



Annual Report 2014-15

Champion Bowland saw an overall income of £25,891 in the period 1st August 2014 to 31st July 2015 and expenditure totalled £37,396.

At the end of the year the General Fund had £8449 retained income.

This was a busy year for Champion Bowland, due largely to our involvement in the AONB's 50th Anniversary celebrations which included:

- a) **Bowland Scrapbook** – the majority of the project activity took place this year, utilising the Heritage Lottery Fund grant and AONB match funds provided in 2013/14. The project was very successful at engaging communities and in publishing an attractive and popular publication, launched at the Gala Dinner(see below). Two hundred copies of the Scrapbook were given out free to contributors and dinner guests, and the remaining 200 were sold, raising over £1000. The Trustees then approved a re-print of 1000 copies of the publication, which are currently on sale at retail outlets across the AONB.
- b) **AONB Anniversary Gala Dinner and Raffle** – Champion Bowland acted as the banker for this event which attracted over 100 guests to Clough Bottom Out Barn on 1st November 2014. It also acted as licensee for the raffle. Costs of the event were covered by ticket sales and corporate sponsorship of the Anniversary Awards. Bowland Experience members offered great support by providing many superb prizes and selling tickets for the raffle. The event and raffle together raised a surplus of over £700 for Champion Bowland.

In addition, our regular activity this year included:

- a) **Managing the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund** – this totalled £17,000 in 2014/15. Six new grants were offered in this period, totalling £16,655; and six were paid out from this and previous years, totalling £14,372.
- b) **Managing the AONB's Farm Visit Transport Fund** – this supported five groups visiting farms in Bowland, and reimbursed £307 of transport costs.
- c) **Champion Bowland's own grant scheme** supported four projects, totalling £2424. These were:
 - Longridge U3A who purchased a digital projector for their lectures
 - Publication of a new book of 'Chipping Walks'
 - Design workshops for the developing Labyrinth at Gisburn Forest
 - Workshops leading to a performance of the 'Ballads of the Beasts of Bowland' in Gisburn Forest, led by Spot On

In addition a further five new grants were offered to:

- Knowle Green churchyard restoration project
- Dunsop Bridge village green Jubilee shelter
- Friends of Bentham Station 'Day in the Life' project
- Friends of Beacon Fell hay meadow project
- Hurst Green Church Goes Wild moth trap

The Trustees spent a total of 50 hours (44.5 in 2013/14) and travelled 520 miles (824) attending Board and AONB meetings on behalf of Champion Bowland.

Finally, this year we had to say 'goodbye' to Mike Pugh who retired from the AONB Unit in October. Mike had been instrumental in setting up Champion Bowland and in guiding us through the first few years of existence, so the Board of Trustees send him all our thanks and good wishes.

In response to this change the AONB Unit, on behalf of the Trustees, have contracted the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to take on the financial and charity aspects of administration for both Champion Bowland and BEX Ltd. A Joint Working Agreement is now in place and runs until 2016 when it will be reviewed by all four parties.