

## MINUTES OF THE DARTMOOR TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD BY E MAIL ON 16 NOVEMBER 2020

### ITEM 1. THE DARTMOOR TRUST CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The highlight of 2019 was the exhibition and auction of William Henry Jones' original water colour paintings of Dartmoor completed between 1900 and 1920 and kindly donated by his granddaughter, Bryony Cullum. Together with the watercolours, Simon scanned 500 paintings and drawings. Mairi and Tom Hunt of Neadon Barn, near Manaton, kindly hosted the exhibition alongside Mairi's own and Trevor Meadows' Open Studios Exhibitions. Sadly, our Patron, **Lady Elizabeth Kitson**, was unable to join us due to a leg injury. Her enthusiasm is contagious and her contacts legion. We very much value her continuing support. The exhibition raised £7,000 for local charities, including the Dartmoor Trust.

Despite Covid putting a dampener on our planned activities and gatherings in 2020, the Trust has continued to provide its digital archive of 27,000 images, maps and documents to those interested in Dartmoor, worldwide.

This total will shortly soar to 33,000 with the gift by the family of the late Mr Francis Lee's collection of more than 6,000 colour prints of Dartmoor's major rivers from source to the National Park boundary. Photographed between the 1960s and 1990s, the high quality, half plate, colour prints fill 70 folders. They are meticulously annotated, linked to detailed large-scale maps and highlighted with features observed along the water courses. This is the largest collection the Trust has ever received. It will probably take over a year to complete the scanning and acquisition. Our intention is to repeat the diligent scanning by Torquay Museum.

We have also received more images from **Simon Butler**, the Trustee who leads on the Trust's extensive Archive. These include photographs from the Second World War, which reminds that we should collect memories of how that War impacted on Dartmoor before they are forgotten. Please contact the Trust at [secretary@dartmoortrust.org](mailto:secretary@dartmoortrust.org) if you or your friends have any images or memories that should be safeguarded.

The Trust was fortunate to receive a bequest from Tracy Gadsden in memory of her brother Shaun Glynn and more recently from the estate of the late Paul Oliver. Paul was a professor of vernacular architecture, who until late in his life frequently led students on Dartmoor to learn about its buildings through the ages. He was also well known for his interest in jazz. It is intended that the next book in the Trust's series will be dedicated to his memory.

I am most grateful for the support of the Trustees. They continue to give sound advice based upon their considerable and varied expertise and agreed delegated lead areas. Special mention must be made of **Simon Butler**, who 25 years ago was a founding Subscriber of the Trust. His enthusiasm, knowledge and leadership of the Trust's Archive is outstanding. In between writing his own books, he finds time to help others as we develop the Trusts' series. *Legendary Dartmoor Pubs and Inns* by Simon Butler, and Bernard Mills' *Railways Round Dartmoor*, will soon be joined by a book from Bruce Boulton of the Kelly Mine Preservation Society in conjunction with the Kelly Mine Group, provisionally titled *Tin Mining on Dartmoor; History and Heritage*. We also have two other potential books being lined up.

Thanks to **Charlotte Catto**, our use of Social Media continues to grow, providing themed glimpses of the Archive and encouraging users to access the Trust's Archive to increase

their knowledge of Dartmoor's history, ecology, farming and other users. We are also grateful for any snippets of information from viewers.

**Jamie Dunbar** continues to help develop our Website and Archive. The main 2020 projects have been to amalgamate the Archive and websites, and to develop an improved system for authorised users to input and edit data as well as uploading images remotely. Jamie has also obtained permission from Dr Sandy Gerrard to include his articles in the Trust's Archive.

There has been little movement in our accounts during 2019/20, as you will see in the *Report of the Directors and Financial Statement* for the year ending 30 June 2020. Our investment accounts have, understandably, been a bit ugly. **Richard Wraith** has diligently maintained our books as well as combining our bank accounts at NatWest and simplifying the bookkeeping.

The Trust depends heavily on donations and bequests to support its running costs and to enable it to support projects that benefit Dartmoor. This, in turn, requires us to keep the Trust's objectives, efforts and successes in the public eye. With **Tim Emerson's** legal advice, we are developing our methods of connecting with all age groups. Twitter and Instagram are best suited to the younger generation while Facebook is more often used by middle-aged people. Books and magazine articles, however, are more frequently read by the older generation. We are communicating through all these media and improving the ways in which we encourage donations.

**Sue Eberle** continues to support those who wish to apply for grants to do good for Dartmoor. These are often important seed funding for accessing larger grants as they demonstrate community support.

Sadly, **John White**, has retired after 3 years as a Trustee to join Mark Carney's global Taskforce on using Voluntary Carbon Offsetting to win the fight against the climate emergency. His role is to help harness corporate offset funds to be used for environmental projects within the UK rather than simply send everything overseas as has been the traditional way. He hopes that they are winning this 'insetting' debate as it will deliver valuable funds into the hands of professional environmental management where it can have much greater impact.

**Allison Gibson** provides much valuable and enthusiastic support with the Trust's work.

Since the Dartmoor National Park Authority helped to form the Trust, they have nominated a Trustee, currently **Andrew Cooper**, who is Chair or member of most of the Authority's Committees and Panels. A Devonian, he made a career as an author, broadcaster and award-winning television producer with the BBC Natural History Unit. Interested in wildlife, archaeology and history, he is passionate about Devon and Dartmoor's environment. In addition to his liaison responsibilities, he is a highly regarded and an influential member of the Trust.

Most importantly, the Trustees provide a dedicated and cohesive team. I am most grateful to them for their time and support.

In addition to working within the Trust, we have also been working with the Devon History Society and the Dartmoor Preservation Association to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Robert Burnard's death. We also continue to work closely with DNPA on Heritage Trails <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/wildlife-and-heritage/heritage/heritage-trails>, a wonderful website for planning walks to take in the many historic sites on Dartmoor, for gaining quick

access to the Heritage Environment Record and for seeing the relevant images from the Trust's Archive.

And I finish with a plea: We are conscious that some of the detailed descriptions of our photographic records are incomplete and some non-existent. Should you recognise the scene or have more information to offer, please let us know, using the email address [secretary@dartmoortrust.org](mailto:secretary@dartmoortrust.org), so that we can provide more knowledge to Dartmoor enthusiasts and visitors. If you have a lot of knowledge to offer, we will shortly be able to authorise you to directly edit entries from your home.

## **ITEM 2- REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

Ashley Cole of H M Williams, Certified Chartered Accountants, tabled the Report of the Directors and Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2020. Copies are available on request.

He has reported that:

a. The Trusts financial performance has been exceptional this year and I commend all of those involved. Donations have increased by a staggering 3,600%, increasing from £1,109 in 2019 to a remarkable £40,798 for 2020 as a result of a five figure legacy from Paul Oliver. Investment income has remained fairly static, although it must be noted that the final quarter will have been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

b. Overall expenditure has decreased this year, primarily due to no donations and grants being made. The main bulk of the expenditure has been on the merging and redesigning of the website, which I am sure will have a positive knock on effect in future years.

c. Investments have grown by approximately 0.5% in the 2020 year, increasing from £261,926 to £263, 391.

d. The financial health of the charity has had a dramatic improvement because of increased donations, which can be seen directly from the increase in the bank funds from £8,001 in 2019 to £43,205 at the end of 2020.

e. With the Trust progressing down the gift aid route this will allow additional money to be claimed back from the government, increasing the amount of donations received.

The Chairman has thanked Ashley and his staff for their work in preparing and presenting the accounts.

## **ITEM 3 – APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS BY THE SUBSCRIBERS AND MEMBERS**

HM Williams, Certified Chartered Accountants, has offered to continue as the Trust's accountants and have the support of the Trustees.

Subscribers' and Members were consulted by e mail and agreed.

## **ITEM 4 - ELECTION OF TRUSTEES BY THE SUBSCRIBERS AND MEMBERS**

The six Nominated Trustees who offered themselves for re-election were re-elected after an email vote.

Simon Butler, Tony Clark, Sue Eberle, Tim Emerson, Alli Gibson, Richard Wraith.

Co- Opted Trustee: Charlotte Catto