

CHAT WHIT NEWS

Christmas Message



As we approach the end of another successful year at Chatterley Whitfield, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members, volunteers and supporters who have made it possible.

Nigel Thomas Bowers BEM

Chair of Trustees

Scoping Grant

Exciting news - A grant has been awarded which will enable the 'Friends' to establish the historical importance of all the artefacts. The work on this project will start in February 2025

Trustees 2024-2025

Chair - Nigel Bowers
Secretary - Vacant
Treasurer - Isabel Newsome
Membership – Daniel Bowers
Elected - Sharon Bowers, Ann James, Alistair Lias, Henry McDonald, Graham Unwin

Co-Opted -Adrian Cartlidge,
Martin Challinor,

Opening times

2024-2025

Closed for Christmas, open again on Thursday 9th January 2025



The Way Head 2025 and beyond.....

Chatterley Whitfield was once described as the Stonehenge of the coal industry - in effect, Chatterley Whitfield is a moth-balled monument in decay. A very special place, that must serve the present, whilst preserving the past. It is already a cultural asset, and with imagination and drive it can be recycled to become an economic asset once again.

So what are we looking ahead to:

Further progress and acquiring a 25 year lease for the Heritage Centre. Council a bit slow in processing the application.

Progressing the application for Museum Accreditation.

Looking forward to working with Stoke on Trent City Council as they prepare for the Centenary in 2025.

Developing building 30 subject to the lease being signed off and a number of grant applications being awarded.

Completing the Bevin Boys Memorial.

Improving the displays in the Heritage Centre and building 30.

The list keeps growing.....

Our Vision:

"Grow to become a leading Heritage site within Stoke- on- Trent and the UK, which will educate and involve people in preserving the cultural importance of coal-mining for future generations"





Donation to the 'Friends'

One of our members recently passed away and the family kindly donated some money to the charity.

Other Donations

We still get artefacts donated to the charity and they can come in many forms:



This fire extinguisher was donated to the Heritage Centre by a lady from Chell. She wrote a book 'Coloured Memories of a 1940's childhood in Stoke-on-Trent' under her pen name of Scarlett Elliott. The story was featured on Facebook as she has a chapter in her book called 'The Doffer to end all Doffers'. It refers to **dares** with one being going through the 'Suff', the train tunnel under High Lane. One of the Doffers is now friends on Facebook.



Recently we had Baskervilles Demolition on site helping us move some artefacts. We have been trying for a number of years to try and remove the lamp racks from the 1921 Grade 2 Lamp House. It wasn't until very recently that the council gave

us permission to enter the building and they arranged the removal of the racks and some other items off site of historical importance. We could not leave them in the building any longer as the place had been vandalised. All the glass windows inside the building and the majority of the glass roof panels had been targeted. So the decision was taken to remove the racks and temporarily store them in building 30. We can not thank Baskervilles enough for the work they did and David Rhodes from the council for arranging it. Here are a few photos, before and after.....

Top Left Building 30

Top right On the way out

Bottom Left Lamp House

Bottom Right Smashed roof



When Baskervilles were on site they helped the Friends moving large artefacts around and helped us move a mine tub, which has been positioned in front of the Heritage Centre.



Pit Head Baths



Miners' Modernism: Pithead Baths – Past, Present and Future is a new collaborative research project between Queen's University Belfast and the Twentieth Century Society, with funding from the Mellon Foundation and the UKRI. The project aims to ascertain exactly how many of these ground-breaking buildings remain across the country, in what state of repair, and what potential there may be for future restoration or rehabilitation.

One of our members Tony Rushton has been involved in the project and attended a symposium in London. Whilst there he met up with Emma who came to Chatterley in 2016 as part of her university work. She took a few photos and you can really see a big difference now !!!



She recently made a return visit. Link to the project:
<https://c20society.org.uk/pithead-baths>

Museum Accreditation

Nationally agreed standards to ensure all museums are sustainable, focused and trusted, inspiring the confidence of the public and funding and governing bodies. Delivered in partnership across the UK.

We have registered and Bill Harvey one of our members is compiling the information and evidence required for the accreditation.



ALL CHANGE IN THE HERITAGE CENTRE

A big thanks to Michael Harding, a member who has donated his N gauge railway layout. We will be looking at putting it on display, with our other layout.



So what else has been happening.....

Well we have rearranged the display which used to be in the Lamp House when it was a museum and we can now display the Andrew Burdett collection.



Over the festive period we will be decorating the main office, toilet and kitchen.

Chatterley Whitfield - Heritage Crime Risk Assessment - Review and Planning



You may remember that we got broken into over 2 years ago. The Police have prepared a file which has gone to the Crown

Prosecution Service and to date no offenders have been to court. However since the burglary we have been having multi agency meetings focusing on the security of the site. We continue to get intruders on site, with damage being caused to the Hesketh Winding/Power House, the old mine rescue centre and the Lamp House. There is now 24 hour security on site supplementing the CCTV system. The biggest problem is the perimeter fence and the vegetation. Hopefully in 2025 we will see some progress.





MEMBERSHIP UPDATE.....

Your membership helps us in keeping the spirit of Chatterley Whitfield alive.

Ever thought of giving us a hand? Our members come from all walks of life. We have former miners, engineers, academics, as well as those who are interested in mining history.

Plenty of work planned for 2025

You can renew your membership on line now.....via PAY PAL

So if you have not already done so please let me have your up to date **email address** and **mobile phone** number.

Our contact number
0300 102 1504



BUILDING 30 UPDATE

Well were do we start.....

After a number of years we eventually got access to the building in 2023 and the members turned what was a building full of abandoned mining machinery into useable display area.



However it did present a few problems structurally, especially the roof, in bay 1. Despite a roof repair overseen by the council the roof still leaks. Quite a few holes hidden by the plasterboard cladding.

We are in the process of applying for a 25 year lease, which will hopefully give us more opportunity to apply for large grants for repairs. In the meantime we are looking at developing bay 2 which is still accessible to the public.



Outside in the compound we are thinking of having a sensory garden and a hard standing area, so we can invite clubs etc to do displays. As you can see at present a bit overgrown.....

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk

<https://chatterleywhitfield.online/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChatterleyWhitfield & www.facebook.com/Heritage Centre