



Peak District Mines Historical Society



Newsletter 177 Supplement ~ January 2021

Annual General Meeting 2020

I do hope that nobody turned up at the Mining Museum on 14th November in the hope of meeting old friends and attending the Society's AGM. If they did, they would have been sorely disappointed, finding the building closed and no-one around.

It was obvious way back in June when we started planning for the AGM that this year's event could not follow the usual format. As the first coronavirus lockdown was eased during the summer months and the Museum opened its doors to the public once more, we felt confident that even if the buffet lunch and afternoon lectures were not possible, we would be able to hold a strictly business-only meeting. A Covid-secure risk assessment showed that the Pump Room could accommodate up to 30 people whilst maintaining social distancing. In the October Newsletter, members were invited to apply for tickets to the AGM, and we were pleased to receive 23 applications. This number would ensure a reasonable quorum for the meeting, whilst still remaining below the Covid-secure limit.

In mid-October the Government announced the three-tier 'Local Covid Alert Level' system in England, which introduced constraints on meeting people and travelling within and between the different tiers. Members living in the major conurbations surrounding the Peak District might not be allowed to attend the AGM, particularly as areas were moved into ever-higher tiers.

On 31st October, and in the light of a rapid rise in the number of Covid-19 cases, the Prime Minister announced a new lockdown for the whole of England. This put paid to any chance of holding even the most basic AGM as a face-to-face meeting. The Committee decided to postpone the AGM to some future date, as yet unknown since we have no idea when the regulations will be relaxed sufficiently to allow us to meet.

So what happens to the business that we would have conducted at the AGM?

The Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet and the Report of the Management Committee appear in this Newsletter Supplement. The official documents will be lodged at Companies House in the usual way.

In the October Newsletter we had invited nominations to the Committee and had received the following by the closing date:

Chairman: nominee Lynn Willies
Proposed Andy Gillings, seconded Adam Cooper

Deputy Chairman: nominee Shirley Burtonshaw
Proposed Lynn Willies, seconded Andy Gillings

Hon. Secretary
(no nominations received)

Hon. Editor: nominee Richard Shaw
Proposed Mike Luff, seconded Arthur Wilson

Hon. Recorder: nominee John Pigott
Proposed A Cooper, seconded Shirley Burtonshaw

Ordinary Member: nominee Helen Perkins
Proposed Mave Luff, seconded Mike Luff

Ordinary Member: nominee Dave Woollam
Proposed Mike Luff, seconded Shirley Burtonshaw

Clearly, the customary elections could not take place, which means that the existing Directors must carry on as before, with no opportunity for fresh faces to take their place on the Committee. Following an e-mail discussion around the Committee, they agreed that the nominees for new posts, (Lynn Willies, Shirley Burtonshaw, Helen Perkins and Dave Woollam,) should be appointed to these posts with effect from 14th November. Richard Shaw and John Pigott will retain their existing elected status until the postponed AGM can take place, and Andy Gillings will continue his appointment as Hon. Secretary. The other elected Directors whose period of office was not due to end at

this AGM will continue without change. The appointments will lapse at the AGM when elections will be held in the usual way.

Your Committee now comprises:

Chairman	Lynn Willies
Deputy Chairman	Shirley Burtonshaw
Hon. Secretary	Andy Gillings
Hon. Treasurer	Arthur Wilson
Hon. Editor	Richard Shaw
Hon. Recorder	John Pigott

Ordinary Members:

Adam Cooper, Alan Keen, Helen Perkins, Adam Russell, Nick Willers, Dave Woollam

We welcome Lynn and Shirley to their new positions of Chairman and Deputy Chairman, and Helen and Dave as new members of the Committee.

Members might be wondering why we didn't hold a 'virtual' AGM over the internet. Our governing documents, the Articles and Memorandum of Association, were written before the (public) internet existed and when personal computers were uncommon. Consequently, they make no provision for anything other than face-to-face meetings. We could change the Articles to allow remote meetings and voting, but that would require a Special General Meeting, which would have to be face-to-face – a Catch-22 situation!

Schedule 14 of the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act allows for meetings to be held and votes cast electronically, but this is a temporary exemption which expires on 30th December 2020. (This is the situation at the time of writing, although the period might be extended.) Even with a virtual meeting, we still need to notify our members through the Newsletter and this introduces a time delay. Only if we could guarantee that the exemption will be extended well into next year would we be able to announce a virtual AGM in this Newsletter. We must also take into account those members who, through choice or personal circumstances, do not have internet access. They should not be disenfranchised from making their views known or from taking part in elections.

I do sincerely hope that we will be able to hold the postponed AGM at some time next year, preferably with some form of social event as well as the formal business.

Andy Gillings, Hon. Secretary

Report of the Management Committee for the Year Ended 31st March 2020

The Management Committee is pleased to present its report for the year ended 31st March 2020.

Objects and activities of the society

The objects of the Society are to promote, encourage and further the study of, and research into, the mines and mineralogy of the Peak District and adjacent areas in England. The principal activities during the year continued to be the conservation and preservation of mines and associated structures and artefacts of mining interest; the collection, cataloguing, collating, publishing and sale of material and information of service or interest to the members of the Society and to the general public; and the operation and maintenance of the Peak District Lead Mining Museum.

Organisation

The Management Committee meets a minimum of four times a year to administer the Society. There are also sub-committees covering awards, publications and the Peak District Lead Mining Museum.

Achievements and Performance

This report is being submitted by the recently appointed Deputy Chairman as both the Chairman's position and, until recently, the Deputy Chairman's position, were not filled last year. This is a worrying circumstance, which it is hoped to remedy in the current year. Accordingly, the report depends a great deal on the Society AGM report (16 November 2019) prepared by the previous Chairman, Mike Luff, updated as far as is feasible. Mike is thanked for his period of office, which follows many years of service to the Society, and for his assistance with this report. I also thank other members of the Committee who stepped in at the last AGM.

Committee: This met the anticipated six times in its sixtieth year, including a full-day meeting in the summer, discussing plans for the next few years. Subsequent to the AGM and appointment of directors, a short meeting was held of the new Committee, and meetings were held in January (when the present Deputy Chairman was appointed by the Committee) and in March. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, no further meetings were held after the end of March, but communication between Committee members has been maintained using digital means including electronic voting.

Although it occurred after the end of the financial year, we would be remiss if we did not report here a major blow to the Society: the sudden death at the end of April of Steve Thompson, our Hon. Secretary and Newsletter Editor. He made an enormous contribution to the Society and his death is both a personal loss and one which creates substantial succession difficulties including the possible loss of access to computer data. Andy Gillings has been appointed as Hon. Secretary until the next AGM, and Adam Cooper has taken on the role of Newsletter Editor. We are extremely grateful for the bequest of £5,000 to the Society in Steve's will.

Peak District Mining Museum: The new manager of the Museum, Clare Herbert, was appointed almost exactly a year ago, following an interregnum of several months, which delayed the appointment of other new staff. This was gradually righted and following training, the new assistants both proved very capable. She has gained the full support from the Management Committee and after some difficult times the Museum now seems set fair. There are however losses both at Temple Mine and the Museum as a backlog of electrical repairs and dilapidation at the mine surface are being, expensively, tackled. Numbers of visitors remains a problem, but there has been a major input into preparation for both direct advertising for the new season, and a softer approach involving Facebook and its notably-growing, regular audience. The Winter Lecture programme run by the Museum has been particularly successful. The Committee, manager and staff deserve strong praise for what has been accomplished, building on the highly appreciated displays left to us by Robin Hall, the previous project leader.

Temple Mine: This is operated by the Museum but supported by a small team who have replaced the panning facilities and generally painted and tidied the site. Underground, the manager, Richard Shaw has, with another small team, carried out the requisite maintenance. As with the Museum, the increased efforts bode well but there is more to be done both urgently and at a more leisurely pace.

Magpie Mine: There is a new edition of the guide. The Heritage Open Day in September attracted some 300 people, and numbers visiting the site, including "farm visits" and casually via the footpaths are increasing. Because of the efforts of the Cottage Warden and the Magpie team, the Field Centre continues to thrive. The imminent undergrounding of the overhead cables will eliminate this visual intrusion.

Bulletin and Newsletter: Issues of both were produced to time and to excellent standards. Writers, editor and sub-editors, proof-readers and the producers and distributors of the print-ready text deserve commendation.

Recorder: John Pigott has been extremely busy transferring books into a temporary, but safer position on the Mezzanine of the Museum following flooding from facilities above. Improved accommodation for the library is being sought, and a possible solution is anticipated. We have been very fortunate that the late member, David Williams, has willed the Society a substantial legacy to benefit the library

Website: The Society website is managed by Rob Hindle with assistance from others. This group with some other assistance are tackling the problems of digital archiving. There is further digitisation of membership management in hand.

Crich: The current project in conjunction with the Tramway Museum, is functional but not yet quite complete, and delayed further by the Covid 19 lockdown. It has been designed for single manning on an occasion and it is likely the significant Society presence there will be maintained, albeit at a lower level.

Meets and Training: A series of walks have been held, both under the Society's auspices and by the Museum, both accepting non-members which is important in both fulfilling our educational function, and attracting new members. Lecture meets are predominantly organised by the Museum, the major exception being the trio of talks held as part of the AGM. Underground meets are now held by the UEG, which is a separate group within the Society. This makes adequate insurance easier to organise. All of these need considerable organisation, not just by the leaders/lecturers, but by the co-ordinators and those who put out chairs and tables and arrange the tea. Thank you all.

Conservation: Physical conservation in the form of graffiti cleaning has taken place at Cumberland Cavern and Wardlow Sough has been reopened. The Peak District National Park Authority also began a sell-off of various pieces of property and representations were made about the field adjacent to Magpie containing the Dirty Redsoil site and numerous veins, and also the orehouse at Winster Bank Top. The latter has been transferred to the Winster Parish Council for a nominal sum. The Society also became excited about a commemorative glass inscribed in an abbreviated form, "Success to Cromford Sough", possibly when it

started (1650s) or when it completed (c1706). Attempts were successfully made to raise enough for a bid at the auction, then to support Buxton Museum but they were outbid although good photographs were obtained. Such matters take a lot of time for Adam Russell the Conservation Officer and Steve Thompson the Secretary, not always conveniently, and their efforts are appreciated.

Covid-19: Coming right at us near the end of the financial year, the coronavirus pandemic had little effect on last year's results, but in the new year we are now experiencing a major impact and a whole range of limitations on our usual activities. The Magpie Mine Field Centre and Mining Museum were both closed for an indeterminate time, but are gradually reopening as conditions permit. Fortunately, the Museum is receiving substantial Government help both to allow wages to be paid to staff who have been furloughed (the 80% wage payment) – we cannot afford to lose their skills – and to compensate for lack of revenues and payment of items such as rent and utilities. Magpie's costs are low, at least in the shorter term. The main loss to the Society is thus in the members' activities, informal and formal, with no meets or lecture programme. Digital methods are allowing the Committee to function, more adeptly by some than others. Hopefully our contributors to Bulletin and Newsletters are using the time wisely and perhaps we shall see a high level of re-invigoration as the restrictions are lifted.

Financial review, including reserves and investment policy

The Society has both restricted and unrestricted funds, which it uses to fulfil its objectives of preserving and promoting our mining heritage. Our income is chiefly derived from Museum admissions, membership subscriptions and the operation of our Magpie Mine site. Our expenditure consists mainly of the running costs of our sites and the publication costs of our Journal and Newsletters. Our Magpie Mine Power Fund is an on-going restricted fund. Within the unrestricted funds the Society also holds 'Designated Funds' which are set aside for a specific purpose, but without the limitations that are imposed on restricted funds.

It is the policy of the Charity to hold sufficient reserves (as designated funds) that the Trustees consider necessary to enable them to relocate any of their activities in accordance with the Succession Planning Policy. In the last year the Reserves Policy has been reviewed, and greater transparency attached to why our reserves are set at the current value. The Trustees

consider that the current reserves are sufficient to meet the Society's needs. Our investment policy allows us to have a minority percentage of our cash invested in appropriate stocks and shares, but currently we have no cash in this area, nor any immediate plans to move into this area.

The bulk of our reserves are held in Building Society Accounts (as shown in the accounts) in order to earn interest. The Society is cautious with its finances, and currently does not invest in any shares, bonds or other financial products. During the year, we researched and identified institutions which could give us a better return on our savings. This will be actioned in early May 2020.

The museum continues to face the increasing challenge of the phased reduction in a grant we receive from the local council to offset our Museum rent. This year we received only £2,000, and next year it will be zero. The Museum work sheets show a shortfall of about £9,000, but approx. £2,700 of this is depreciation on Museum assets, and further spending of about £2,100 on an electrical survey of our premises. There was also an increased cost of about £2,000 to the Museum maintenance in dealing with some of the electrical problems encountered.

Following on from the tragic death of Dave Williams, the Society received a substantial legacy of almost £63,000 from his estate to be used for the benefit of the Society's archive and library. The committee is looking at how best to use this gift in a way which pays tribute to Dave's work for the Society.

Our Magpie site continues to make a surplus through a mixture of visitor fees and land stewardship. This year the site generated a net income of about £6,700.

The Crich site has stopped operating as a source of income and is effectively a publicity site, dealing with the work of PDMHS and the history of lead mining and mineralogy in the Peak District. However, small sales of rock samples, etc., still produced an income of about £350.

The Paypal account, (accessible via our website) has yielded nothing in the way of donations but will remain as a method by which web visitors can contribute to the Society as they see fit.

The Society will continue to work on improving its financial stability so that we can take on tasks and projects that help us enthuse others with a sense of heritage for our lead-mining history.

Future plans

There is a need for a formal plan to direct the focus of the Society for the next three years. This would be a relatively short working document whereby activities and key aims can be determined and modified if circumstances change. It would assess the Society's current position, e.g. establish current priorities and practice and establish where these need to be continued, extended or changed. The Museum uses a forward plan format which could be easily adapted to the Society's needs and is recognised for Arts Council and Heritage grants purposes.

Risk management

The Management Committee continually assess the major strategic, business and operational risks that the Society faces, and confirms that systems have been established to enable identification of such risks. The Society's officers report to each committee meeting where any risks will be identified and, where necessary, acted upon.

Small company exemptions

This report is prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Management Committee (who are also the Directors of the Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the charity trustees (the Management Committee) to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company (the Society) and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, of the Society for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable

accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Society's web site.

The trustees have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Conclusion

Sixty years on, the Society is well established and funded and its committee has adapted to the increased bureaucracy and stringency that operations require today. Both the Treasurer's and Secretary's jobs are especially demanding and we are fortunate to have people who are capable of handling them. It is all the more unfortunate that at the last AGM both the Chairman's and deputy Chairman's posts were left vacant. We are clearly an ageing Society with several posts filled by retired or soon-to retire people, but new members continue to be drawn to us and we must do all we can to retain them and to foster their interest, in the hope they will ensure that our interests in mining history and all its physical and intellectual interests and excitement is transmitted and taken on by new generations. To accomplish this is the major task of the Committee.

L Willies (Deputy Chairman)

Treasurer's Reports

UEG Accounts

The PDMHS Underground Group (UEG) is an affiliated club of the BCA. As part of its constitution the UEG holds no funds, and all financial transactions go through the PDMHS current account. For the financial year ending on the 31st March 2020 the group's income and expenditure have been used to cover membership fees to the BCA for insurance purposes.

UEG Accounts 2019-2020

<u>Income</u>	
BCA Scheme Membership 2019-2020	£ 386.75
<u>Expenditure</u>	
BCA Fees:	£ 406.75
BCA Affiliation:	£ 60.00
Total:	£ 466.75

Arthur Wilson, Treasurer, UEG

PDMHS Accounts

As this year has passed, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the usual timings in the preparation of the production of these accounts. It was unfortunate that it was not possible to publish draft accounts in the October edition of the Newsletter. Nevertheless, this Newsletter now contains the approved accounts of the 2019-2020 financial year. As with previous years, a full set of the 15-page report will eventually be found on the Companies House website...(search for Peak District Mines Historical Society). The Society has switched to new Independent Examiners, DJH Accountants, in an effort to reduce administration costs. The Society has also identified various bank savings accounts that will pay a better rate of interest than our existing banks and building societies. These new accounts will be activated in the 2020-21 financial year.

I would like to thank the many volunteers and officers who have helped in the production of these accounts, particularly Clare Herbert and Ruth King.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2020

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets		66,834		76,123
Current assets				
Stock	9,716		9,880	
Debtors and prepayments	7,504		9,108	
Cash at bank and in hand	286,851		222,552	
	304,071		241,540	
Current liabilities				
Creditors and accruals	(11,497)		(10,313)	
Net current assets		292,574		231,227
Liabilities: Amounts falling due after more than one year		(40,850)		(48,059)
Total assets less current liabilities		318,558		259,291
Unrestricted funds				
Peak District Mines Historical Society		82,537		79,445
D Williams Archive & Library Designated Fund		62,922		-
Peak District Lead Mining Museum		136,568		143,379
		282,027		222,824
Restricted funds				
Magpie Mine Power Fund		36,531		36,467
		318,558		259,291

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st March 2020

	<i>Restricted funds</i>	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Subscriptions	-	8,643	8,643	9,111
Underground Exploration Group (UEG)	-	387	387	336
Admissions	-	37,893	37,893	34,108
Shop sales	-	23,209	23,209	28,583
Grant: Smithy Roof	-	-	-	5,897
Bequest: D Williams	-	62,922	62,922	-
Donations: Magpie Power Fund	-	-	-	-
Donations: other	-	1,018	1,018	515
Grants	-	2,600	2,600	4,000
Society projects	-	-	-	1,725
Gift Aid (Tax reclaimed)	-	3,940	3,940	4,077
Dinner and Barmote Event	-	799	799	606
Magpie Cottage Fees & Sales	-	3,151	3,151	2,944
Magpie Cottage RPA and rent	-	4,168	4,168	4,377
Hire of Pump Room	-	789	789	2,603
Other income	-	716	716	9
Garage rents	-	1,020	1,020	711
Government Furlough support	-	583	583	-
Deferred income recognised	-	8,481	8,481	9,978
Interest on savings accounts	64	895	959	(193)
Total incoming resources	64	161,214	161,278	109,427
Resources expended: Charitable expenditure				
Purchases for Resale	-	8,602	8,602	8,554
Mining History & Newsletters	-	5,350	5,350	6,624
Magpie Cottage and site expenses	-	2,290	2,290	1,750
Smithy Roof, Magpie Mine	-	-	-	7,998
Other maintenance costs	-	6,235	6,235	1,060
Independent Examination Fees	-	874	874	1,214
Print Postage and Stationery	-	1,857	1,857	2,867
Advertising and Promotion	-	2,066	2,066	1,507
Services	-	6,517	6,517	7,535
Wages & National Insurance	-	33,388	33,388	34,313
Rent	-	17,000	17,000	17,000
Insurance	-	3,661	3,661	4,469
Society projects	-	-	-	1,502
Web site	-	471	471	670
Library	-	-	-	45
Administration	-	76	76	194
Dinner and Barmote Event	-	606	606	630
Underground Exploration Group (UEG)	-	467	467	406
Depreciation	-	12,332	12,332	13,529
Miscellaneous costs	-	219	219	753
	-	102,011	102,011	112,620
Movement in total funds for the year - Net income/(expenditure) for the year	64	59,203	59,267	(3,193)

There were no recognised gains or losses for 2020 or 2019 other than those included in the statement of financial activities. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Breakdown by Branch of Activity

By necessity, the Annual Directors' Report consolidates the financial details of all the various branches of the PDMHS. At the last AGM, (Nov 2019), I was asked if it was possible to see a more individual financial analysis of these branches. I volunteered to try and extract the relevant information, with certain caveats. The tables below are taken as a snapshot of my spreadsheets as of 31st March 2020. They do **not** incorporate any debtors / accruals etc that go into the final accounts. Moreover, I have tried to strip out any 'one-off' transactions that may give an inaccurate view of our typical annual running costs. With these points in mind, please understand that the subsequent figures will **not** be an exact match for those in the official Directors' Report, **but will merely give a flavour of our typical running costs.**

	SOCIETY 2019-20 INCOME	SOCIETY 2019-20 EXPENDITURE
Membership Income		
Subs	£ 8,643	
Gift Aid	£ 1,562	
UEG	£ 387	
sub-total	£ 10,592	
Membership benefits		
UEG		£ 467
Newsletter		£ 428
Mining History		£ 5,356
Postage		£ 1,699
sub-total		£ 7,950
Other Income		
Publications	£ 767	
Crich	£ 365	
sub-total	£ 1,132	
Other Expenditure		
Prof Fees		£ 1,224
Web site / Admin		£ 446
Insurance (50%)		£ 1,836
sub-total		£ 3,506
TOTALS	£ 11,724	£ 11,456

	MAGPIE 2019-20 INCOME	MAGPIE 2019-20 EXPENDITURE
Magpie Cottage	£ 2,763	£ 1,859
Magpie RPA	£ 4,212	
sub-total	£ 6,975	£ 1,859
TOTALS	£ 6,975	£ 1,859

	MUSEUM 2019-20 INCOME	MUSEUM 2019-20 EXPENDITURE
Museum entry	£ 21,426	
Mine entry	£ 2,167	
Mus + Mine entry	£ 11,734	
Events	£ 2,925	
Gift Aid	£ 2,238	
sub-total	£ 40,490	
Ads /Print/ Misc		£ 2,498
Capital		£ 3,043
Maintenance		£ 4,135
Rent		£ 17,000
Insurance (50%)		£ 1,836
Wages / PAYE		£ 33,388
Services		£ 6,619
sub-total		£ 68,519
Other Transactions		
Souvenirs+ Minerals	£ 15,557	£ 6,290
Jewellery	£ 601	£ 583
Catering	£ 348	£ 180
Books	£ 5,526	£ 1,474
Garages rent	£ 1,020	
Pump Room Hire	£ 789	
DDDC Grant	£ 2,000	
Misc	£ 85	
Donations	£ 237	
Interest	£ 780	
sub-total	£ 26,943	£ 8,527
TOTALS	£ 67,433	£ 77,046

I hope members find this format useful, (imperfect as it is!)

Arthur Wilson, Treasurer

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Society: www.pdmhs.co.uk
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