

Affiliated with Lancashire & Northumberland

Newsletter Spring/ Summer 2011

Map of commons taking part in Commons Council consultation



Building Common Ground

Fellow Commoners,

Welcome to our spring newsletter. I hope you have all had a decent lambing time after one of the most amazing periods of continuous good weather I can remember. I kept having to pinch myself each morning when I was greeted with yet another sunny day (with the odd exception at the start of April).

It's been another busy period for the Federation in a number of areas of interest to commoners. The consultation on Commons Councils has taken up quite a lot of time and is still ongoing. It was pleasing to see so many people engage with the idea which gave us a positive mandate to take the process further, in conjunction with the many commons that showed an interest in being part of a Cumbria Commons Council. For

those of you on commons where initial interest was not declared there is still the opportunity to come on board before the process reaches the stage of making a submission to the Secretary of State. Please contact us through your association if you want to know more. There is still much work to be done, which in the main will fall to the Federation, in hammering out the details on rules, representation and other constitutional matters-**YOUR** input will be crucial.

As ever we are always in discussion with Natural England over the differences between their agenda and that of the commoners. We have been involved in setting up a Grazing Forum which consists of representatives from NE, NFU,CLA, Lake District National Park National Trust and farmers which is meeting 3 or 4 times a year with a view to increasing the level of mutual understanding over grazing issues. Given the present pressures on the public purse, I hope this, as well as contacts at national level will help to resolve some of the issues over the setting up of new HLS and UELS agreements.

Whilst we accept that environmental money, with its restrictions, remains an important income source for many commoners it must not be allowed to undermine the common farming systems. This especially at a time when there is renewed optimism in the wider farming community over the prospects for profitable food production in the future.

Our website has had a welcome revamp last year and for those of you who haven't had a look I urge you to do so as it has all the up to date reports, consultations, and lots of valuable information for everyone interested or involved with commons.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Viv Lewis our administrator for taking the Federation's operations to new level through her genuine interest in and understanding of commons matters, alongside her great administrative skills. Also I would like to thank the other members of the committee for their support and commitment in representing your interests.

Dave Smith (Chairman)

Commons Council Consultation: The results

The Commons Act 2006 provides for the establishment of Commons Councils when there is *prima facie* substantial support from those with legal rights on common land. Councils will have the ability to make and enforce regulations with a remit of managing agriculture, vegetation and the use of commons rights.

Julia Aglionby of H & H Bowe and Viv Lewis of the Federation of Cumbria Commoners undertook a consultation between December 2010 and February 2011 (funded by Natural England) to see if there was sufficient support for the establishment of a Cumbria Commons Council.

Twenty nine local commons associations covering 55,171 hectares (just under half of all the common land in Cumbria) with 387 active graziers, 357 non graziers and 56 owners took part. Nearly 200 people attended meetings to learn more about the proposed Cumbria Commons Council. They heard about how it could operate, its membership, the voting arrangements, and how it could be financed. This proposal was also discussed at the AGMs of local commons associations. All those taking part were giving the opportunity to vote (via a postal ballot) on whether they were in favour of their local commons association joining the proposed Cumbria Commons Council.

Overall results

Forty seven % returned their voting papers and the result showed considerable support for a Cumbria Commons Council. A breakdown of the results is shown in the table below.

	Graziers (total 387)	Non-graziers (total 356)	Owners (total 56)
Response rate	67%	25%	43%
Yes vote	72%	74%	79%
No vote	28%	26%	21%

How the local associations voted

For a local association to be in favour of a Cumbria Commons Council they had to satisfy two criteria: a) at least 60% of their active grazer members had to have voted and, b) at least 60% of these active graziers must have voted 'yes'. Fifteen local associations met the 'yes' criteria. Eight associations voted against a commons council. The criteria for a 'no' vote was either : a) a response rate of less than 45% from active graziers, or b) if more than 60% active graziers voted, then at least 60% voted 'no'. There were also eight associations classified as Borderline as they fell in between these two categories. The results are shown in the table below.

Yes	Borderline	No
Bampton & Askham	Brant Fell	Beacon & Burney
Baugh Fell	Cross Fell	Blawith & Slubberthwaite
Birkbeck	DSTC	Flass & Ash

Yes	Borderline	No
Black & White Coombe	East Stainmore	Frostrow
Buttermere & Derwent	Longdale	High Furness
Deepdale	Mallerstang East	Ravenstonedale Common
Kentmere	Ravenstonedale Moor	Side Fell
Langstrath & Coombe	Wild Boar	Wharton
Matterdale		
Middleton		
Moorhouse Group		
Mungrisdale		
St Johns		
Tebay		
Watermillock		

The voting data showed that if two additional active graziers had voted ‘yes’ on each common, only five would have indicated a definite ‘no’. A detailed breakdown of the results can be found in the report on our website:

<http://www.cumbriacommoners.org.uk/results-commons-council-consultation>

Next steps

The Federation will be working with the ‘yes’ and ‘borderline’ commons and any other commons who wish to take part to prepare a case for an establishment order to the Secretary of State. We will be looking for representatives from each interested common to help us finalise the details of the commons council including:

- How Council members will be chosen
- How decisions will be made particularly when they relate to a particular common or area
- Complete the set of rules for the Council
- Financing the Council

We will be getting in touch with you shortly to take this work forwards.

Profile of Buttermere, Brackenthwaite and Above Derwent Common

Pauline Blair

In 2006 I did a profile of Buttermere, Brackenthwaite and Above Derwent Common on which I’ve been an active grazier for 30 years. My aim was to demonstrate to the Lake District National Park Planning Authority how the combined effects of severe, unbalanced reductions in stocking rates imposed by Natural England, plus the reduction in active graziers due to age and lack of suitable housing, was threatening

the commoning system, which created and still maintains a large proportion of our most valued uplands.

My profile showed that in 1992, when our ESA Agreement was first discussed, the statistics of the Common were as follows: area 5565ha; total grazing rights 23,753; active graziers 24 who held 16,700 right; total stock numbers 13,000; and a stocking rate 2.35 ewes /ha to be reduced to 1.5 ewes/ha.

By 2006, the common was under an HLS agreement. The number of active graziers had reduced to 18, the stocking rate went down to 0.5 ewes/ha and 70% had to be off-wintered. In practice several large fell flocks are completely removed in winter. This has allowed those, who want to retain fell ewes' legendary hardiness to survive on the fell without supplementary feed, keep a small number on the common in winter. These ewes then regain body condition fast enough when brought into the in-bye pastures, to produce and feed a healthy lamb. The down side is that these sheep stray well off their heaf in winter and one shepherd can be faced with a huge area to gather in the spring. It has also distorted the traditional summer heafing balance, as those who off-winter now turn-out a greater proportion of their original number of sheep on the common in the summer.

By 2006 SPS had also been introduced. On such an over-registered Common as ours, the active graziers have seen a huge reduction in the area payment they receive in comparison to the headage payment it replaced. In 2007 SPS payment was claimed on less than 50% of the Livestock Units allocated to the Common and a high percentage of what was claimed went to non-graziers.

Today, in 2011 the active graziers are down to 16. With one third less active graziers the work of shepherding is falling on fewer shoulders and there is likely to be a shortage of active, competent shepherds in the near future. Also most of the active, younger, full-time graziers are concentrated one side of the common, leading to an imbalance in the shepherding burden.

Presently there are 11 owner-occupied farms. Of these, only 3 can currently guarantee a successor, and 2 are likely to come on the market soon. It is this type of farm that is most vulnerable to being sold to non-farmers and split up with the original steadings permanently lost to farming. The availability of housing still continues to remain a universal challenge to maintaining hill farming in our area. Prices are prohibitive and planning permission almost impossible to obtain.

Our hardy heafed flocks provide the optimum extensive, naturally organic, sustainable system of food production, which in the hands of skilled shepherds, can be adjusted to serve the needs of food production, nature conservation and to

mitigate the effects of climate change. I hoped in 2006 that by 2011 the value of our native sheep and the knowledge, experience and skill of the shepherds who tend them would have been acknowledged in a genuine partnership with Natural England. It worries and infuriates me that sheep are still being forced off the Commons.

What's the future for your Common?

Stocking rates on commons

Many commoners are concerned about the way stocking rates are determined to deliver environmental outcomes for Higher Level Stewardship agreements. We have invited two experts to give us their opinions. We hope you find these articles interesting.

Calculating stocking rates on Cumbrian commons

David Martin, Senior Specialist, Land Management Technical Advice Team, Natural England

Background to HLS

Agri-environment agreements that support farmers in managing their land for landscape and wildlife benefits have been available on Cumbrian Commons since the Lake District ESA was established in 1993. Sustainable grazing was part of the farm management supported by the ESA. Stocking rates were based on the science and understanding at that time, which indicated that a maximum of 1.5 ewes per hectare was necessary to maintain heather in good condition, and lower rates to allow recovery.

Uptake by farmers, including commoners, of the Lake District ESA was high. Farmers took the scheme on board and adapted their farm management to deliver it. This has had considerable benefits for the Lake District's landscapes and wildlife – for example nearly 1000 barns were restored via ESA support.

Monitoring in the Lake District and other upland ESAs has shown mixed success in improving moorland habitat condition. Greatest recovery has been found on grazing units in restoration options, where maximum stocking rates were typically less than 1 ewe per hectare. Uptake of these options were, however, low. The starting condition of the vegetation, and the mix of vegetation types present in a grazing unit, has been shown to have a large bearing on the extent and rate of improvements for a given stocking rate.

Experience from ESAs and the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) around the country fed into the development of the moorland options in the Environmental

Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS), the management prescriptions and method for setting stocking rates. HLS embraces a more flexible approach that enables more tailoring of the agreement to the farm through:

- The Farm Environment Plan (FEP), which audits and maps features on the farm;
- Ability to vary prescriptions based on knowledge of the farm, and supporting guidance;
- The use of Indicators of Success to guide farm management towards delivery of objectives;
- Development of sustainable stocking rates.

Sustainable stocking rates used in HLS have been developed for broad moorland vegetation types, based on published data on productivity (yield) from sites round the uplands, and the proportion that can be removed without detriment to survival of the plants (sustainable off-take). For given moorland grazing unit, the total sustainable off-take available to livestock can be calculated, based on the areas of vegetation mapped in the FEP or other sources, and this can be matched to the dietary requirements of the livestock breeds on the farm, to arrive at an annual average stocking rate. The rates applied to broad vegetation types are set out in Table 1 below. Where vegetation is in poor condition, as assessed in the FEP or SSSI monitoring, the lower restoration rates are used to calculate the stocking level, giving plants a greater chance of reproduction and spread.

Table 1: Indicative Stocking Rates for key upland habitats

Habitat	Objective	ISR (Livestock units per ha)	Equivalent number of hill ewes per ha
Upland dry heath	Maintain	0.101	1.26
	Restore	0.051	0.64
Upland wet heath	Maintain	0.044	0.55
	Restore	0.022	0.27
Montane heath	Maintain	0.017	0.21
	Restore	0.008	0.10
Blanket bog	Maintain	0.035	0.44
	Restore	0.018	0.22
Upland limestone grassland	Maintain	0.101	1.26
	Restore	0.051	0.64
Unproductive rough grassland	N/A	0.075	0.94
Productive grassland	N/A	0.150	1.87
Ungrazeable (rock, dense bracken & scrub)	N/A	0.000	0.00

The annual average rate for a grazing unit is the starting point for development of a detailed stocking calendar in discussion with the farmer/commoners. This sets out an agreed monthly maximum and minimum stocking rate. The input from the grazier is key to make sure the calendar takes account of farming operations. Since the relative attractiveness of plants to grazing livestock varies throughout the year, stocking rates can be adjusted to avoid pressure at times of risk, e.g. on heather in autumn and winter, or to target grazing at invasive plants, e.g. purple moor-grass (flying bent) in early summer.

Natural England understands that this is not an exact science, and every moor and fell is subtly different in nature - varying in soil type, rainfall, altitude, aspect and other factors that affect vegetation productivity and how it is used for farming. The approach of using national figures and then adjusting it to the farm helps foster consistency, whilst taking account of local circumstances. It is also important that we continue to monitor the effects of these stocking rates, to improve our understanding of how grazing contributes to habitat recovery. This includes the experience of farmers in making the schemes work on the ground. This will, in turn, help us provide more effective advice and guidance in the future, and help make sure that agri-environment agreements fit well with the management of the farm.

The art of setting stocking levels on commons

David Morley, Conservation and Environment Adviser, H & H Bowe

Many commons have been managed under agri-environment agreements since the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) scheme was launched in 1985. With those agreements now ending, commoners are seeking to enter the Higher Level Scheme (HLS), the top tier of Natural England's Environmental Stewardship programme. In moving to HLS, Natural England often expects significant stocking reductions. This has led many commoners to ask how these proposed stocking levels are calculated.

When proposing stocking levels on common land for an HLS agreement, Natural England consider three factors:

1. What habitats exist on the common now and what condition they are in?
2. What are the priority objectives of the HLS on this common?
3. What stocking rates are in place on neighbouring land?

1. Existing habitats

When making an HLS application, it is a pre-requisite to commission a Farm Environment Plan (FEP). The purpose of the FEP is to identify the environmental features of interest and assess their condition. On a common, this means mapping all

the existing habitats and measuring their extent. This provides the baseline data on which proposed stocking levels are based.

For each habitat, Natural England has defined an “Indicative Stocking Rate” (ISR). This is effectively the number of animals per hectare that Natural England believes the vegetation will support while still achieving their environmental objectives. The current condition of the habitat is important – if it needs to be restored, the ISR is usually about 50% lower than for maintaining it as it is. Table 1 (in previous article, page 7) shows the ISR for the main habitats found on upland commons.

For each habitat, the total number of animals can be calculated by multiplying the ISR by the area found in the FEP. The habitats can then be added together to calculate the stocking level across the common. This is the average number of sheep (or equivalent) across the year that Natural England believes will achieve the objectives of the scheme. Table 2 shows a worked example.

Table 2: Example calculation of stocking rates

Habitat	Area (ha)	Objective	ISR	No. ewes
Upland dry heath	250	Restore	0.051	160
Blanket bog	250	Restore	0.018	55
Montane heath	100	Restore	0.008	10
Rough grassland	350	N/A	0.075	329
Rock & dense bracken	50	N/A	0.000	0
TOTAL:	1200			554

Finally, this average over the year is converted into a month-by-month stocking calendar to fit in with existing grazing patterns as far as possible, while still meeting the objectives of the scheme.

2. Priorities for the Scheme

Natural England can deviate significantly from the ISR-based figure if they think it is necessary to meet their priority objectives. For example, if the priority is to restore a small area of montane heath on a predominantly grassy fell, the proposed stocking level is likely to be much lower than the ISR-derived number. If the priority is to restore a heather-based habitat (e.g. upland heath or blanket bog), the stocking calendar will be adjusted to reduce winter grazing, which can otherwise prevent restoration.

Many proposed HLS schemes on commons now include an element of woodland creation, which is a priority for Natural England. New planting is normally fenced off

and this reduces the area available for grazing. Proposed stocking levels are reduced to account for this. Reducing erosion, slowing the flow of water and carbon storage to mitigate against climate change are other Natural England priorities that are likely to be factored in.

3. Neighbouring Land

Neighbouring commons are often unfenced from each other. If stocking levels are not the same, sheep on the more heavily-stocked side will naturally wander across the boundary. To prevent this happening, Natural England will seek to reduce stocking levels to those already in agreement on neighbouring land, especially if this will reduce the chance of encroachment onto SSSI land. This is proving the most controversial element in proposed stocking rates, as the first common into agreement can effectively dictate stocking levels on neighbouring commons.

Proposed stocking levels on commons under HLS are, therefore, driven almost entirely by ecological objectives. Existing habitats and their condition are important but can be overridden by Natural England's priorities and stocking levels already in place on neighbouring land. Ultimately, Natural England are seeking far greater ecological gains on commons with HLS than was the case under the ESA scheme and they believe that significantly lower stocking levels will deliver it.

News from the committee

Once again we have been busy over the last six months representing and supporting the commoners of Cumbria. Below is a selection of the activities that we have been involved with.

Cumbria Grazing Forum

The Cumbria Grazing Forum established by Federation and Natural England held its first meeting in late November. The objective of the Forum is to bring together livestock farmers and farming and environment organisations to explore issues and find solutions that balance potentially conflicting interests (i.e. economic viability and delivering ecosystems services) and deliver sustainable grazing on common land. The Forum is made up of 14 members, the majority of whom are active farmers, both commoners and non commoners and includes NFU, CLA, Natural England, United Utilities, National Trust and the Lake District National Park as members. It will meet three times a year.

The inaugural meeting in November consisted of a full and robust discussion on the issues below:

- What are the benefits of delivering ecosystems services?
- What are the impacts of creating new upland woodland on the commons?

- Stocking levels in agri-environment agreements
- What is sustainability and how do we achieve it

A note of this meeting is on our website. If you have an issue/evidence that you wish to be included in a future Grazing Forum meeting, please get in touch with Dave Smith (our Chairman).

Maddy Jago visit

In early February we hosted a visit from Maddy Jago (Director, Landscape, Biodiversity and the Uplands for Natural England). The purpose of the visit was to present members' concerns over proposed new stocking levels in HLS agreements and their impact on hill farming businesses. Maddy talked to farmers in St John's in the Vale about their experiences (not all positive!) of working with United Utilities and Natural England on SCaMP (sustainable catchment management programme). She took part in a frank round table discussion with a number of our committee members, Will Cockbain (NFU), Douglas Chalmers (CLA) and representatives from other organisations were also present.

Maddy agreed that among their priorities Natural England will focus on:

- Improving local joint working over grazing and agri-environment agreements through the Cumbria Grazing Forum
- Sharing and developing knowledge, via the Cumbria Grazing Forum
- Being more transparent about how Natural England calculates stocking levels in HLS agreements
- Understanding the impacts of agri-environment agreements and stocking changes on hill farming businesses and on day-to-day sheep farming
- Developing joint locally tailored approaches to grazing within agri-environment schemes, via the Grazing Forum

Through this process we hope to develop mutual respect, learn from each other and negotiate potential solutions that support a profitable hill farming sector and deliver the ecosystems services that we all need. We will be monitoring progress and report back to you.

AGM

Nearly fifty people turned up to our AGM and Annual Conference held on March 4th 2011. We had a packed agenda. Dave Smith our Chairman skilfully steered us through the AGM business and the motion to allow committee members to serve a three-year term was passed unanimously. Please see the back page for the details of the new committee. We have vacancies for Representatives for the Howgills and

Coastal Commons. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please get in touch with Dave Smith.

We then had an interesting afternoon session with four speakers:

Julia Aglionby, H& H Bowe presented the interim results of the voting for establishing a Commons Council for Cumbria. *Alistair Mackintosh*, NFU Livestock Board Chairman outlined current and future prospects for English livestock farming. Food production is back on the agenda and farmers will need to produce at least 40% more food. The challenge is that farmers will need to produce more with less input and less impact. *Will Cockbain*, NFU Hill Farming spokesperson talked about current and future prospects for farming the uplands and commons. He was reasonably optimistic that productive hill farming will be supported by CAP reform. *Gwyn Jones*, European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism gave some interesting examples of the miss-match between policy and reality on common pastures in Scotland. The overwhelming majority of grazing clerks considered it more difficult for common grazings to access agri-environment schemes, and as a result only 25% of common land in Scotland is in an agri-environment scheme.

Members of the audience had the opportunity to ask questions and we finished with tea and biscuits.

POST 2013: A sustainable future for Cumbria

We are collaborating with the University of Cumbria and Natural England to provide information for the public, farmers and land managers about the changes Cumbria is likely to face in the next 40 years. For example agriculture will face a number of challenges. Real climate change may affect the capacity of the hills to respond and adapt. A growing population will need to feed itself under very different climatic conditions and on a shrinking land base, which might require more intensive use of all available land, including the hills to produce food.

The leaflet accompanying this newsletter is the first of a number of activities. The Federation is leading on the development of a short film about land management challenges in Cumbria. Also look out for information at Trade Fairs/ Agricultural Shows, and if you would like an expert speaker for an event you may be organising get in touch with Lois Mansfield, Tel 01768 893567 or e-mail Lois.Mansfield@Cumbria.ac.uk

Other information

The Uplands Policy Review

The Uplands Policy Review, published on 10 March 2011, set out the actions which the Government will take, in partnership with others in the public, private and voluntary sectors, to help secure the future sustainable development of the English uplands including hill farming. Some of the key measures announced include:

- A guarantee that 100% of hill farmers eligible to enter Uplands Entry Level Stewardship (UELS) – the key environmental management scheme for hill farmers – will be able to do so
- Creation of an “Uplands Theme” in the delivery arrangements for the socio-economic elements of the current Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) (2007-13) to provide targeted support to upland areas (including to hill farmers) through specific schemes and/or weighting towards the uplands in national schemes.
- A commitment to reduce the burden of unnecessary red tape on hill farmers in the light of the forthcoming report of the Task Force on Farming Regulation
- A new Rural Community Broadband Fund, expected to help to end the digital and social divide suffered by rural areas.
- A process of consultation on whether the legislation for National Parks needs to better reflect their role in facilitating sustainable development, but without compromising the integrity of our National Parks.

In the longer-term, the government has committed to ensuring that reform of the Common Agricultural Policy post-2013 supports both the competitiveness of hill farms and makes adequate payment to secure the provision of public goods from the uplands, beyond those the market provides, and that any future re-designation of Less Favoured Areas fully captures the land in England that is considered to be genuinely 'naturally handicapped'.

Farmers’ organisations have welcomed many of the actions outlined in the report, but said the package failed to recognise the uniqueness of England's uplands and overlooked an opportunity to give hill farms special help. We will be keeping a watchful eye as to whether the government is delivering its commitments.

You can download the Policy Review from our website:

<http://www.cumbriacommoners.org.uk/defra-uplands-policy-review>

Report on the impact of SPS on Common Land

The Foundation for Common Land along with the Countryside and Community Research Institute has recently undertaken a study into the impact of the SPS on the active management of common land. The study states that there is very little evidence to support the notion that the introduction of area based SPS has compromised the grazing of commons by rights holders. In farms where grazing forms a significant part of the farm business, the SPS payment is correspondingly significant for the farm business as a whole. However, the full impact of the current SPS approach on common land is largely unknown as the existing data has not been fully analysed. In addition, the report identifies concerns and some lessons from the experience in England which could contribute to the next steps in developing area-based payments. A copy of the report can be found on our website see: http://www.cumbriacommoners.org.uk/files/sps_revised_final_reportfinal.pdf

Environmental Stewardship Payment Timing Tool

Following the changes to timings of ES Payments as a result of an EU audit, Natural England have developed a simple tool to help agreement holders, agents and partners work out the new timings of ES revenue payments for existing and new agreements. It has four tables:

- For existing agreements, a table showing when the next payments are due
- For new agreements, a table showing when payments will be made depending on the chosen start date
- For existing ELS agreements, a table showing how the payment schedule alters during the five years of the agreement
- For existing HLS agreements, a table showing how the payment schedule alters during the ten years of the agreement.

The tool is based on Microsoft Excel (97-2003) and should operate on all computers with Microsoft Office. You can access the tables from navigation buttons on the front page of the tool and at the top of each sheet. The tool can be found on Natural England's website

at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/euaudit.aspx>

Test your knowledge of cross compliance

Defra have developed three short quizzes to test farmers' knowledge of cross compliance rules. They are designed to help farmers understand their obligations and minimise the risk of a cross compliance failure and a deduction to their Single Payment as a result of a breach found if/when they are inspected.

Defra are offering an incentive. If you complete one of the three quizzes, you will stand a chance of winning some animal identification tags from an RPA approved supplier of your choice and a year's subscription to Farmers Weekly magazine. See <http://aeasolutions.co.uk/CrossCompliance/quiz/>

Events

Eblex Upland Conference 30th June 2011

The challenges faced by beef and sheep producers in Less Favoured Areas (LFAs) will be addressed at the first EBLEX Upland Conference. Industry experts, including Kate Philips of ADAS, Gavin Dick of SAC and GrassMaster Charlie Morgan, will share their knowledge of research and best practice in areas such as breeding, nutrition and grass production, which producers can then adopt on their own farm to improve their returns.

Venue: Rheged Centre, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0DQ

Date and time: 30 June 2011 10.15am - 5.00pm

Further information: Call EBLEX on 0870 241 8528 or email your name and address, headed "Upland Conference booking" to brpevents@eblex.org.uk

Farming landscapes project

Some of our members are taking part the Farming Landscapes Project - a partnership between Friends of the Lake District and the Cumbria Farmer Network. It aims to raise awareness amongst the general public of local produce and the link between farming, food and the landscape – what you see and what you eat. Volunteers are working with farmers to put on a wide range of events including farm walks, activities for the whole family and opportunities to sample local produce. To find out more about the events go to <http://www.fld.org.uk/farming-landscapes-project.htm>

Federation of Cumbria Commoners Committee 2011

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Vice Chair	Pauline Blair	Non-regional	01946 861630

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If you wish to publish anything in this newsletter, please let Viv know.