



FOREST OF BOWLAND

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage

Bowland Hay Time and Networks for Nectar

This summer has been a bit different to the previous two, due to changes in funding streams and the first summer of the Networks for Nectar project, which is focusing on small non-farmed sites compared to the Hay Time scheme, which focuses on field scale restoration work.

This summer there have been four field scale restoration schemes, one funded via HLS, and three funded by Biffa Award, as part of the UK wide Coronation Meadows project. These three schemes have been completed using seed from Bell Sykes farm, Lancashire's Coronation Meadow site, harvested using a brush harvester which we have borrowed from Nidderdale AONB.

The rest of the restoration schemes, thirteen in total, have been under the Networks for Nectar (N4N) project, where we have been supplying seed and providing management advice to private owners and local businesses wanting to produce nectar sites and small meadows for invertebrates.

There have been a whole variety events, including: a bioblitz for Hurst Green St John's Eco-congregation; a meadow walk for the Lancaster Bee Keepers at Bell Sykes; a day long meadow event in Slaidburn as part of Festival Bowland; a picnic with meadow activities at the restored meadow in Gisburn Forest; an open day at the Bell Sykes Coronation Meadows; a two day mowing course also held at Bell Sykes with Steve Tomlin (the scythe tutor) and a local artist capturing the scything in pastels; a field trip to the Rathmell meadows as part of the national AONB Conference; advice to Bolton-by-Bowland parish council on their parish plan; support for our Edge Hill PhD student looking at SSSI meadows in Bowland; support to our Edge Hill MSc student who is looking at spider diversity in restored meadows in Bowland; scything groups at Melling Village Green and Hurst Green St John's churchyard; filming for Lancashire Environmental Fund, one of our main funders, as part of their Annual Report and most recently hosting a visit from Biffa Awards to see how their money has been used.

In addition to supporting the two students from Edge Hill in their individual work, we also hosted the MSc course for a day's field trip during which they collected vegetation data for the site. In July we hosted a week's placement for a UCLAN MSc student studying environmental management, who is also registered blind. He interviewed local farmers for his project, helped with seed collection and propagation and also attended the scythe training course.

Work has also been ongoing revisiting the restoration schemes completed in 2012 and 2013, as well as visiting potential sites for next year, in partnership with the local HLS team, who now look to the project to provide recommendations on site suitability for restoration. This has already resulted in a list of seven farms with field scale restoration forming part of their HLS agreements.

A current project is organising a week's field trip for a group of 11 practitioners from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, who are part of the EU funded LIFE Viva Grass project, and will be visiting Bowland, the Dales and Cumbria.

For further information contact sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk or visit www.forestofbowland.com/haytimeproject

Pennine Peat LIFE

The AONB Unit has worked closely with the 'Pennine Peat Partnership' over the last few months on the development of a bid to European Union LIFE+ Fund, to support a £multi-million peatland restoration programme called 'Pennine Peat LIFE', stretching from Bowland to the Scottish border.

Peatland, or 'blanket bog' as the habitat is known in the uplands, is of international importance for its biodiversity and carbon storage. The Forest of Bowland's landscape and conservation designations are based on the importance of these upland environments and the species they support. Whilst peatlands only cover 3% of the world's land area, they contain nearly 30% of all carbon stored on land.

If the funding bid is successful, the AONB will be working alongside the Environment Agency and United Utilities to deliver restoration work (estimated at almost £1.5m) at six sites within the Bowland Fells. A restoration officer will also

be employed by the programme to work closely with landowners, farmers and contractors to ensure smooth delivery. A decision from the European Commission is expected in February/March 2015.

For further information on this programme, please contact sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk or elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk

State of the AONB Report

Did you know that the Forest of Bowland has 1195 twitter followers, that 100% of our registered geological sites are in favourable condition, and that 45% of our settlements have access to basic services? These, and many more amazing facts are now available in our first 'State of the AONB' report www.forestofbowland.com/stateofaonb

Produced to mark the Forest of Bowland's 50th anniversary as an AONB, this report has identified a number of indicators and statistics which describe the area's 'health' in terms of landscape, communities, accessibility and partnership working.

The information will help us to provide useful and current evidence for funding bids. Our aim is to re visit these statistics in future years to assess trends and changes so that our management plan activities can continue to conserve and enhance important aspects of the area's outstanding natural beauty.

For further information contact cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk

Nicky Nook Access Improvements

Nicky Nook fell and the Grizedale Valley area is becoming increasingly popular with walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and Trammer users. Partly due to the opening up of the Apple Store Café at Wyresdale Park and the expansion of Fell View Caravan Park. This second phase of access improvements has extended the subsoil path with associated drainage works by a further 400metres taking the path up and over the summit.

For further information contact tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk

Resilient and sustainable rural communities

Champion Bowland & Bowland Experience

Champion Bowland (CB) and **Bowland Experience Ltd (BEx)** will have a new way of providing their office services back-up from 1st November. They have reached an agreement (with the support of the AONB) with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to do their book-keeping and day-to-day administration of banking and correspondence for both companies.

YDMT is in many ways similar to CB/BEx, but has been going longer (since 1997) and become much larger both in terms of staffing and funds managed. It is experienced in charitable work and fund raising across a wide range of activities. Despite the name, it is actually located in Clapham in the Forest of Bowland AONB!

We already have a good working partnership with YDMT who manage the Bowland Hay Time and Networks for Nectar projects funded in part by LEF (Lancashire Environment Fund).

The AONB team in Dunsop Bridge will remain the point of contact with both CB and BEx in their respective fields of work in the Forest of Bowland. Cathy Hopley will be the link with Champion Bowland on the Small Grant scheme and SDF and Hetty Byrne will continue to work with Bowland Experience members on their various tourism development projects.

For further information contact mike.pugh@lancashire.gov.uk

50th Anniversary Raffle

A very big thank you to all those businesses that have sold raffle tickets and donated prizes to raise funds for Champion Bowland, during this 50th Anniversary year. Sales have gone really well so far, but there's still opportunity for you to buy tickets at a £1 each. For a full list of prizes go to www.championbowland.org.uk/gala-raffle.html or to buy tickets contact the AONB office on 01200 448000.

The raffle will be drawn at the Gala Dinner on 1st November and a list of winners will be posted on the Champion Bowland website.

Bowland Scrapbook

Champion Bowland's Anniversary project, the Bowland Scrapbook, has had a great summer, with the project researcher Sue Holden getting out to talk to hundreds of people at country shows, cafés, WI meetings, history groups and two farmers' suppers laid on specially at Wray and Chipping. People have generously shared photographs, documents and memories about their lives in rural Bowland since the AONB was designated in 1964.

Sue has also recruited 5 volunteers who have been helping her to do background research at libraries and archives, copying newspaper stories and photographs. She has also featured in the Rural Life supplement and on BBC Radio Lancashire!

The Scrapbook publication is now being put together by our designers at Osprey and the book will be given away to all Gala dinner ticket holders on 1st November, and afterwards to all contributors. Any surplus copies will be available for a small donation to Champion Bowland via local shops and the AONB offices.

The project, which is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and the AONB, is hoping to continue with collecting material, recording conversations, and uploading archive material to the History Pin website where 'bowlandscrapbook' has a channel.

So, if you still have stories to share with us, please contact bowlandscrapbook@gmail.com

Sustainable Tourism Forum

Tourism businesses and partners came together for the AONB's Annual Sustainable Tourism Forum on Tuesday 14th October at the Castle Inn, Hornby. The annual forum is a fantastic opportunity for tourism partners to get together and to share ideas and good practice. The meeting generated plenty of discussion and also included the following:

- Business best practice case studies
- Update on Pendle Landscape Partnership Bid
- Training opportunities workshop led by consultant Ruth Holroyd
- Opportunities for collaborative projects through RDPE funding
- A tour of the Castle Inn

For further information contact hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

You may have already heard that the AONB Unit is developing a major funding bid to be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Scheme in May 2015. The £2m bid is focussed on the Pendle Hill area, including the AONB 'outlier' and surrounding countryside lying between the Pendle and Ribble Valley districts.

The bid aims to tackle threats to the area's heritage – be it natural, built or cultural – and as such we expect it to include projects which celebrate the area's political and religious pioneers, restore dry stone walls and improve wildlife areas, and conserve and interpret important buildings and archaeological remains. The project will seek to work with nearby urban communities as well as rural residents and visitors to this popular area, and there will be plenty of opportunities for people to get involved in learning activities and volunteering.

If you'd like to get involved in planning this programme, or keep in touch with our plans, please contact cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk

Sustainable Development Fund

The AONB's grant scheme is still open to applications and the next closing date for submissions is Monday 20th October, so if you have a project in mind, please contact Cathy Hopley cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk on 01200 448000 to discuss it. Guidance and application forms are available from www.forestofbowland.com/cons_devfund where you can also view examples of past projects.

Parish Lengthsman

The parish lengthsman schemes continue to run effectively across several parishes. There have been some minor changes to parishes involved. The parishes help to deliver Public Rights of Way (PRoW) improvements on behalf of the parishes for Lancashire County Council.

For further information contact tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk or david.padley@lancashire.gov.uk

Anniversary Awards Shortlist

The chance to read through the nominations for our 50th Anniversary Awards has been wonderful, and very heartening. Given the range and quality of the applications, choosing the nominees to go forward for judging was a very

difficult process. However, we were delighted to have such a strong shortlist reflecting the commitment of all those who work hard to keep the Forest of Bowland so special.

The winners in each of the seven awards categories will be announced at a gala event at Clough Bottom, Bashall Eaves, on 1st November. The shortlisted nominations in six of the categories are shown below. The seventh category has been organised and judged by the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition.

- **Biodiversity Award:** Gavin Thomas, Jennifer Newton, Brennand and Whitendale Focus Group
- **Farming for Conservation Award:** New Laith Farm, Bell Sykes Farm, Cobble Hey Farm, Backsbottom Farm
- **Traditional Boundaries Award:** Reuben Parsons, Geoff Whitley, Downham Estate
- **Sustainable Tourism Award:** Stirk House Hotel, Cobble Hey Farm, Browsholme Hall
- **Vibrant Community Award:** Slaidburn Village Archive, Clitheroe Youth Forum, St. James' Church Community Archaeology Project
- **Outstanding Contribution:** Muriel Lord, Jean Fone, John Hickling, Philip Lord

Many thanks to all those who submitted nominations. Thanks too to our judges, Lucy Baron, Sue Robinson, Tim Mitcham, Thomas Bowring, Peter Gibson and Dr Harold Goodwin for sharing their time and experience with us.

A strong connection between people and the landscape

Bowland Revealed

Late September was a busy time for the Bowland Revealed creative arts project. Saturday 27th saw the first of a series of free community workshops, one in each of Bowland's six districts. Led by professional artists, the workshops (which each run from 10am to 4pm) offer people the chance to try out a range of media and will finish in late November. The programme got off to a great start with a stone carving workshop at Garstang Academy taught by Lucy Cortese. Places on the workshops are limited and need to be booked in advance, so don't miss the opportunity to try something new! Forthcoming sessions are:

- **Lancaster:** Environmental Art & Design with Philippe Handford, 4th October, Green Close Studios, Melling
- **Craven:** Photography with Veronica Caperon, 18th October, Eldroth Church
- **Ribble Valley:** Textiles with Priscilla Jones, 25th October, Slaidburn Village Hall
- **Preston:** Drawing with Pat Ellacott, 22nd November, Beacon Fell Visitor Centre
- **Pendle:** Ceramics with Julie Miles, 29th November, Higherford Mill, Barrowford

A very enjoyable launch of the Landmarks artworks took place on Sunday 28th September, with almost 50 people joining the artists Halima Cassell, Philippe Handford, Geraldine Pilgrim and Salina Somalya, to view their finished work. Landmarks are a series of temporary artworks site in, and inspired by, the Forest of Bowland landscape. Gisburn Forest Hub, Langden Intake (Trough Road), Beacon Fell Country Park and Jeffrey Hill (Longridge Fell) are each hosting a piece until Sunday 9th November.

View the Landmarks leaflet - www.forestofbowland.com/files/uploads/pdfs/bowland_revealed_-_landmarks_leaflet.pdf

For further information contact sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk

Festival Bowland

Wyre Borough ran a successful Tramper Trek on Tarnbrook Fell, with great support from LCC rangers and project officers and also from Grosvenor Estate. Lancashire Wildlife Trust's bug hunt at Whalley Abbey was very well attended once again, whilst 30 people stepped up to Waddow Hall's exciting "Challenge 50" event.

Passengers on board "Rosie", the 1946 Leyland Tiger coach, had a packed day touring Craven and the northern part of the AONB on September's Bowland Heritage Tour. Visits to Long Preston Deeps, Giggleswick Chapel, Eldroth Church, Clear Beck Garden, Pioneer Projects and the Folly were much enjoyed.

Clear skies and a very mild night offered perfect conditions for the Star Turns! stargazing evening at the end of September. A fascinating presentation, followed by an outdoor session at Jubilee Tower car park, was the perfect introduction to the autumn night sky.

We're almost at the end of this year's programme but there's still chance to catch the Lord of Bowland's 4th Annual Lecture, this year taking place in Newton on 7th October, a leg stretch courtesy of the Garstang Health Walk on 25th October and some practical conservation work with the rangers at Spring Wood, Whalley on 29th of this month. For details and booking information see the online Festival Bowland events programme

www.forestofbowland.com/festivalevents

For more details contact sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk

Beautiful Bowland in Pictures

Our 50th Anniversary photo celebration, A Journey through Bowland, has recently launched at the Folly, in Settle. Keen photographers have been out in Bowland with their cameras and we have received some fantastic entries, all of which are available on our website www.forestofbowland.com/50years/photogallery/grid 50 photographs have been chosen for the exhibition and we're delighted that such a wonderful venue as the Folly is hosting the work.

Images have been taken by both professional and amateur photographers and range from classic landscape and wildlife photographs, to well known buildings - plus the odd quirky picture! The exhibition will run until Sunday 2nd November. Opening times and admission information for the Folly can be found on their website at www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly

Anniversary Gala Dinner

Tickets are selling fast for the 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner and there are only a few remaining, so if you want to secure your place(s), please book online now! www.forestofbowland.com/galatickets Tickets are £35 per person.

Can we also take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our sponsors www.forestofbowland.com/awardsponsors for supporting both the awards and the dinner:

- **Green Tourism** - sponsor of the Sustainable Tourism Award
- **United Utilities** - sponsor of the Biodiversity Award
- **Grosvenor Abbeystead Estate** - sponsor of the Farming for Conservation Award
- **Duchy of Lancaster** - sponsor of the Outstanding Contribution Award
- **Countryside** and **Life for a Life Memorial Forests** - table sponsors.

There are still sponsorship opportunities, so please get in touch if you would like to find out more!
hetty.byrne@lancashire.gov.uk

Trampers

Tramper use in the Scorton area by individuals and groups has been busy over the summer including Longridge Carers group and families staying at Barnacre Cottages. Stirk House Hotel has hosted the Tramper on several occasions for use through the grounds and woodlands, which host a wealth of wildlife including barn owls. Use has also started at Boothman Park (Barley) fishing lakes and accommodation who host events for young people and women's groups. We have also supported the National Trust set up a Tramper-for-hire scheme based at Malham Tarn which was launched over the summer.

For further information contact tarja.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk

A dynamic and effective AONB partnership

National Association for AONBs

The AONB Unit has been involved in a number of events, seminars and workshops organised by the National Association for AONBs, including:

- **NAAONB 'Landscapes for Life' Conference, Newton Rigg College in Penrith, 8th - 10th July 2014**

The AONB Unit organised two, conference field trips to Forest of Bowland and produced case study information for the Conference 'Marketplace'. The conference provided excellent networking opportunities, alongside keynote speeches which included an important statement of support for AONBs from Defra Minister, Lord de Mauley.

- **NAAONB Woodland Social Action Workshop, Arnside and Silverdale AONB, 17th July 2014**

The Principal AONB Officer accompanied members of 'Friends of Bowland' to this NAAONB event (funded by Department for Energy and Climate Change) to find out more about nationwide initiatives to better involve communities in woodland management and opportunities to establish woodland social enterprises, such as Silverdale and District Woodbank. The AONB will be hosting a further training event as part of this project in November 2014.

- **NAAONB Sustainable Tourism Working Group, London 3rd October 2014**

The Sustainable Tourism Development Officer attended this working group meeting involving several other AONBs, Visit England, Green Traveller and Our Land interested working collaboratively to better promote and develop sustainable tourism within AONBs and National Parks.

Catchment Partnerships

Defra has overseen the recent establishment of 'Catchment Partnerships' for most of the principal river catchments in England. The Forest of Bowland AONB is covered by three Catchment Partnerships:

- **Living Lune**
- **Ribble Life**
- **Wyre Waters**

A member of the AONB Unit or LCC Environmental Projects team has been attending recent partnership meetings for all three Catchment Partnerships to ensure AONB landscape matters are adequately represented. The Partnerships themselves are at various stages of maturity; ranging from development of a major funding bid to Heritage Lottery Fund to small scale community action projects.

Additionally, the AONB Sustainable Development Fund has supported a Wyre Waters project to which aims to tackle invasive non-native species (INNS) in the upper reaches of the river.