

NENTHEAD MINES CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Newsletter No 1

NEWS ABOUT NENTHEAD MINES

The administrator of NPHT has disclaimed the lease of the site. This means that the landowner, Cumbria County Council (CCC), is now responsible for the site and buildings (except for the NPHT freehold areas).

The administrator continues to be responsible for the NPHT freehold land at Brewery Shaft, Mill Cottage and the Power Station. Mill Cottage is on the market. A prospective buyer of Mill Cottage has now withdrawn.

Sheila Barker and Peter Jackson met the CCC land Agent on site at Nenthead on 13th June 2012. The meeting had two objectives – to help CCC learn about the boundaries, buildings and features of the site, and also to hold informal discussions about ways that the site might be managed in the future.

Following the site visit, an outline business plan including a summary of the Society objectives, was sent to CCC. This plan asked for an annual subsidy from CCC of about three thousand pounds. CCC has discussed the business plan with a consultant from the North of England Civic Trust.

CCC has asked that the Society continue to work with them towards finding the solution for Nenthead. I believe that we are likely to be involved in more meetings in the near future.

Peter Jackson

SOCIETY NEWS

The committee has now met three times. The constitution is now published on the Society website at www.nentheadmines.com. If you do not have access to the website, we can arrange to supply a paper copy if you send a letter rate stamped addressed envelope.

We have applied for a bank account and we hope that we will soon be able to start enrolling members and accepting subscription payments. We will send copies of the membership form to everyone who asked to be on our mailing list. We will also publish the form on the website.

Members who completed an application form on 13th May at Nenthead will be sent an invoice for their subscription.

The Society has applied for membership of the National Association of Mining History Organisations (NAMHO). We have been accepted as provisional members. You can read more about NAMHO at <http://www.namho>.

EXPLAINING THE IMPORTANCE OF NENTHEAD MINES

As part of our business plan, we needed a summary that explained why Nenthead Mines is important. This is our draft of the words so far.

“Nenthead Mines is a nationally important site because it retains an authentic mining landscape, with original buildings, waste dumps, reservoirs, a massive underground mining network, and important geological sites above and below ground. Most of the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and portions are designated as a SSSI. Its importance lies in the existence of these natural and historic features.”

HOW WE CAN ALL HELP

Support and encouragement from people living nearby must be an important part of future management plans. Volunteers will be needed to operate the Society and local members will form a link to the people of Nenthead and the North Pennines.

People from all parts of the UK will continue to provide necessary skills and support. We need a wide range of volunteer help including engineers, archaeologists, customer service experts, historians, and geologists and others – all of whom have previously given their time to Nenthead Mines.

We are planning to have a committee member at the next Nenthead Ward meeting on 30th July so that we can talk about what has taken place since our launch meeting on 13th May.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Chair: Peter Jackson, 41 Cranswick Close, Billingham, Stockton, TS23 3NH. Phone 01642564100.
Email: info@nentheadmines.com.

Membership Secretary: Sheila Barker, The Rise, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3DB.
Email: membership@nentheadmines.com

INFORMATION

The Society is operating an email news list. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please send an email to info@nentheadmines.com