

## **CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY (CATMHS)**

Charity Number 1180198

### **TRUSTEES REPORT**

1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

#### **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 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 from the deep chasms left over from antiquity.

2. Throughout the year the society has carried out a number of 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 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. Virtually all our material is now digitised, and our physical records and books are retained in the Armitage Museum at Ambleside, where members of the public may study our holdings in detail. Major changes have been made to our meet booking system by our Webmaster to ensure it is capable of effective communication with participants whilst protecting us from unwelcome interference by hackers etc.
4. The society has produced 4 off newsletters, recognised to be one of the best sources of new and historical mining information in the country, and one major journal during the year. We continue to offer a range of publications for sale on our website and are considering a reprint of a local field guide that is now out of print on behalf of one of our members.
5. 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; the investigation into the sources of lead slingshot found at the Ambleside Roman Fort with the Trimontium Trust and Edinburgh University. In association with the University of Oxford the transcription and assimilation with the Caldbeck Fells of the writings of William Smith on behalf of Thomas Braddyll. Our local knowledge allows us to place the historical notes on the landscape to make sense of 200-year-old reports.
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. For example, providing historical information to the Coal Authority for a planning application it is submitting for a mine water treatment plant.
7. Research continues in Wales, involving both quarries and metal mines.

Colin Woollard  
CATMHS Hon Secretary