



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

The year's highlights:

2016–2017 Annual Review

Chairman's introduction



2016–17 has provided significant national political challenge due to the EU referendum result and we have been recovering from Storm Desmond (December 2015) which, although damaging, provided the opportunity to explore Natural Flood Management with the Environment Agency. Overall Cumbria Wildlife Trust has had a good year.

During the year several key projects came to an end, although their legacy will continue far into the future. The three-year Meadow Life project raised the profile of hay meadows and made an impact on restoring and improving these important habitats. We are delighted to say that although funding for this project came to an end, we are continuing the important work of hay meadow restoration by setting up the Cumbria Meadows Network and a new grasslands

project. This is being done through partnership working, ie collaborating with like-minded colleagues in a range of Cumbria-based conservation groups.

This year also saw the end of funding for the Marine and Coastal Heritage Programme. Fourteen young people have benefited from this training scheme over three years, and all of them have gone on to put their training into practice by finding employment in marine conservation. The Trust has benefited tremendously from their energy, enthusiasm and hard work and we shall certainly miss them! We aim to continue our marine programme through a volunteer-based survey project with new partners in Allonby Bay and the Solway Firth.

We were delighted when no fewer than five seal pups were recorded at South Walney Nature Reserve over the autumn and winter. This is a record and has raised



▲ HRH The Prince of Wales and Christa Nelson help to sow The Queen's Meadow in Green Park, London, at the end of the Coronation Meadows project

Photo: Robin Bell, Coronation Meadows

the profile of our southern-most reserve, as it is the North West's only grey seal breeding colony. In the north of the county, near Carlisle, work has started on our new education and training hub at Gosling Sike Farm. We were pleased when in January, as soon as planning permission had been agreed, work started on construction of the revamped building. Look out for more news as the project takes shape through 2017–18.

The fundraising climate continued to be a challenge for all charities this year, with more rules and regulations coming in which affect us all. We are working hard and monitoring our efforts, to ensure that we continue to comply with any new fundraising requirements as and when they come into force.

This year was a great year for volunteers, with more volunteer days carried out on our nature reserves than ever before. This is just one way in which people give us their time. Many others help out in office-based roles, on the Board and committees, carrying out plant surveys, taking photos and videos, on social media and writing for the press, etc. We are grateful to all of them and for their invaluable contribution to the Trust.

Anne Powell

A word from our President



Although it happened after the 2016–17 year end, I believe the event of the year for Cumbria was the UNESCO World Heritage inscription for the Lake District.

This is because it identifies our county as of world significance. In a world where political pressure and financial stringency looks like being the order of

the day, this should be of considerable help in arguing our county's case with government, as well as a big encouragement for tourism.

The ongoing policy point of long-term significance is Brexit and leaving the Common Agricultural Policy. We must ensure that environmental and wildlife aspects are embedded and play their full part in any future, wider rural policy.

Lord Inglewood, Hutton-in-the-Forest

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Creating a Living Landscape through conserving habitats and species

Beautiful flower-rich meadows were once a common feature of Cumbria. Over a number of years we have set up projects to restore and create these important habitats, using traditional practices to increase plant diversity. The most recent of these was Meadow Life, a three-year Heritage Lottery-funded project.

Funding for this project finished this year, and during its lifetime, 110 hectares of hay meadows were restored or improved. We trained over 50 volunteers in plant identification and surveying, who then helped us survey 100 meadows and 70 roadside verges across Cumbria. Over 40,000 plug plants were grown by HMP Haverigg and planted by volunteers, and at workshops in schools we taught nearly 900 children about hay meadows.

Even though the latest project has been completed, the important work of meadow restoration continues. A Cumbria Meadows Network was established, with Cumbria Wildlife Trust acting as a catalyst. The Network is coordinated by a volunteer with members sharing their expertise and

resources. This is the first time we have set up such a legacy structure to continue a successful, funded project. The new Network appears to be working well.

In early 2017 we secured new funding to build upon the work of our Meadow Life project. Working with five partner organisations, the focus will continue to be on restoring and creating species-rich grasslands. Community events form an essential part of the new project, and these include scything workshops, planting days and wildflower workshops. We are also developing a pollinator project which focuses on the county's insect pathways, identified through the work of the Local Nature Partnership and Buglife.

Our UK-wide Coronation Meadows project also completed this year, with a high-profile event in London's Green Park, at which HRH The Prince of Wales helped to create a wildflower meadow, with the assistance of the Trust's Christa Nelson and a group of school children. It was the 90th Coronation Meadow to be created in the year of HM The Queen's 90th birthday.

Peatland habitats are under threat not only in our county but around the world and Cumbria Wildlife Trust continues to prioritise conserving these precious ecosystems. Most restoration work this year was done at Mungrisdale Mires, a Site of Special Scientific Interest in the Eden Valley catchment where we restored 17 hectares of lowland raised bog. Work included felling birch scrub on a dome of raised bog and 'cell-bunding', which involves building a retaining wall around the edge of the dome to raise the water table. This technique has been used successfully at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve. Small-scale wetland renewal work was carried out at Northspring Marshy Grassland, a County Wildlife Site near Staveley. During four visits to the site, log dams were dug-in by hand.

'2,020 hectares of restored peatlands by 2020' is the major target for the Cumbria Peat Partnership. Discussions have started with the Forestry Commission about possible work in the Hardknott Forest area of the Duddon Valley and a survey of bare peat on Matterdale Common in the eastern fells identified further work in this region.

▼ Beckstones meadow, Ravenstonedale, an exemplar site of the Meadow Life Project

Photo: Kath and Ian Jolly



▲ Just two of the many volunteers who helped with plug planting in hay meadows this year

Creating a Living Landscape through conserving habitats and species

Cumbria's devastating floods of 2015 raised the profile of Natural Flood Management (NFM) nationally, as well as leading to much-needed funding for local remediation. The Trust has taken a lead in identifying sites where the restoration of peatlands can deliver NFM and help reduce the risk of flooding in local communities. We secured £320,000 of funding for this peatland restoration work to be carried out over the next five years. In addition, the Slow the Flow project has included more tree-planting on hills and floodplains, restoring river courses and building woody debris dams. Much of this work has helped raise the profile of NFM across the North West, through community engagement, press articles and interviews.

Slow the Flow is currently supporting 12 key schemes, with more to follow. Through this work we have created 47 hectares of new wildlife habitat and ongoing projects will create a further 750 hectares, including 30 new woodlands and 15 new wetlands.

Cumbria Wildlife Trust expressed concern about significant habitat loss if the National Grid's plans for overhead power-lines to connect the planned nuclear power stations at Moorside to Heysham were to go ahead. During the public consultation, we highlighted the fact that almost 60 hectares of woodland, some of it ancient, would be destroyed, along with 16 hectares of flower-rich grassland and 17km of hedgerows. The Trust asked for the proposed route to be reviewed to prevent such a habitat loss and to consider a greater level of compensation, so that more new habitat might be created elsewhere.

2016–17 was the final year of a two-year Green Transport Corridors project, in which we continued to improve biodiversity on our road networks. Work undertaken included reptile and botanical surveys, hedge planting and hedge laying. Working with volunteers on a major highway was a new experience for us. The project covered 13 hectares of habitat on

roadsides in the Morecambe Bay Nature Improvement Area and preliminary results indicate that the project predicted a net gain in biodiversity of 168%.

We continued to work with other Wildlife Trusts to conserve red squirrels across the north of England, as part of Red Squirrels Northern England (RSNE). This was a good year for red squirrels across the north. Annual results published by RSNE show that red squirrels were detected in 44% of sites surveyed and greys were found in only 37% of sites, which is a decrease from the levels in 2015 when greys were detected in 47% of sites.

In north Cumbria around the forests of Kershope and Spadeadam, funding from the national Red Squirrels United campaign helped RSNE to employ a full time ranger, and to put in place a quarterly monitoring programme aimed at detecting grey squirrels at an early stage after arrival in the area.

Creating a Living Landscape through bigger, better nature reserves



▲ *The ponds at Bowness-on-Solway Nature Reserve, some of the best in the country for freshwater aquatic life, gained recognition as Flagship Ponds*



▲ *In July we celebrated the 40th anniversary of Bowness-on-Solway Nature Reserve*

Creating a Living Landscape through bigger, better nature reserves

Four of our nature reserves reached milestones this year. Staff, supporters and volunteers celebrated the 40th anniversary of Grubbins Wood, Bowness-on-Solway and Argill Woods, as well as the 30th anniversary of Latterbarrow. At Bowness-on-Solway our Northern Reserves Officer led a guided walk around the various habitats, including the ponds, which are some of the best in the country for freshwater aquatic life. They found them teeming with life, including abundant newt and caddisfly larvae, which are good indicators of the quality of the ponds.

The ponds are home to a number of species of conservation concern, including the mud snail *Omphiscola glabra* and two water beetles, *Hydrochus angustatus* and *Helochares punctatus*. This year these impressive ponds were chosen by the Freshwater Habitats Trust as Flagship Ponds for the county. The small tarn at Barkbooth Lot was also selected for this project. Project funds will help tree clearance around the ponds at Bowness-on-Solway.

This was our best year ever for volunteer numbers, with approximately 1,317 days of voluntary work completed on our nature reserves. We are very grateful to all our volunteers whose hard work helps to maintain these havens for wildlife. Work has included scrub clearance from Hutton Roof Crags and Humphrey Head nature reserves, coppicing at Brown Robin, creating sunny corridors for butterflies at Park Wood and wildflower plug planting, bracken bashing and hedgerow restoration at Eycott Hill.

At South Walney Nature Reserve we were delighted to record five seal pups and you can see over the page how new technology helped us capture this information! A pair of breeding ospreys returned to Foulshaw Moss in April 2016 and successfully raised two chicks, watched by thousands of people on our live webcam. Eiders had a very good year on Foulney Island with 194 chicks fledged from 53 nesting pairs; 233 breeding female eiders were counted on South Walney along with 2,000 pairs of lesser black-backed gulls, 1,000 pairs of herring gulls and 50 pairs of great black-



▲ *David Clarke from the British Dragonfly Society led a dragonfly walk at the Eycott Hill Bioblitz*

backed gulls. Rockcliffe Marsh saw an increase in numbers of lapwing (78 pairs), oystercatcher (56 pairs) and redshank (55 pairs), although skylarks were down slightly from last year at 61 pairs.

Interesting sightings this year included an Isabelline shrike at South Walney Nature Reserve and wood warblers were recorded for the first time in Low Fell Plantation at Barkbooth Lot. In the winter there

were massive murmurations of starlings over Tarn Sike Nature Reserve – an awe-inspiring wildlife spectacle. During the two-day Bioblitz at Eycott Hill, visitors collected 275 species records, taking the total species list to 760. This helps to build a more detailed picture of what wildlife can be found on the nature reserve.

Three hectares of meadow were restored at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve, through harrowing, spreading green hay and planting plug plants, increasing the total area to six hectares. This year's survey showed that the area restored in 2014 is doing well, with the range of species including yellow rattle, rough hawkbit, red clover and eyebright. Elsewhere on the nature reserve, 2,700m of artificial drainage ditches were blocked to slow the flow of water from the fell and enhance wetland grassland on the fellside. A further 4.5 hectares of heathland restoration took place, with heather seed sown and 1,100 heather, bilberry and crowberry seedlings planted.

While restoring woodland at Barkbooth Lot Nature Reserve, we enlisted the help of Danny the pony. With his handler, he removed larch trees, which had been felled due to the threat of *Phytophthora ramorum* disease. After processing, the larch was taken to our northern base at Gosling Sike Farm, to be used as cladding on the new training and education hub.

As part of the Dunes of Barrow project at South Walney, we restored 1.3 hectares of dunes and removed scrub at North Walney National Nature Reserve, where it was encroaching on dune heathland habitat. To ensure the success of grazing at Eskmeals Dunes, fencing which had been destroyed by high tides was replaced and set further inland in the nature reserve.

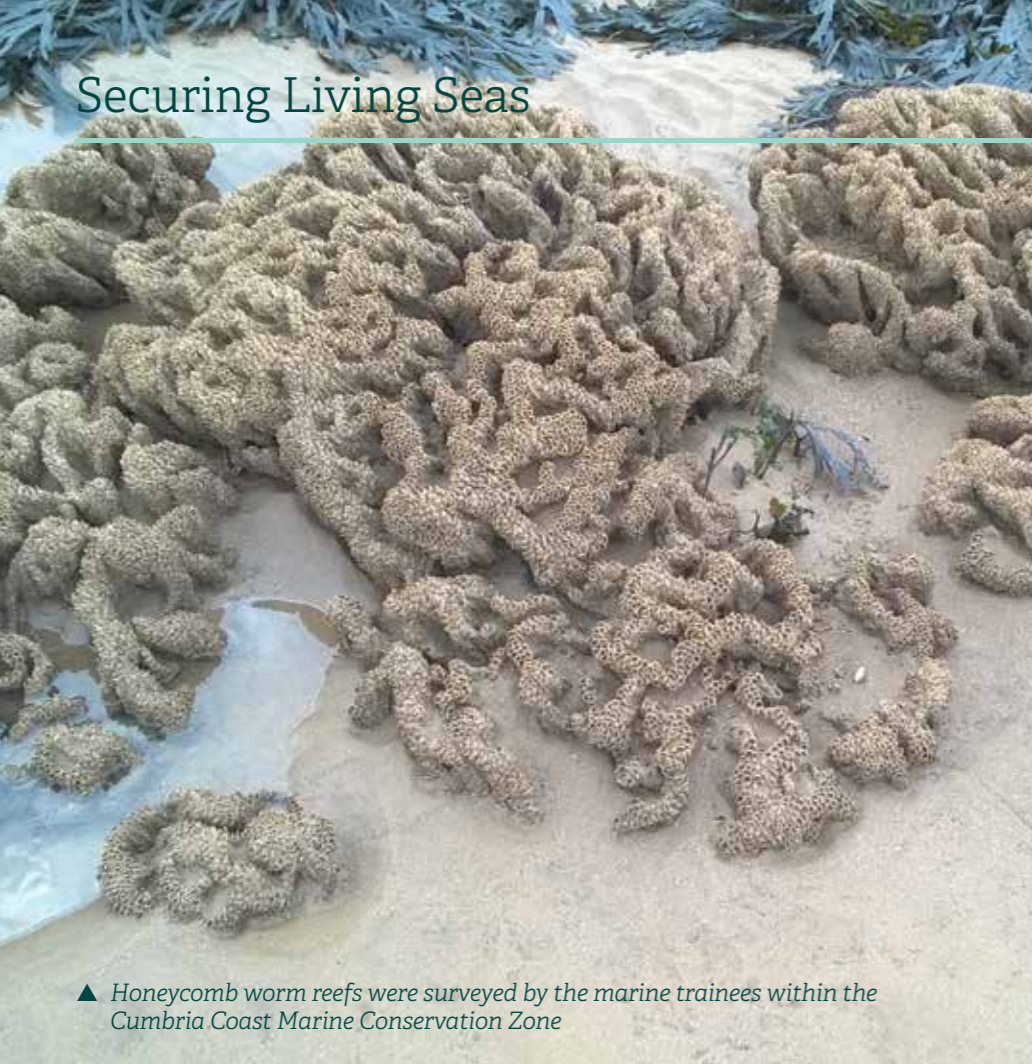
Restoration of mires continued on several nature reserves. Fields which were reverting to fen habitat were re-fenced at Foulshaw Moss and Meathop Moss to enable cattle grazing after water levels were raised, and water-level data loggers were replaced at Foulshaw Moss. At Orton Moss we planted 1,000 devil's-bit scabious plants, to encourage the reintroduction of the marsh fritillary butterfly.



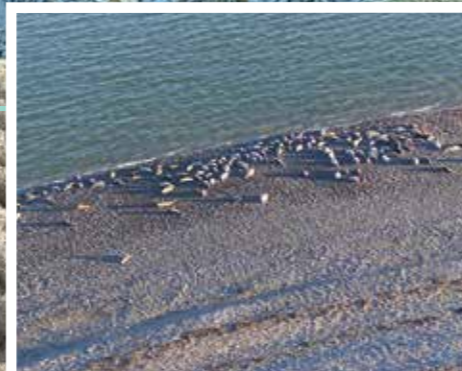
▲ *New boardwalk under construction at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve*

We improved the visitor experience at several nature reserves, with 2km of new boardwalk at Meathop and Foulshaw Mosses, and an upgraded entrance to Foulshaw Moss. At South Walney a new hide was erected; the live seal cam was launched in August, and improved AA signs helped to greatly increase visitor numbers. We had a celebrity visitor at Smardale Gill when Tony Robinson called in to do some filming for his Coast to Coast walk, shown on Channel 5 in April 2017.

Securing Living Seas



▲ Honeycomb worm reefs were surveyed by the marine trainees within the Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone



▲ A drone was used to count seals at South Walney Nature Reserve



▲ This year's marine trainees carrying out a mussel survey at Heysham

We have a long-term strategy to support traineeships at Cumbria Wildlife Trust. This year saw the completion of the Marine and Coastal Heritage Programme, with the final group of trainees completing their nine-month placement in April 2017. The evaluation report for the three-year, Heritage Lottery-funded scheme deemed it a great success. Since 2014 when the programme started, 14 highly-motivated young people have been trained in marine conservation by Wildlife Trusts in the North West, an experience which has proved to be an excellent springboard to launch their careers in this sector.

Over the three years, the trainees delivered over 300 events, made numerous TV appearances and completed nearly 100 marine and coastal surveys. The Trust has been delighted to design and run this highly successful programme and to help develop the next generation of marine conservationists. A video on our website traces the stories of all the trainees who have undertaken this education and training programme.

As well as running over 40 public events, this year's trainees conducted 51 surveys.

These included counts of breeding terns and other wading birds and wildfowl at RSPB Hodbarrow Reserve, monitoring bird disturbance from boats and people at locations across South Walney Nature Reserve, and 12 seal surveys, using a combination of traditional and hi-tech counting methods.

The seal surveys brought the Trust to the nation's TV screens in January 2017. BBC Countryfile Winter Diaries filmed marine trainee Jade Chenery as she compared results from traditional seal counts (crawling across shingle and looking through binoculars) with aerial filming using the Trust's new drone. Jade counted about 150 seals with the first method, but the drone footage showed that there were 259! The drone also captured the moment just after the birth of this year's fifth seal pup. The North West's only grey seal breeding colony appears to be thriving.

Following the successful designation of two Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) last year, we continued to raise the profile of marine conservation. Our advocacy continued at a national level, with the Senior Marine Conservation Officer speaking at Government meetings with

Defra and a Coastal Futures Conference in London, attended by over 300 delegates and 140 organisations. Discussions were held with Scottish marine organisations, seeking to promote less environmentally-damaging fisheries.

The Irish Sea Marine Advocacy Programme received an additional grant of £100,000 from the Peter De Haan Charitable Trust, to enable funding for the Senior Marine Conservation Officer for another two years, although due to political manoeuvrings, the next round of consultations on MCZs has been delayed beyond 2017.

We supported Our Irish Sea, a new marine awareness project run by Lancashire Wildlife Trust, and set up the Marine Mudness campaign to promote the conservation of muddy habitats in the Irish Sea. The campaign caught both the press and the public's imagination, with many articles and interviews appearing in local and regional press and popular magazines, as well as on local TV and radio. We encouraged people to sign up as a 'friend of muddy MCZs' and work started on the production of an Irish Sea tale-trail (published in May 2017), to bring these deep-water, muddy habitats to life.

Our 2016–2017 achievements

Looking after our Living Landscape



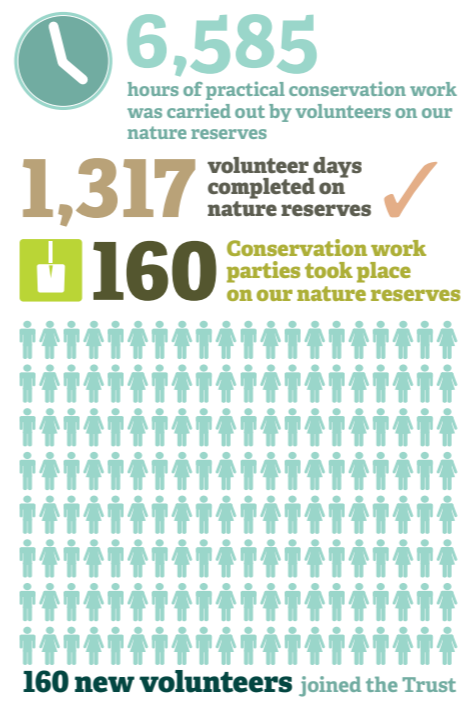
Eycott Hill Nature Reserve in numbers



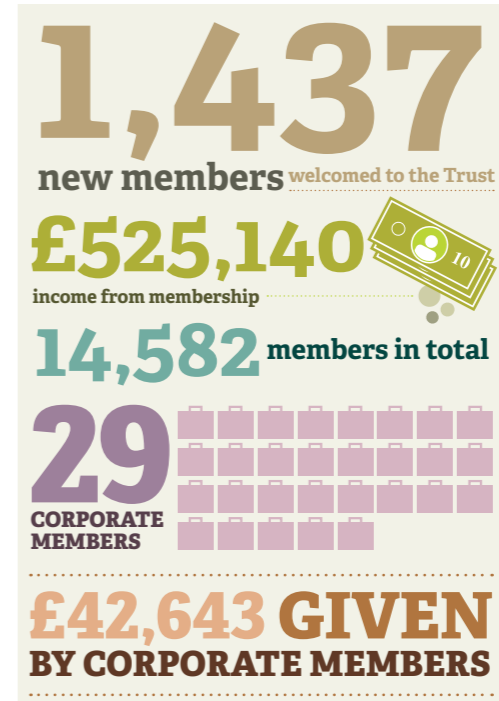
Inspiring people



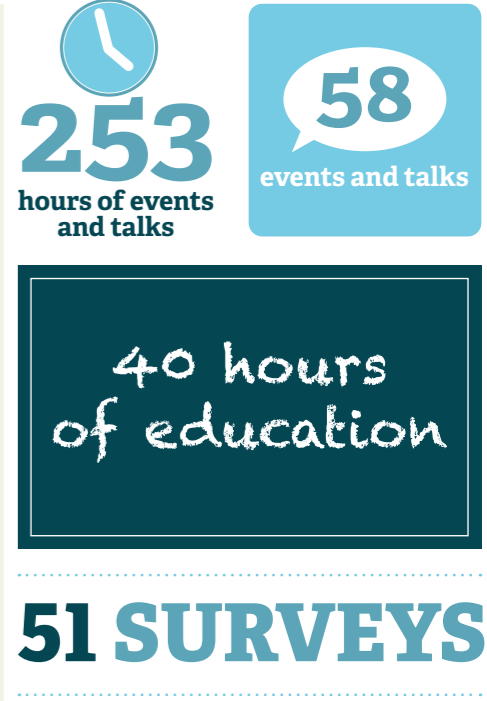
Volunteering



Our members



Marine trainees



Your highlights

Alasdair McKee Volunteer, Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve



Volunteering at this nature reserve isn't hard work when you spend all day showing people one of your favourite places and helping them engage with nature.

Ospreys are the stars and one real highlight this year was their safe return from Africa. Then more excitement when eggs hatched and chicks made their first frantic flaps into the air. There was the enthusiastic if confused visitor crying, "So, where are these ostriches then?" I hope he wasn't too disappointed. On long summer days the sky was full of dragonflies and swallows, the boardwalk seemed to have one lizard per plank and the regular adder was admired. From a distance. There were water rail chicks, jet black bundles of fluff with huge feet, and hobbies hunting overhead. Add to that sweeping views of three counties and there could be no better place to work.

Alasdair McKee

Georgie Blow Marine Trainee



This year was a whirlwind of brand new challenges and experiences. Since joining Cumbria Wildlife Trust on a marine traineeship,

two days have rarely been the same – from carrying out surveys of mussels and marine mammals to delivering presentations to large audiences. For me one of the highlights of the year was exploring Cumbria's exciting and diverse coastline and having the chance to share it with others. I remember watching the sun rise as we surveyed the sprawling *Sabellaria* reefs on the west coast, the tightly packed tubes formed by the worm resembling a mass of untidy honeycombs. Another high point was leading people out onto the rocky shore and witnessing their enthusiasm as we uncovered nooks packed with the jelly-like blobs of beadlet anemones, clusters of coloured periwinkles and dogwhelks, and the occasional crab peeking furtively out from underneath a rock!

Georgie Blow

Jackie Hooley Local Support Group Secretary



Within a few days of moving to Cumbria I was co-opted onto the Sedbergh Local Support Group committee. Our regular meetings are

enjoyable social occasions and my duties as secretary are light as we have a supportive committee and a wonderful chair. It's been a great way to meet people and become part of the community. Our winter talks are always fascinating, such as the lovely presentation by students from Sedbergh School on their conservation expedition to Madagascar. Highlights this year include seeing the first primroses at Smardale Gill and orchids later in the year, and the first red squirrels for many years in Howgill. I also recall a sunny picnic at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve, on one of those strange little outcrops of rock overlooking the valley. I watched a work party of young people planting and fencing and they were clearly enjoying themselves very much!

Jackie Hooley

Inspiring and engaging people to value nature

- *Some of the visitors at our first ever Walney Wader Festival*



Inspiring and engaging people to value nature

This was a bumper year for volunteering at the Trust, with 1,200 registered volunteers, 160 of whom were new this year. While many helped to maintain habitats and monitor rare species at nature reserves, others were surveying hedgerows in the Rusland Valley or greeting visitors at our nature reserves. Others shared their wildlife expertise, such as the osprey volunteers at Foulshaw Moss and Bryan Yorke, who has collected a huge amount of data on bird migration over the Hutton Roof area.

Everyone's voluntary contribution to the Trust, no matter how large or small, is greatly appreciated. At the Members' Conference at Newton Rigg we recognised 10 volunteers who have demonstrated long-term commitment to the Trust and to wildlife conservation. Badger's Paw Awards were given to Maggie Acomb, Robin Cornah, Christine Davison, Tina Galloway, John Gray, Ian Gregg, Jan McArthur, Frank Mawby, Cedric Robinson and Seb Sillito.

We launched the online iSpy a Hedgehog campaign, a citizen science project encouraging people to log their sightings

of hedgehogs in Cumbria. It has proved to be a very popular campaign and will continue in 2017–18. This year 813 sightings of hedgehogs were logged and students at the University of Cumbria are helping to analyse the data.

Cumbria Wildlife Trust presented its first ever Kestrel Award to a Wildlife Watch member. Nine-year-old Finn Hurley took a year to complete his impressive wildlife project, writing poetry, creating collages and building a hedgehog home, as well as recording animal tracks and sightings in the woods around Hutton Roof Crags Nature Reserve.

Our five Wildlife Watch groups were very active throughout the year, running 32 outdoor events for children, including trails through woods looking for sculptures, foraging and pond dipping. Trust staff ran sessions in 15 schools in West Cumbria and we launched our contribution to the Wildlife Trusts' national Friendship Bracelets campaign with the Cleator Beaver group. This was a marine conservation petition that was sent to the Prime Minister, calling for a 'blue belt' to protect our seas.



▲ Keith Grafton from Ulverston won first prize in the Walney Wader Festival photo competition with this picture of a turnstone

After two years, we said goodbye to our Apprentice Conservation Officer as she started a degree at Bangor University, and welcomed two more young people on a two-year apprenticeship scheme funded by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. The apprentices have all thrown themselves into the challenges of this role and gained confidence and wide-ranging skills, from monitoring wading birds to delivering classroom sessions in schools and learning how to fly a drone.

A conservation undergraduate from the University of Cumbria completed our first southern reserves student placement, initially based at Foulshaw Moss, then supporting all southern reserves. A postgraduate student joined us for a nine month placement and she has helped out at work parties and events at Eycott Hill, including plug planting and drystone walling, as well as leading walks and school visits.

A University of Cumbria student completed her placement at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve before returning to complete the final year of her BSc in Animal Conservation Science, and two media students from the University of Cumbria completed short-term volunteer projects at the Trust.

The marine trainees organised several high-profile public events. Nearly 200 people attended the first ever Walney Wader Festival, a two-day celebration of winter waders at South Walney Nature Reserve. The Waste Beneath our Waves was an imaginative project which highlighted the dangers to wildlife caused by beach litter. In collaboration with Cumbrian artist Ellie Chaney, it



▲ Families enjoyed the guided walk at the Eycott Hill Discovery Day

combined beach cleans at South Walney with community workshops in Barrow, and culminated with an exhibition in Barrow and Kendal of artworks created by children and learning-disabled adults.

The trainees also ran Beached Art, our one-day celebration of marine wildlife at St Bees. This year a sand artist inspired those taking part in the sand-sculpture competition and over 250 people attended. Throughout Marine Week, they organised a further 13 events including rockpool rambles and sea watches, as well as Marine Mudness walks.

The Trust ran 379 public events this year, from creative writing and learning how to scythe to searching for bats and moths. Popular family activities included discovery days, getting arty at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve and storytelling on South Walney. Over 80 events were run by our nine local support groups, including talks on bee-keeping, red squirrels and swifts, as well as a fungal foray and family walks.



▲ Finn Hurley, winner of the Wildlife Watch Kestrel Award with his hedgehog house

Staff and volunteers ran 160 conservation work parties and nine species ID training courses, covering birdsong and trees, as well as teaching coppicing and woodcraft skills. The Cross Bay Walk was once again a success, raising over £3,600.

In collaboration with Prism Arts, a group of learning-disabled adults from the Edington Centre in Penrith produced *Eyes on Eycott Hill*, an animated film combining folklore, stories written by local children, geology and wildlife. The Edington Centre, along with Eden Mencap and older people from Amy's Care in Carlisle, worked on a textiles project inspired by the flora and fauna in the hay meadows at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve and their work was exhibited in Carlisle and Penrith. Two days of creative writing at Eycott Hill resulted in the publication of *The Raspberry and the Rowan*, a poetry anthology, and *The Raven of Eycott Hill* was published, an engaging tale-trail for families to use while exploring the nature reserve.

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. 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 10 times the match funding contributed.

Grant and donations income

Allerdale Borough Council

Arts Council

Barrow Borough Council

Biffa Award

Center Parcs

Cumbria County Council

CWMET

D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

Eden District Council

Environment Agency

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Furness Building Society

Hadfield Trust

Harold and Alice Bridges Charity

Heritage Lottery Fund

John Strutt Conservation Foundation

K2B

Lake District National Park Authority

LEADER

Morecambe Bay Partnership

Natural England

Nugen

Nurture Lakeland

Peter De Haan Charitable Trust

Sir John Fisher Foundation

South West Environmental Action Trust

SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd

Tesco Local Community Grants

Vine House Farm

WREN

Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust

Corporate members during the year

Platinum members

Center Parcs

Lakes Distillery

Gold members

Castle Green Hotel

Eden Insulation

Lyon Equipment

United Utilities

Silver members

Cyclife UK Ltd

H&H Reeds Printers Ltd

WCF Ltd

Bronze members

Arnison Heelis Solicitors

Cumbria Grand Hotel

Greg Thompson Quality
Landscapes and Treecare

Holiday Cottages.co.uk

Rathbone Brothers plc

Tarmac

University of Cumbria

Standard members

Aggregate Industries

English Lakes Ice Cream

Fortis Remote Technology

Lakeland Limited

Langdale Hotel and Spa

Pure Leisure Group

Stringers Beer

Wildroof Landscapes

Complimentary members

Cumbria Waste Management

Furness Building Society

Vine House Farm

Radiata Trees

2 Sisters Food Group

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.

The Trust's income for the year was just under £2.5 million and expenditure just over £2.6 million. After taking into account a gain in the value of the Trust's investments, the deficit for the year was £38,093.

In the current economic climate it is particularly difficult for the Trust to attract grants for habitat and species projects. Despite this, we still succeeded in supporting an increase in expenditure on our charitable objectives. In aggregate, direct expenditure on charitable activities, excluding land purchases, was £206,311 higher than in the previous year. The funding for this comes mainly from grants from a combination of sources including charitable trusts, the National Lottery and government bodies such as Defra, Natural England and

the Environment Agency. Where these sources prove insufficient, the balance is supplied by voluntary income such as legacies, donations and membership subscriptions. The £½ million contributed annually in the form of membership subscriptions is essential to the Trust's long-term financial stability and enables us to do many things for which we would not otherwise have sufficient funds.

The Trust holds funds for longer-term projects such as the purchase of nature reserves but it can be a number of years before suitable opportunities arise. These funds are invested to avoid erosion of their value by inflation, an objective that has been significantly exceeded over the last seven years. £100,000 was drawn from these funds last year to provide for the commencement of building works at Gosling Sike Farm.

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 6 July 2017. 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.

Anne Powell

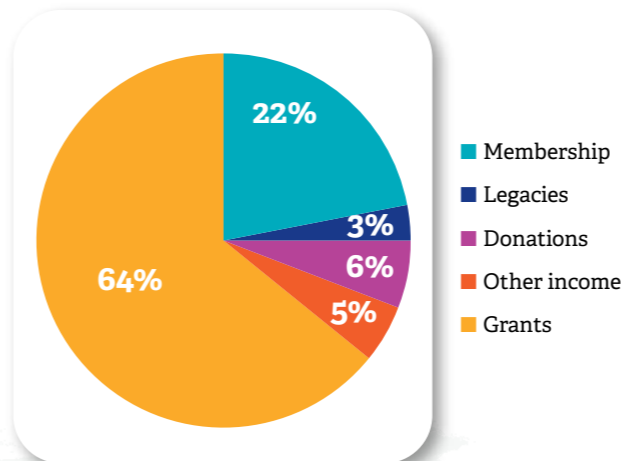


John Farmer



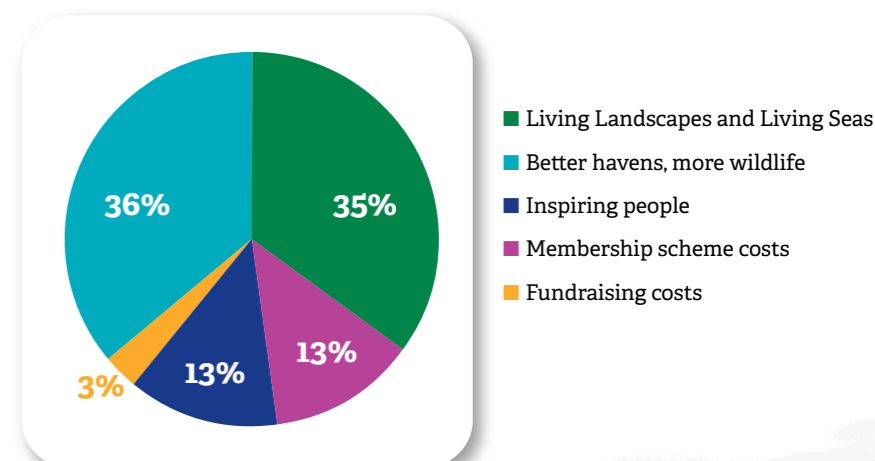
Income

Income in the year ended 31 March 2017



Expenditure

Expenditure in the year ended 31 March 2017



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:

Mary Burkett, John Edge, Florence Hall, Robert Kinley, Jenifer Leech, Joan Lord, Rosemary Lowry, Doreen Massey and George Roden.

All those who left us a legacy have had a brass leaf inscribed in their memory. They are now decorating structures on our flagship nature reserves.

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:

Susan Cheesman of Carlisle

Susan volunteered at Gosling Sike Farm from the very first days that the Trust became involved in the site. She attended virtually all the work parties there with her husband Howard. They occasionally worked at other nature reserves but Gosling Sike Farm was her favoured location. Susan participated in all aspects of the work there, from surveying hedges and trees to building bridges across the sike, as well as fencing and hedge-laying. Her kindness, generosity and sense of humour always shone through, even on the most grey and wet days.

Margaret Gregory of Brampton

Margaret Gregory was a keen botanist and an active and dedicated member of the Flora of Cumbria Recording Group. She undertook many botanical surveys, including work over many years at RAF Spadeadam, which culminated in a published account of its flora. Margaret also took part in botanical surveys of roadside verges, and of churchyards as part of the Trust's Wildlife in Sacred Places project.

In 1996 she was presented with a Badger's Paw Award in recognition of the contribution she made to the Trust's work. She was a member and supporter for over 34 years and, at the age of 98, may even have been our oldest living member.

Frank Kirkby of Penrith

Frank Kirkby was a member of the Trust for over 34 years and was awarded a Badger's Paw Award in 2011 in recognition of his long-standing commitment to the conservation of badgers. He was a very active field naturalist and a well-respected expert on mammals. Frank died in January 2017, aged 84.

Jean Parker of Low Row

Jean was a keen botanist and had been a member of the Trust for over 30 years. She was involved in surveying roadside verges and was active in both the Flora of Cumbria Recording Group and the Wildlife in Sacred Places project. In 2010 Jean received a Badger's Paw Award for her commitment to the North Cumbria Local Support Group and her tireless recording of flora in north east Cumbria.

Elizabeth Walton Greystoke, Penrith

Elizabeth Walton was a great supporter of Cumbria Wildlife Trust and a valued volunteer. She was a member of the current Penrith Local Support Group committee and had been involved with the group since its earliest days. Over the years she held various roles on the committee, including serving as Chair on more than one occasion.

Elizabeth was a great fundraiser and will undoubtedly be remembered for her cake-baking. She held numerous tea parties and coffee mornings in her house, selling Trust goods and raising money. Elizabeth received a Badger's Paw Award in 2005.

Looking ahead



In the coming year we look forward to the completion of our new training and education hub at Gosling Sike Farm near

Carlisle. The recycled, deep green, super insulated building will be clad with larch from Barkbooth Lot Nature Reserve. In the autumn and winter, work will begin on a new wildlife garden and we will be inviting local community groups to help us with planning and planting. Once completed, our plans for Gosling Sike Farm are firmly focussed on involving people from all sections of the community and delivering learning and skills programmes aimed at young people, volunteers and the wider community.

I'm pleased to announce that during 2017-18 we will complete the acquisition of land which links Smardale Gill and Waitby Greenriggs nature reserves in east Cumbria. The land, part of the same disused railway line, adds an ecologically and geologically fascinating extension to both reserves, and will boost the visitors' experience of these popular sites even

further. We also hope to secure improved parking for visitors at Smardale Gill. In south Cumbria we are in negotiations regarding the management of Holme Park Quarry Local Nature Reserve and Clawthorpe Fell National Nature Reserve.

We will continue to restore peatlands, focusing on their ability to provide natural flood management benefits and carbon storage. We will carry on with our campaigning for more and better Marine Conservation Zones and will continue to deliver the new species-rich grassland project. This will involve not only restoring more hectares of flower-rich hay meadow, but also running community days and workshops. Brexit will cause two new bills to pass through Parliament, on agriculture and fisheries. Both present huge opportunities for wildlife conservation as well as inevitable risks. We will work hard to get the best possible outcomes for wildlife and people.

Later this year you will be able to visit two striking new hides at South Walney Nature Reserve. Visitors will be intrigued by the new structures which will help them get even more from this stunning nature reserve. Thanks to funding from Cumbria

County Council, we will be providing young visitors to this reserve with explorer backpacks, to help them spot and record the wildlife they see as they walk round the site.

During 2017-18 we will be implementing a new membership and volunteer database, with the aim of improving and streamlining our recording processes. A new-look website is also being developed over the year. The new layout should improve the user experience and make it easier for members and others to find out more about our work and about wildlife highlights and events taking place across the county.

Under our commitment to training future generations of conservationists, we will appoint two undergraduate sandwich-year students this year. As part of a project funded by an Environment Grant from Lakeland Ltd, the students will be based at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve and Gosling Sike Farm.

Thank you for your continued support for Cumbria Wildlife Trust and I look forward to sharing more of our news with you as it happens over the coming year.

Peter Bullard, Director



Cumbria Wildlife Trust: 2016–2017

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.



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Back cover photo: Beautiful demoiselle damselfly.