

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY (CATMHS) Charity

Number 1180198

TRUSTEES REPORT

1st November 2024 to 31st October 2025

Trustees:

Warren Allison **Chairman**

John Aird **Treasurer**

Colin Woollard **Secretary**

Ian Matheson **Membership Secretary & Newsletter Editor**

Julian Cruickshank **Meets Secretary**

Chris Cowdery **Webmaster**

Mark Hatton

John Brown

Michael Oddie

Mark Simpson

Lorraine Crisp

Stephe Cove

Chris Bunker

Governing Document:

By constitution, constituted and registered as a CIO.

Trustee Selection:

By election at the Annual General Meeting, one third stand down each year as per constitution. They may stand for re-election by members attending.

Objects of the Society:

Defined by the constitution which is available on the website.

Summary of the Society's activity during the year:

1. We have been able to provide a regular series of challenging meets, both above and below ground, throughout the year. Through reciprocal events with other societies CATMHS has extended the venues of these activities beyond the boundaries of Cumbria and have been able to offer a great diversity of exploration, geological analysis, mineralogy and specialist photographic training and experiences to a wide range of both members and visitors. With our stock of helmets and lighting equipment for loan this allows us, in conjunction with the BCA public liability scheme, to accommodate "first time" non-member visitors to the underground world. Many new members are attracted this way. We offer two meets per year focussed entirely on those who are new members or visitors so they can experience our world before having to purchase relevant safety equipment. Part of our activities involves monitoring changes to mines and quarries and the open works across the fellside and have had recourse to inform landowners where safety fencing has deteriorated and there is a real risk to the public and livestock from the deep chasms left over from antiquity.
2. Throughout the year the society has carried out numerous guided walks to provide both the historical background and the demonstration of physical features and remains of our mining heritage out in the field. Additionally, the society has provided speakers to present talks, both face to face and by zoom conferencing, to other societies and at

various conferences. Use has been made of the increasing collection of remarkable photographs, both old and new, to illustrate how the landscape has been changed, both above and below ground, and what beauties lie in the depths below. Member's mineral collections have been used as focal points to explain the geology and diversity of our area and to enlighten visitors to the vast range of local minerals found in the county.

3. We have maintained and developed our website to make our operations and archive material readily available to all. Enhanced search facilities are now included to ensure searches reach into our vast data collection accurately. Virtually all our material is now digitised, and our physical records and books are retained in the Armitt Museum at Ambleside; where members of the public may study our holdings in detail. To ensure our collection is adequately stored and displayed we have completed an audit of all holdings at the Armitt Museum during this year.
4. In addition to storing our physical records in the Armitt Museum CATMHS have been helping the Armitt Museum present this summer's Roman Exhibition which is focussed on the Roman Fort and activities in the Ambleside area. Next year we are planning to partner the Museum in an exhibition on Mining and Quarrying.
5. The society has produced 4 off newsletters, recognised to be one of the best sources of new and historical mining information in the country, during the year. We have recovered the text and re-published the renowned Eric Holland's "Field Guide to the Coniston Copper Mines" on behalf of one of our longest standing members. We continue to offer a range of publications for sale on our website.
6. CATMHS shares its wealth of mining and quarrying knowledge with several learned bodies and museums to foster a deeper understanding of our history and to help them deliver key projects. We have worked with Tullie House Museum in Carlisle on a photographic record of their mineral collection and bibliographies of the collectors. We are assisting the investigation into the sources of lead slingshot found at the Ambleside Roman Fort with the Trimontium Trust and Edinburgh University and have sourced samples of lead ore from various mines for analysis. In association with the Coal Authority we have hosted visits for Earth Science undergraduates from Aberystwyth University over the Easter weekend to generate "mining days" around visits to local accessible mines. We are extending this collaboration to Glasgow University in the coming year. We have also supported students in the area who are completing geological field studies with one undergraduate successfully gaining a MSc place at the Camborne School of Mines following her visit to unique Carrock Mine. We monitor the conditions within the Carrock Tungsten Mine on behalf of the landowner – Dalemain Estates – and ensure access to the mine is secure.
7. To widen the opportunities for relevant study in Cumbria CATMHS has introduced an Occasional Grant Process to allow the provision of funds to other organisations and non-members to advance small scale studies of mining and archaeological studies. Our first award is to support investigation into medieval mining artifacts in the Alston area.
8. The society continues to be an active member of the "Mines Forum" which brings together similar organisations and such agencies as the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), the Environment Agency, National Trust, Coal Authority, etc. providing a platform for considered discussion of mining and quarrying matters. We are currently working with the LDNPA on the content of an interpretation panel to show walkers on the Keswick to Threlkeld foot path how the ancient Brigham Smelter may have looked in Elizabethan times.
9. Research continues in Wales, involving both quarries and metal mines.

Colin Woollard
CATMHS Hon Secretary