



National  
Trust



Mind, Barrow branch

Ash Landing, June 2016

# High Wray Basecamp

Yearbook 2016

The Lakes

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/get-involved/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/get-involved/)

# Welcome to High Wray Basecamp's 2016 yearbook

Nestled in its own private wooded grounds, High Wray is the National Trust's full time volunteer centre in the Lake District. We're proud to be an integral part of the South Lakes property, a gloriously diverse area that covers everything from lakeshore to high fell. Our patch includes famous beauty spots like Tarn Hows and Windermere lake, Beatrix Potter's house Hill Top, an art gallery of her work and even a castle. With 15 working farms and a wonderful network of paths linking all this together that's a lot of land to look after!

That's where we come in. The National Trust's theme in the Lake District for 2017 is 'celebrating conservation' and what better way could there be to do this than involve as many different people as possible with our work to keep our marvellous countryside in tip top condition, just what we do at High Wray. Since opening in 1969 our ethos has been that volunteers should get as much out of working with us as we do from them - we aim to help people feel that they've contributed something towards a beautiful place, learnt some new skills and had some fun doing it!

We believe that there's no such thing as a 'typical volunteer' and this yearbook aims to show the variety of people it's been our privilege to work with over the last year, as well as to say a very big thank you to each and every one of them. We'd have a much harder job looking after our fantastic area without your help - we look forward to seeing many of you again in 2017!



Find us on:  
**facebook**

Search under 'High Wray Basecamp and Bunkhouse NT' and 'like' our site!

There's not enough room to fit everything into this yearbook so why not keep up with what's happening at High Wray on our Facebook page? We post regular stories and pictures about the different groups we work with, places we've been and wildlife we've seen as well as those odd little events that just can't be categorised!

Some of the groups who come to High Wray gain recognition of their experiences and their contribution towards the conservation of wild places through the John Muir award. The award can help those who participate to gain a better understanding and appreciation of how their time with us about more than just working and how their contribution fits into the bigger picture. A famous quote from John Muir sums it up: *'When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.'*

[www.johnmuiraward.org](http://www.johnmuiraward.org)



Tarn Hows



Hill Top



Wray Castle

With such a diverse and interesting area there's always something happening in the South Lakes. Why not try visiting:

<http://beatrixpotterspatch.blogspot.co.uk/>; for the latest from Hill Top.

<http://www.countryside-catchup.blogspot.co.uk/> for weekly reports from our ranger team.

<https://www.facebook.com/NTWrayCastle> for Wray Castle's own Facebook page

# The Fix the Fells volunteers



Since starting in 2007 this dedicated group of volunteers has gone from strength to strength, becoming an essential part of the work to look after the Lake District's upland paths and in 2016 spending a total of 1931 days volunteering on the fells. Basecamp has been proud to play our part in this, working with the volunteers on three separate projects - Gummer's How with West Runton (see page 9) and for the Christmas work and party weekend, St Raven's Edge (continuing the work started last year) and a return to the path from Wrynose Pass to Red Tarn. This last job was tackled by the annual 'Basecamp blitz' weekend, with the usual army of volunteers including guests from Scotland and the social Saturday night barbecue. 2017 sees the 10 year anniversary of the volunteer scheme and we are looking forward to hosting an extra special celebration - watch this space!



**Want to get involved? To find out more about Fix the Fells go to: <http://www.fixthefells.co.uk>**



# Working holidays



National Trust working holidays are always popular. With the chance to learn fascinating skills like upland path work and drystone walling, meet new people and play your part in helping look after the Lake District's stunning landscapes they can be real weeks to remember.

*'My first experience of this and after excellent briefings and polite, light hearted promptings from the rangers I was very pleased with the results. The group bonded well and we had a great time at the wall and in the evenings'*

**Drystone walling holiday participant**



*'This was a real hands on experience, from day one we were completely involved in preparing and improving the footpaths', 'It has taught me about how much work is put into preserving and taking care of the Lake District', 'fabulous being out on the hills in all weather and very satisfying seeing the continuation of the path and the spaces filled'*

**To find out more about working holidays go to <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/working-holidays>**



# Green woodwork working holiday



In 2016 we ran a third green woodwork working holiday, led by the south lakes woodland ranger and using wood harvested from our own woodlands. Eight volunteers spent the week learning the skills to put together the frame for a new toolstore for Basecamp, their hard work ensuring our tools will be safely stored for the use of other volunteers in future years!



*'I've got so much out of it, it's been brilliant being able to do something I've never, ever done before and it's my 70th year so it's been really exciting to learn how to build a shed .. So perhaps I'll go home and do one. The drill at home is going to come out of it's box!'* **Green woodwork holiday participant**

# The Prince's Trust - Fairbridge project

Fairbridge is a national charity that helps young people aged 13-25 develop the confidence, motivation and skills they need to turn their lives around. They've been coming to Basecamp since 2009 and are now part of the Prince's Trust. In 2016 groups from Tyneside, Teeside, Salford, Bury and Burnley all joined us as part of a work based skills programme designed to get them thinking about where they want to move on to and what they want to do with their lives.

This partnership is a great way to celebrate conservation, spread understanding of our work and maybe even plant a seed of interest with young people who might otherwise not have any contact with the National Trust. In 2017 we will be continuing to welcome the Prince's Trust to Basecamp.



*'Yeah, I love it, it's really fun, a lot of people think it's hard labour but it's not . This is something I want in my future, I want to look forward to doing stuff like this, helping to create a more natural life. Stop the building as well, I don't want them to keep building, I want them to preserve it, it's well better like this, not built up, calm and peaceful.'*

**Prince's Trust volunteer**



*'It gives them something to work for because when you start talking about work and things like that they say that they can't do it but then they've proved to themselves today that they definitely can . '* *'If you take them out of their comfort zone they can be who they want to be a bit more rather than who they are at home or what their day to day set up is, they can expand a bit on that and try the new things they wouldn't get the chance to do in a city.'*

**Kath and Henry, Prince's Trust leaders**

# One hill, two routes



Mind, Barrow branch

The path up the hill from the lakeshore towards Wray castle wasn't really working out; too steep for buggies and wheelchairs and too tempting to cut the corners for those on foot. The solution? Two paths - one taking a longer and less steep route, with a more direct stepped option for walkers. Now everyone can get down to the beautiful shores of Windermere with ease!



Littledale Hall Therapeutic Community



South Lakes Conservation Group

# The 'Pilgrim's way' part two



Before ...

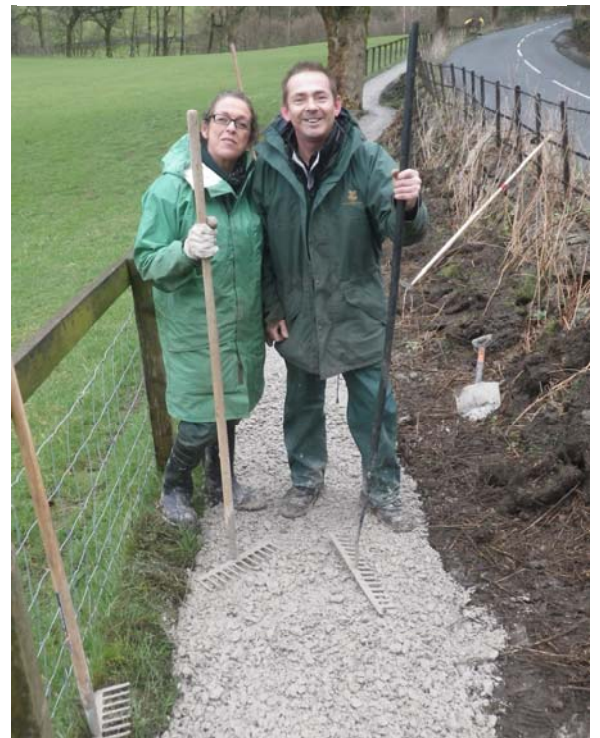
Towards the end of 2015 and with the brilliant help of Shardale, one of the regular rehabilitation groups that visit Basecamp, we started work with the Central and Eastern Lakes National Trust team on the first part of a project to bring a neglected roadside footpath back to life. Greatly appreciated by the local community, we returned with Shardale in 2016 to complete the other half of the job - a great example of partnership working.



.. After!



*'It was hard work, our team worked really well together to complete the job. Our hard work paid off and we finished ahead of schedule, great sense of achievement, very inspired by this experience, thank you very much'* **Shardale volunteer**



*'Really enjoyed and had a relaxing time and felt peace in myself for the first time in ages'* **Shardale volunteer**

*"On behalf of Troutbeck Village Association please accept our continuing gratitude and, if you can, please pass on our thanks to the group who did this latest work."*

**Thankyou from Troutbeck village society**





# Gummer's How

Gummer's How is a very popular low fell at the southern end of Windermere Lake, with a busy path that was becoming quite muddy in places. With the help of West Runton Scripture Union we joined the South Lakes path team and some of the experienced Fix the Fells volunteers to install new drainage and resurface the path. The work was completed as part of the Fix the Fells partnership - an example of Basecamp working beyond National Trust property boundaries to help look after the Lake District's special places.



# Blawith Common and Iron Keld

The Blawith Common path at the south end of Coniston Water needed some TLC, the edges had grown in and walkers were trampling the reed beds on the sides to avoid muddy sections. It isn't on National Trust land but, as a reciprocal arrangement with the National Park Authority, we spruced it up with the help of volunteers from Blackpool's Mulberry supported housing project. Another partnership arrangement that celebrates conservation by benefiting the Lake District's landscapes, our working relationships and Basecamp volunteers.



*'Used to come up a lot with my grandad, Coniston Water was one of his favourites and I know he'll be looking down on me and he'll be dead proud to see me doing a bit of work round here', 'I climbed a hill (mountain) an achievement after not being too well a couple of months ago. I loved it from beginning to end, thankyou for showing me the beauty of the Lake District', 'I understand the work of the National Trust and being part of this fills me with pride'* **Mulberry Community project volunteers**



Iron Keld was a spruce plantation that was clear felled around 10 years ago, to allow the native plants to re-colonize the hillside. Since then the spruce is starting to take over again, so we've been up there with volunteers removing them. We also thinned out birch saplings, bundling them up for children to make Halloween brooms in Wray Castle - a lovely way for our visitors to doubly benefit from the hard work of Basecamp volunteers.

# There's more!

We've tackled plenty of other jobs in 2016 with the help of volunteers. From removing spruce at Nor Moss to planting heather at Claife Station, resurfacing the play trail at Wray Castle to hedgelaying at Loanthwaite, building a new walkway at Wray Campsite to putting new log edges around our car park at Basecamp; the variety of work that volunteer groups can turn their hands to is simply amazing!



## Basecamp staff team 2016



Rob Clarke



Philippa Barber



Matt Tweed

With thanks to Mrs Lumley, the Garratts, the Pendle Forest Association and Di Lang for all of your continued support. It means a lot to us!



Acland block

High Wray Basecamp is also available for private hire. Contact us to find out more.

National Trust

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High Wray

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Longland block

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