

NENTHEAD MINES CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1166281

14 Kirk Rise, Frosterley, Bishop Auckland, DL13 2SF

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR APRIL 2018 TO MARCH 2019

Trustees 31st March 2019

Sheila Barker, Christopher Chilton, Graham Derbyshire, Nick Green, Mark Hatton, Andy Hopkirk, Peter Jackson, Martyn Langley, Rosemary Vidler, Colin Wilkinson

Other Trustees during the year

None

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Charity was registered on 30th March 2016 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation using the Charities Commission model document. The document is published on the Society's website and is available from the principal office.

The members present at the meeting appoint trustees at the Annual General meeting of the Society. The Trustees may also appoint other Trustees during the year but their appointment is only valid until the next Annual General Meeting. During this year the Trustees appointed Rosemary Vidler in order that the Society would benefit from her skills and knowledge.

The Trustees held four meetings in this year.

The Trustees have set up Working Groups in order to handle the detail of regular operations. The objectives are to involve more people in discussions, allowing timely decision-making, and allow the Trustees meetings to be focussed on strategic decision-making.

The Site Working Group plans, coordinates and arranges the management of the maintenance and conservation of the structures within the Nenthead Mines site.

The Visitor Working Group works to improve the experience of visitors to the Nenthead Mines site.

The Archive Working Group reviews, indexes and manages our collection of site documents, photographs, historic documents and mine plans.

The Membership Committee reviews and decides on membership applications.

The Treasurer maintains the accounts of the Charity and, in partnership with the Trustees, accepts and makes payments. Anne Hopkirk was appointed as Treasurer from 13th October 2018 and is not a Trustee.

Joyce Jackson held the post of Meetings Secretary until 6th February 2019 when she was replaced by Andy Hopkirk.

Joyce Jackson continues as the Volunteer Coordinator. She is not a Trustee.

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

The objects of the CIO are to advance the education of the public about mining, quarrying and smelting at Nenthead and in the North Pennines by

Researching, restoring, maintaining, owning and exploring the historic and natural features relating to mining, quarrying and smelting at Nenthead and adjacent mining areas;

Encouraging and advocating the conservation of the remains of the mining, quarrying and smelting industries; and conservation of the geological features and natural environment, both above and below ground level;

Undertaking archaeology projects,

Recording and archiving information, and

Sharing available information with the public.

ACHIEVING THE CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY

PROTECTING THE SOCIETY'S INTERESTS IN THE NENTHEAD MINES SITE

Discussions continued through the year about a possible lease or freehold transfer of the site from Cumbria County Council. The Trustees submitted a formal Expression of Interest in taking over the site, including Brownley Hill Low level entrance, and in August 2017 we were invited to provide an application and Business Plan for a Community Asset Transfer.

Our Business Plan was submitted on 14 June 2018. It took account of advice and feedback from County Council staff. We have continued to receive advice and guidance from David Rawle and Tracey Moran of Cumbria County Council.

The Trustees have been informed that the Cabinet of the County Council are likely to decide about the Asset Transfer at their meeting scheduled for 6th Jun 2019.

The Trustees have agreed a peppercorn rent and a tenants repairing lease with Brewery Shaft Ltd.

PROVIDING EDUCATION AND OPEN DAYS

PUBLIC OPEN DAYS

Date	Number of visitors underground	Number of volunteer helpers
1.4.18	31	14
6.5.18	42	12
27.5.18	23	14
17.6.18	21	14
15.7.18	25	12
5.8.18	63	15
19.8.18	57	11
9.9.18	72	16
16.9.18	66	14
7.10.18	30	15
28.10.18	17	12
Totals	447	--

We offered 5 trips on each Open Day and occasionally ran 6 trips.
We had around 150 other visitors on site who did not go underground on Open Days.

PRIVATE VISITS

Date	Group	Numbers
18.5.18	Petteril Bank primary school	23
22.5.18	Stanbury village school	16
15.6.18	Family group	7
2.7.18	Teesdale Record society	8
8.7.18	Photography Workshop	12
25.7.18	Family group	10
27.7.18	Blyth Special Needs	13
9.8.18	Penrith U3A	8
12.8.18	NE Labour History Society	15
15.8.18	Family group	13
7.9.18	Photography workshop	10
3.10.18	Family group	4
11.10.18	Newcastle University	44
16.10.18	Coal Authority staff	16
17.10.18	Family group	6
2.11.18	Lanercost primary school	22
2.11.18	AONB Dark Skies event	50
	Total	277

APPROVED MINE ROUTES

We have joined the scheme that manages and finances an engineer's report for certain routes into other mines on the site. The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority requires the reports where commercial operators take groups of young people into abandoned mines. Our intention is to eventually offer such trips into Smallcleugh Mine. A small group of members have volunteered to undertake the required training to qualify for the Local Cave and Mine Leader Assessment scheme.

MAINTAINING THE NENTHEAD MINES SITE

We have held Volunteer workdays on most Wednesdays throughout the year and occasional Sundays. 41 members provided over 3000 hours of their time to work on site maintenance.

Minimal repair work has been required for Carrs Mine and we have been able to reduce the water flow into the mine by clearing the riverbed below the waterfall.

The majority of the Barracks building electrical system has been redesigned and rewired with a new distribution panel. The new system is designed, amongst other things, to safely provide the requirements for lighting and water heating on Open Days.

We purchased synthetic fleece to protect the concrete engine beds in the Rozan House. The objective is to reduce frost damage until we can develop a suitable method of protecting the beds from weather damage.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER COMPLEMENTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Society is a member of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership (AONB). We are represented on the Geopark Advisory Group and the Historic Environment Working Group.

The AONB Oresome project (<http://www.northpennines.org.uk/our-work/oresome/>) concluded during this year. Members had been involved in the reports and discussions about interpretation of the Nenthead Mines site. The evaluation report for the project is available to read at <http://www.northpennines.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/37/2016/10/OREsome-North-Pennines-final-evaluation-report.pdf>

The AONB launched a new programme entitled Earthworks, which included provision for new lamps for Carrs Mine. The project award enabled us to purchase new Wisdom brand headlamps for the Carrs Mine visitors.

We have worked with the AONB in the 5GRIT project, which is trialling a smartphone app-based approach to Heritage interpretation. We presently have free 4G broadband hubs in the Barracks and Carrs Mine shop.

We have continued our membership of the National Association of Mining History Organisations. We have also continued our membership of the Alston Moor Business Association during this year.

Nenthead Arts and Visitor Centre is planning to open during 2019. We have held several meetings with the staff and are planning to work closely with the centre.

Julie and Phil Jones of Mill Cottage provide the electricity supply for Brewery Shaft.

WORKING WITH HISTORIC ENGLAND

The majority of the Nenthead Mines site is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Legal consents are required for many operations on site. During the year we have maintained a working relationship with the Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments for the North West region, who has also visited the site during this year.

Following a request for help, we also had a site meeting with the Historic England Architect for Buildings at Risk.

WORKING WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

We have continued to assist the Environment Agency (EA) and the Coal Authority (CA) with their work on methods of treating the minewater pollution in the River Nent at Nenthead.

The siting of water treatment facilities is a contentious issue, especially for people living nearby. We have not made any comment on the suitability of proposed sites, other than any consideration of their heritage status and historic value. The Trustees' view continues to be that the heritage and legal status of the mines should be protected and that access to the mines for leisure purposes should not be obstructed.

The Coal Authority, working on behalf of the EA, has started examining possible sites for Caplecleugh Level mine water treatment. We have joined several meetings with managers and engineers and it is possible that the preferred location for the treatment plan may be to the south east of Handsome Mea reservoir. Whichever location is preferred by the EA and CA, the proposal will require public consultation.

WORKING WITH THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

The operation of Carrs Mine requires that we comply with the law including the Mines Regulations 2014. A Principal Inspector of Mines visited us during the year from the HSE. The Inspector gave useful advice and recommendations.

DEVELOPING, SHARING AND MAINTAINING ARCHIVES AND COLLECTIONS

The Archives Working Group has completed the catalogue of our document collection and has started work on the photograph collection. During the year we had a small number of enquiries about the collection. Members have also started transcribing documents into digital formats.

Our rock and mineral collection was relabelled during the winter closure period and new cabinets were purchased in order to enhance the displays. These cabinets have also been equipped with custom LED lighting that has made the displays more visible for visitors.

We have completed conservation work on the Eimco loading shovel and are planning to start conservation work on other artefacts in the collection.

ENCOURAGING AND DEVELOPING MEMBERSHIP

We had 143 paid-up members at the end of March 2019. Visitors on Open Days are encouraged to join the Society. We held one Social event for members during the year that was funded by specific event donations by members.

The Trustees approved a project to construct and operate a drying room for members and visitors clothing. The project aims to enhance facilities for members by enabling improved working conditions on consecutive working days, and improving amenities for visitors who may be staying in the Bunkhouse. This project was largely completed during the year and has been almost wholly funded by donations from members.

FINANCE

The cash account report for the year follows at the end of this document.

The Trustees have taken the view that repairs will be required to the site buildings, if the Society becomes the leaseholder or freeholder of the site. We have therefore continued to accumulate funds that should be sufficient to provide for major essential repairs.

Society members and visitors have continued to give generous donations during the year.

We arranged to switch the gas supply during the year to a cheaper supplier. The switch process was finally completed during this year. Transitional costs means that it will be around twelve months before we see the benefit of a reduction in annual running costs.

RESERVES POLICY

In September 2018 the Trustees adopted a reserves policy.

The policy states “NMCS aims to maintain sufficient reserves to finance 12 months routine operating expenditure and an appropriate long term program of maintenance of the Nenthead Mines site. The site includes many industrial structures and natural features, which requires regular maintenance, some of which is programmed and some of which is reactive. The level of such work and the expenditure thereon will vary from year to year. Some maintenance requirements may well require resources, which are larger than NMCS alone can sustain. In such a case NMCS will seek support from other organisations and grant making bodies to allow the Nenthead Mines site to remain a valuable, healthy and accessible location rich in mining history, industrial heritage and natural resources”.

Financial Report 1 Apr 2018 – 31 Mar 2019**Income**

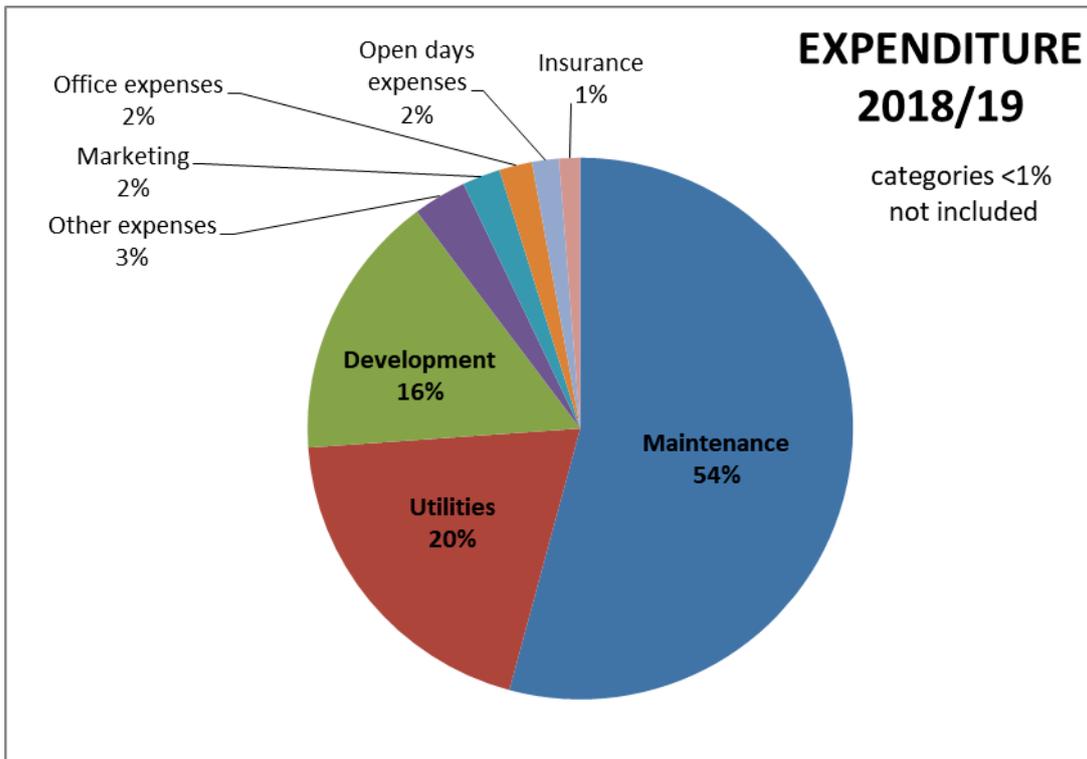
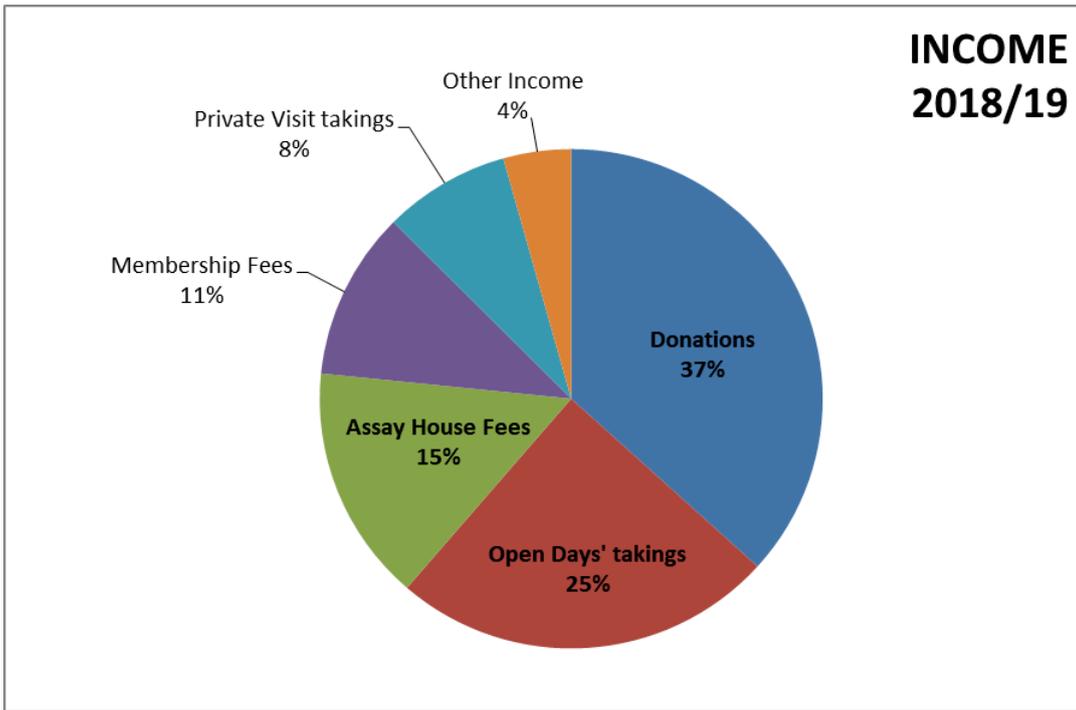
2018/19	Totals	
Public and Private Groups	£ 4809.22	Open Days' Takings & Private Group visits
Assay House	£ 2246.50	Income from Bunkhouse rental
Membership	£ 1597.69	
Donations	£ 5391.65	Includes small general donations, donations for the 'Approved Routes' & drying room work and towards new lamps for underground trips
Other Income	£ 639.22	Book etc. sales and one-offs
Total	£ 14684.28	

Expenditure

2018/19	Totals	
Maintenance	£ 6180.83	All maintenance on site
Club Insurance (BCA)	£ 142.00	
Marketing	£ 256.88	Flyers, advertising
Office	£ 222.22	Office supplies and Archive Materials
Open Days	£ 182.55	Costs for Open days
Group Visits	£ 31.71	Costs for Group Visits days
Utilities	£ 2245.27	Gas and Electricity
Development	£ 1813.93	Drying Room, Stamp Mill site
Website	£ 39.59	Hosting costs
Other expenses	£ 361.72	AGM, NAMHO subscription, Donation to COMRU, AMBA subscription, Approved Routes, PayPal fees
Total	£ 11476.70	

Surplus for 2018/19	£ 3207.58
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Cash at Bank end of March 2019 £ 25,635.94



Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Peter Jackson
10th May 2019