CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY (CATMHS)

Charity Number 1180198

TRUSTEES REPORT

1st November 2025 to 31st October 2026

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. We have obtained some new historic photographic material relating to the Millom area and have deposited a proceedings book covering the period from our society's formation up to 2018 when we became a CIO.

4. In addition to storing our physical records in the Armitt Museum CATMHS have helped compile and present their 2025 exhibition "A Battle of Ambleside" which was focussed on the Roman Fort and activities in the Ambleside area. CATMHS are planning additional support to the museum's exhibitions and are already planning for 2029 a "50th anniversary of the formation of CATMHS". All areas of our activities and interests will be showcased with talks etc. to support the exhibition during the summer months.

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 re-published the renowned Eric Holland's "Field Guide to the Coniston Copper Mines" on behalf of one of our longest standing members and we continue to offer a range of publications for sale on our website.

6. 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.

7. CATMHS shares its wealth of mining and quarrying knowledge with several learned and regulatory 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 have assisted the Mining Remediation Authority with the Glasgow University visit to the Clifton Mines Treatment Works in West Cumbria and also the proposed water treatment plant function at Threlkeld Mine. Provided information on various mine sites to the Environment Agency. Assisted Florence Mine Arts Centre on various projects and provided information for a new book on the Lake District which was launched at a major exhibition. This year CATMHS is proud to have supported a successful bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund by the LDNPA for £1.2M relating to mining at Greenside.

8. We monitor the conditions within a number of mines with a view to alerting landowners of potential issues. In this capacity we monitor the Carrock Tungsten Mine on behalf of the landowner – Dalemain Estates – and ensure access to the mine remains gated.

9. 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.

10. Research continues in Wales, involving both quarries and metal mines.

Colin Woollard
CATMHS Hon Secretary