

CATMHS TRUSTEES REPORT 2023

Thank you to everyone who managed to attend this year's AGM.

Since the 21st Anniversary the Society has held its AGM at Rydal Hall and it had been booked earlier in the year for the second weekend in December as usual. The Treasurer recently checked that the booking was still valid, only to be informed that it was not possible for the Society to have the hall on the dates pre-booked and the person who took the original booking had left. This is a rather sad situation after 23 years of using the same venue. This meant that an alternative venue had to be found at short notice and the only suitable one was the Parish Rooms in Ambleside. The committee has tried to make this year's AGM as normal as possible and a special thank you should go to Michael Oddie who has organised a social event in Ambleside as well as other members who will be presenting.

It is with regret that Graham Derbyshire and Michael Pringle have decided not to stand for re-election as trustees and the society thanks them for their support over the past three years.

Membership is at the highest ever, a quality newsletter is still being produced with new people starting to contribute and the finances are in a good state.

A huge thank you should go to everyone and not just those in the society who helped with organising the NAMHO conference which was such a success. It is difficult to comprehend just how much effort was put in from the trips as well as checking them out before hand, the venue, lectures, camping, evening meals, bar which did not run out of beer, etc it was a phenomenal effort.

The committee decided that the society should put on the best possible conference, and it fitted in with its charitable aims for the public good. It has reinforced some of the partnerships the society has with the National Trust, LDNPA, British Geological Survey, Newlands Trust, and landowners, but also forged new links with local farmers, the Wordsworth Trust, local quarries and mines, other groups, acquired new members and our profile has been raised locally and nationally. The legacy of the conference has made the society stronger, more active, and more widely known.

A special thank you needs to go to Chris Cowdery who initiated the idea of hosting the conference and along with John Aird were the main organisers without who the conference would not have been the success it was.

The Society has continued to attend the Mines Forum along with other agencies and charities.

Members have continued to do walks and present lectures/zoom talks to other organisations which helps to raise the Societies profile.

Looking towards 2024, a full programme of meets is being compiled with some trips to areas not previously visited. Hopefully the Greenside and Force Crag mines management plans which the society contributed to will start to initiate some new projects. The research with the University of Oxford into the surveys of the Caldbeck Fells by William Smith in 1823 is providing much new information and the work at the Ambleside Roman Fort with the Trimontium Trust and Edinburgh University may yet prove Roman mining in the Lake District will continue. A long-term project has started with Tullie House Museum in Carlisle to photograph their 3000 mineral specimens and producing bibliographies of the collectors. A survey of Eagle Crag Mine in conjunction with the LDNPA volunteers is being planned.

It is also pleasing to see new members starting to become involved in underground digs with a huge effort being at the Horse Crag Level at Tilberthwaite and a work meet is being planned at Greenside Mine.

There is also the possibility of the society becoming involved in two important publications on mining in Cumbria.

Warren Allison Chairman, November 2023