



When he wasn't wandering lonely as a cloud, William Wordsworth wrote of the Lake District that it was "a sort of national property in which every man has a right and interest who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy". Of the Fells, he continued: "in the combinations which they make, towering above each other, or lifting themselves in ridges like the waves of a tumultuous sea, and in the beauty and variety of their surfaces and colours, they are surpassed by none." When it came down to it, however, the celebrated Poet Laureate wasn't as keen on sharing his notional "national property" as he originally made out. "Let... the beauty be undisfigured and the retirement unviolated," he said, arguing that extending the railway into the Lake District would bring so many people that they would destroy the beauty they had come to see.

And as it turns out the old boy was half-right. Towards the end of last year the Lake District was indeed disfigured and violated – but it wasn't the hoi polloi who were responsible. Mercifully there were no fatalities, but storm Desmond wrought real havoc.

The region is now back to its usual loveliness, but when I was there other visitors were conspicuously absent. Granted it was early in the year, but you'd expect to see at least a few. I hope I'm not talking up a problem that doesn't exist, but I would urge any "fence-sitters" to give Braithwaite Court a whirl, anytime. It's a lovely site, in a simply glorious part of the country.

El Balcón de Santa Ana is one of your favourite sites, and arguably doesn't need much promotion (though like all locations, La Gomera has its less busy periods). So you could argue that three articles featuring the place is a little excessive. But as the launch pad for HPB's "Bond Goes Wild" programme, of which we have the highest hopes (see page 62) we couldn't not mention it; and the story of Keith and Di MacBrayne's cheesy day out (page 18) was too tasty to resist. And the profile of much-loved Santa Ana site manager Ann Sylverans was long overdue!

Looking at the list of Bondholders who are standing for election (or re-election) to the Holiday Property Bondholders' Committee, one is struck by the fact that the number of candidates is down a tad. I would remind you that the committee exists for the benefit of all Bondholders – you, and all your fellows. We hold these elections every year; why not put yourself forward in 2017?



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