



ANNUAL REPORT

1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019

The Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Trustees of Lake District Mobility, a charitable incorporated organisation. A Charity registered with the Charities Commission in England and Wales. Registered Charity no: 1172739.



 Lake District Mobility

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Tel: 07843 754239 Email: info@lakedistrictmobility.org

Charity Development Manager: Mrs J. Walker

Trustees: Mr A. Jones, Ms L. Smyth, Mr C. MacLeod, Mrs A. Scamans,
Mrs R. Kurkal (retired 25/4/2019) and Mrs K. Smith (appointed 7/9/2019)

Letter from the Chairman, Addie Jones



As the second year, since Lake District Mobility (LDM) was granted charitable status, draws to a close, it is important to reflect on our progress and achievements. All were made possible by our dedicated trustees, staff and volunteers.

Since the beginning of the reporting period, our team has been further strengthened by Chris MacLeod and Lorraine Smyth joining our trustee board and Penny Swann being appointed as a fundraiser. This puts us in a strong position to keep the momentum going through the next few years.

Our partnerships with Countryside Mobility and Forestry England (formerly Forestry Commission) at Whinlatter Forest remain extremely positive. The combined launch of LDM and Whinlatter as our first hire site in May 2018 went extremely well and the Tramper at Whinlatter has benefited a significant number of people with limited mobility. With the Langdale Estate becoming our second hire site we have consolidated our operational function and begun to expand the scope of our provision.

Funding support from the Cumbria Community Foundation - United Utilities fund, Cumbria County Council, the Lake District National Park and other vital supporters made our launch possible. Now our private donor has really given us the financial backing and security over the next three years that we need to make the charity sustainable.

In conclusion, we have made a strong, well supported and well-planned start. I am certain that the charity will expand its provision and influence, and in so doing it will provide significant benefits to more and more people with limited mobility, both residents and visitors to the Lake District National Park.

Making the Outdoors Accessible

Our objective is the promotion of social inclusion among people with limited mobility, for the public benefit, by:

- 1) Creating recreational opportunities through the provision of accessible facilities and specialist equipment.
- 2) Raising public awareness of the issues.

We work together with local outdoor sites, where our Trumper vehicles are situated and other local organisations. We use 100% of the donations we receive to:

- Assess and set up new Trumper access sites around the beautiful Lake District countryside.
- Manage and run our head office.
- Take up speaking invitations, where we spread the story and current developments of Lake District Mobility.
- Work in partnership with local decision makers, charities and businesses to improve accessibility across Cumbria.

Our values, as defined by staff, volunteers and Trustees, are:

- **Integrity:** We strive to be open and honest in all of our work. We support people from all walks of life and treat each person with dignity and acceptance.
- **Freedom to Choose:** We believe in people being empowered to reach their full potential and to live a happy, fulfilled life.
- **Ambition:** We do not accept the status quo and never stop improving. We set high standards and work hard to reach them. We push the boundaries and make change happen.
- **Kindness:** We always remember we do what we do for our community, and because we care.

Our Volunteers

Debbie Hornsby continues to volunteer with us, sharing her skills in photography and marketing.



Suzanne Megan is giving us her volunteering time with a focus on marketing and advertising. *“Following a huge success using the Trampers with my Dad, I could see such a benefit to a large group of people and so offered to volunteer. I am really happy to help in any area where it is needed, and I am able to assist.”*

Our Trustees

Aidie Jones continues as the chair and Anna Scamans as secretary. Chris MacLeod is now our treasurer and finance expert in our trustee team.

Our founding trustee and former treasurer, Ruth Kurkal, reached the end of her two-year term and has stepped down from the team of trustees. She is now helping us with site assessments and remains a keen supporter of our work. We are grateful to her for all her drive and hard work in setting up and developing the charity and ensuring its smooth operation.



Lorraine Smyth, the Chief Executive of Voluntary ACTion Cumbria, has become our latest trustee. She has years of experience of working in and with the voluntary sector and small charities. We believe her input to be enormously beneficial to Lake District Mobility.

Lorraine: *“Having worked with LDM as it was forming, I was motivated to be involved as a volunteer because I believe that everybody can benefit from access to the great outdoors. LDM’s work to provide simple, low cost access for families and others to be in the outdoors together is a small, but vital quality of life and wellbeing ingredient. I have always been involved in volunteering with organisations that work with people with disabilities. I hope to bring my experience and skills from working with community organisations for over thirty years to the internal, governance and business planning elements of LDM’s work.”*

Karen Smith moved on from her role as a Charity Administrator to the role of Trustee on 7/9/2019.

Our Staff

Julia Walker remains our Charity Development Manager, bringing new hire sites to the Lake District Mobility fold, building partnerships, raising our profile and influencing people across Cumbria.

Karen Smith has given Lake District Mobility invaluable support, first joining us as a volunteer in June 2018. Karen has a background in teaching and has worked as an Assistant Head and SINCO in a local school. Her experience, knowledge and skills were vital as she took up her role as a Charity Administrator in December 2018 and got to work in setting up and shaping our administrative functions. She stepped down from this role at the end of March 2019 and joined the board of trustees in September 2019. We are grateful for her support and hard work during all her time with us.

Penny Swann joined the team as a Fundraiser and Policy Co-ordinator on 1st April 2019. Trella Javanainen became Charity Administrator on 14th May 2019.

Trampers in the Lake District



In May 2018, Lake District Mobility was successful in launching its first Trampler at Whinlatter Forest Park, which is owned and operated by Forestry England. Forestry England and staff at Whinlatter have been very supportive and the scheme has proved to be very popular amongst visitors. Whinlatter has provided 186 Trampler hires during the reporting period.

Feedback from Trampler users has been very positive. Here are a few of their comments:

“Excellent experience. Enabled me to get out into terrain I couldn’t possibly reach otherwise. Was emotionally moving.”

“Came to use the Trampler all terrain wheelchair today for the 1st time with my mate who has not been able to get to these places for years & all I can say is fantastic thing to have for people with disabilities/difficulties, the staff were courteous, very helpful & gave you the time you needed, thank you very much as you helped give someone a great afternoon.”

Staff at Whinlatter have found the scheme having a big impact on their offer to the public. Here are a few words from Nathan Fox, a Forest Ranger on the site:

“...one thing that has really become apparent to me that I very much under-estimated was the scale of the impact it has had on people’s lives. I have done lots of briefs now, and all the people I have met who are using it have given me an insight into their backgrounds, and often health and mobility problems. One man told me how three years ago, he was cycling 150 miles and running 50 miles a week. Now he struggles to walk 150 meters, so for him to be able to access parts of the forest again which he never thought he would was a revelation for him. A lady told me she was left with (in her words) ‘bad wiring’ following a stroke, and her mobility was affected, so to see the joy on her face as she went off into the forest with her daughter, son and grandchildren took my breath away. It has been a good thing for us all having the Tramper available and up and running and part of our offer, but by far the most important benefit has been on the positive wellbeing of its users.”

During the reporting period, Langdale Leisure Limited joined the scheme and work began to prepare two routes in the Langdales for use by two Trampers.

Julia has continued to make contacts with several promising, potential partner sites across Cumbria, such as Calvert Trust and Grizedale Forest. It is anticipated that her work with these sites and others will lead to more Tramper access points becoming available across the county soon.

Working with North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority



In the autumn of 2018, North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) contacted Countryside Mobility for support in setting up access points in sites across the national park. According to LDM’s partnership agreement with Countryside Mobility, North Yorkshire is within our catchment area and we began working with NYMNPA. During the reporting period we assessed routes and facilities for Tramper access at Guisborough

Forest and Walkway, Ravenscar Visitor Centre (a National Trust Property) and Sutton Bank National Park Centre.

Lake District Mobility has set up a Managed Affiliated Site agreement (three-way lease agreement) with NYMNPA. Under this agreement, the NYMNPA will:

- Own and have responsibility for the Trampers.
- Promote the scheme through their own channels and platforms.
- Encourage other local outdoor attractions to consider offering a Tramper scheme.
- Cover the cost of punctures.

The hire sites, in turn, are responsible for the day to day running of the scheme. This includes:

- Producing maps.
- Ensuring staff is suitably trained to keep the Tramper, Tramper users and staff safe.
- Completing and submitting membership paperwork appropriately.

LDM is responsible for:

- Insuring the operation of the scheme.
- Co-ordinating the maintenance of and repairs to the Trampers.
- Undertaking the initial site and facilities assessments, risk assessments and staff training.
- Carrying out inspections and checks to ensure that the hire scheme is operating properly.
- Operating the membership scheme and publicising the scheme.

Remedial work is now underway to ensure the assessed routes are safe for Tramper users. This will be followed by staff training provided by LDM. The National Park Authority endeavours to be ready to launch the schemes by summer holidays.

Partnership working to meet our ambitions

As well as working towards opening up Tramper access routes, Julia has also been working with other partners to improve accessibility in the county in general.

The local plan is the strategic plan for development for the Lake District up to 2035. The aim of the plan is to produce a planning framework for the conservation of the landscape, provision of jobs, housing, facilities and infrastructure that the Lake District wants and needs. LDM is actively involved in giving input into the area of accessibility to ensure that within the policies and frameworks of the plan Lake District becomes a first class welcoming and accessible place for all.

During our talks and assessments, we encourage partners to become Changing Places.



Lake District
National Park



Cumbria Tourism
At the heart of our visitor economy

Together with the Lake District National Park Authority and Cumbria Tourism, Julia has begun work to develop an accessibility guide and a map to Cumbria. This work is still underway.

During this reporting period, work also got underway to set up an annual “Access Lakes Conference”. The first conference, scheduled for 3rd December 2019, will empower large and small attractions and businesses in the Lake District to start the journey to become as accessible as possible and welcoming to everyone. Lake District Mobility is delivering the conference in partnership with The Lake District National Park Authority, Cumbria Tourism, National Trust, Langdale Leisure Ltd and Lakeland Arts.

Recognition



In recognition of “great and valuable services to the community” Lake District Mobility received The High Sheriff of Cumbria’s award in March 2019.

The awards come from the High Sheriff’s Crimebeat Fund which is managed by the Cumbria Community Foundation.

Reserves Policy

In the opinion of the trustees the reserves are satisfactory for the forthcoming year.

We continue to find and assess new sites in which to situate our Trampers and to make regular applications to potential funders.

Our Supporters during this year



We could not operate without the encouragement and guidance of our many supporters. We benefit tremendously from their generosity in sharing their time and knowledge.

Although we cannot name all those whose support has enabled us to continue our work, we would particularly like to thank the following individuals:

- Valerie Ayre and Hayley Bishop of Allerdale County Council.
- Sean Day of Lake District Calvert Trust.
- Neil Warren and Debbie Cross of Countryside Mobility (Living Options Devon).
- Nick and Jackie Lancaster and Anne Durnall of Langdale Leisure Ltd.

Lake District Mobility Receipts and Payments Account

Year Ended 31 March 2019

	2019 Unrestricted Funds	2019 Restricted Funds	2019 Total Funds	2018 Total Funds
RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£
Grants & Funding	31000		31000	43879
Donations	2189		2189	0
Gift Aid Refund	578		578	0
Fundraising	1821		1821	751
Fees & Membership	2283		2283	0
Sundry Income	346		346	0
Interest	33		33	7
Total Receipts	38249	0	38249	44637
PAYMENTS				
Wage Costs	8953		8953	1543
Staff Expenses and Training	2049		2049	461
Rent	1100		1100	
Printing & Advertising	2449		2449	475
Other Office Expenses	614		614	300
Insurance	613		613	603
Office Equipment	443		443	490
Vehicles	2066	16368	18434	12670
Other Expenses	1760		1760	1336
Total Payments	20047	16368	36415	17877

Lake District Mobility Receipts and Payments Account

Year Ended 31 March 2019

	2019 Unrestricted Funds £	2019 Restricted Funds £	2019 Total Funds £	2018 Total Funds £
NET	18202	-16368	1834	26760
Cash funds B/F	10392	16368	26760	0
Cash funds C/F	28594	0	28594	26760

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Assets	£
Bank Account	28594
Vehicles cost	30334
Office Equipment cost	633
Debtors	2690
Liabilities £	0

Signed on behalf of the Board on 5 December 2019

Chairman, Adrian Jones



Treasurer, Chris MacLeod




LANGDALE