



# Hub



...your free community magazine

## Making waves on Windermere



### Bownessie is making waves in Windermere and Bowness this Summer!

Bownessie, the lovable lake monster, is making a huge splash in and around Bowness and Windermere this summer. Naz Craig, managing director of the Bownessie Trading Company Ltd, aims to make a visit to the Lakes more memorable for children with her new range of products and Bownessie themed activities.

*Continued on Page 3...*

### "Waterbird" made waves in the Autumn of 1911.

Most people are familiar with the Lake District's rich literary heritage and many are aware of our industrial heritage. However, very few people know of Windermere's place in the history of aviation. Unlikely, as it might seem in a mountainous region, Windermere has an illustrious aviation heritage which stretches from 1911 until 1945. [Photo courtesy Lakes Flying Company Limited] *Continued on page 8...*



## The Hub is sponsored by:



## Free conservation work on your land

Landowners in the Lake District are being given the chance to 'volunteer' for free conservation work on their property as part of a scheme to help improve water quality in England's largest lake.

**Windermere Reflections**, the Heritage Lottery funded partnership programme, has 19 projects to help restore water quality in Windermere and raise awareness of the issues affecting the lake. Some of these projects involve peat soil stabilisation, river restoration and woodland planting.



The project team are now looking for sites within the Windermere catchment area – which includes the Langdales, Grasmere, Rydal, Ambleside, Windermere, Hawkshead, Elterwater, Esthwaite, Lakeside and the lake itself – suitable for this conservation work.

"If you are a landowner with land inside the Windermere catchment and you are interested in expanding or creating woodlands, planting along river banks or helping us restore a section of river to its more natural state, please get in touch for further information," Windermere Reflections Project Officer Amanda Hancock.

"The programme runs until 2014 and so any work will be planned to start as soon as possible. We also aim to raise awareness of the environmental issues being addressed with other landowners and the public, so we are also looking for sites where we can work with volunteers and install interpretation materials to explain the work that has taken place."

Key elements of the work include:

- funding for river bank stabilisation and restoration. This can include fencing sections alongside waterways to reduce erosion or repairing some riverbanks;
- funding for new woodland planting that helps reduce run off and erosion into the rivers and eventually the lake;
- ear-marking sections of river which can be restored to a more natural state by softening banks.

Contact **Amanda 01539 434401** or [amanda.hancock@windermere-reflections.org.uk](mailto:amanda.hancock@windermere-reflections.org.uk) for more information.

## Contact The Hub!

Published four times a year on a not for profit basis, the HUB is supported by Windermere Town Council and compiled by Let's Talk Shop Ltd.

**The deadline for the next issue is the 5th July 2013 with distribution commencing 19th August 2013.**

**Production is also sponsored by:**

WINDERMERE LAKE CRUISES	015394 42600
THE MOUNTAIN GOAT	015394 45161
W McCLURES LTD	015394 42636
B & W COMMUNITY CARE TRUST	015394 48415
WINDERMERE BUSINESS CENTRE	015394 88210
LAKES ACCOUNTANCY	015394 45412

If you have any news, or are interested in sponsoring or advertising in The Hub contact:

**editor@hub-news.org**



Follow us on Twitter @HUBWindermere

**Let's Talk Shop Limited**

Overbeck, Woodland Road, Windermere,  
Cumbria, LA23 2AN [www.lets-talk-shop.co.uk](http://www.lets-talk-shop.co.uk)

**Phone: 015394 40020      Mobile: 07766 208082**  
**email: [editor@hub-news.org](mailto:editor@hub-news.org)**

## Who will you nominate?

A new **Nominated Neighbour Scheme** has been launched by Cumbria County Council to help try and reduce doorstep crime. The scheme aims to make vulnerable and elderly people feel safer in their own homes by helping limit the opportunity for rogue doorstep callers to con their way into homes.

Under the scheme, an elderly or vulnerable person will nominate a neighbour, a relative or a friend that they trust who can deal with all doorstep callers for them. There will be a card to place in the window containing the contact details of their nominated neighbour to show the unknown caller.

The idea is that the neighbour will be contacted to either verify the caller's identity or, if still unsure as to whether they are legitimate or not, arrange an appointment for another time - which genuine callers will be happy to do.

If you would like a Nominated Neighbour Scheme pack sent to you or a vulnerable neighbour or relative in Cumbria, contact Cumbria Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **08454 040506** who will take your details.

**If in doubt, keep them out!**



# Bownessie, where are you?

[Continued from front page]

This friendly green monster is sure to appeal to youngsters' sense of fun and adventure, especially with a smile as large as his tummy!

The idea of Bownessie has been brewing for years. Inspired by photographs of a strange creature, dubbed 'Bownessie' by local reporters in 2006, Naz's idea began to develop. With friends in the tourism industry affected by a downturn in the local trade, Naz knew that she 'had to come up with a different way to attract a new generation of visitors to the area'. She imagined what this creature might look like, his personality and his special abilities. So, with Kendal artist Robin Evans' fantastic imagery and artwork, she made him come alive: Bownessie was born.

Since finding fame, Bownessie is more confident, and being amphibious he now goes wherever he likes with whoever he likes. There are lots of photos popping upon his Twitter and Facebook page to prove it. He has been discovered in all sorts of curious places!



Naz and Bownessie at The Lakes Hospitality Show.

The kindly creature of the lake has been captured in a

new range of products and activities aimed at children and families. The real star being a cuddly-toy Bownessie that young owners have been taking with them when on their adventures around the Lakes.



Reuben and Bownessie on Loughrigg!

So, have you seen him yet? We all know how elusive he can be, but then Hide and Seek is his favourite game! Take your little explorers out and about and maybe you'll be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of Bownessie too!



Check out Bownessie's website [www.bownessiewindermere.co.uk](http://www.bownessiewindermere.co.uk) where you can download colouring pages and find details of his interactive Smartphone app.

[facebook.com/thebownessie](https://www.facebook.com/thebownessie) or [@TheBownessie](https://www.instagram.com/TheBownessie) to see what he's been up to recently and what his plans are for the Summer!

## Rotary Day 2013

Each year on 23 February, Rotary throughout the world celebrate Rotary Day. This is an opportunity for all Rotary clubs to showcase their work to their local communities.

**The Rotary Club of Windermere** considered various ideas and decided that this year they would support one of our local charities – St Mary's Hospice, Ulverston [www.stmaryshospice.org.uk](http://www.stmaryshospice.org.uk)

Rotary organised a black tie Charity Dinner at the Old England Hotel in Bowness on Windermere. There were 142 guests at a fun filled evening – a comedian (Max Pressure); a band to dance the night away (Little Stevie and the Business) and for the less energetic, a casino. The Old England very generously supported the evening, providing a special three course meal. The Inner Wheel Club organised a superb raffle and Derrick Hackney very kindly acted as auctioneer for an auction of items that 'money cannot buy'.

It was an evening to remember; the icing on the cake being that Rotary Club of Windermere and the Inner Wheel Club of Windermere have, between them, donated in excess of £7,000 to St Mary's Hospice.

Rotary President, David Thomas said, "We were grateful to local businesses for sponsoring various aspects of the evening's programme. We must also say a very big thank you to those who attended this charity event, from which our Hospice has so deservedly benefitted".

The Mountain Goat logo features a green mountain with a white goat on top. Below the logo, the text reads "THE BEST WAY TO SEE LAKELAND". Below this, it says "Quality Holidays throughout the UK including County Durham, Northumbria and the North Yorkshire Moors." and "Existing new itineraries for 2013 with pickups from your home." A white van with "Mountain Goat" branding is shown driving on a road. Text on the van says "Luxury 16 seat mini coaches going to all the places larger vehicles cannot get to." and "Daily Tours throughout Lakeland, the Yorkshire Dales and Hadrian's Wall". At the bottom, it says "Have brochure available now." and "Call in for a chat, phone or email us for a brochure. Full details of Tours and Holidays on our website. Eborac in Coast Tours & Holidays, Victoria Street, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 1AD Tel 015394 48761 enquiries@mountain-goat.com www.mountain-goat.com".

**The Mountain Goat**  
**THE BEST WAY TO SEE LAKELAND**  
Quality Holidays throughout the UK  
including County Durham, Northumbria  
and the North Yorkshire Moors.  
Existing new itineraries for 2013 with pickups from your home.  
Luxury 16 seat mini coaches going to all the places  
larger vehicles cannot get to.  
Daily Tours throughout  
Lakeland, the Yorkshire  
Dales and Hadrian's Wall  
Have brochure available now.  
Call in for a chat, phone or email us for a brochure.  
Full details of Tours and Holidays on our website.  
Eborac in Coast Tours & Holidays, Victoria Street, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 1AD  
Tel 015394 48761 enquiries@mountain-goat.com  
[www.mountain-goat.com](http://www.mountain-goat.com)

## Civic voice

Being a member of the national organisation Civic Voice, which is the charity for promoting civic pride in England, **Windermere and Bowness Civic Society** strives to make our villages attractive, enjoyable and distinctive. Its aims also include spreading the word about the geography, history and architecture in our local area.

With this in mind, the Society's events have included talks about Waterbird (Article on Page 8), the Flying Boat factory at Calgarth, great houses around Windermere, Holehird Mansion and Gardens, footpaths and byways, and the Windermere conservation area. This winter, Society members gained a wealth of local history knowledge at the industrial heritage course at the Marchesi Centre. Society members have also enjoyed visits to Claife Station, Sizergh Castle, local canals and Conishead Priory.

Their next event is in support of **'Civic Day', on Saturday 22nd June**. Civic Day, which is arranged by Civic Voice, involves over 200 community groups across England which organise events to celebrate where they live. This year, Windermere and Bowness Civic Society are commemorating Civic Day with a visit to Calgarth Park, a fine Georgian House built in 1790 by the Bishop of Llandaff and now converted into residential apartments with extensive gardens. Interested in finding out more? Visitor numbers are limited so act quickly!

[www.windermerebownesscivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.windermerebownesscivicsociety.org.uk)  
email [info@windermerebownesscivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@windermerebownesscivicsociety.org.uk)

## Congratulations!

**Windermere and Bowness Community Choir** are delighted with their Group Win in the Mary Wakefield Music Festival! The 40+ strong choir, who have only been together for a year, took part in their first competition performing Don Besig's "Flying Free", accompanied by Ian Pattinson on piano and Hannah, a Windermere School student, on flute, and they finished with the latin "Contate Domino", acapella style.

A BIG THANK YOU & WELL DONE to all who took part and a special mention to our ever patient, encouraging and enthusiastic Choir Mistress/Conductor Janet McCallum.

The Choir is open to all: we meet every Tuesday at Windermere School in the Music Room from 7.30 - 9pm. If you love to sing, then please pop along!



## Wonderful Wi-fi

Most businesses have an internet connection and many also have an internal Wi-Fi system, but are you making the most of yours?

Don't forget that your Wi-Fi is about more than internet access, there are ways that it could be helping you to save money or make more money. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Saving on your phone line rental costs by using internet phones (VoIP)
- Reducing the costs and increasing the efficiency of your CCTV by using Internet CCTV
- Protecting your Wi-Fi connection from excessive and illegal use by guests and anyone else who may be using it by installing a Wi-Fi Hotspot
- Operating your Wi-Fi on a 'Pay-As-You-Go' basis with a Hotspot giving you an additional revenue stream to add to your business
- Improving and updating accommodation facilities by installing Smart TVs (TVs with integrated Internet capabilities)

If you'd like to discuss your business internet and Wi-Fi or you'd like to move to superfast broadband, Kendal-based Kencomp can help. Call **01539 898145** or email [sales@kencomp.net](mailto:sales@kencomp.net)

[advertorial]

**Kencomp** Internet **Superfast Broadband ...is here!**

- Up to 50Mb/s
- No long term contracts
- No phone line required
- Local Company, Local Support

**CALL US NOW 01539 898 145** [www.kencomp.net](http://www.kencomp.net)

### Walkies 'Round Windermere

Whilst you're working is your dog home alone,  
Passing the time with a chew or toy bone?  
Instead he could be with Bracken and me,  
Running and playing and sniffing a tree.  
A one off walk or daily, I really don't mind,  
A more caring service you'll struggle to find.

A new service, Pet Taxi is available too,  
Taking the stress away from your pet and from you,  
To kennels or clipping, I'll go with your pet,  
In my special pet taxi, we'll visit the vet.  
Reasonable price and your peace of mind,  
I'll take good care of your pet, I am very kind!  
Call Margaret, Walkies 'Round Windermere

**07825 040399**



## Twinning news

Windermere/ Diessen Twinning Association recently held their Annual General Meeting at the Marchesi Centre where Jenny Borer was re-elected as Chairman and the current Committee Members were also re-elected. Jenny gave special thanks to those Members for all their hard work in what had been an especially busy year!

2012 included the visit of the Blasergruppe brass band and the Jubilee Concert at Lakes School. A group from Diessen enjoyed visiting several historical 'Houses and Gardens' with some visitors staying longer to walk and explore the Lake District. A group of students from Diessen were also here on work experience. A lakeside barbeque at Hodge Howe finished off a wonderful week of weather and activities.

A collection of inspiring photographs taken over that week were shown during the meeting, together with some taken by members visiting Diessen in September 2012 for 'British Week' when a road was named 'Windmerestrass' in our honour. It was a lovely way to remember and celebrate the success of all our events.

The members were informed of upcoming events, including the performance of Diessen composer Carl Orff's Carmina Burana by Staveley Choral Society and other young singers and instrumentalists at Lakes School. The planned visit to Diessen in May by some of our members for the 'Topfermarkt' pottery festival and the Lakes School students will be enjoying their usual exchange visit to Diessen in July after the students from the Carl Orff School visit here in May.

The Twinning Association would be delighted to hear from any group or organisation in our community, especially those involving young people, who may like to consider an exchange with a group in Diessen. Contact **Jenny Borer: 015394 44995** or email: [jsborer@fiscali.co.uk](mailto:jsborer@fiscali.co.uk)

## Buy with confidence

The **Buy with Confidence** scheme is aimed at Cumbrian businesses and traders. It's a national scheme under which traders are checked and approved by trading standards. Businesses can then advertise the fact that they are reputable and reliable by using the Buy With Confidence logo. To apply, call Cumbria County Council trading standards on **01539 713594** or visit [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk)

## Building your own home?

Cumbria Rural Housing Trust and a group of experts are holding a **FREE EVENT** on Saturday 18th May 9.30-1.00 at Newbiggin Village Hall, Penrith to discuss the whole self-build process. If you are interested and would like to book a place, please contact **Jayne Potts on 01768 210264** or **Andy Lloyd on 01768 210265**. [www.crht.org.uk](http://www.crht.org.uk)

## We need you!



SLC are a local charity that supports over 1000 unpaid carers, aged 5-94 years old. Their free services and staff and volunteers help carers to care for longer. They provide one to one support, counselling, support groups, relaxation treatments, respite breaks, trips and contingency planning. Volunteers deliver many of their services.

Their Sitting Service volunteers make a huge difference to the life of a carer. They support carers by sitting with the 'cared for' person so that the carer can have a break from their caring responsibilities, with the peace of mind that the person they care for is safe.

They are recruiting new volunteers to join their team and would like to hear from you. The role is flexible and can be arranged to suit your availability. The role involves:

- Offering conversation and company to the cared for person
- Making drinks and ensuring the cared for person is comfortable
- Being a presence in the home in case of accident or emergency
- This role does not include personal care or lifting

In return they will provide:

- Your travel expenses
- A matching service
- Training
- Social opportunities
- One to one support

If you're interested in finding out more about the role, please contact Kathy Collins, Volunteer Manager, for a chat on **01539 815970** or call in to South Lakeland Carers, Eskdale House, Shap Road, Kendal, LA9 6DQ. Email: [kathycollins@slcarers.org.uk](mailto:kathycollins@slcarers.org.uk)

## What's on in the Lakes?

South Lakeland District Council has launched a brand new community website called **Explore South Lakeland**.

It's a colourful, easy to navigate website that bursts with information about what's going on in the South Lakes.

An interactive calendar of events shows up to date listings of what is happening in the local area.

Have a look at [www.exploresouthlakeland.co.uk](http://www.exploresouthlakeland.co.uk) for inspiration!

# Reap what they sow



**Windermere Food Group** have been very busy throughout the Autumn and Winter planting fruit trees and fruit bushes in and around our local area. The produce will be free for the community to harvest within the the next couple of years, once the trees and bushes have established.

Sites planted this season include:

- Library Gardens with 2 apple trees and very impressive guards, purchased with donations from The Taverners and United Utilities.
- Oldfield Road with 2 apple trees, 1 plum, 1 each red and blackcurrant.
- Corner of Whinfield and Park Avenue with 2 apples and 1 fruit bush.
- Langrigge play area with 1 plum tree.
- Birthwaite gardens with 3 trees and guards kindly made by Mr Brockbank, Mr Irwin and the ATC.
- Birthwaite flats, trees and bushes for residents.
- School Knott/ Limethwaite Rd with 2 apple trees and 1 plum.

Windermere Food Group are very grateful to the residents who have wholeheartedly supported them and helped with planting. Thanks also to: Andy Tallon and his crew at Continental Landscapes for digging holes; to The Taverners, the Co-Op, Windermere Town Council and United Utilities for donating funds, and to those for helping make and supply the wooden tree guards; to Alan Winrow, Windermere Mayor, for digging valiantly at the Library Gardens and to Peter Lord for helping with the planting and to Lakeland Landscapes for donating copious bags of mulch!

If you would like to help Windermere Food Group next season or you know of an area suitable for planting, please contact: **Debbie Binch 015394 88261**

Photograph shows planting in Birthwaite Gardens.

## Message from our Mayor

For this edition of The Hub I thought I'd turn the spotlight on one or two individuals and organisations who do so much work for our community yet remain 'unsung heroes'.

First of all is our seemingly tireless Town Clerk, Tracy who took over the reins in April 2011, but will sadly be leaving us later this year. It is not an easy being Town Clerk: not only does Tracy arrange the meetings, take the minutes and distribute paperwork, but she also liaises with other councils, external bodies, contractors and various other organisations. The demands of the job have increased dramatically during her tenure and the performance of the Council would have been a lot less effective without her sterling efforts. It's a heartfelt 'thank you' from me and all the other Councillors. We will miss you.

Another direct employee of the Council, but someone you may have seen out and about, is our Town Steward, Gary Hancox. Gary keeps the town neat and

tidy by doing all those annoying odd jobs that everyone seems to leave to someone else, be it tidying up around the War Memorial and Baddeley Clock, repairing walls in Langrigge Playground, or removing litter from Elleray Wood. Without his continuous efforts we'd soon notice a very scruffy, untidy town.

Finally, I want to say a huge 'thank you' to our local Neighbourhood Police Team, led by Inspector Spedding. The fact that we live in a relatively crime-free area is due in no small measure to their diligence, inspired proactiveness in the community and interaction with the residents - both young and old - and visitors alike.

It's people like Tracy, Gary and the Police Team who make living and working in Windermere the pleasure that it is. Thank you, one and all.

**[www.windermere-tc.gov.uk](http://www.windermere-tc.gov.uk)** Twitter: **@windermereTC**

## Preventing grass fires

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service has experienced an increase in grass fires. Every year fire destroys thousands of acres of countryside and wildlife habitats. Some fires are started deliberately but most are due to carelessness.

If you see anyone deliberately lighting a fire, please dial 999 and request the Police and Fire & Rescue Service to attend. If you are out enjoying the countryside, extinguish cigarettes properly - do not throw them out of car windows. Don't leave bottles or glass in woodlands and if barbequing, make sure you are in a clear safe place and ensure the barbecue coals are fully extinguished and cold before you dispose of them.

## Convenient opportunities

Approximately a third of a million people used the public toilets in Windermere and Bowness in the last year, helping ensure that the project to safeguard the future of all 8 of our local toilets has been a success.

Bowness & Windermere Community Care Trust (BWCCT) manage the toilets on a not for profit basis in association with Windermere Town Council, and the introduction of a 20 pence 'pay-to-use' charge has enabled a material reduction in the public sector funding required to help maintain their operation.

This year will see another reduction in South Lakeland District Council's contribution and that from Windermere Town Council, reduced by £10,000 to £25,000. From April 2014 it is expected that no financial assistance will be received from SLDC and this presents a material challenge to BWCCT who wish to ensure future investment towards upgrading more of the toilets.

Unfortunately income from advertising and sponsorship has not yet been achieved.

Seeking to maintain delivery of all the toilets is a key aspiration of both Windermere Town Council and BWCCT and if other revenue opportunity is not identified in the near future revision of the entry charge at Bowness Bay to help offset the forthcoming reduction in grant funding may be necessary.

For further information, or to discuss funding opportunities, please contact Bill Smith via [info@bwcct.co.uk](mailto:info@bwcct.co.uk) or **015394 48415**.

## Bowness Blues

Wintery weather, a van breakdown and snow drifts did not deter all the bands involved making it to Bowness for 'Bowness Bay Blues 2013', the festival was a huge success!

David Thomas of the Rotary Club said, "We wish to thank all the venues for their valued support; not only did we have an eclectic range of venues, we had a wide range of music from blues to rock and we thank all the businesses that sponsored the event – without this support we would not be able to get such a brilliant line up of musicians."

Hundreds of visitors came to Bowness for a weekend of music, bringing a much needed boost to the local economy. The festival also raised around £6000 for local charities, a proportion of which went to the Calvert Trust to renovate their Wheelchair Challenge Course. Everyone is now looking forward to the next Bowness Bay Blues on 11th - 13th April 2014!

Keep up to date with the latest festival news on facebook, twitter [@bownessbayblues](https://twitter.com/bownessbayblues) or [www.bownessbayblues.co.uk](http://www.bownessbayblues.co.uk).

## Stop scams!

Scams are schemes to cheat you out of your money. They come in a variety of ways: post, phone, email, online, a knock on the door. Annually, more than 3 million people in the UK fall victim to scams, with £3.5 billion lost every year.

### Three things you can do to tackle scams:

**Report It** - phone Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040  
**Get Advice** - phone the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 040506

**Tell Others** - warn family, friends and neighbours

### Remember....

- If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- If you haven't bought a ticket – you can't win it.
- You shouldn't have to pay anything to get a prize.
- If in doubt, don't reply. Bin it, delete it or hangup.
- Persuasive sales patter? Just say: "No Thank You".
- Contacted out of the blue – be suspicious.
- Never give out bank details unless you are certain the person is trustworthy.
- Take your time – resist pressure to make a decision straight away.
- Never send money to someone you don't know.
- Walk away from job ads that ask for money in advance.

Free, confidential advice and help is available from the Citizens Advice Bureau on any aspect of debt, benefits, housing, employment and any other problems. Contact the Grange or Windermere Citizens Advice Bureau by phone or in person.

Call **015395 33100 / 015394 46464**.

If you don't need them for advice, how about helping them by becoming a volunteer or making a donation? Not many people realise that they are a charity - see their website for details

[www.cumbriaruralcab.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaruralcab.org.uk)

## Beware!

Cumbria Trading Standards and Cumbria Police are advising Cumbrian residents to be on their guard against cold callers offering to buy scrap gold or silver jewellery items.

If you want to sell items, consider visiting a local jeweller or valuer where you will be able to obtain prices and decide in your own time whether that price is acceptable. Trading Standards' advice is never deal with cold callers.

If you have been approached by these sellers, or have any information, please contact Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **08454 040506** or Cumbria Police on **101**.



# Aviation heritage remembered

[Continued from front page]

The Wright brothers made the first successful powered take-off and landing in a heavier-than-air machine in America in 1903. Subsequent progress in the development of aircraft was rapid, particularly in the USA, France and Britain. After visiting an air show in Blackpool in 1909, local aviation enthusiasts Captain Edward Wakefield and Oscar Gnosspelius realised that flying from water would be safer than from land and, with Windermere being on their doorstep, it was a logical venue. Wakefield commissioned A.V. Roe of Manchester to build an aircraft based on an American design. Having brought the aircraft to Windermere, he worked with Borwick's boatyard to build a float which incorporated the latest developments in high-speed hull design.

By 1911, three Cumbria-based men in three different aircraft were striving to make the first successful British seaplane flight – Wakefield, Gnosspelius and Commander Oliver Schwann, Royal Navy, who was appointed to Vickers airship factory in Barrow. Schwann's flight in the docks at Barrow was short-lived and he crashed into the water. Gnosspelius' flight on Windermere had a similarly watery ending. Then, on 25th November 1911, Wakefield's aircraft "Waterbird," with Herbert Adams at the controls, took off from the lake at Hill of Oaks, flew up to Bowness Bay, made a slow turn and flew back to Hill of Oaks, where she safely alighted onto the lake - the first successful flight from water within the British Empire!

Wakefield built on his success by forming the Lakes Flying Company Limited, a timely development, as political unrest was brewing in Europe and the military potential of seaplanes was soon recognised. In the period before the outbreak of the First World War, the War Ministry took an interest in seaplane development and established a Royal Naval Air Station at Hill of Oaks, where Royal Navy pilots were trained. At Cockshott Point, Bowness, a secret aircraft factory was established. Such noisy activities were strongly opposed by Beatrix Potter and Canon Rawnsley (founder of the National Trust), though their objections were over-ruled by Winston Churchill, First Lord of the

Admiralty. Twenty years later, with the outbreak of the Second World War, aviation still had an important place in Windermere with the establishment of a Womens' Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) Officers Training Unit at the Belsfield Hotel. At White Cross Bay, Short Brothers built a factory where some thirty-six Sunderland flying-boats were built and many more repaired, bringing huge numbers of aircraft workers to Windermere – they were accommodated in a specially built village at Calgarth on the site of the present-day Lakes School. Since the departure of the last Sunderland in 1945, there have been very occasional visits to the lake by water-borne aircraft – many will remember a Shorts Sunderland and a Consolidated Catalina landing on Windermere during the 1990s.

The Centenary of "Waterbird's" historic first flight has been marked in various ways but, until recently, there was no permanent memorial. On 20th September 2012, John Gordon, great grandson of Edward Wakefield, and Richard Raynsford, his great-great nephew, unveiled a Civic Society heritage plaque fixed to the Golden Jubilee topograph on the Wharf at Bowness.



The most inspirational enterprise to celebrate "Waterbird's" achievement is in re-creating the aircraft. **The Lakes Flying Company Limited** has been re-formed and is in the process of building a flying replica, which is now 60% complete. As soon as a suitable venue can be found, the ambition is to bring "Waterbird" home to Windermere and, subsequently, to establish a museum in which to display her and to tell the story of Windermere's extraordinary aviation heritage.

[www.waterbirdproject.com](http://www.waterbirdproject.com)

Photos courtesy of Lakes Flying Company Limited.

## WINDERMERE OSTEOPATHIC CLINIC


**Timothy Webb BSc (Hons) Ost**

• Registered Osteopath

• Member of the British Medical Acupuncture Society

**Windermere & Bowness Medical Practice**

Goodly Dale • Windermere • Cumbria LA23 2EG

 **015394 44383**

[tim@lakesosteopathy.com](mailto:tim@lakesosteopathy.com) • [www.lakesosteopathy.com](http://www.lakesosteopathy.com)

 **Kencomp** Superfast Broadband  
...is here!

• Up to 50Mb/s  
• No phone line  
required

• No long term  
contracts  
• Local Company,  
Local Support



**CALL US NOW 01539 898 145**

[www.kencomp.net](http://www.kencomp.net)