

## EMET Chairman's Report for 2018

2018 was a remarkable year for Ecton Mine Educational Trust. It witnessed its continued success in general terms, and significant change at one of the two most important entrances to the modern mine.

Previously the Mine Manager, Graham Woodrow, had rightly adjudged that Deep Ecton adit had become unsafe and should be closed for major repairs to the first 50 metres of the level adjacent to the River Manifold. Plans had to be drawn up, permissions sought, a fundamental rebuild completed to the highest specifications, and vital archaeological work undertaken while conditions allowed. The UNEXMIN submersibles trials were due to take place early the following summer (May 2019) so safety and time were of the essence.

The land surrounding Deep Ecton adit entrance had been acquired by the trust over the previous two years. This proved to be a major bonus for ease of repairs, and will continue to be advantageous for the on-going use of that entrance to the mine. Owning the land made the work less complicated, kept costs down and minimised concern which might otherwise have been caused to surrounding inhabitants and casual passers-by. A subgroup of trustees and advisers, under the chairmanship of Peter Huxtable, planned and undertook the specialist administrative and supervisory work so that the engineering, planning and archaeological work all took place efficiently, compliantly, and to the highest standards. The Trust is enormously in debt to him, to Steve Henley - our vital and knowledgeable link with the UNEXMIN project - and to these individuals for their particular expertise and commitment: Graham Woodrow, Nick Hardie, Richard Shaw, John Barnatt, and Peter Kennett. A magnificent illustrated and detailed report of the archaeological work has been made by John Barnatt (EMET's archaeological adviser) and this is being published on the EMET website and in [Mining History](#).

EMET and the mine remain an important resource for academic and commercial research. Some is planned for early 2019 and it will be reported on at 2020's AGM. Also for the next reporting year there will be comment on opportunities arising from the completion of the current UNEXMIN project. These are presenting themselves as this reporting year closes but post-UNEXMIN opportunities will, of course, be dependent upon the EU's relationship with the UK as the political landscape evolves.

Throughout 2018 the Trust's routine voluntary work (monitoring, safety, security, finance, the Education Centre, the Dressing Floor, and the Hill) was been undertaken as usual. Thanks to the commitment of EMET's team of 8 trustees and 6 advisers, the routine and repair work were all accomplished at a minimum cost to the charity. The repair work on the adit included the expert selection and supervision of contractors, the detailed monitoring of the preservation of historical evidence and the natural surroundings, and making good after the necessary work had taken place. Salary sacrifice by trustees and advisers, and the persistence of the Treasurer, Reginald Wynniatt-Husey, ensured that all was this was accomplished within EMET's means. Also there was minimum disruption to visitors to Salts level, the other main modern entrance to the mine. As a result over 800 visitors came to Ecton Mine during 2018. These visits were arranged by EHFSA (64%), National Trust (24%), and others (12%). The income generated remains vital to the well-being of the Trust. Additionally, a Trustee, Andrew Mann, has arranged significant day visits for professionals working in today's minerals sector.



**Ecton Mine  
Educational Trust**

Voluntary work is of course at the root of EMET's success. The charity is enormously indebted to colleagues' forbearance and industry. Safety work within and on the surface of the hill, partly in preparation for the UNEXMIN trials, has occupied many hours of trustees' and advisers' time. The charity is also aware that it also thrives because of the voluntary work by members of other organisations, especially EHFSA and the National Trust. EMET is in good heart but the Trustees are mindful that, given the average age of the volunteer team, success can only continue if prudent succession planning takes place in the months and years ahead. This, and the management of the UNEXMIN trials, are likely to be the major challenges facing the charity over the next year.