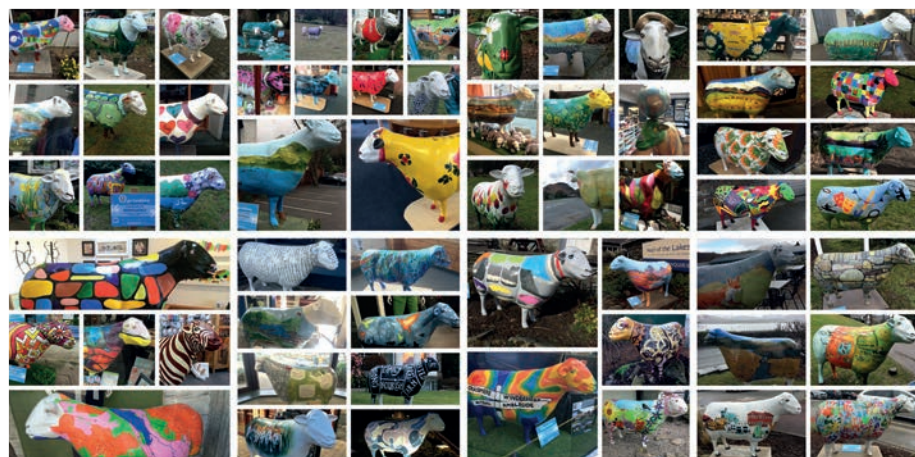


Full house

Go Herdwick spotters have been out in force with the first fan finding and photographing all 60 sheep. The Go Herdwick trail is designed to help the Calvert Trust to raise £1.3 million

WORDS MICHAELA ROBINSON-TATE MAIN PHOTOGRAPHY PHIL RIGBY



Cartographer Chris Bamber found his map reading skills came into their own when he took part in the Go Herdwick trail.

Just a few days after the trail's launch, Chris became the first person to publicly declare that he'd spotted all 60 ewe figures.

Chris and his partner, Caroline, who live in Basingstoke, hadn't intended to spend one of their regular trips to the Lake District on the Go Herdwick trail.

Staying in a cottage at Clappersgate near Ambleside, they first read about Go Herdwick on Twitter, where they saw a photograph of Prince Charles - during his most recent visit to Cumbria - with one of the sheep.

They spotted their first Go Herdwick ewe, Bella, sponsored by Bells of Lazonby, by accident when they called at Booths in Windermere for some groceries. They were soon hooked and took pictures of the ewes as they made their way around the Lakes, with Chris plotting their course on a map.

Chris and Caroline spent the last day of their holiday finding the final 11 sheep,



Chris Bamber with his final spot, In Safe Hands, at Lakeland, Windermere. Top: Chris's montage of his photos of all 60 sheep

finishing with In Safe Hands, at Lakeland at Windermere, just a short stroll from Booths where they'd seen their first ewe.

When Chris, 36, who works for the AA, tweeted a montage of all 60 ewes, he was surprised to learn he was the first.

"It was good fun," he says. "With some of them being in shops or around hotels, we had to hunt them out a little bit. The artwork is superb and it's really nice to



Paula and Graham Smith with their ewe at Lingmoor Guest House, Windermere

see a mixture of schools and businesses involved."

The Calvert Trust is delighted with what it says has been a huge response to Go Herdwick. Plans are being made for the launch of the Go Herdwick lamb trail later this month, followed by a mass viewing of the sheep and lambs and grand auction.

Sponsors and Herdwick hosts Paula and Graham Smith, of Lingmoor Guest House in Windermere, have found their ewe has attracted lots of attention from pedestrians and motorists who wave and comment as they pass.

Paula says: "It's good fun for people to do. It's a nice idea for the Lake District to have this trail and as the weather gets better and more people come, lots of people will do it."

Their ewe is named A Sheep in the

Sun, which is a twist on the name of the TV programme A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. Paul and Graham found their six-bedroom B&B during an appearance on the programme in 2008.

The sheep has been decorated by Somerset artist Jane Veveris Callan with images of the Lake District through the seasons.

Freeform Productions, which makes A Place in the Sun, has pledged a donation to Go Herdwick. Paula and Graham are donating five per cent of the cost of stays of two nights or more if guests mention A Sheep in the Sun when they book.

Trail maps and miniature pewter resin Herdwick figures designed by Go Herdwick sculptor Alan Dun can be bought online at www.goherdwick.co.uk.

All in a good cause

Go Herdwick is a fundraising public art trail in aid of the Calvert Trust

Life sized models of 60 sheep can be found in accessible locations in Keswick, Grasmere, Ambleside, Windermere and Bowness-on-Windermere. Maps are available to guide Herdwick spotters around the trail and Go Herdwick merchandise is on sale.

From Friday, May 25, a second trail will be launched, aimed at children and featuring 50 decorated Herdwick lamb figures which will go on display in shops in Keswick, Windermere and Bowness.

After spending the summer out and about, the flock will be rounded up and



displayed en masse at Rheged near Penrith from September 22 to 29. Finally, a grand auction will take place at Low Wood Bay on Windermere on Saturday, October 8.

Money raised will go towards the £1.3 million redevelopment of Old Windebrowe at Keswick to provide specialist accommodation for people recovering from strokes or who have acquired brain injuries.

Cumbria Life is proud to be the media partner for the project.