



Annual Report 2015-16

Champion Bowland saw an overall income of £19,775 in the period 1st August 2015 to 31st July 2016 and expenditure totalled £27,027

At the end of the year the General Fund had £17,963 retained income (of which £6353 was unrestricted.)

Our activity this year has included:

- a) **Managing the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund** – this totalled £18000 in 2015/16. 3 new grants were offered in this period; and 5 were paid out from previous years, totalling £22,438 expenditure.
- b) **Managing the AONB's Farm Visit Transport Fund** – this supported 6 groups visiting farms in Bowland, and reimbursed £540 of transport costs.
- c) **Champion Bowland's own grant scheme** supported 2 new projects, totalling £1070 These were:
 - Lancaster Bee Keepers pollinator patches around Hornby and Caton
 - The Cloudspotting Festival's Bee Hive activity

This year Champion Bowland has focussed on fundraising and has developed the following initiatives:

1. **On line and text donation services** (via BT MyDonate and Vodafone JustGiving services): We plan to encourage more visitors to the area to donate via text and we already promote this facility in the annual Discover Bowland brochure and on download walks. The on-line service has been useful in collecting payments from cash collections and from the charity auction (October 2016).

2. **Branded clothing in partnership with the Bowland Clothing Company.** Tony Walters, Director of the company, has offered to donate 60% of net profits of sales to Champion Bowland. This branded clothing range, featuring the Forest of Bowland, includes t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies, plus coats and baseball caps. The design of garments, logos and the website through which sales will take place have all been delayed over the summer. However, the Trustees hope to have samples available at the AGM and to promote the on line shop launch at the Sustainable Tourism Forum in November 2016.
3. **2017 Charity Calendar.** This has largely been driven by the AONB Unit who underwrote the printing costs of the calendar, images were donated by photographers. Sales will largely accrue to 2016/17 accounts.
4. **Bowland Scrapbook.** Sales of this publication (£947) have continued at a slow pace this year, leaving the account in deficit by £1444

The Trustees spent a total of 93.5 hours (50 in 2014/15) and travelled 706 miles (520) attending Board and AONB meetings on behalf of Champion Bowland.

Finally, this year we had to say 'goodbye' to Jonti Collinson who had chaired Champion Bowland and been instrumental in setting up the organisation. Jonti is replaced as Chair by Paul Reynolds, and Phil Dykes has been recruited as a new Trustee.