 38 nature reserves you can visit, works to protect endangered habitats and species such as peat bogs and red squirrels, campaigns for the protection of marine wildlife 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](mailto:mail@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk)  
[www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk)

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