



PARISH ENGAGEMENT



March, 2025

A word from our General Manager:

Moss Eccles Update

We have been progressing work at Moss Eccles and will be undertaking the work in September/October 2025 at a time agreed with Natural England to cause the least disruption to the sensitive habitats and species that thrive at the tarn. **We now have some design images that we can share in person and to talk the scheme through with the Parish Council and I (Laura Lee) am happy to attend the next meeting, or we can do a walk over on-site.**

Car park pricing

We have held our pricing for a couple of years however we have agreed that there does need to be an increase for the 2025 season. It is important to note that the income from carparking comes back to the local area – so income from South Lakes carparks is used throughout the portfolio and can be invested in conservation work, historic properties like Hilltop, and our farms.

Countryside carparks (Harrowslack / Blea Tarn / Elterwater/ Glencoyne for example) – no infrastructure like toilets etc

£5.50 – 2 hours

£7.50 – 4 hours

9.00 – All Day

Tarn Hows (Lakes wide – this includes Aira Force and Fellfoot) – infrastructure toilets, staff, pop-up catering

£6.50 – 2 hours

£8.00 – 4 hours

£9.50 – All Day

For regular visitors, membership remains very good value at £96 per year or £8 per month for an individual – again, the income from members scanning their cards at our places provides the vital income for the National Trust to look after the places in our care.

Hawkshead – Currently re-letting Little Force Cottage on Vicarage Lane

Claife – 2 Thornthwaite Cottages is currently being refurbished and will then be out to re-let

A word from the Countryside:

With regards to Coniston Hall campsite, David Towler has had several meetings with Brian and Nicola Wilson over the winter months.

The website has been updated to be clear that no groups are now allowed and that all guests have to pre-book. The booking link on the web site has gone live from last week. <https://conistonhallcampsite.co.uk/>

Brian has had a quote for a new barrier to be installed at the site entrance with ANPR (registration plate recognition) which will link to the campsite booking system. As the sailing club also need access through to their boat park conversations are on-going as to the system that can work best for both parties – the site is complex with the amount of different users. Once the new barrier and ways of working are agreed between parties then this is planned to be instructed.

The campsite is opening on 28 March.

We hope the new booking system will make a real difference to the previous issues on the campsite; The Trust also realise that there will be a period this year (and possibly in 2026 too) of previous campsite guests turning up not realising it is now booking only – this could have repercussions around the lake and other local campsites. Helping the Wilsons by promoting that there is now a booking system would help spread the word of this change.

This will need monitoring by all parties over this year.

The National Trust and National Park hosted a community meeting to explore and seek solutions for the visitor pressure at Cathedral Caves/Quarry, Slaters Bridge and Colwith Force – thank you to everyone from Parish Councils that attended; Report and immediate actions to follow ** Only relevant to Coniston/Skelwith/Lake Parishes

Other News:

Hill Top:

Pets to Page: The Tale of Two Bad Mice is the new exhibit at Hill Top revealing the real-life inspiration for Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Two Bad Mice* (1904). It contains original objects from across the collection, including stories, sketches and photography of Beatrix's own pet mice, Hunca Munca and Tom Thumb.

At the heart of the story is Beatrix's new conserved dolls' house, alongside the doll's food and accessories which feature in the illustrations of *The Tale of Two Bad Mice*. The house and its contents have recently returned from the National Trust's conservation studio in Knole, and are back on display looking better than ever, thanks to a new interactive state-of-the-art lighting system. To celebrate the conservation project, we'll also have a 'behind-the-scenes' film which details the specialist techniques and treatments used to restore the dolls' house and its contents. Visitors will get to experience Beatrix's characters come to life, in projected animations and lively carpet designs.

A new letter: A real treat for fans is a new acquisition of a handwritten letter from Beatrix to a young American boy. Visitors will get the chance to see its contents for the first time, which include a description of Hunca Munca and an illustration of him resting on Beatrix's finger.

Visitor to Protector is a new display in the **Scullery**, charting Beatrix's transition from rapt tourist to champion sheep breeder and ultimately to countryside protector. Beatrix gave 15 farms and cottages, 4,000 acres and flocks of pedigree Herdwick sheep to the National Trust, this display explores the extent of Beatrix's legacy and the work the National Trust carries out to preserve it. A newly commissioned film will give visitors a glimpse into the work that the National Trust's Rangers do to ensure the land she gifted continues to be heathy, cared for and enjoyed.

Recipe for joy: Don't miss Beatrix's coded recipe for American Gingerbread, on display for the first time in the Treasure Room.

We are looking forward to hosting a site visit to Hill Top to all interested council members – We are considering an afternoon on these possible dates: March 26th, 27th or 31st – If there are better dates for the majority, let Seonag know so that we can coordinate a more suitable time.

Please contact Seonag Porter with any feedback: Seonag.porter@nationaltrust.org.uk