



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

The year's highlights:

2017–2018 Annual Review

Cumbria Wildlife Trust: 2017–2018

Chairman's introduction



2017/18 has been another successful year for Cumbria Wildlife Trust and we continue to be the major voice for wildlife in the county. This has

become increasingly important with the publication of the Government's 25-year plan that challenges us all to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than when we found it. In addition there is the intensifying debate on the future of farming post Brexit and the ever increasing threat to wildlife and biodiversity through climate change and local land management practices. Continuing public sector financial pressures have not helped but our work on natural flood management, peat and grassland restoration and our ever increasing network of wonderful nature reserves have all played an important part in resisting further deterioration.

Our campaigning efforts to increase Marine Conservation Zones continue to show progress. I am particularly pleased with our work with younger people through apprenticeship schemes and through schools to inspire young people with an interest in wildlife.

Eycott Hill Nature Reserve goes from strength to strength as does Gosling Sike with the completion of our new office and training hub building. Extended media coverage has played an important part in getting our messages through to the general public with interest in the seal pups at South Walney and the osprey chicks at Foulshaw Moss being excellent examples.

None of this would have been possible were it not for the support of so many people and organisations. Our army of volunteers do such an outstanding job.

The continuing generous donations of land and other legacies are essential if we are to continue with our work. The gift of Lowick Common, which will be new to many members, occurred in this financial year and will become one of our best known and loved nature reserves. Likewise, without the financial support of a number of funding charities and other organisations, as listed later in the report, we could not be so successful. Partnership working has also become increasingly important.

Finally, I wish to thank staff and trustees for their commitment and support, in particular Dr Anne Powell, OBE, who retired after ten years as our Chair, having provided such excellent leadership over that time.

John Farmer



▲ *The Trust said farewell to Anne Powell, who retired after ten years as Chair*

A word from our President



2017/18 may well go down as an important year because of the thinking which has gone into policies for Post Brexit rural Britain. From an environmental perspective many of Michael Gove's ideas sound very exciting, and helping them develop is a priority for wildlife trusts, but we must not forget that rural policy is

about more than the environment since it needs to appropriately support businesses, including agriculture, and communities. To achieve a proper and balanced outcome there will have to be compromises, and there may not be enough money to do everything we would like to see. Idealism and enthusiasm will need to be harnessed to pragmatism.

Lord Inglewood, Hutton-in-the-Forest

Contents

Conserving habitats and species	4-6
Creating bigger, better nature reserves	7-9
Securing Living Seas	10-11
Our 2017-18 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

Conserving habitats and species

Restoring damaged upland peatlands remained our most important area of work and we have become increasingly skilled at it. There remain many places where bare eroding peat is washing into becks and rivers. Peatlands are really good habitats for a range of wildlife including birds such as snipe and curlew, many different dragonfly species and some specialist plant species, such as the carnivorous sundew.

This year we were increasingly focussed on restoring habitats, stopping carbon oxidising from peat and helping communities which are vulnerable to flooding. Rain hitting bare peat quickly falls into streams and in heavy rainfall contributes to flooding. Therefore we have spent time identifying sites with potential for restoration to help slow the flow of water and reduce flood risk for people downstream. Over the winter wetlands at Scales Farm near Eycott, Matteredale Common, Mardale Common and Tebay Gill have undergone restoration with funding from the Environment Agency. This work will

help to reduce flooding in Keswick, Tebay and Bampton. After much behind the scenes work this year, nearly £1m has been secured from Defra to restore 895 hectares of damaged peatland, bringing Cumbria Peat Partnership's target of '2,020 hectares of restored peatlands by 2020' closer to success.

Our work to conserve and restore hay meadows continued this year, working closely with partner organisations. Meadows at Hartley Fold (funded by John Strutt Conservation Foundation), Hay Bridge Nature Reserve (funded by HLF as part of Magical Meadows project which is part of Rusland Horizons), Lane End Farm (funded by The National Trust), Orton and Mallerstang (funded by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust as part of the Westmorland Dales Haytime project) all underwent restoration to create species-rich grasslands. We organised education sessions for schools and community planting days as part of Magical Meadows and the Haytime projects and provided training and support for volunteers to monitor meadows.



▲ *Students from University of Cumbria help to restore meadows at Mallerstang*

▼ *The wetland at Mardale Common is one of several areas that have undergone habitat restoration this year*

Photo: Susie Lane



Conserving habitats and species

We continued to work with other Wildlife Trusts to conserve red squirrels across the north of England, as part of Red Squirrels Northern England. A monitoring programme was established in spring 2012 and this large-scale systematic survey is repeated each year in spring. 300 woodlands and gardens are surveyed across northern England, using the same methods in the same places each year. Surveys are carried out using trail cameras, by walking through woodlands and recording squirrels seen, or by observing squirrel visits to garden feeders. In spring 2017, 294 sites were surveyed, and we are delighted to be able to report that reds were once again detected in more sites than greys. Reds were found in 45.2% of sites, and greys in 42.8% of surveys. The number of people participating also increased, with well over 150 people involved in the programme, a fantastic effort!

A highlight of the year was a workshop organised by the Trust on behalf of Natural England to discuss paludiculture, which means farming wet boggy land.

Experts from Germany joined delegates from the UK in November to discuss how concepts developed in Europe could be applied to Cumbria. Workshop delegates visited Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve and the Lyth Valley, which has seen serious flooding in recent years, to see the specific issues faced by landowners and conservationists. Paludiculture looks for innovative solutions to managing wetlands rather than seeking to drain the land to grow crops which like drier soils. Successful examples of growing crops on wet land include reeds and sphagnum moss. Such options as well as being sustainable and economically viable would not require the use of expensive electric pumps to maintain low water levels.

The Trust supports and hosts the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership (CLNP) and during the year Lord Inglewood retired as Chair of the CLNP and was replaced by Anne Powell. The CLNP continued to develop work on Natural Capital and the first sub-catchment based Natural Capital Plans in the whole country were produced for Staveley, Braithwaite and Glenridding

with funding from the Environment Agency. In March the CLNP organised a workshop, Chaired by Paul Leinster, which brought together delegates from CLNP partner organisations to discuss taking forward Natural Capital in the county.



▲ *We are delighted that red squirrels were once again detected in more sites than greys. Photo: Andrew Walter*

Creating bigger, better nature reserves

Lowick Common was gifted to the Trust this year, by far the largest bequest of land we have ever received. It is a large area of upland habitats including acid grassland, tarns, mires and bracken and is home to the very rare and protected medicinal leech. The ponds also provide habitat for great crested newt and 15 species of dragonfly and damselfly.

Birds on our nature reserves did well again in 2017. Our osprey pair White YW and Blue 35 returned again to breed at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve but unfortunately for osprey enthusiasts the birds chose to nest in a different tree to their normal one, meaning we weren't able to watch their progress via live streaming. We were unsure of how many chicks the pair had reared so when it came to ringing them at the end of July 2017 we were pleased to find three healthy fledglings. Breeding birds at Foulney Island Nature Reserve also did well. 23 pairs of little terns fledged 29 chicks, and 58 pairs of Arctic terns fledged 52 chicks, the highest number for 25 years.

43 hawfinches were counted in one day at Brown Robin Nature Reserve in February, an impressive number for this elusive bird, whose numbers are declining nationally. For the third consecutive year, seal pups were born at South Walney Nature Reserve; following the five in 2016, ten were born in 2017, a record for this population. Our successes with plant communities continued at other nature reserves around the county. It was a wonderful summer for the rare dark-red helleborine, with impressive numbers seen at both Whitbarrow and Hutton Roof Crag nature reserves.

As with every year our nature reserves have undergone restoration for wildlife and improvements to allow better access for people. At Drumburgh Moss Nature Reserve two linnings were resurfaced, an area fenced to help manage grazing, rubbish removed from the newly acquired railway line and a new cattle grid installed. Goats were enlisted to help tackle some of the coarser vegetation at Latterbarrow Nature Reserve, allowing the flower-rich grassland to thrive, and a block of mature spruce was removed



▲ *It was a wonderful summer for the rare dark red helleborine at Whitbarrow and Hutton Roof Crag nature reserves*

at Howe Ridding Wood Nature Reserve to allow native woodland to regenerate. New, artist-designed hides were installed at South Walney Nature Reserve. The hides are filled with fascinating artefacts collected from the reserve and surrounds. Also at South Walney, *The Eiderling*, an engaging new family story trail all about the reserve was launched. The easy-to-follow interactive trail is 5km long and is available free of charge to all visitors.

Creating bigger, better nature reserves



▲ *For the third consecutive year, seal pups were born at South Walney Nature Reserve; following the five in 2016, ten were born in 2017, a record for this population*

A boardwalk extension and new visitor information signs were opened to visitors to Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve in the autumn. The extended all-weather, fully-accessible boardwalk has opened up previously inaccessible parts of the nature reserve and the new signs illustrate the plants and animals that may be seen there.

Two nature reserves had significant birthdays during the year. It was the 40th anniversary of the gift of Brown Robin Nature Reserve by Mary Widdup and the 30th anniversary of the purchase of Waitby Greenriggs from British Rail. Both celebrations saw a group of dedicated members, volunteers and friends join staff and trustees for drinks and a guided walk. Ten years ago we entered our first nature reserves into the Government's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. In the last year we have started to move the first of these nature reserves to the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme. This has involved a huge volume of paperwork and will continue to do so until all eligible nature reserves have been entered into the scheme.

At Eycott Hill, as part of our work to slow the flow of water in the fells, we blocked 20 man-made ditches that were draining water from the mires on the nature reserve into Naddles Beck. In addition, in the autumn we carried out exciting reconstruction work along a 400m section of Naddles Beck, in order to slow the flow of water at peak times.

Volunteers have planted more than 1,200 native wildflowers, including sneezewort and devil's-bit scabious and spread 22.5kg of grass and flower seeds, and an area of wet woodland has been planted. Material from the scrapes has been used to restore an embankment on the west bank of the beck to help reduce flooding to surrounding fields and direct more water onto the nature reserve. We've also created scrapes and ponds on the eastern side of the nature reserve to add to the wildlife habitat there. We continued to graze the nature reserve with a herd of hardy Luing cattle and vegetation is recovering well with more extensive areas of heath flowering every year. To help speed up this process, volunteers and staff planted



1,100 wildflower plants including heather, crowberry, and bilberry on the Mungrisdale side of the fell in January and February 2017. Calves were born in the spring and a Luing bull ran with the herd over summer, so we are expecting more new arrivals from May 2018.

1,189 volunteer days were completed on nature reserves during the year which equates to 5,945 hours of practical work. We are very grateful to all our volunteers whose hard work helps to maintain these havens for wildlife.

Securing Living Seas



▲ Concern was expressed by the Trust during a consultation for a new Special Protection Area for foraging Manx shearwater. Photo: Chris Gomersall/2020VISION



▲ The 'Secret of the Sea' Tale Trail was launched at two events at St Bees' beach and Piel Island

Much of our work to protect marine wildlife in the North West happens behind the scenes, in meetings and by written responses about changes to protected areas and fishing regulations. In April we submitted two national consultation responses on behalf of The Wildlife Trusts. Both of these related to offshore sites in the Irish Sea. The first related to the Croker Carbonate Slabs candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC), supporting the new proposed boundary extension, and the second to a newly proposed Special Protection Area (SPA) for foraging Manx shearwater, in which some concern was expressed over the exact location of the site proposed. We also worked closely with the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) to revise the management of seed mussel fisheries and the honeycomb worm reefs closed area in Morecambe Bay SAC.

Contribution was made to a new report 'The way back to Living Seas' which was presented to the Defra Minister in the autumn. The report outlines how the UK leaving the European Union presents a

unique opportunity to develop a new, bespoke, and truly world-leading marine strategy that governs how our seas are protected, managed and utilised. In May we submitted a response to the Defra consultation on the proposal to prohibit the landing of berried (egg-bearing) lobsters and crawfish nationally within 12 nautical miles. After receiving support from the majority of respondents, it was decided that all UK vessels will be subject to a ban on the landing of berried lobsters and crawfish.

This year we worked with Natural England to establish a new fisheries project to trial the use of creels (a type of pot) to catch Dublin Bay prawns (*Nephrops*) rather than trawling, initially within the West of Walney MCZ. It is hoped that this pilot project could promote the use of a more sustainable and less environmentally damaging fishing practice which would provide alternative fishing opportunities for local communities in areas where dredging may be prohibited in the future.

As well as the behind the scenes fisheries' work, our activities to engage people with marine wildlife continued. Paper friendship bracelets for the 'Blue Belt' campaign were completed by schools on the west coast of Cumbria, at events at the Lakeland Wildlife Oasis and the Maryport Aquarium. In total over 1,500 bracelets were completed by children nationally, these were presented to the Prime Minister. The 'Secret of the Sea' Tale Trail was completed and publicly launched. Five whale and dolphin watch surveys were held in conjunction with the Sea Watch Foundation, and two Shoresearch surveys were held at St Bees. Volunteers also took part in a beach clean for World Oceans Day on 8 June, held at Earnse Bay on Walney Island. Over 20 events were run during National Marine Week, including seashore safaris, mud dipping, family fun days, welly walks and nurdle hunts! Hundreds of people also pledged to help protect our seas. In total, over 50 events have been delivered across the North West in Summer 2017 engaging over 2,000 people throughout the region.

Our 2017–2018 achievements

Looking after our Living Landscape

3,238

hectares of wildlife habitats on our nature reserves were cared for



We helped others care for

385

hectares of wildlife habitats

Eycott Hill Nature Reserve in numbers

607
people attended our events

2,350
wildflower plugs planted

29 wetland scrapes created

8,000 TREES weeded by volunteers

20 drainage ditches blocked

131 people taught new skills

221 volunteer days completed ✓

Inspiring people

1,532
people attended our events

475
children took part in our Wildlife Watch groups

360

events run by our staff and volunteers

50

events for families

Volunteering



5,945 hours
of practical conservation
work on nature reserves

1,189 volunteer days
completed on
nature reserves ✓

137 Conservation work
parties took place
on our nature reserves



194 new volunteers joined the Trust

Our members

1,605

new members welcomed to the Trust

£543,054
income from membership



12,543 total members

31 CORPORATE MEMBERS



£95,738 FROM BUSINESSES
& CORPORATE MEMBERS

Conservation apprentices & placement students

15
events run for
young people

1
REEDBED
CREATED

14
species
surveys

15
training courses
attended



1,000s
of tree seeds collected for
the Millennium Seed Bank

Your highlights

Isaac Johnston Apprentice Conservation Officer



The past year has been full of so many great experiences, challenges and opportunities. The variety of my role at Cumbria Wildlife Trust has allowed me to get involved in so many different aspects of the great work the Trust does to conserve our local wildlife. One highlight has been working on some of Cumbria's beautiful nature reserves. Running events, working with our amazing volunteers and interacting with enthused members of the public in such amazing places as Foulshaw Moss and South Walney nature reserves has been truly special. Making a difference and enhancing Cumbrian wildlife has also been a big part of my work. From seal surveys at the southernmost tip of Walney Island to managing nature reserves for some of the UK's rarest butterflies, I've been heavily involved in the great work Cumbria Wildlife Trust does to protect the county's wildlife and wild places.

Isaac Johnston

Neil Spence Eycott Hill Volunteer



I was excited when Eycott Hill opened as it was close to where I lived and an upland reserve with stunning views of the fells. After going to an event I was inspired by Stephen Owen one of the Reserve Officers to become involved. Stephen suggested that I could become a volunteer guide and over the next six months I completed eight days training to be a Lowland Leader Guide, British Cycling Road Leader and an Outdoor First Aider. I also attended many of the events at Eycott Hill, which included, The Bioblitz, Geology Walk, Dragonfly Walk, Fungi Day and Conservation Days as well as shadowing Stephen and Jody on their guided walks. There was a lot to learn but finally the training was over and I am now trying to inspire other people by taking them on regular guided walks and cycling trips to Eycott Hill.

Neil Spence

Beth Pipe Member of *Cumbrian Wildlife* editorial board



I stumbled on Cumbria Wildlife Trust seven years ago at an event at Brown Robin Nature Reserve – we'd previously supported Hampshire Wildlife Trust and had only recently moved to Cumbria. I wanted to volunteer but a dodgy back ruled out conservation work, so it's been great to be able to volunteer and contribute as a writer and a member of the Editorial Board for the magazine. I had no real idea what being on the Editorial Board would involve when I agreed but it turns out we get together to plan the content for the wonderful magazines. I'm passionate about nature and wildlife but still have an awful lot to learn and I have gained so much from the incredibly knowledgeable people on the team. The breadth and depth of their experience will never cease to amaze me and neither will their patience and willingness to share that knowledge with the rest of us.

Beth Pipe

Inspiring and engaging people to value nature

It was another positive year for volunteering in the Trust with over 1,000 people registered to volunteer with us and 194 new volunteers signing up this year. Many of these volunteers get involved in practical conservation work helping us to maintain habitats on our nature reserves, whilst others have surveyed butterfly populations and monitored white-faced darter dragonflies, recorded visitor numbers on our nature reserves or helped visitors get the most out of their visits to some of our most popular sites. This year several volunteers have provided much needed office-based support too: helping to set up our new website, sort out our image library, entering species records and helping with the implementation of a new membership system.

At the Members' Conference at Newton Rigg we recognised eight volunteers who have demonstrated long-term commitment to the Trust and to wildlife conservation by presenting them with Badger's Paw Awards. Three more volunteers were given the award but were unable to attend the conference. Awards were given to Bill Grayson, Geoff Hetherington, Chris

Lumb, Rachel Nutman, Jane Petley-Jones, Malcolm Rogers, Kate Cornah, Maurice Steele, Andrew Read, and Chris and Mary Abbot. Our Vice Presidents are awarded the title for the exceptional time and commitment given to the Trust and to wildlife. This small group: Margaret Albon, Kathleen Atkinson, Geoffrey Halliday, Duncan Jeffray, Susan Johnston, Anne Powell and David Sharrod were also given the Badger's Paw Award as an additional recognition of their work.

In spring 2017, work was begun to create a new volunteer and training centre at Gosling Sike. The centre has a training and meeting space, a communal kitchen for staff and volunteers to use and office space. A new member of staff has been employed to create a community garden around the building.

In June we welcomed a further two university students on nine-month 'sandwich' learning placements at the Trust: James Barclay and Rachel Todner. Both enjoyed gaining practical experience of conservation, from conducting reptile and moth surveys to identifying



▲ *Eight volunteers were awarded Badger's Paw Awards for their commitment to wildlife and the Trust*

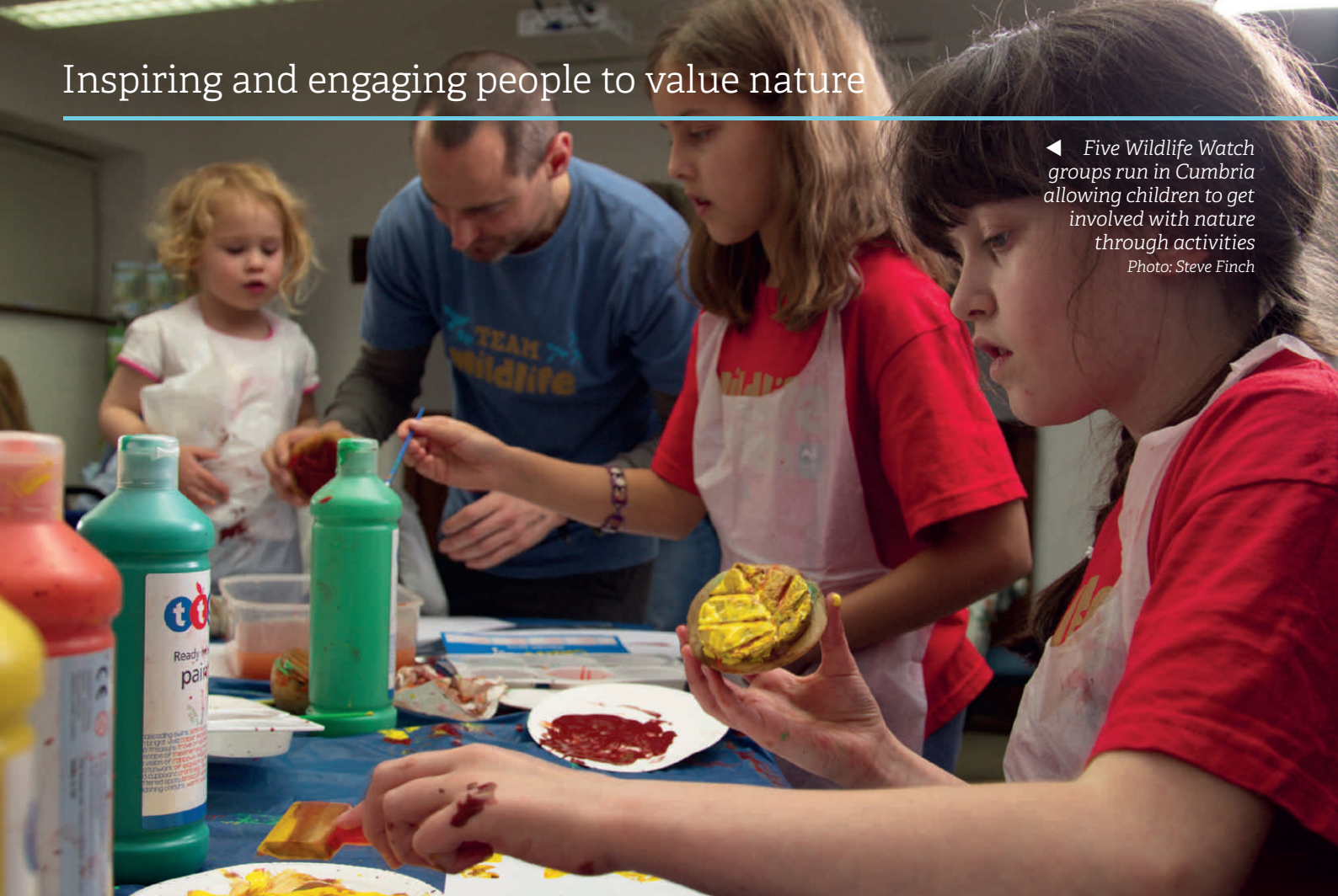
wildflowers, as well as helping visitors get the most out of our nature reserves. Our apprenticeship scheme continued this year with Isaac Johnston and Sian Bentley learning on the job.

The Trust ran 360 public events this year, from learning about the fungi of grasslands to creative writing workshops. Many events were run by our nine local support groups, and staff and volunteers ran 137 conservation work parties. 390 people from Cumbria took part in this year's 30 Days Wild – an annual event, co-ordinated nationally by The Wildlife Trusts, which encourages everyone to spend a little time each day doing something wild throughout the month of June.

Inspiring and engaging people to value nature

◀ Five Wildlife Watch groups run in Cumbria allowing children to get involved with nature through activities

Photo: Steve Finch



In the summer we launched a wildlife photography competition and were overwhelmed to receive 494 excellent photographs covering four categories. Voters selected a photo of a red squirrel by Andy Nayler as the winner and the best 12 photos were included in a calendar, which quickly sold out.

Upper Eden Local Support Group celebrated their 20th anniversary in October. As with the other groups that make up a network of local support groups in Cumbria, the Upper Eden group has contributed a huge amount of work to support the Trust over the years, amounting to countless hours of time by dedicated committee members.

Five Wildlife Watch groups run in Cumbria allowing children to get involved with nature through classic activities such as pond dipping, bird watching, plant hunting and bug spotting as well as innovative sessions using thermal cameras to view nocturnal wildlife, endoscopes to search for bats in wall cavities, professional sound recording kits and digital photography. This year



▲ *The drama group from the Edington Centre dressed up in the costumes for their play 'The Trolls of Eycott Hill – they're bad 'uns'*

Grange Outdoor Nature Club were invited to build a large 'bug hotel' outside Grange train station, Kendal Kingfishers recently planted the town's new 'pollination corridor' along a former canal, and adventures were had by Ulverston Owls sailing to Piel Island, and Eden Dippers exploring Eycott Hill.

We've had a lot of fun working with local children, older people, and adults with learning disabilities on the Eycott Hill arts project with Prism Arts. We ran 33 sessions including site visits and workshops in creative writing, design and illustration,

textiles, and music, building up an exciting body of work that will culminate in an onsite performance in summer 2019.

Five primary schools from Greystoke, Penruddock, Penrith, Braithwaite, and Distington developed stories inspired by a visit to the nature reserve. The stories were taken to residential homes in Penrith so older residents could contribute their ideas. In October some fabulous frogs, terrible trolls, and a scary witch headlined an evening of entertainment at The Penrith Playhouse.

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.

Although the number of households who are members increased this year our membership numbers dropped due to a change in our database. Previously family member numbers were calculated using a formula, whereas our new database allows us to calculate a more accurate figure.

Thanks go to individual members, corporate members, donors, grant-giving organisations and legators. Opposite 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.

Grant and donations income

Banister Charitable Trust
Barrow Borough Council
BCMY Ltd – Recycle 4 Charity
Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
Biffa Award
British Science Association
Center Parcs
Communities Trust Ltd
Cooperative Group Ltd
Cumberland Building Society Charitable Foundation
Cumbria Community Foundation
Cumbria County Council
Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust
Defra
Eden District Council
Empath UK
Environment Agency
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Furness Building Society
Garfield Weston Foundation
Grasmere Gingerbread
Heritage Lottery Fund

Highways England
Invited Guest Trust
John Strutt Conservation Foundation
K2B
Kendal Calling
Lake District National Park Authority
Lakeland Limited
LEADER
Morecambe Bay Partnership
National Trust
Natural England
The Nineveh Charitable Trust
Northern Food Ltd
Nurture Lakeland
Peter De Haan Charitable Trust
Renewi
South Lakeland District Council
SUEZ Communities Trust
Tesco Local Community Grants
Vine House Farm
Wildlife Travel Ltd
WREN
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust

Corporate members during the year

Platinum members

Center Parcs
The Lakes Distillery

Gold members

Lyon Equipment
United Utilities

Silver members

Avanti Gas
Cyclife UK Ltd
H&H Reeds Printers Ltd
WCF Ltd

Bronze members

Arnison Heelis Solicitors
The Cumbria Grand Hotel
Holiday Cottages.co.uk
Lafarge Tarmac
Predator Experience
University of Cumbria

Standard members

Aggregate Industries
Castle Green Hotel
Eden Insulation
English Lakes Ice Cream
Fortis Remote Technology
Good Life Cottage Company
Lakeland Cottage Company
Lakeland Hideaways
Lakeland Limited
Langdale Hotel and Spa
Pure Leisure Group
Stringers Beer
Sykes Cottages
TheLakeDistrict.org
Wildroof Landscapes

Complimentary members

2 Sisters Food Group
Cumbria Waste Management
Furness Building Society
Radiata Trees
Vine House Farm

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 £2.25 million and expenditure just under £2.1 million. This gave rise to a £190,000 surplus, an improvement from the previous year when the Trust ran a small deficit. The main contributors to the surplus were the gift of Lowick Common, legacies and a small gain in the value of the Trust's investments.

In the current economic climate it is particularly difficult for the Trust to attract grants for habitat and species projects, and as a result, expenditure in 2017/18 was approximately £536,000 less than in the previous year. However, significant progress was made towards securing funds to enable new projects to commence in 2018/19 and beyond. 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 eight years.

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 5 July 2018. The full statutory Annual Report and Financial Statements, on which the auditor, Crowe U.K. 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 Auditor's 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.

John Farmer

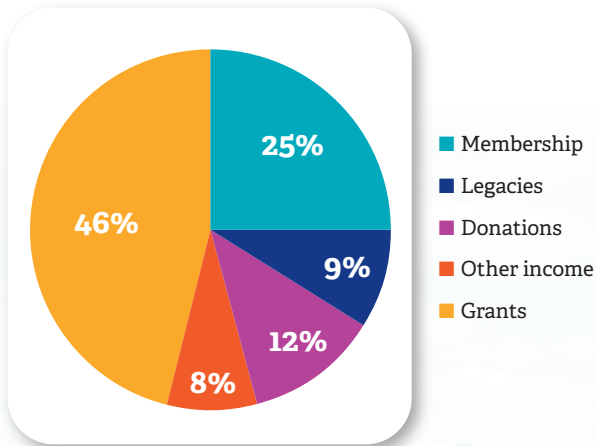


Julie Barrett



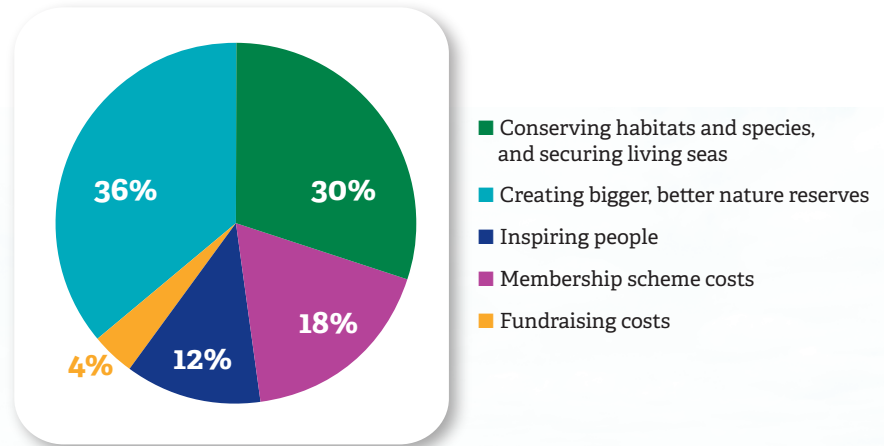
Income

Income in the year ended 31 March 2018



Expenditure

Expenditure in the year ended 31 March 2018



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:

Laura Aris, Maria Campbell, Geoffrey Cooke, Margaret Green, Kim Lyon, Jenny Ottewell, Janice Savage, Maurice Ward and Jean Wolstenholme.

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:

James Carr OBE of Warwick-on-Eden

James Carr was awarded an OBE for his work in conservation only a month before he died in May. He was passionate and dedicated to conservation in Cumbria. James was active in enhancing and conserving rivers, especially the River Eden, which was close to his home and his heart. One of his many projects included creating a wetland nature reserve on his own land near Warwick-on-Eden. James was a long standing member and supporter of Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

Arnold Fred Gould of Kendal

Fred had an infectious enthusiasm in all that he did. His main interest was birds but he had a great love of all flora and fauna, and he photographed anything that took his eye, such as butterflies, moths, flowers and fungi. He joined Cumbria Wildlife Trust in 1975, was an active member of the Kendal Local Support Group and a member of the Kendal Natural History Society. Fred was able to share his passion for birds with others through talks: these were packed with humour as well as insight.

Christine Isherwood of Broughton-in-Furness

Christine loved natural history and botany, especially identifying wild flowers. She was an active volunteer for the Trust and contributed to our publications for over 10 years. Before our magazine was digitally published Christine would be sent the text and she would do illustrations for the articles. Trust Director Peter Bullard remembers: "To meet the deadline she often stayed up all night and would then drive to Ambleside to deliver them to us." She was entirely self-taught and also took great pleasure in teaching art classes. Although she felt she didn't really teach anything, her husband Mike said: "She was a wonderful teacher, never overtly critical, always helpful, never imposing her own style."

Stephen Owen of Penrith

Stephen died unexpectedly in April whilst taking part in a fell race. He joined us at Cumbria Wildlife Trust in 2016, as the Reserve and Training Officer at Eycott Hill Nature Reserve. He had over 10 years' experience working in conservation, previously working for Scottish Wildlife Trust and the RSPB following a succession of seasonal and volunteer posts for other organisations in Scotland and Spain. He loved making a difference to wild spaces through habitat conservation and restoration. When working with others he was able to inspire and enthuse them to care about the environment around them.

Looking ahead



At present the world seems to be heavier and more serious than ever before. Brexit will happen next

year and two-years-in we still know very little about what it may mean for wildlife, for Cumbria or for Cumbria Wildlife Trust. We will continue to work with our members to gain the best possible outcomes. It is though good to know there is an organisation doing good things for wildlife and working hard to stop bad things happening. Each year I write this forward look it seems there are many more exciting new things on the horizon for the Trust.

One of the most exciting things to look forward to is our newly gifted nature reserve Lowick Common just north of Ulverston. This amazing place is packed full of so many different plants and animals. During the year we will be getting to know the nature reserve and understanding its past and looking at how best to look after it in the future.

The purchase and lease of land at Craggy Wood near Staveley should also progress during the year. This new acquisition will link our existing Dorothy Farrers Spring Wood Nature Reserve to Craggy Wood both by creating new woodland and a new footpath. This is part of the Trust's living landscape work which seeks to save and link existing habitats. Improving access to our best nature reserves remains a priority for us. Next year we should be able to complete the replacement car park at Smardale which will also link up access to Waitby Greenriggs via the new link section.

Our most exciting new project is around pollinators. We are in the development phase of a new project to create flower-rich habitats along the A66 corridor from Penrith to Whitehaven. This huge project should start properly in 2019 and will be one of the largest we have run. It will link and expand existing food supplies for bees into a continuous 'beeline'. This would then link into gardens and other flower-rich bee friendly habitats in west Cumbria. Our work in peat restoration is also evolving, improving and expanding

as we learn how to get even better at healing our damaged landscapes. With additional funding secured from Defra and the Environment Agency we are establishing new techniques which restore peat, protect carbon and hold back more water during floods to help communities downstream threatened by floods.

One of the biggest changes in 2019 for me will be retiring after 30 years working for the Trust. Our new CEO Steve Trotter is a real find. He comes with a wealth of experience working for The Wildlife Trusts, most recently as Director England and prior to that CEO for Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. He also knows Cumbria well and loves the county already. He will be great for the Trust and take it forward to be even better. I have loved working for the Trust, it has been a real privilege and I have been very lucky to work with so many committed and fun-to-be-with people. As well as a proper hand over with Steve I will be evolving from a paid member of staff into a dedicated volunteer.



Cumbria Wildlife Trust: 2017–2018

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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