



Annual Report 2016-17

Champion Bowland saw an overall income of £10,424 (£3,987 unrestricted) in the period 1st August 2016 to 31st July 2017 and expenditure totalled £9,279

At the end of the year the General Fund had £19,108 retained income (of which £6,604 was unrestricted.)

Our activity this year has included:

- a) **Managing the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund** – A total of £5270 has been paid out as grants to four projects on behalf of the AONB scheme which is due to close at the end of 2017. (Scorton playing field information panel, Bolton by Bowland and Tosside neighbourhood plan, Ribble Rivers Trust training, and establishing the Pendlefolk digital platform).
- b) **Managing the AONB's Farm Visit Transport Fund** – 8 groups received funds from the AONB's scheme which offers transport bursaries to schools and other groups making educational visits to farms in the AONB. This year £1072 was paid out to groups.
- c) **Champion Bowland's own grant scheme** supported 5 projects in 2016/17, totalling £2,443. These were:
 - The Cloudspotting Festival – Human Hive installation
 - Lancashire Wildlife Trust – chainsaw training
 - Friends of Bentham Station – Day in the Life competition
 - Lancaster Bee Keepers – Pollinator pathways
 - Bolton by Bowland - heritage trail

In addition two further grants were offered to repair the Bleasdale bird hide and to support the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition (a total of £800). These grants were claimed in the following financial year.

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

1. **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. So far sales have been disappointing, but a joint marketing campaign with Tony and local sustainable tourism businesses is planned for 2018 to raise more funds for Champion Bowland
2. **2018 Charity Calendar.** This has largely been driven by the AONB Unit who organised the design and underwrote the printing costs of the calendar, images were donated by photographers. Sales will largely accrue to 2017/18 accounts. Income from sales of the 2017 calendar have totalled just over £2000 this year
3. **An on-line Charity Auction** was held on the CB Facebook page in October 2016. This was supported by a number of local tourism businesses who donated prizes which were then auctioned to the highest on-line bidder. The auction raised £563 with minimal outgoings made, and was a successful initiative which Trustees hope to repeat in future years.
4. **A further £382 was raised through sales of the Bowland Scrapbook.** However, as the book has now outlived its shelf life the remaining £1061 project deficit was paid by a transfer from the SDF fund.
5. **Fund donations** via the badge box scheme and for Discovery Guides collected by tourism businesses totalled £700. An impressive amount.

This year the other main focus of activity has been to set up a new **Charitable Incorporated Organisation** with support from Lorraine Ritchen-Stones at the AONB Unit. This has resulted in an application being lodged with the Charity Commissioners at the end of July. The aim is that once the CIO is set up then the Limited Company will be wound down and closed before the end of the 2017/18 financial year, ie by 31st July 2018. The Trustees want to extend their thanks to Lorraine for all her hard work on this complex issue.

The Trustees spent a total of 40 hours and travelled 513 miles attending Board and AONB meetings on behalf of Champion Bowland in 2016/17.

Finally, this year we had to say 'goodbye' to Phil Dykes who resigned as a Trustee.