

MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST



Summary Accounts 2015 - 2016

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'

For full Annual Report visit **www.caringformourne.com**

Chairman's Statement



Welcome to the Annual Report of Mourne Heritage Trust for 2015/16 - an exceptionally challenging, but ultimately rewarding, year for all involved.

The business year began with considerable uncertainty hanging over some of the funding that sustains the Trust. In the face of budgetary pressures, the Department of the Environment had given notice of the early termination in June 2015 of its funding arrangement, delivered through Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). Considerable time was therefore invested in lobbying and influencing to address this serious threat to the Trust's ability to operate. With the success of these efforts, considerable staff time subsequently went into detailed funding applications, first of all to the Natural Environment Fund – which secured an offer of funding for the nine months to 31st March 2016 – and then to the Environment Fund, which ultimately delivered continued funding for 2016/17 with the possibility of extension for a further two years.

The return to a relatively even keel in relation to our main core funding is most welcome and I hope that, in due course, 2015 will prove to have been a year in which the question of whether secure funding arrangements are required for care of our most prized landscapes was answered clearly in the affirmative. For this thanks must go to the 1500 plus people who signed a petition on our behalf. I am also grateful to staff in Northern Ireland Environment Agency for their ongoing positive engagement throughout what for them has also been a challenging period.

I must also, of course, acknowledge the commitment of the Trust's own staff in a time of financial uncertainty. As well as working hard on the funding applications required, they found the determination and energy to continue to deliver an impressive range of services and positive environmental outcomes. Consequently, as you will see from our online annual report, we have been able to maintain a good degree of continuity in terms of progressing ongoing major initiatives. These include the care of the high Mournes path network and access routes, as well as the development of detailed plans for enhancing the condition of the surrounding upland heath habitat. These plans were partly informed by the further roll out of our programme of controlled burns at critical points in the landscape as both a wildfire prevention and habitat management tool. Juniper, red squirrel, wildlife gardening and other biodiversity projects continued along with the various built, cultural and natural heritage projects that make up the Mourne Mountains Landscape Partnership, the latter anchored by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. BIG Lottery continued to support our volunteering effort with the Active Lifestyles programme engaging many sections of society in health and well-being enhancing conservation activities.

2015/16 was notable as the first year in which the Mourne AONB sat in a single local authority area, that of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. I am delighted that the relationship the Trust enjoyed with the current Council's predecessor organisations has been replicated and built upon. As well as the provision of services to help Council manage its access infrastructure and responsibilities in both forest parks and the wider countryside, we worked closely with the local authority to bring to a successful conclusion the Interreg IVA (European cross border funds) Mourne Cooley Gullion Geo-tourism project, leaving a legacy of enhanced access to and interpretation of the geological features of this special area. With Council and our other main funder, Tourism NI, we have also worked to further develop visitor experiences, both in the short term and in planning for the future.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate my thanks to the almost countless numbers of people who so strongly expressed their support for the Trust's work to be sustained in online forums, letters, attendance at meetings and a variety of other ways. And of course, as always, my thanks to my fellow Board members and all our other volunteers. I look forward to continuing to work with you all in Caring for Mourne.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Desmond Patterson". The script is cursive and fluid.

Desmond Patterson

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2016

	Restricted	Unrestricted	TOTAL 2016	TOTAL 2015
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Donations & legacies	-	218,597	218,597	220,212
Investments	-	1	1	15
Charitable activities	406,833	244,003	650,836	918,860
Other	852	204	1,056	1,045
Total incoming resources	407,685	462,805	870,490	1,140,132
Resources Expended				
Raising funds	-	1,311	1,311	5,963
Charitable activities				
Protection and conservation - Mourne	422,641	347,970	770,611	1,023,553
Governance	-	60,879	60,879	31,432
Other	364	-	364	418
TOTAL	423,005	410,160	833,165	1,061,366
Net income/expenditure	(15,320)	52,645	37,325	78,766
Transfers between funds	4,816	(4,816)	-	-
	(10,504)	47,829	37,325	78,766
Other recognised gains/(losses): Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	-	71,000	71,000	(91,000)
Net movement in funds	(10,504)	118,829	108,325	(12,234)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds at 1 April 2015	71,043	187,749	258,792	270,179
Prior year adjustment	-	(7,187)	(7,187)	(6,340)
Total funds brought forward	71,043	180,562	251,605	263,839
Total funds at 31 March 2016	60,539	299,391	359,930	251,605

All activities relate to continuing activities.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2016

		TOTAL	TOTAL
		2016	2015
	£	£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	76,800		90,260
Current assets			
Stocks	2,142	2,426	
Debtors	354,527	568,280	
Cash at bank and in hand	387,774	286,417	
	744,443	857,123	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(403,313)	(574,778)	
Net current assets	341,130		282,345
Total assets less current liabilities	417,930		372,605
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(58,000)		(121,000)
Net assets including pension scheme liabilities	359,930		251,605
Charity Funds			
Restricted funds	60,539		71,043
Unrestricted funds:			
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	357,391	301,562	
Pension reserve	(58,000)	(121,000)	
Total unrestricted funds	299,391		180,562
Total funds	359,930		251,605

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 3rd October 2016 and signed on their behalf, by:
Desmond Patterson, Chairman - Arthur Mitchell, Vice Chairman

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2016

	TOTAL	TOTAL
	2016	2015
	£	£
Cash flows from opening activities		
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	106,299	126,496
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	1	15
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(4,943)	(32,717)
Net cash used in investing activities	(4,942)	(32,702)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	101,357	94,794
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	286,417	191,623
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	387,774	286,417