

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL COAL MINING MUSEUM FOR ENGLAND TRUST

1. Background to the establishment of the Museum

Coal-mining has been, since the Industrial Revolution, the mainstay of the West Riding of Yorkshire: it has shaped the landscape and formed its communities. It was, therefore, natural that in the 1970s the local authorities in the western part of the county should begin to give consideration to the setting up of a museum to deal with this aspect of their heritage. In March 1977, South Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council commissioned from Robin Wade Design Associates a feasibility study of the possibility of converting Barley Hall Colliery into a mining museum; this report was essentially pessimistic in view of the amount of damage done to the site since the closure of the colliery in 1974, so attention turned to New Stubbin Colliery. Negotiations with the NCB dragged on for over a year, until eventually the NCB informed South Yorkshire County Council that they had found they required the buildings at New Stubbin for their wagon repair shop.

Meanwhile Wakefield Metropolitan District Council had been considering the possibility of Walton Colliery for a mining museum. This was a large site, developed in the nineteenth century, with extensive buildings requiring considerable maintenance costs. Again negotiations dragged on, until late 1980, when the NCB wrote saying that the Board did not consider that the Walton Colliery site would be a good basis for the development of a viable museum project in the Yorkshire coalfield. They went on to propose, however, that Caphouse Colliery might have the potential for development, and that they might, therefore, be prepared to make a contribution to the cost of developing a museum at that site, provided there was no competing museum project in the Yorkshire coalfield.

In the light of the proviso contained in this letter, negotiations were begun between the various interested local authorities in western Yorkshire, culminating in a meeting between on the one side the Director of the Barnsley Area of the NCB, and on the other the Leaders and the Chief Executives of South Yorkshire MCC, West Yorkshire MCC, Wakefield MDC and Kirklees MC, at which the Director stated that if the local authorities could agree on one colliery as a museum, the NCB would be prepared to participate in the formation of a museum. Caphouse would cease to draw coal in about one year, and the NCB would make Caphouse available to the local authorities at a nominal price. Meetings were held throughout 1982 at senior officer level between all the likely interested local authorities - Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Doncaster, Kirklees, Leeds, Rotherham, Selby, South Yorkshire MCC and West Yorkshire MCC. These all pledged support for the project, but eventually, of the district councils, only Wakefield and Kirklees became formal members of the Trust, as Caphouse Colliery lay close to the boundary between the two. Each of these district councils put in a nominal payment, with the major funding coming primarily from West Yorkshire MCC, and a lesser amount from South Yorkshire MCC. The inaugural meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on 14 March 1983. In June 1983 the NCB produced a detailed cost appraisal for the scheme, and in the same year the English Tourist Board was commissioned to draw up a feasibility study for the project at a cost of £8,625. The Trust appointed its first Director, Jonathan Bryant, at the end of 1983, but matters progressed slowly, partly as a result of the Miners' Strike which ran from March 1984 to March 1985, and he resigned in June 1985.

Eventually in January 1986, the NCB let the contract for the underground works on behalf of the Trust, who appointed a Mine Manager, Erwin Bottomley, to act as engineer to the contract. The Museum displays underground were designed by the Mine Manager in conjunction with a professional designer they were set up in the New Hards seam, at a depth of 140 metres; the work involved relining the shaft, renovating about 250 metres of old roadway originally driven about 100 years ago and driving about 250 metres of new roadway to provide circular tour. The displays of machinery were set up by the Museum staff and tableaux of underground scenes from the early- nineteenth century to recent times were designed and made from glass-reinforced concrete, one of the few suitable materials which were permitted to be used underground.

A new Director, Dr Margaret Faull, took up post in June 1986, and the contract for the building work for new reception block with reception, shop, licensed cafeteria, conference room, display area and audio-visual theatre, the conversion of the blacksmith's forge to a lamp room and construction of a new winding engine was let the following year. The site opened to the public on 6 June 1988, with the official opening ceremony on 12 April 1989.

The total capital cost of the initial phase was £3 million, of which the underground work cost £1.65 million. The Museum obtained £100,000 each from Kirklees and Wakefield Councils, £1.65 million for West Yorkshire County Council, £350,000 from South Yorkshire Council, £100,000 from the English Tourist Board, and took out loans, guaranteed by Wakefield District Council, of £700,000. The Museum subsequently obtained a further £½ million from the European Community, which was spent on further surface works, such as renovating the colliery canteen and resurfacing the site, and from the Economic Development Department of Wakefield District Council for improvements to the conference room and renovation of the original 1876 steam winder.

The NCB stated from the outset that they would not be able to provide finance to the project, but that they would donate Caphouse Colliery free of charge together with a payment representing the cost to the NCB otherwise of demolishing and clearing the site had it not become a museum. British Coal also supplied materials required for the contract through their purchasing system and in many cases donated materials which were no longer required at other collieries.

On the completion of the underground work, the colliery was sold by the NCB for £1 to Wakefield District Council, rather than to the Trust, in order to enable the site to receive a derelict land reclamation grant; the Trust now has ownership of the site. The picnic area at the eastern end of the Museum was originally a waste disposal tip owned by West Yorkshire County Council, which transferred to Wakefield District Council on the abolition of the metropolitan county councils in 1986; the Trust also now has ownership of the picnic area. When pumping work ceased at Hope Pit, just to the west of the Museum, this also was acquired for the Museum: the site was conveyed to Kirklees Metropolitan Council in 1994 and ownership was transferred to the Museum in 2004 once the restoration works were completed.

During 1993 and 1994 the Yorkshire Mining Museum came under increasing financial pressure as a result of cuts in local government support, as the local authority was forced to reduce its overall expenditure, and with the loss of help in kind from British Coal as a result of the privatisation of the coal industry. An

amendment to the Coal Industry Act was proposed first in the House of Commons and then in the House of Lords; as a result of this then the Government agreed to provide transitional funding for the three main mining museums of £100,000 a year for the next three years, commencing in April 1995. This was new money from the Treasury, administered by the Museums and Galleries Commission on behalf of the Department of National Heritage.

As a result of the privatisation of the coal industry, the Yorkshire Mining Museum also acquired the British Coal library from Hobart House, part of the British Coal art collection and greatly extended its collecting range to cover the large number of collieries which were closing in a short period of time. In 1993 the Chatterley Whitfield Museum which dealt with the Midlands coalfield went into receivership. This was as a result of a drop in visitor numbers following flooding of the underground after the closure of the adjacent colliery. Chatterley Whitfield had been the home of the British Coal Collection originally collected by the NCB at their Lound Hall Site in Nottinghamshire and transferred to Chatterley Whitfield when Lound Hall closed in 1988. Following negotiations with all interested parties and on advice from the Museums and Galleries Commission and the National Museum of Science & Industry, the Charity Commission vested trusteeship of the British Coal Collection in the Yorkshire Mining Museum on 12 June 1995.

The consequent greatly extended nature of the collections at the Yorkshire Mining Museum, the fact that it had the only surviving underground open to the public in England and that it was the only mining museum in England to receive transitional funding from the Government gave the Museum a significance and a sphere of activity beyond just Yorkshire. During the early part of 1995 the Museum received registration as a national museum from the Museums and Galleries Commission, followed by approval of the change to national status from the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies. The Museum was launched as the National Coal Mining Museum for England by Mr Iain Sproat, Under Secretary of State at the Department of National Heritage, on 28 June 1995.

The Museum continued, however, to be under considerable financial pressure. Reports from independent consultants showed that it would close down within a few years unless substantial permanent revenue funding was provided, with the Government being identified as the only realistic source for such funding. The new Labour Secretary of State, Chris Smith, MP, set up a Working Party with representatives from organisations such as the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions, the Science Museum, the Yorkshire and Humberside Museums Council, the Coal Authority and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Working Party reported in August 1998 that the Museum would close down in October 1999, with closure having to start in October 1998 and recommended that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport should fund the running costs of the Museum. On 7 October 1998, Mr Alan Howarth, MP, Under Secretary of State at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, announced that from April 1999 the Museum would receive an annual revenue grant from the Government, channelled through the National Museum of Science & Industry.

In April 2001 the Museum was given additional funds to allow free admission for visitors over 60 and under 17 and in April 2002 to permit free admission for all visitors. As a result visitor numbers doubled and now stand at approximately 130,000 a year.

The Director, Margaret Faull, is still in post, but Erwin Bottomley retired as Deputy Director/Mine Manager in January 2006. In April 2007, his replacement resigned, and Erwin Bottomley came back to work for eight months until the end of December 2007, when his successor, Willy McGranaghan, took over. Erwin was awarded an MBE in the 2009 New Year's Honours List for his services to the heritage.

2. Structure of the Trust and its Staff

The National Coal Mining Museum for England Trust Ltd, is a Company Limited by Guarantee, as also was the Yorkshire Mining Museum Trust Ltd. This means that it does not have any shareholders who have invested their own money in the Company, but instead has members, who guarantee to provide a sum of up to £1 in the event that the Company is wound up with an excess of liabilities over assets. The Trust is also a Registered Charity whose objective is:

To advance the education of the public in the history of mining by provision and maintenance of a museum both underground and on surface at the former Caphouse Colliery, for the demonstration of past and contemporary mining methods and the exhibition of machinery and other items connected with mining and industrial archaeology.

Its Mission Statement is that:

The National Coal Mining Museum for England aim to keep coal mining alive by collecting and preserving the industry's rich heritage, creating enjoyable and inspiring ways to learn for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

The composition of the Board of Trustees of the Yorkshire Mining Museum reflected its origins as essentially a local authority project. Originally West Yorkshire MCC and South Yorkshire MCC, as the major funders, had three seats each on the Board, Wakefield MDC and Kirklees MC had two seats each, and the NCB had one seat, increased following the 1988 British Coal reorganisation to one each from North Yorkshire and South Yorkshire British Coal. Following the abolition of the metropolitan county councils, the number of Wakefield MDC trustees was increased to four, with two individual members, and Sitlington Parish Council having a nominee. Finally in light of the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act (1989), Part V, the composition of the Board of the Yorkshire Mining Museum was changed to five from Wakefield MDC, one from Kirklees MC, three from British Coal and four independent members, with Sitlington Parish Council having a non-voting observer. The changing arrangements of local authority nominees reflected changing sources of local authority funding to the project with changing circumstances, while the parish council nominee was able to report on local concerns and advise on sensitive local issues. Of the independent trustees, one was the former leader of one of the two metropolitan county councils, one a full-time official of the Yorkshire National Union of Mineworkers, and one worked in the private sector of

the coal mining industry. The British Coal nominees were able to assist with the acquiring of machinery for the Museum and help with technical advice.

To handle the move to national status the Board of Trustees of the Museum set up a Committee with one member from the local authority and one from British Coal to enter into discussions with the Museums and Galleries Commission and other interested parties with a view to reconstructing the Board to one appropriate to a national museum. As a result of their work, the old Board of the Yorkshire Mining Museum met for the last time on 24 March 1995 to approve the changes, and the new Board of the National Coal Mining Museum for England held its first meeting on 31 March 1995. The new Board was structured to reflect the various activities carried out by the Museum and to provide Trustees each able to make a different contribution to the running of the Museum.

The categories of Trustees and the current Trustees are as follows:

1. A national museum: Mr M Houlihan, Director, the National Museums and Galleries of Wales.
2. Bodies representing coal mining in the UK: Mr J D Flack, Senior Vice President, the Federation of Independent Mines.
3. The top echelons of the private mining industry: Mr R J Budge, Chief Executive, Coalpower.
4. The business community:
 - a. Dr D J Fletcher, Director, Easynet plc (previously Chief Executive, British Waterways)
 - b. Sir Rodney Walker, Chair, Myerscough Holdings Ltd
5. A Member of Parliament: Mr K Barron, MP for the Rother Valley
6. A peer: The Rt Hon the Baroness Morris of Yardley.
7. The local authority: Councillor P. Box, Leader, Wakefield Metropolitan District Council.
8. Education: Mr R H S Mitchell, adult education lecturer.
9. The environment: Sir John Harman, former Chair, the Environment Agency.
10. The regulatory authorities: Ms Judith Hackitt, Chair, the Health and Safety Executive

The Chair of the Board is Baroness Morris and the Vice-Chair is Mr Mitchell. The President of the Museum is the Rt Hon the Baroness Lockwood of Dewsbury There is also a Liaison Committee meeting under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chair of the Board, with nominees from the local authorities and other relevant bodies.

All the staff at the Museum are employees of the Trust, but the local authorities do supply certain services. Originally, the Treasurer of the Trust was the Director of

Finance of South Yorkshire MCC; the Legal Adviser was the Deputy Clerk of West Yorkshire MCC, and the Secretary of the Board was the Chief Executive of Wakefield MDC. Following the abolition of the metropolitan county councils in 1986, all these roles were taken over by officers of Wakefield MDC, which constituted the lead authority, and which also provided various other services, such as personnel and committee service. This continued after the move to national status, except that the Director of the Museum also took on the role of Company Secretary formerly held by the Head of Administration in Wakefield Council. With national funding from the Government, the Museum took over responsibility for some work previously done on its behalf by Wakefield MDC. In particular, since December 1999 there has been no Honorary Treasurer, as the Museum is employing its own in-house accountant and oversight of the Museum's finance is undertaken by the Accounting Officer, who is the Director of the Science Museum and by one of the Trustees, who visits the Museum each month; the Director is the Accountable Officer at the Museum. The Museum is a member in its own right, independent of the local authorities, of various bodies, such as the Association of Independent Museums, the Museums Association, CBA Yorkshire, ICOM and the Wakefield Tourism Association.

The Trust is a Mine Owner as defined by the Coal Mines Act, and is required to appoint suitably qualified and experienced staff to operate the mine. The overall responsibility for Health and Safety at the mine is held by the Mine Manager, who is also the Deputy Director. He is required by law to appoint suitably qualified electrical and mechanical engineers, engineering and mining staff and operational personnel, including electricians, fitters and deputies.

The administration, marketing and commercial activities of the Company are under the control of the Director, who is supported by a Curatorial Director, a Commercial Director and a Finance Director. The Curatorial Director is responsible for all curatorial matters on site, including the educational resources and the library of the Museum. The Curatorial Director is assisted by the Collections Officer for the collections, three Curators responsible for social and oral history, industry, and art and photography, and education and library staff. The Commercial Director is supported by a Marketing Manager, a Catering Manager and a Shop Manager, and the Finance Director/Personnel Director is supported by the Senior Finance Clerk, Finance Clerk and Clerical Assistant (Finance) and Executive Officer (Personnel), and Clerical Assistant (Personnel). The Development Officer and the Policy Coordinator report to the Finance/Personnel Director, but work closely with the Director.

Some 110 staff, full-time and part-time, are employed at the Museum. All the guides are trained miners. Some guides and reception block staff are employed on a seasonal basis, for the period from Easter and September, which is the busiest period of the year for the Museum. There is also a residential caretaker.

3. Development of the Site as a Museum

The main aims of the Museum are to show people as far as is possible what a colliery is like both above and below ground, and to act as the collecting museum for the English coalfield. Subsidiary aims are provide employment in an area which has been badly affected by the closure of the collieries and to bring tourists into a region which has not traditionally been associated with tourism.

In line with the main aims of the Museum, the site of the colliery has been developed as sensitively as possible, as a colliery would be developed in modern times. Caphouse Colliery was established in the late-eighteenth century, but the oldest building on the site is the 1876 stone winding engine house. The colliery occupies a 17-acre site and has all the buildings found at a traditional colliery, a small control room, boiler house with two Lancashire boilers to power the steam winder, pithead baths dating to 1938, a 1950s administration block and colliery workshops. The lamp room was originally adjacent to the pithead baths, but has now been moved to the blacksmith's shop adjacent to the shaft. The original blacksmith's forge has been left intact in the new lamproom, and a new operating forge has been set up in the new display building, which is also equipped with line shafting and belt driven machines. The screens, where the coal was sorted from the dirt, and the associated heapstead building, are not open to the public, but the building, of traditional timber-frame construction, has been renovated and the screens machinery is able to run as required. The old colliery canteen has been restored to form a second cafeteria for the Museum during busy periods.

A number of new buildings were required. Firstly there was a new winding engine house adjacent to the steam winder and to the shaft, to house the hydraulic haulage engine now used to raise and lower the cage. The old stores building with engineers' offices was converted into a display area, shop and cafeteria, and was extended to provide a reception area, kitchen, bar and conference room, with a caretaker's flat above; this building was constructed in the style of the modern buildings of the new collieries of the Selby coalfield. A new stores building was required to house both colliery equipment and the Museum's collections, and this, the new adjacent building and the building to store the British Coal Collection were constructed in the colliery tradition of steel-framed and clad construction. The site was landscaped to provide a picnic area, nature trail, grassed areas and landscaped car parks, adventure playground, and a rope-hauled railway.

Adjacent to Caphouse Colliery, and about a quarter of a mile away, is Hope Pit, which was first established in the 1830s by the eminent engineer, John Blenkinsop. Hope Pit has several stone-built buildings, including the Inman Shaft building. The Museum has renovated these buildings, and installed displays about the scientific basis of coal-mining, as well as reinstating the railway from Caphouse up to Hope Pit. A tunnel under the road connects the site with a disused quarry on the other side of the A642, and it is hoped to reopen this tunnel and eventually to develop the quarry as a picnic area.

The hour-long tour of the underground is undertaken in groups of up to a maximum of nineteen with a trained miner as guide. The underground tour begins at the lamp room, where visitors are divided into groups of nineteen and are kitted out with helmet, belt and lamp. They descend the original eighteenth-century shaft in the company of an underground-trained miner. The tour lasts an hour, and covers the history of mining from the early-nineteenth century, when women and children worked underground, through hand-getting and early machinery, up to a fully mechanised face. There is a shorter separate tour for visitors in wheelchairs. Because this is a genuine underground, the floor is not completely flat and it tends to be damp. Visitors have to have both hands free, as in a working mine, and so children cannot be carried; therefore children under the age of five cannot go underground although they are admitted to the surface.

Visitors can move freely around the surface of the Museum. A large number of the visitors are schoolchildren, so the Museum employs an Education Officer and an Assistant Education Officer. A school room is provided, which can be booked by schools in advance, and this is equipped with school boxes containing items which relate to mining and can be used by schoolteachers. The Museum also supplies teachers in advance with resource material, and additional interpretative material is available for purchase in the shop. The Museum has its own publications series and has to date published four booklets and eight leaflets.

The original displays in the reception block dealt with coal mining in Yorkshire from Roman times up to the present day, including mining technology, safety, disasters, communities, mining legislation, the trades unions and disputes.

In June 2000, it was announced that the Museum had been given a grant of £4.66 million towards a £6½ million scheme on the site; the Museum raised the other £1.84 million from grants and an appeal to business. The ambitious programme of works covered new developments on both the Caphouse Colliery and Hope Pit sites and on adjacent land which the Museum has acquired. The original displays which dealt with the history of coal mining in Yorkshire were replaced by displays on coal mining throughout England; the displays in one building cover social history, including the development of the trade unions and those in the other cover technology. The education facility, which was housed in a very old portacabin, has been replaced by a purpose-built education wing with two classrooms, which can be opened up into one large area. The café has doubled in size and new conference facilities, seating 150 to 200 people, replaced the original conference room which could only accommodate 60 to 100 people. All the historic buildings at both Caphouse and Hope Pit were repaired and both sites landscaped, so that for the first time, the public are able to visit Hope Pit. Finally a new stores building with 1,000 sq metres of storage, has been constructed in the field to the north of Hope Pit to house the Museum's nationally important collection of mining artefacts.

During the period 2002 to 2006 the Museum undertook a joint project with the Coal Authority, the Mineral Industry Research Organisation, ECS and Human Dynamics on the management and monitoring of the water pumped from underground, and interpretation. The project involved the construction of four additional settling tanks to the north of Hope Pit to enable the ochre in the mine water to settle out, a reed-bed system to remove the last of the impurities before the water goes into the river Calder (instead of using a chemical-treatment process damaging to the environment with lime), and displays about the project and about the science of coal mining at Hope Pit. This was funded by £1 million from the Coal Authority, £1 million from the EU Life Programme and £1 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In 2008 the Museum fully conserved the unique furnace shaft, adjacent to the main shaft by which visitors reach the underground. Work is now underway planning the replacement of the existing displays underground, and driving new roadways to double the amount of area open underground. This will provide a second, specialised tour, intended in particular for education groups and visitors with disabilities. The Museum also has a further ten-year programme of work, for which it is currently raising funding. This includes the reconstruction of the early-nineteenth-century miner's cottage which used to stand at the eastern end of the Caphouse site, and

development of more environmentally sound methods of heating and powering the site.

4. Commercial Operation

The Museum is open to the public throughout the year, with the Museum being closed only on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. The Museum attracts approximately 130,000 visitors a year. The Museum covers a proportion of its costs from shop and cafeteria sales and conference fees. The cafeteria has a licensed bar, and the conference room is available to be booked for conferences and for special functions, including visits in the evening. The remainder of the running costs up till 1999 were covered mainly by grants from Wakefield District Council, the West Yorkshire Grants Committee, the Museums and Galleries Commission and RJB Deep Mines Ltd, and from the Museum's own reserves. With assured Government funding from April 1999, the Museum now has a secure financial future.

In March 1995 the Museum welcomed its 500,000th visitor and in February 2003 one million visitors. Many of the visitors come from outside the area. The income they have generated has enabled the employment of some 100 local people directly at the Museum. As many of the staff employed at the Museum would otherwise be unemployed and receiving some kind of benefit, the return to the Exchequer is quite considerable as the Trust also pays 15% VAT on its commercial operations, such as shop and cafeteria sales and conference charges. The Museum also provides employment indirectly through the purchase by the Museum of goods and services for the upkeep and operation of the colliery and to supply the shop and cafeteria. For example, as well as supplies for the café and bar, the Museum purchases feed and bedding for the five pit ponies and shire horse, packaging and conservation materials, fuel and cleaning materials, to name but a few, such as diesel. The Museum buys in many services locally, such as the maintenance and emptying of the water-treatment system, monitoring of the water underground, pest control, refuse collection, maintenance of the boilers and of the computers and hire of heavy lifting equipment. As a national museum with extensive collections, specialist services, such as conservation of the artefacts and of books in the library, are also purchased. Thus nearly all of the Trust's income recirculates back into the economy, with the bulk of the income flowing back into the economy of the immediate area.

In 2004/05 turnover (not profit) from shop, conferences and events reached approximately £300,000, so the Museum was obliged to set up a trading company. Turnover has now reached some £600,000 a year. Virtually all staff concerned spend some of their time on Museum work and some on trading company work; staff have, therefore, continued to be employed by the Museum and the hours they work on trading company matters are cross-charged to the trading company.

Although the existence of the National Coal Mining Museum for England has not yet generated significant ancillary tourism development in the immediate area, combined with the existence of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park at Bretton, the Ridings Shopping Centre in Wakefield, the Eureka project in Halifax, , the National Media Museum in Bradford and the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, it is making a significant contribution to the provision of a network of major new tourist attractions guaranteed

to bring increased tourist trade into the area; the availability of the north-south link provided by the M1 only 6 miles away and the east-west link of the M62 only 8 miles away, is an additional benefit. The multiple effect of tourism spending is high within the local economy and the overall return from the public-sector investment is higher than is the case with comparable investments in subsidised public-sector tourism projects.

5. Cultural and Training Activities

The Museum mounts an annual programme of temporary exhibitions. The Museum temporary display area has held a number of exhibitions including ones on mine lighting, the 1842 Act and women and children working underground, mining art, and photographs taken during the Miners' Strike. New exhibitions are usually planned two years ahead, and, where possible, are designed to be able to travel to other museums and similar venues.

As well as providing temporary exhibitions, the Museum works closely with other museums throughout the United Kingdom. The Museum acts as coordinator for regular meetings held throughout the country of museums which have coal-mining collections, even if coal mining is not their main theme, to discuss such matters as collection policies and conservation. Also every twelve months a two-day meeting to discuss collections funding and operational matters is held with the senior members of staff of the main UK mining museums – the National Coal Mining Museum for England, the Big Pit Mining Museum at Blaenafon in South Wales, the Scottish Mining Museum at Lady Victoria Colliery south of Edinburgh, and Woodhorn Colliery, Northumberland.

Staff of the Museum attend and lecture at many conferences and meetings, such as those of the Alliance (formerly the Coalfield Communities Campaign, which gives a great deal of support to the Museum. Now that the Museum's funding is secure, a programme of outreach work is being developed with coal-mining communities. An Education Outreach Officer was appointed in 2002 for three years with a grant from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust to work with Yorkshire coalfield communities. There is now a permanent part-time Education Outreach Officer, who works with coalfield communities.