

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DARTMOOR TRUST
HELD AT PARKE, BOVEY TRACEY AT 1530 TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2017**

Present: Dru Butterfield", Richard Bayly", Tony Clark"* (Chairman), Ann Cole", Andrew Cooper"*, Sue Eberle"*, Tim Emerson"*, Alli Gibson"*, Lady Kitson\$*, Peter Mason", Ashley Smith", Sue Viccar"s, Chris Walpole", John White"*, Richard Wraith"*

Apologies: Nick Atkinson\$, Leyland Branfield", Simon Butler\$*, Ric Cheadle", Simon Dell", Brian Le Mesurier", Peter Harper"*, Paul Rendell".

Key: \$ Subscribers, * Trustees and " Members

1. Tony Clark introduced the new Trustees; John White who joined in Jun 17 and Andrew Cooper who had been appointed by DNPA in replacement for Bill Hitchins. He welcomed the Members and apologised for having to postpone the meeting by one day, which had prevented 2 Trustees attending.

**ITEM 1 – ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON
21 NOVEMBER 2016**

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were accepted with one amendment, the addition of Richard Wraith's name to the Trustees, and signed as a true record.

ITEM 2 – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – LT COL (RETD) TONY CLARK OBE

3. Tony Clark reported on the major achievements and objectives of the Trust.

4. Profile

- a. Maintaining and where possible increasing the Trust's profile is key to all our activities.
- b. The Dartmoor Trust Archive continues to give the Trust a high profile. The acquisition of the Richard Hansford Worth Collection of some 7,000 images, probably the last known large collection of Dartmoor photographs has greatly increased the importance of the Archive.
- c. Peter Mason's series of images in the Dartmoor Magazine and use by permission in other publications indicates the value of the Archive to researchers and the public.
- d. Peter Mason was congratulated on the Dartmoor: A Wild and Wondrous Region, to be held at RAMM 22 December to 31 March 2018, which will show how Dartmoor's scenery inspired generations of artists using a wide range of media: oil paintings, watercolours, engravings, early photographs and even postcards. Works from RAMM's collections will be supplemented by loans from British museums and galleries as well as private collections, many rarely seen in public. The largest exhibition of historic Dartmoor landscape art in a generation will look at how 18th and 19th century artists helped shape the way we see Dartmoor today. Free Entry 10am to 5pm Tue to Sun

- e. Our aspiration for an annual book wasn't achieved in 2018 due to Simon Butler writing some books that couldn't be resisted. Copies of Legendary Dartmoor Pubs and Inns remain available for sale.
- f. The Trust continues to be involved in many ventures that enhance the National Park's special qualities. Moor than Meets the Eye (MTMTE) through the Community Stakeholders Group (CSG); Your Dartmoor; the Dartmoor Forum; the National Park Local History Day scheduled for Sat 19 May 18 and Devon Remembers, convened by Devon County Council.

5. Grants

- a. Seed corn funding is becoming increasingly necessary to gain HLF and other funding.
- b. Need will increase as MTMTE funding ends and its legacy of increasing interest in caring for Dartmoor kicks in.

6. Fund Raising

- a. Pressures on potential donors due to the unsettled financial situation seems to be increasing. The reputation of Charity fundraisers has also taken a blow.
- b. The Trustees recognise the need for a worthy cause to act as catalyst for fundraising
- c. The Trust has fully recruited Trustees to 10, the max permitted by its Memorandum and Articles, to provide more effort and support for projects. He expressed his gratitude for their work and support to Dartmoor.
- d. The Trustees are investigating using a professional fund raiser or taking advice from an experienced person.

7. Exhibitions

- a. A private Viewing of the superb Dartmoor a Wild and Wondrous Region exhibition, curated by Peter Mason, will be held in Mar 18.
- b. Exhibitions in Moretonhampstead and Neasdon Barn, Manaton are being developed.
- c. The centenary of the 1WW Armistice will be commemorated at the National Park Visitor Centre, Princetown 13 Sep – 21 Nov 18 with a further Dartmoor Life in the 1WW Exhibition updated with further information.

ITEM 3 – TREASURER'S REPORT

- 8. Ann Cole was warmly thanked for standing in as Treasurer at short notice, kindly completed FY 16/17. Capt Richard Wraith CBE RN, who is in the process of taking over for 17/18, mentioned that it is the Trust's intention to reduce the accounts, use BACS and simplify the accounting.
- 9. Tim Emerson is kindly keeping the Trust compliant with Charity and Company law and well positioned for future challenges. He had advised on insurance and, as a result of a change of insurers, savings are being made on administration.

ITEM 4 - REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017 – ASHLEY SMITH OF H M WILLIAMS, CERTIFIED CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

10. Ashley Smith presented the Report of the Directors and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2017 for the Dartmoor Trust and highlighted salient points. A copy is circulated for information.
11. He agreed to provide advice to the Trust on Gift Aid.
12. Richard Bayly inquired of Brewin and Dolphin's fees, which will be investigated once the new Treasurer has taken over the accounts. **Action:** Richard Wraith.
13. The report was accepted unanimously.

ITEM 5 – APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS BY THE SUBSCRIBERS AND MEMBERS

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

Proposed Chris Walpole, Seconded Peter Mason and appointed

ITEM 6 – ELECTION OF TRUSTEES BY THE SUBSCRIBERS AND MEMBERS

14. The six Nominated Trustees; Simon Butler, Tony Clark, Sue Eberle, Tim Emerson, Alli Gibson, Lady Kitson OBE DL, offered themselves for re-election and were duly elected by those present.
Proposed Sue Viccars, Seconded Chris Walpole and appointed
15. The three Co-Opted Trustees; Peter Harper, John White and Richard Wraith, who the Nominated Trustees intend to co-opt again for 2018, were accepted.
16. The tenth Trustee is an Ex Officio Trustee appointed by the National Park Authority: Andrew Cooper.

ITEM 7 – REPORT ON THE DARMOOR TRUST'S ARCHIVE

17. John White presented Simon Butler's report on the Dartmoor Trust Archive against a backdrop of images from the Worth Collection.
 - a. **Worth Collection:** Following an agreed break, as reported at our last meeting, due to the staging of an exhibition at the Torquay Natural History Museum, the digitisation of the Worth Collection is now continuing with approximately 2000 images remaining to be scanned out of the 5500 total. The completed images, numbering 3590, have all been uploaded to the Archive website. Completion of the digitisation process is expected by late spring 2018. I have been in regular touch with the Museum over the difficulties in scanning old and small negatives, particularly in detecting the orientation of the original photograph, resulting in an unknown number of images being reversed during the scanning process. I am assured that every effort is made to avoid this. Likewise, there are a small number of images that are of poor quality, often out of focus, and I have visited the Museum to make random checks on these to ascertain that this is not an error of the scanning process but is inherent in the original photograph.

Elsewhere, there is a considerable backlog of material to be scanned. The reliance on voluntary work in maintaining and developing the Archive remains an issue.

- b. **Exhibitions:** I continue to liaise both with Peter Mason and Greenhill Arts in Moretonhampstead over the exhibition to be held at the Centre next year. The exhibition of farming on Dartmoor includes contemporary and historic photos including a number of late nineteenth and early twentieth century photographs based on Foxworthy Farm, now held in the Archive as the Hunt Collection. I have been asked to give a talk on the collection at the opening of the exhibition which runs from 6 July to 1 September 2018. The Trust will have flyers available for visitors to pick up throughout the exhibition. Georgiana Lingard (or Peter Mason) at the Centre is likely to approach the Trust for funding for an element of this exhibition. The photographs will later be taken for display at the Lustleigh History Society Heritage weekend which runs from 1 August to 2 September and discussion to hold a separate exhibition of the Hunt Collection images (and others) at Neadon Barn (where the Trust has held an exhibition previously), are ongoing. Provision of images to third parties: There is a steady flow of requests for images from the Archive from both individuals and commercial enterprises. These range from straightforward requests for a high-resolution copy of an individual image to more complex and time-consuming enquiries for photographs relating to a particular theme - these often from TV companies and often speculative. Where they do result in the provision of photos the financial reward is useful.
- c. **Future projects:** Following up Lady Kitson's report at our last meeting I met with Bernard Mills who has a large collection of railway photographs, many relating to Dartmoor. While Mr Mills is understandably reluctant to dilute the commercial potential of his collection by allowing them to be uploaded to the Archive, he is willing to provide text and images for a book on the history of railways around Dartmoor - the photographs from which could be part of the Archive in future. The majority of his collection are his own photos taken in the 1960s onwards when most of the infrastructure was being dismantled, which makes them historically significant. However, access to earlier photos (including those already in the Archive), would increase interest in such a book and tie it more firmly to the aspirations of the Trust in securing such images for public access. To this end I have been building up a small collection of Victorian and Edwardian photographs which would expand the content of a book. Subject to the Trustees agreement, I intend to discuss this project further with Mr Mills in the New Year.

18. In thanking Simon Butler and John White, Tony Clark emphasised the need for more volunteers to assist in identifying images and adding to the information held on them.

ITEM 8 – REPORT ON GRANTS MADE

19. Sue Eberle, who leads on grants, reported that:

- a. Ugborough Local History Society had received a £100 contribution for publication of a study of the parishes' archaeology. Once the book has been sold out a copy will be included in the Archive.
- b. DNPA had been granted £4,000 to support the continuing employment of the Heritage Environment Record (HER) officer. The benefits received include sharing the HER and involvement with Heritage Trails website.
- c. Torquay Museum had been donated £6,500 to assist with the costs of their digitisation curator in exchange for copies of the Worth Collection images.
- d. Tim Herrod's soil survey map had been published and he has now written a descriptive report, which the Trust will support.

ITEM 9 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. During the meeting Andrew Cooper gave a masterful talk, tracing the link from the glaciation of Dartmoor, the extinction of wildlife, the return of trout which encouraged the re-colonisation by otters, river pollution throughout the UK decimating the otter population, the purity of Dartmoor's water and close proximity of the river sources that allowed otters from different rivers to breed. This story and the otters' success was celebrated through the Otter Project, which amplified Dartmoor's reputation and raised funds to support the Authorities environmental work. Andrew has set up an innovative resource freely available online for educational and community use that already features over 100 high quality stills and 100 broadcast quality aerial video clips of Dartmoor. www.ddrl.org
21. The Trust has also supported taking Steps - Discovering & Enjoying Dartmoor's Step Dance Heritage. Lisa Sture, Project Co-ordinator kindly gave a fascinating insight into and demonstration of step dancing. Taking Steps is a project, working in partnership with the Dartmoor Folk Festival, to research the Dartmoor stepdancing tradition and to bring it to a wider audience. She explained that before the Second World War there were a lot of competitions on and around Dartmoor, but the war stopped them, and afterwards there were never so many and it seems they stopped altogether before the 1960s. In 1978 the famous Dartmoor musician, Bob Cann, set up The Dartmoor Folk Festival to preserve the folk traditions on and around Dartmoor. He was especially keen to keep stepdancing alive, and reintroduced the stepdance competition, which still runs each August in South Zeal.

ITEM 10 – DATE OF NEXT AGM. Monday 19 Nov 18