



## Volunteering – It's a dog's life!

'Hi folks,

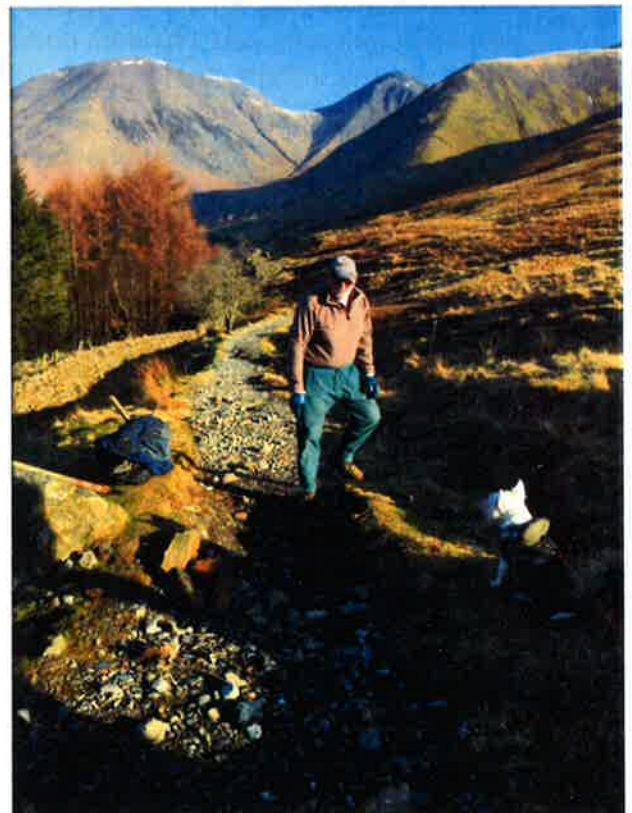
My name is Hamish and I am an eight-year-old West Highland White Terrier dog. I may be a little short in overall canine stature but I am certainly big on both attitude and enthusiasm. I live in South Cumbria with my two special human house companions (Mum & Dad). My principle jobs at home are as pack leader, companion, confidante and of course household minder and security guard. In my spare time I also help Dad with his Fix the Fells volunteering – I really love being out on the fells.



I can always tell the days when we are going to be out on the fells, as Dad will get his boots and rucksack ready first thing in the morning, and then prepare our packed lunch to take out. As you all know, it is important and prudent to fully check the weather forecast before venturing out on the fells, so I will always have a quick stroll around the garden to look at the actual prevailing conditions before taking up a prominent position by the front door, ready to go. On odd occasions if the weather conditions are really atrocious outside, I have been known to sneak back off to bed though instead! Typically, we go out fell fixing two or three times a week. This could be either for a drain run or a work party. We will usually drive to meet up with the other fell fixers (our human friends and their canine minders), although sometimes we also go out to work alone – just the two of us, me and Dad.

Dad quite often calls me the 'the Boss' and many of our fell fixer friends call me 'the Supervisor' as I do like to keep a very close eye and watch on what Dad is doing – you certainly cannot afford to lose your own very special human can you.

All us canines also appreciate a well maintained and repaired path as much as the next person, and we are always willing to help and assist our humans with fell fixing. Do not forget, it is alright for all you humans in your stout walking boots, but paws for thought for a moment. How would you like to walk on some of these eroded paths in your bare feet all day?





Who says a little white dog cannot lead the Fix the Fells pack and also appear on television too? It is just another example of one of our fell fixing adventures.

Please do not underestimate the level of dedication and commitment the Fix the Fells volunteer lengthsmen (and their supporting canine assistants) regularly contribute to routine path maintenance and repairs in the Lake District.

In 2018 an amazing and record breaking 2500 days of upland path work were undertaken with 645 drain runs and 179 work parties being successfully completed in the year. At the end of February 2019, the Fix the Fells volunteer lengthsmen team (my fell pack!) have already contributed 338 days of upland path work with 125 drain runs and 24 work parties being undertaken. Perhaps yet another record breaking fell fixing year could be in the offing.

Hopefully, we will be opening up the celebratory box of Bonios before too long.'



Hamish