

MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST



**Summary Accounts**  
2016 - 2017

**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](http://www.caringformourne.com)**

## Chairman's Statement



Welcome to the Annual Report of Mourne Heritage Trust for 2016/17 marking the 20th anniversary of the Trust's foundation in 1997. Along with four of my present colleagues – Isabel Hood, Maureen Killen, William John Martin and Arthur Mitchell - it has been my privilege to have served on the Board since the very beginning. In addition, a number of current members have served for almost as long, while others whose tenure has ended also contributed across many of these years. Throughout, we enjoyed a continuous refreshing of our membership with representatives from sectors including local government, community development, environment, agriculture and tourism to name just a few. This reflects the combination of continuity and change that characterises my memories of the how the Trust has evolved – a combination that is also seen in the landscape of the Mourne Area of Outstanding Beauty that it is our mission to care for.

For example, maintenance of countryside access across the area has been a constant from day one, but the scale and scope of the infrastructure has grown enormously, partly through the funding the Trust has levered. Likewise we have always sought to interpret the special landscape qualities and related heritage but the means by which this is done has evolved from the area's first comprehensive suite of site interpretation panels to take in public art, websites, social media, apps and audio visual experiences.

Numbers of people accessing the countryside, particularly in the high Mournes, has grown hugely and with it the scope of our visitor management work expanded from periodic small scale, path repair to major erosion control and habitat restoration projects, which have also responded to the increasing impacts of wildfire and extreme weather events. We have seen aspects of our biodiversity come under pressure and while we have been heartened to see our efforts contribute to recovery of species like red squirrel, Mourne juniper and native woodland, much more remains to be done.

Farming practices have modernised greatly since 1997 as well as responding to changes in agricultural policy. But it is still as true as it was the day the Trust was established that sustainable farming is essential to the future health of our landscape.

While the availability of funding for our work has ebbed and flowed with the public policy and resource context, we continue to enjoy the support of our founding partners, namely Northern Ireland Environment Agency, our local Council - now Newry, Mourne and Down - and Tourism NI. As with the early days, we continue to derive significant input from volunteers but the range of people engaging with us has become as diverse as the activities, thanks to programmes targeted at tackling social exclusion. Attracting additional project funds has also been a constant of our endeavours and we have filled the role of both disbursing funds to businesses and community organisations in the area and delivering our own initiatives.

In this context I am pleased that after 20 years Mourne Heritage Trust is currently in good health and, moreover, continues to contribute to the well-being of our environment, society and economy. In 2016/17 our main funding streams not only stabilised after a period of considerable flux from 2015 but increased, notably that from our local Council - reflecting an expansion of our remit for visitor management in forests. Accordingly our staff complement is at its highest ever level. It is pleasing to note that as well as attracting some very capable new recruits in recent years we have been able to continue to blend that with the knowledge and skills embodied in a cohort of staff who have each spent a decade and more caring for Mourne. I cannot let this subject pass without acknowledging the particular contribution of David Keown who has recently retired having worked for five years past his official retirement date in the Countryside Officer function to which he had been employed very soon after the Trust's establishment.

This year, building on our accumulated experience and capacity, we significantly progressed our work in areas including upland heath enhancement, native woodland establishment, juniper propagation, wildfire prevention, erosion repair and control, outdoor recreation infrastructure and service development, creating distinctive Mourne visitor experiences and connecting local people with their landscape related heritage in a variety of innovative ways. Much more detail of this work is set out in our online annual report at [www.caringformourne.com](http://www.caringformourne.com)

To conclude, I would like to reiterate my thanks to all who have contributed to our work both this year and - on the occasion of our 20th anniversary - over the two decades of developing the capacity to protect and enhance the much loved landscape of the Mourne AONB, to raise awareness of its special qualities and to promote sustainable local development.

*Deborah Patterson*

# Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2017

	Restricted	Unrestricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	2016	2016	2017	2016
	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Donations & legacies	-	225,027	225,027	218,597
Investments	-	22	22	1
Charitable activities	361,431	345,186	706,617	650,836
Other	1,002	200	1,202	1,056
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>362,433</b>	<b>570,435</b>	<b>932,868</b>	<b>870,490</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Raising funds	-	1,560	1,560	1,311
Charitable activities				
Protection and conservation - Mourne	355,439	477,925	833,364	770,611
Governance	-	65,768	65,768	60,879
Other	-	18	18	364
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>355,439</b>	<b>545,271</b>	<b>900,710</b>	<b>833,165</b>
Net income/expenditure	(6,994)	25,164	32,158	37,325
Transfers between funds	(17,556)	17,556	-	-
	(10,562)	42,720	32,158	37,325
Other recognised gains/(losses): Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	-	(144,000)		(71,000)
Net movement in funds	(10,562)	(101,280)	(111,842)	108,325
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds at 1 April 2016	60,539	299,391	359,930	251,605
<b>Total funds at 31 March 2017</b>	<b>49,977</b>	<b>198,111</b>	<b>248,088</b>	<b>359,930</b>

All activities relate to continuing activities.

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017

		TOTAL	TOTAL
		2017	2016
	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	81,426		76,800
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	2,071		2,142
Debtors	298,439		354,527
Cash at bank and in hand	372,574		387,774
	673,084		744,443
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(292,422)		(403,313)
<b>Net current assets</b>		380,662	341,130
Total assets less current liabilities		462,088	417,930
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(214,000)		(58,000)
<b>Net assets including pension scheme liabilities</b>		<b>248,088</b>	<b>359,930</b>
<b>Charity Funds</b>			
Restricted funds		49,977	60,539
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>			
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	412,111		357,391
Pension reserve	(214,000)		(58,000)
Total unrestricted funds		198,111	299,391
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>248,088</b>	<b>359,930</b>

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 11th October 2017 and signed on their behalf, by:  
Desmond Patterson, Chairman - Arthur Mitchell, Vice Chairman

## Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2017

	TOTAL	TOTAL
	2017	2016
	£	£
<b>Cash flows from opening activities</b>		
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	4,779	106,299
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	22	1
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(20,001)	(4,843)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	(19,979)	(4,942)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	(15,200)	101,357
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	387,774	286,417
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>	<b>372,574</b>	<b>387,774</b>