

MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST



Summary Accounts 2014 - 2015

Mission Statement

'To sustain and enhance the environment, rural regeneration, cultural heritage and visitor opportunities of the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and contribute to the well-being of Mournes communities'

Chairman's Statement



It is with great pride that I present the Annual Report of Mourne Heritage Trust for 2014/15. While few years of our existence have been without their challenges in sustaining the Trust's activities, 2014/15 proved particularly testing. In the final week of the financial year, a disengagement letter from the Department of the Environment - the Trust's biggest core funder - gave notice of the early termination of the funding arrangement that had applied for over a decade. After subsequent positive engagement with the Minister for the Environment and his officials, a new Natural Environment Fund was put in place and an offer of funding secured for a further nine months (to 31st March 2016). In the period of uncertainty between these developments, our '#LoveMourne' campaign elicited a huge number of expressions of support from elected representatives, community organisations, local people and visitors. An online petition was contributed to by 1,500 people (and counting!). All were united and motivated by their appreciation of the special Mourne landscape and their desire to see it cared for.

The thought that the services provided by the Trust in support of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation might, even temporarily, be considered 'expendable' came as somewhat of a shock to myself and my fellow volunteer Board members. The fact that such a scenario was considered unthinkable by many stakeholders played no small part in helping us navigate the choppy waters. While I cannot define with certainty what impact our campaign had on policy, I can say that the solidarity shown and the sentiments expressed about how people value what the Trust does were both humbling and morale enhancing. While we are acutely conscious of the ongoing pressures on government finances, I sincerely hope that the events triggered by the funding issues of early 2015 will mark a watershed in how special landscapes like the Mournes are seen in the hierarchy of government priorities for the future.

Late March into early April of course also saw a watershed in local government, with the formal transition to new council areas and structures. Thus, the year we are reporting on represents that last in which the Mourne AONB was split across three Council areas. I would like to thank Banbridge, Down and Newry & Mourne District Councils respectively for the support and cooperation received over the 17 years of Mourne Heritage Trust's existence. I am delighted that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - the boundary of which was influenced by the Mourne AONB - has picked up the service and funding arrangements in place with its predecessors and I look forward to developing this new relationship. Remaining on the twin themes of continuity and change, I would also like to acknowledge the continued support of our other main partner, formerly Northern Ireland Tourist Board and now called Tourism NI.

The flux and uncertainty around funding and institutional relationships inevitably diverted significant time and attention in 2014/15 and I would therefore like to pay tribute to the staff of the Trust who maintained commitment and focus in trying circumstances, continuing to deliver the breadth and quality of services and outcomes we had planned. Highlights include 'stitch in time' works to safeguard the £3 million invested to protect the most vulnerable parts of the high Mourne path network and the surrounding sensitive habitats, along with the use of similar techniques and approaches to maintain the world class mountain bike trails in Castlewellsan and Rostrevor. Our work to refine best practice in wildfire prevention and to examine the potential for use of controlled burning as a habitat management tool culminated in our first experimental burn on a site at Silent Valley. Beyond this, our work to protect and enhance priority habitats and species stretched from the uplands to the countryside and coast of the Mourne AONB. Similarly dispersed is the network of Public Rights of Way green lanes and amenity sites we maintain for the enjoyment of local people and visitors alike.

Our Mourne Mountains Landscape Partnership, anchored by a £1.5m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, had an emphasis on completing a suite of priority capital projects. Annalong Cornmill, Tollymore Forest bridges and follies, the Mourne Wall summit towers and our traditional dry stone field boundaries all benefitted from significant restoration works. The Narnia Trail in Rostrevor caught the public imagination and our sustainable tourism activity focused on developing experiences around this and other focal points and key heritage themes.

By the year end, the Mourne Cooley Gullion Geo-tourism project was nearing completion. The Trust continued to work with partners to guide this work and, crucially, to examine how the significant interest in geology and related heritage among local people and a significant tourism niche can be sustained and built upon. Our BIG Lottery funded Active Lifestyles programme also looked to the future, combining ongoing engagement of all sections of society in health and well-being enhancing conservation activities with early planning for sustaining these activities beyond the end of the current project funding in 2016.

To conclude this overview of a busy year, I wish again to thank all those who so strongly expressed their support for the Trust as well of course as our funders, volunteers, partner organisations and my fellow Board members for demonstrating - perhaps more this year than ever - how much they all care for Mourne.

Desmond Patterson

Desmond Patterson

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2015

	Restricted	Unrestricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	2015	2014
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Voluntary Income	-	220,212	220,212	233,596
Investment Income	-	15	15	13
Charitable Activities	707,518	211,342	918,860	583,199
Other Income	638	407	1,045	220
Total incoming resources	708,156	431,976	1,140,132	817,028

Resources Expended

Cost of generating funds				
Voluntary Income	-	5,963	5,963	4,779
Charitable activities	689,691	333,921	1,023,612	734,533
Governance costs	-	31,432	31,432	45,705
Gains/Losses on fixed assets	-	(488)	(488)	-
Total resources expended	689,691	370,828	1,060,519	785,017
Net Incoming resources before transfers	18,465	61,148	79,613	32,011
Transfers between Funds	(7,850)	7,850	-	-
Net Incoming resources	10,615	68,998	79,613	32,011
Actuarial gains/losses on defined benefit pension schemes	-	(91,000)	(91,000)	78,000
Net movement in funds for the year	10,615	(22,002)	(11,387)	110,011
Total funds at 1 April 2014	60,428	209,751	270,179	160,168
Total funds at 31 March 2015	71,043	187,749	258,792	270,179

Summary income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2015

	Restricted	Unrestricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	2015	2014
	£	£	£	£
Total income	708,156	431,976	1,140,132	817,028
Less: Total expenditure	689,691	370,828	1,060,519	785,017
Net income for the year before transfers	18,465	61,148	79,613	32,011
Transfers between funds	(7,850)	7,850	-	-
Income less expenditure for the year	10,615	68,998	79,613	32,011
Net income for the year	10,615	68,998	79,613	32,011

The income and expenditure account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

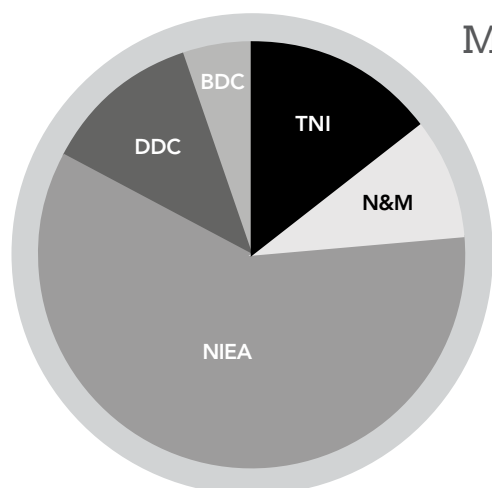
Statement of total recognised gains and losses for the year ended 31 March 2015

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	TOTAL 2015 £	TOTAL 2014 £
Net income for the year	10,615	68,998	79,613	32,011
Actuarial gains/(losses) recognised in relation to the defined benefit pension fund	-	(91,000)	(91,000)	78,000
Total gains and losses recognised since 1 April 2014	10,615	(22,002)	(11,387)	110,011

There is no difference between the income on ordinary activities for the year stated above and its historical cost equivalent.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	TOTAL 2015 £	TOTAL 2014 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets		90,260		73,336
Current assets				
Stocks	2,427		335	
Debtors	568,280		505,269	
Cash at bank and in hand	286,417		191,623	
	857,124		697,227	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(567,592)		(451,384)	
Net current assets		289,532		245,843
Total assets less current liabilities		379,792		319,179
Defined benefit pension scheme liability		(121,000)		(49,000)
Net assets including pension scheme liabilities		258,792		270,179
Charity Funds				
Restricted funds		71,043		60,428
Unrestricted funds:				
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	308,749		258,751	
Pension reserve	(121,000)		(49,000)	
Total unrestricted funds		187,749		209,751
Total funds		258,792		270,179



Mourne Heritage Trust Core Funding 2014/15

Tourism NI (formerly Northern Ireland Tourist Board)	£55,000
Newry & Mourne District Council	£34,000
Northern Ireland Environment Agency	£220,000
Down District Council	£45,500
Banbridge District Council	£19,000