

ECTON MINE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Reg. Charity No. 1112892

ANNUAL REPORT

For Year Ending 30th September 2009

The objectives of the Trust are to promote education and research in applied geology, mining and mineral extraction; and to preserve for the benefit of the public Ecton Mine and all its shafts and adits. It is again pleasing to be able to report that during the Trust's fourth year these objectives have been consistently achieved.

An independent mains electricity supply to the Study Centre was installed in the Spring. To connect to the mains required expenditure on a 50 metre cable trench and a contribution to the cost of up-rating the power supply company's local transformer. The consultancy assistance and advice of electrical engineer Peter Haslop, provided free of charge, and a grant of £2000 towards the cost from the Royal Society of Chemistry were much appreciated

Further improvements to the internal layout of the Study Centre were commissioned for the end of the season and will be ready for use when courses and visits recommence early in 2010. Once again, the considerable assistance of members of the Ecton Hill Field Studies Association (EHFSA) in decorating and organising the interior space has again been valuable.

In the 2009 season, EHFSA ran 9 one-day courses for visiting school parties. This compared with 13 in the previous year, reflecting some of the difficulties caused by the "micro management" of schools education by central government. However, the Centre continues to be used by the PGCE Department of Keele University whose visits are designed to show trainee teachers the value of extramural field courses. A promising and most welcome development by Keele, in association with EHFSA, was to run two pilot day courses for older primary school children. About 60 children from schools in Crewe took part. It is intended to build on this initiative.

EHFSA tutors have looked after 17 visits from local interest and geology groups. These are proving valuable in promoting the Trust's objectives, as have two mine exploration visits under the auspices of the Peak District Mines Historical Society and a visit organised by the Trustees for a Territorial Army group.

The Ecton Mine Educational Trust is grateful for the continued support of Anglo American plc and Rio Tinto plc, as corporate members, together with the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, the London and Southern Counties Minerals Industries Institute (MinSouth) and the Royal Society of Chemistry as institutional members. We would not be able to function either without their financial support, or without the sterling efforts of the many volunteers who offer their valuable time to promote the Trust's objectives.

EHFSA and the Peak District Mines Historical Society are Affiliate Society members of the Trust. Mr Nick Hardie (of Galantas Gold) is an Individual Member, and Mr James Plant and Mr William Whitehead are Honorary Members.

Trustees: The trustees at the 30th September 2009 were Dr Lisa Morrow, Dr Graham Woodrow, Mr Peter Huxtable, Mr Tony Brewis and Dr John Bramley.

John Bramley FEng FIMMM
Chairman