

SOUTH WEST LAKES TRUST HIGHLIGHTS 2015/2016





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Introduction from our Chairman

“There is a huge benefit to all of us in spending time in the great outdoors, away from the stresses and worries of the fast-paced modern world that we all live in”

2015 was a time of new beginnings as we welcomed Andy Parsons, our new Chief Executive. Andy was the Trust’s Head of Operations for over four years, leaving in 2012 to gain more experience in the water industry working for Severn Trent Water. Andy and the team have developed a robust five year plan which will see the Trust continue to flourish - benefiting the natural and built environment, the communities in which it serves and the 2m visitors who come to the lakes each year to walk, cycle, relax, have fun on the water and spend quality time with family and friends.

Our charity positively impacts on the lives of so many people; not just across Cornwall, Devon and Somerset but also those who visit while on holiday in the south-west. There is a huge benefit to all of us in spending time in the great outdoors, away from the stresses and worries of the fast-paced modern world that we all live in. 2016 is shaping up to be another fantastic year with record attendances at our popular Trust Open Days. I hope that I will have the opportunity to meet many of you at the lakes over the next 12 months – perhaps at one of these events.

You’ll find in this review some wonderful examples of what we have been doing during the last 12 months. Working with communities, volunteers and funding partners has helped us to achieve so much more than we ever could on our own. I, and my fellow trustees, would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has supported our work.



David Robertson

David Robertson, Chairman

South West Lakes Trust Trustees: Malcolm Bell, Peter Briens, Jacqui Edwards, Laura Jones, John Lee OBE, Dinah Nichols CB, Roger Preston, Monica Read.

South West Lakes Limited Directors: Malcolm Bell, Jacqui Edwards, Andy Parsons, Roger Preston, Ashley Shopland.

Our framework

Our Purpose • To protect and enhance special places for people and wildlife

Our Vision • To be recognised as the best regional conservation and recreation charity

Our Strategy

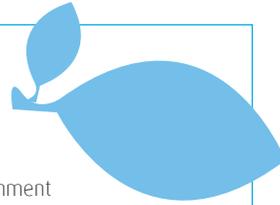
- Brilliant people with the right skills, inspiring others
- Clear and lean processes enabling business improvements
- A protected and better understood historic and natural environment
- More people having great experiences
- An evergreen value added partnership with South West Water
- Financial sustainability and resilience

Our Mission • More people having great experiences

Our Values

- We are forward thinking and ambitious
- We are sustainable and balanced
- We provide opportunities for all
- We are friendly and committed

Key Achievements



The Burrator Historic and Natural Environment project has far exceeded all its targeted outputs, engaging more people with the countryside, often for the first time.

Invested in eight middle managers through our Management Development Programme, ensuring we have "brilliant people with the right skills, inspiring others."



Retained the Investors in People accreditation. The assessor complemented our employees' commitment to our success and the increased level of empowerment at all levels within the organisation.

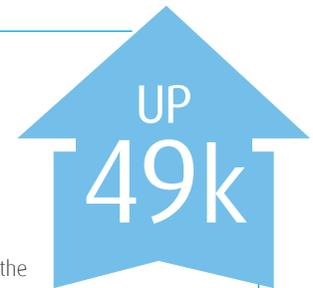


Renewed our partnership with South West Water to deliver conservation, access and recreation at their public access sites.

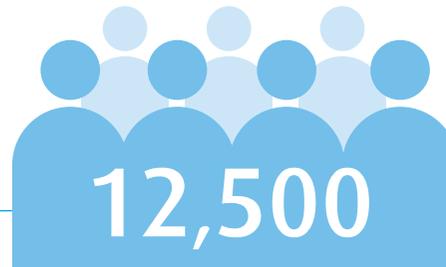


Wimbleball Lake retained Green Tourism gold accreditation. One of 4 sites to hold the award.

Our visitor numbers increased by over 49,000 compared to the previous year.



Over 12,500 people attended our open days and other organised events at the lakes.



16,000 children challenged themselves with adventurous activities – often taking part in an activity for the first time.



Supporting student placements at Burrator

In July 2013 the Burrator Historic and Natural Environment project became a reality and we had two key goals:

1. To carry out a number of land and buildings infrastructure improvements for conservation, access and education.
2. To develop opportunities for interpretation, learning and participation.

As the project gained momentum so our opportunities for work placements increased with students getting involved in a variety of tasks.

Placements varied from one week work experiences for Year 10 students to a six month full time placement for our degree students. Recently, student teams came from Tavistock Community College, City College Plymouth, Plymouth University, College of St Mark & St John, Duchy College, Bicton College, South Devon College and Bridgwater College. The wide ranging courses included diplomas and degrees in Conservation Biology, Outdoor Adventure Education, Estate and Countryside Management, along with our unique one week placements with contractors carrying out consolidation works to two very important ruins. We are proud of the positive impact we have had on students' learning and development:

"I am currently studying FdSc Countryside Management at Bridgwater College and I am doing my work placement here at Burrator. I live in Dousland which is half a mile away from the centre. It is fascinating finding out about the natural and archaeological history of the area. I also enjoy doing practical work with the volunteers and gaining traditional rural skills for managing the site. Many of these skills are in decline and more often than not are the more environmentally friendly options rather than mechanised methods. Working on the site gives me a valuable insight into the industry I hope to gain a career in, many aspects of the countryside are incorporated in my placement from the day to day running of the centre to working with volunteers from all walks of life, ages and abilities. I have gained new skills through hands on training, not just from the Trust's employees but from other students that are also on placement here. If you are thinking of embarking on an environmental, conservation or countryside course I thoroughly recommend coming down to the centre at Burrator to see what it is all about".

Jodie Rain, August 2016



At the 2015 South West Lakes Trust annual Volunteers' Celebration event two of our six month placement students, Hayley and Dan, won the award for 'Contribution to Education'.

A protected and better understood environment

South West Lakes Trust is dedicated to both the protection and enhancement of the important habitats, species and historic sites that form an integral part of the South West's reservoirs and lakes. From prehistoric burial cairns at Burrator Reservoir, to wildlife rich Culm Grassland at Roadford Lake, the variety and importance of these sites is paramount in our day to day work.

Partnership working in the Fal Catchment

Over the past year, we have been working on a very exciting catchment scale conservation project around College and Argal reservoirs near Penryn in Cornwall. Upstream Thinking is a five year programme funded by South West Water and is being delivered across the whole region. The Fal Catchment project is being delivered by South West Lakes Trust and Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) and has two main aims:

1. Farm advisors, ecologists and water quality scientists from CWT work with landowners in the catchment to help them improve their practices, with the goal of reducing the run off of harmful chemicals and fertilisers into the reservoirs.
2. The other aspect of the project involves our volunteer groups (led by our Countryside Warden, Beth Heasman) visiting different sites around the catchment to undertake conservation and habitat management tasks to improve the sites for wildlife. We have worked on a wide variety of tasks over this first year including scrub clearance, bracken management, hedging, invasive species removal and building habitat boxes. Volunteers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds have really enjoyed being part of a new and interesting project, with the opportunities to visit different sites and learn new skills.

It will be very exciting to continue this partnership working with Cornwall Wildlife Trust – a landscape level approach to water management and conservation will not only make a real difference to the water quality in the lakes, biodiversity and agricultural sustainability, but also has positive knock on effects for wildlife, fisheries and the enjoyment of visitors to our sites.



Did you know?

Over 3,500 volunteer days helped us to deliver our charitable objectives – that's equivalent to a quarter of our entire workforce!

More people having great experiences

South West Lakes Trust manages over 40 inland waters, with facilities and opportunities varying from site to site. One of the Trust's main aims is to provide access to the lakes for people of all abilities. We have a wide range of facilities from accessible paths and fishing platforms to sailability and wheelyboats for those who love to get out on the water. Our activity centres are ideal locations for an unforgettable family day out - our range of outdoor activities offer a fun and safe environment for learning something new.

Did you know?

75,000 people from across the south-west region benefited from health giving outdoor activities at the lakes.

Improving access at Fernworthy Reservoir

In partnership with Dartmoor National Park Authority, the 'Moor Than Meets The Eye' landscape project enabled us to vastly improve the surface and accessibility of the much loved Potters Walk, part of a 2.6 mile circular route that takes in the best that Fernworthy Reservoir on Dartmoor has to offer. The walk includes meadows, woodland and moorland, offering fantastic views of the water and local wildlife. The improvement works took place between August 2015 and January 2016 and the transformation has encouraged many returning and first time visitors to explore parts of Fernworthy Reservoir and Dartmoor that were previously inaccessible. The importance of this project is best described by one of our regular visitors:

"I visited Fernworthy Reservoir this morning with my parents and my four year old daughter Tilly. Tilly has a rare chromosomal disorder and as part of her condition can only walk short distances and relies on a disability buggy to get around. We are therefore pretty limited on where we can visit with her and often have to stay at home while the rest of the family go out for long walks. Today, because of the fabulous new path being installed, we were able to take her out for a proper walk. I just wanted to say thank you on behalf of Tilly and others with special needs who are restricted in the terrain they can access".

Kate Bailey, October 2015



A very happy Tilly enjoying the new path at Fernworthy

Encouraging active lifestyles at Wimbleball Lake

Luke Hoather – Chief Instructor

Since joining the Wimbleball team two years ago I have really focused on getting more people active on Exmoor by making our activities more accessible.



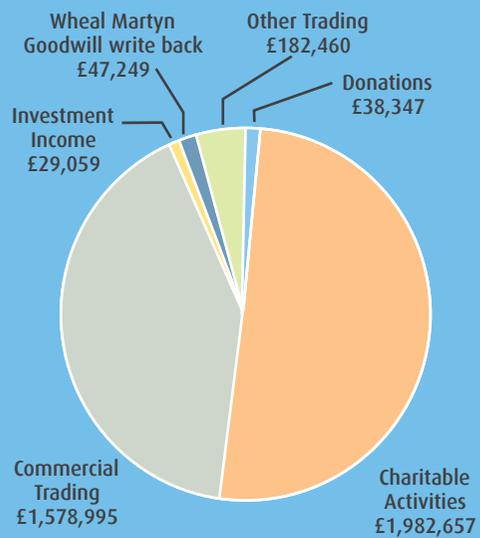
As Chief Instructor of Outdoor + Active Wimbleball I have been working with numerous outdoor adventure and sporting organisations in the local area to get people of all ages and backgrounds enjoying the great outdoors. The National Citizenship Scheme has been a huge success in getting young people from the local area outdoors and enjoying the natural elements. Our team has supported Channel Adventure's delivery of the Rural Somerset Youth Project, reaching nearly 500 young people - from kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, high-ropes and archery being delivered on-site, to coasteering and surfing at Lynmouth and Minehead - we have co-delivered unforgettable experiences for these young people.

We have also been working with Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership, in association with Sport England, to target inactive people and try to encourage them to get outside and involved in sport. We have secured funding to make sport more accessible and to give young people the opportunity to learn new skills without the burden of financial commitments. Once they have tasted a new sport it is our goal to keep them interested and engaged by offering a variety of affordable pathways for continued participation.

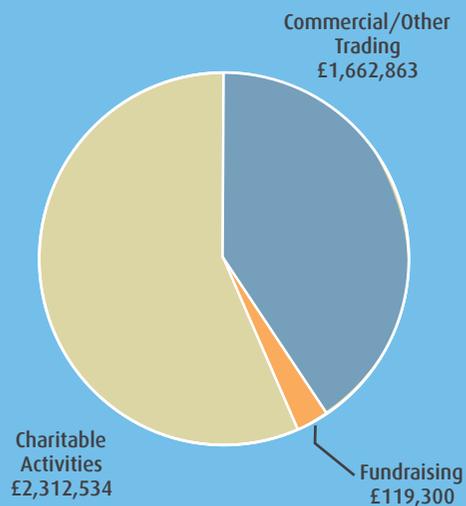
From the high-octane adventurous outdoor activities to the relaxing, calm and inspiring beauty of Exmoor, Wimbleball Lake really does offer something for everyone. I love what I do and working for the Trust has helped me to really appreciate what's important in life... health, wellbeing and fun!



Incoming Resources



Outgoing Resources



Our Financials

Summary of Results - Year Ended 31 January 2016

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fund Wheal Martyn	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2016 £	Total Funds 2015 £
Total incoming resources	2,656,457	773,032	429,278	3,858,767	3,727,827
Total outgoing resources	2,598,075	683,972	812,650	4,094,697	3,893,230
Net incoming/outgoing resources	58,382	89,060	(383,372)	(235,930)	(165,403)
Tax on Profit on ordinary activities				0	0
Transfers between funds	(39,314)		39,314	0	0
Net movement in funds	19,068	89,060	(344,058)	(235,930)	(165,403)
Fund balances brought forward	567,694	21,585	2,903,034	3,492,313	3,657,716
Fund balances carried forward	586,762	110,645	2,558,976	3,256,383	3,492,313



Future priorities

We are focused and ambitious with a vision to be recognised as the best regional conservation and recreation charity. To achieve this we have identified five core themes that will underpin the work of our people and our charity in the future. We have a passionate and committed team of employees and volunteers that enables us to think big and deliver great things for public benefit.

We will actively champion and promote these campaigns through our employees, projects and stakeholder communications.

Our Campaigns

Play and Explore

- ✓ Reconnecting children and their families with the outdoors through play.

It is becoming ever more difficult to give children access to outdoor learning experiences – be that through formal education visits or with their families. Well over 1 million children in the UK did not visit, or rarely visited, natural places in the last year. We have an opportunity to connect more young people with nature, away from the distractions of modern technology and socialising with friends 'online'.



Active Outdoors

- ✓ Promoting and delivering health and wellbeing in the outdoors

With more and more research indicating that green spaces have a key role to play in improving public health we believe we can make a regional difference to our nation's wellbeing. Our lakes and environment can benefit local communities – improving physical and mental health through exercise and positive social interaction.



Building Outdoor Skills

- ✓ Training and personal development for those furthest from work

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of young people (aged 18-24) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). For some young people this will be a temporary setback, while for others it will have a long term detrimental effect on their future life chances. We can give young people more confidence to learn new skills from the rural and outdoor activity sectors, leading to volunteering and, potentially, employment opportunities.



Love Your Lakes

- ✓ Caring for and improving our natural environment

Working with local communities, active volunteers and external funders we can improve the habitats and biodiversity at our sites. We will consult with stakeholders, update conservation management plans and agree our long-term environmental priorities.



Discovering Local Culture

- ✓ Celebrating and engaging people with our built and social heritage

Conserving historic features within our landscapes is critical to ensuring that they remain interesting places to visit and for future generations to enjoy. We want more people to experience these gems. The china clay industry shaped the landscape of mid-Cornwall and Wheal Martyn is committed to keeping that story alive for our local communities and inspiring those from further afield.



Thank you

Without the following individuals, groups and organisations we could never have achieved so much across the south-west and for that we are very grateful.

Individuals

Our Patrons

Lady Mary Holborow DCVO
Peter Bartlett MBE
Cairns Boston MBE
Keith Bungay

Our Friends

We have around 500 'Friends of the Trust' who support our work throughout Devon, Cornwall and West Somerset.

Our Volunteers

Too many to name individually but thank you for giving your time freely, your skills and commitment make such a difference to our lakes.

If you would like to view our full Annual Report for the year ending 31 January 2016 please email info@swlakestrust.org.uk to request a copy or visit www.swlakestrust.org.uk to download the report.

- 1 Stithians Lake
- 2 Argal
- 3 Porth
- 4 Crowdy
- 5 Colliford Lake
- 6 Siblyback Lake
- 7 Tamar Lakes

- 8 Roadford Lake
- 9 Meldon
- 10 Lopwell Dam
- 11 Burrator
- 12 Avon Dam
- 13 Venford

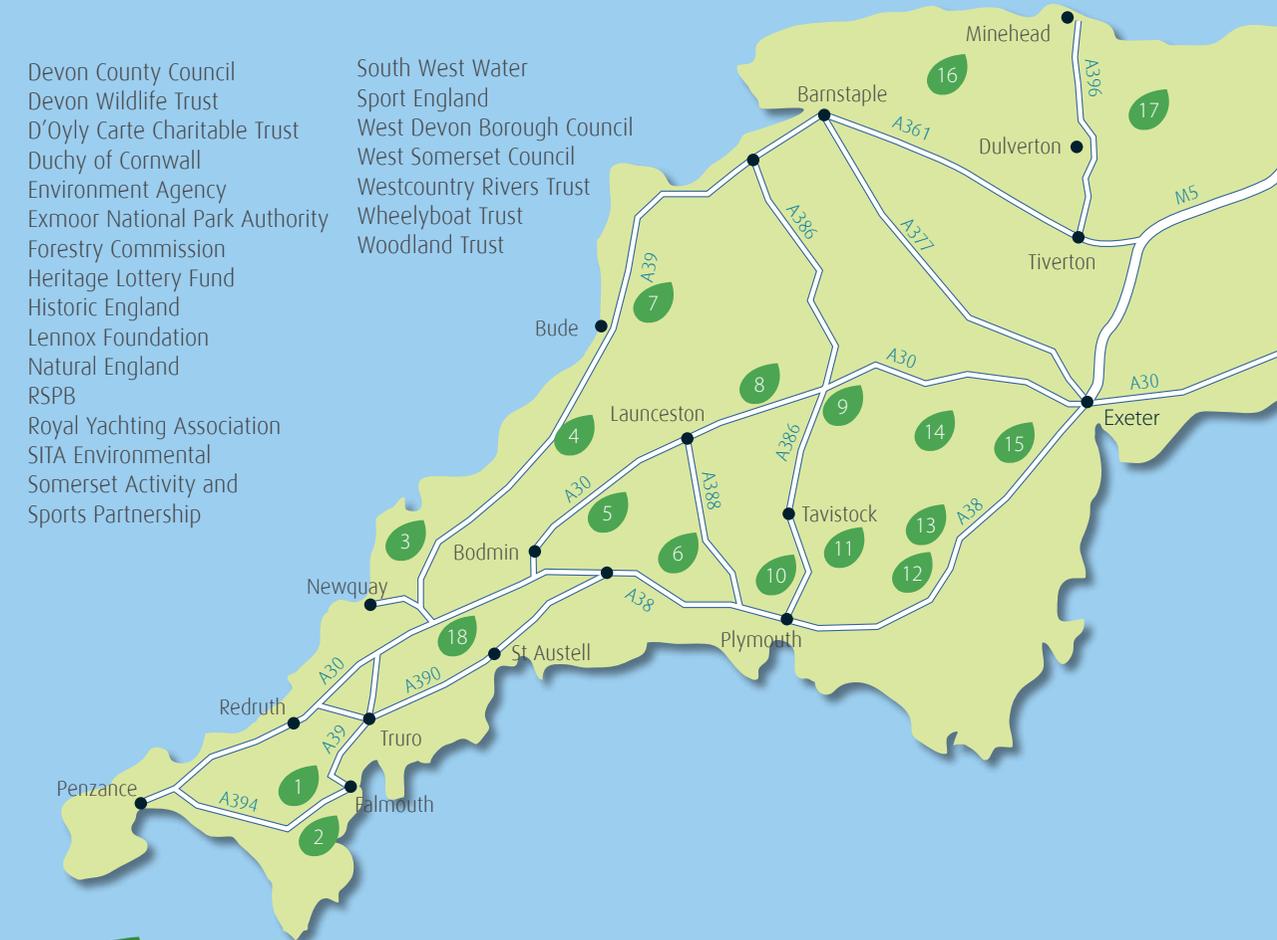
- 14 Fernworthy
- 15 Tottiford, Trenchford & Kennick
- 16 Wistlandpound
- 17 Wimbleball Lake
- 18 Wheal Martyn Museum

Organisations

Active Devon
Angling Trust
Biffa Awards
Butterfly Conservation
Calvert Trust Exmoor
Cornwall Bird Watching and Preservation Society
Cornwall Community Foundation
Cornwall Council
Cornwall Sports Partnership
Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Cory Environmental
Countryside Mobility South West
Dartmoor National Park Authority
Dartmoor Preservation Society
Devon Bat Group

Devon County Council
Devon Wildlife Trust
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
Duchy of Cornwall
Environment Agency
Exmoor National Park Authority
Forestry Commission
Heritage Lottery Fund
Historic England
Lennox Foundation
Natural England
RSPB
Royal Yachting Association
SITA Environmental
Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership

South West Water
Sport England
West Devon Borough Council
West Somerset Council
Westcountry Rivers Trust
Wheelyboat Trust
Woodland Trust



South West Lakes Trust

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