

**CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY (CATMHS)**  
**Charity Number 519424**

**TRUSTEES REPORT**

**1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2016 TO 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

**Trustees**

Warren Allison	Chairman
Colin Woollard	Secretary
John R Aird	Treasurer
Ian Matheson	Membership Secretary & Newsletter Editor
Mark Hatton	Meets Secretary
John Brown	
Mike Mitchell	
Mark Simpson	
Mark Scott	
Angela Wilson	

**Governing Document**

Constitution

**Constituted as**

Company

**Trustee Selection method**

Election at AGM

**Objects of Society**

Defined by the Constitution; which is available on the website

**Summary of Society's activity during the year**

1. An enormous amount of work has continued in rationalising the societies archive which concentrates on the old counties of North West Lancashire, Westmorland and Cumberland. and relocating where appropriate that material which would be better placed with the County archives and substantial amounts of material have been digitised. The society has continued with the long-term agreement with the Armit Museum to house the archive, providing appropriate secure storage for the irreplaceable items while permitting access for researchers. All material in the archive is available to members and the public, free of charge, either by visiting the Armit Museum or the societies website. The archive includes the most comprehensive collection of books on mining and quarrying in the county and is probably the most complete source of information on mining and quarrying in Cumbria that is available.

2. A most generous donation in 2016 of the document collection of a founder member of the Society has required considerable effort to catalogue the contents and select appropriate destinations for the items that will not join the Society's archive held by the Armit Museum in Ambleside. The documentation held by the museum has also been digitised and is made available to the public through the Membership Secretary

3. The Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £450,000 (known as the Coniston Copper project of which the society is one of the principal partners) to carry out conservation work to the Coniston Copper Mines and Penny Rigg Mill at Tilberthwaite and public involvement has continued apace this year. The conservation work is close to completion with the main focus now on the Penny Rigg Mill. The society has been heavily involved in the surveying work including an archaeological dig at Penny Rigg Mill that has been carried out by volunteers made up of members of the public under the supervision of professional archaeologists from Northern Archaeological Associates. Assistance has also been given to the volunteers who have been carrying out original archive research and this will result in a publication at the end of the project as well as trail leaflets. Work has been carried out with Coniston Primary and Secondary Schools using the project to assist with the school curriculum

- which has included field trips. Advice has been given on how to enhance the existing guided walks to the Copper Mines and for the interpretation panels to be installed at various points at the mines.
4. As in 2015/16, a greatly augmented programme of Meets both above and below ground ran throughout the year. This has been made possible by the enthusiasm of a member who has introduced the Society to Facebook (both as a private and public page) as a means of reaching potential members. This has led to a marked increase in active membership to its highest number ever. Advantage has been taken of the BCA Public Liability scheme to invite non-members to attend meets and helmets/lamps and harnesses/cow's tails are available on loan.
  3. The society's website has continued to be developed simplifying large areas of the administration and allowing online access to huge amounts of material. Enquires are being made to increase the capacity of the web site to allow more material to be placed on it which is also available to the public.
  6. The society has provided speakers to present talks to other societies and at various conferences.
  7. The society has carried out a number of guided walks to provide both the historical background and demonstrating physical features out in the field.
  8. The society has been involved in the public consultation regarding the proposal by the John Muir Trust to take a three-year lease of Glenridding Common at Ullswater from the land owner, the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) which includes mining remains. The society has assisted the Trust in drawing up its management plan and has been invited to show members of the trust the mining remains at its AGM in 2018.
  9. The society has helped arrange for training in Single Rope Technique (SRT) and a First Aid Course to provide members with professional advice.
  10. The societies secretary has recently drafted a comprehensive Meet Leadership Guide for prospective meet leaders to provide guidance as to what is required when leading a meet.
  11. Following advice from a solicitor specialising in Charity Law, the committee has been considering what is required to change the status of the Charity from being an unincorporated Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). At the moment if anything went wrong the trustees are personally liable, whereas under a CIO it is the Charity which is prosecuted not the trustees. There is no change in the way the Charity operates, but it adds a layer of protection for the trustees.
  12. The Society is an active member of the "Mines Forum" which brings together similar organisations and such agencies as the LDNPA, the Environment Agency, National Trust etc providing a platform for considered discussion of mining and quarrying matters. Encouraged by the umbrella organisation for the industrial archaeology of mining and quarrying (NAMHO), the Society is providing advice on setting up a Mines Forum to cover the Northern Pennines and potentially other areas in the country.
  13. Funding was provided for a professional archaeological dig at Newlands Iron Furnace near Ulverston.
  14. Four editions of the Society's Newsletter were produced during the year.
  15. Research continues in Wales, involving both quarries and metal mines