

Mountain Heritage Trust

2018 Annual Report



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Summary

2018 has been another busy year for the Mountain Heritage Trust with the opening of a new exhibition, attendance at events, continued partner working, the recruitment of new trustees and staff, along with significant acquisitions and numerous enquiries.

Accessions this year have included four significant collections: the Peter Boardman Collection, the Nat Allen Collection, the Dorothy Kellogg Collection and the Burgess Brothers Collection.

February saw the recruitment of two new trustees: Chris Martin (strategy) and Christine Renouf (HR/Office Management).

In March the Mercer's company agreed to extend the Preservation Project until November 2018. The project evaluation report was completed and sent in at the beginning of December. Underspend in the project amounted to £1800 but the Mercer's company kindly agreed to us keeping the money to purchase more boxes, another dehumidifier for the store and more conservation materials.

In April, the first of several talks, part of the Royal Geographical Society's North West Region Open Programme was held at the Blencathra centre. A joint project between MHT, RGS and FSC the talk by Mary-Ann Ochota FRGS considered the theme Explorers, Anthropologists and Tourists: what's the difference?

May saw the opening of the Man and Mountain Exhibition celebrating the life of Chris Bonington at Keswick Museum. The exhibition, thirteen months in the making, was curated by Julie Summers and funded by a successful Heritage Lottery Bid. It ran until 6 January 2019.

Charlotte McCarthy was recruited as the new Collections Manager of the MHT in June, covering Kelda Roe's maternity leave (see Recruitment section for more information) and commenced work in July.

The second RGS/MHT/FSC talk was held at Blencathra on 25th July and centered on the Mallory/Irvine 1924 Expedition to Mount Everest showcasing archive materials from both the RGS and MHT collections. Forty seven people attended the talk which raised three hundred pounds for the Trust.

In July, an article written by the MHT Collection Manager [Kelda Roe] entitled Gwen Moffatt: Britain's first female mountain guide appeared in the Special Repositories edition of the Archives and Records Association magazine.

Throughout the year the Trust has also worked to develop its collections taking in 56 new collections and individual objects. We have worked to promote access to the collections in our care by answering 129 enquiries and by supporting researchers and independent projects linked to mountain heritage. We have also been seen out and about promoting the Trust's work at a range of events – from the British Mountaineering Council AGM, to the Kendal Mountain Festival in November.

Enquiries and Acquisitions

Enquiries

We answered 129 enquiries in 2018, which is a significant increase on the number received in in 2017 (85). These ranged from requests for information and [to carry out] research, to offers of archive/library material, and requests for images for use in a variety of media.

Acquisitions

We had a wonderful range of acquisitions in 2018, 56 new donations ranging from a single book to over 50 boxes.

Significant donations have included:

- the Peter Boardman Collection
- the Burgess Collection
- the Nat Allen Collection (scrapbook & photographs)
- the Dorothy Kellogg Collection
- the Kenneth Leech Collection
- Mountain Equipment down suit originally used on the 1975 Everest SW Face expedition
- George Band's glacier glasses in tin, issued for 1953 Everest expedition
- numerous donations of kit, books and magazines
- donations of items for the Man & Mountain handling collection



Particularly interesting donations have included:

- five tubes of Glacier Cream (greasy and non-greasy)
- A cake in a tin that has been up Kangchenjunga (1950/1960s) and came back uneaten!!!
- A promotional matchbook advertising Kodak products and their use on expeditions to Everest.
- 43 commemorative medals issued by the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix



Projects

Man and Mountain Heritage Lottery Fund project

The Man and Mountain Exhibition formally opened on 19th May 2018, with the official launch taking place on 31st May. The exhibition was curated by Julie Summers. Keswick Museum implemented a comprehensive marketing campaign for the exhibition producing an additional banner (hung in Keswick town centre near the station), along with four AA road signs directing visitors to the museum and a promotional film which was screened at Keswick Cinema and the tourist information centre.

A booklet was also produced which featured text and images from the exhibition along with additional images, quotes from Chris Bonington's climbing friends and an introduction from the guest curator.

Alongside the Man and Mountain exhibition the Mountain Heritage Trust supported Keswick Museum's Learning Officer to link up with local climbers and mountaineers. The Learning Officer used these contacts to arrange a series of lecturers to run during the exhibition's display period. In the first four weeks of opening the exhibition received over 650 visitors. The exhibition closed on 6th January – more information on the feedback and visitor figures will be included in the 2019 Annual report.

Man and Mountain Learning and Engagement Programme

Recruited in 2017, as Learning and Engagement Officer for the Man and Mountain Project, Debbie Watson has been introducing young people and families to Chris Bonington's exciting and multi-faceted life; inspiring them to step into the outdoors and enjoy the mountains for themselves. Debbie works two days a week and will be in post for a year (extended until March 2019).

Using her previous expertise as a Primary Teacher, Debbie developed six kinaesthetic engagement activities for the exhibition. The activities include: a build the Eiger three-dimensional jigsaw, mountain location mapping, prayer flag design, mountain animals, tip tap paper quiz and climbing equipment shadow board. The activities were developed with children aged 3-11 in mind but have also proved to be popular with older audiences; particularly the climbing equipment shadow board which provides an accessible introduction to those items of specialist, technical equipment used by climbers and mountaineers.

She also developed a primary source based activity, drawing on the Chris Bonington Archive, for pilot with university groups via the Blencathra field centre. Three school sessions were also delivered at Keswick Museum. School sessions included: Grubs Up! Survival in the Mountains, Where in the World are these Mighty Mountains and Meet our Local Mountaineering Hero. Sessions were also run with members of staff at the Blencathra Centre and a group of Primary Education teaching students.

A volunteer was recruited from the Cumbria Youth Alliance in October 2018 to help create a book based on the life of Chris Bonington; the book will be launched in March 2019 – more information will be included on this in the 2019 Annual Report.

Man and Mountain Handling Collection

As part of the project, Debbie also put a call out to the mountaineering community requesting donations of items to develop a handling collection that could be used by schools for educational purposes. This was quite successful with many donors sending in varied items including clothing and equipment i.e. camping stoves, water cans and tents.

HLF Resilience Bid

The Trust submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Resilience Fund in December, which will help the organisation to create a Development Plan and blueprint for the next five years. The bid will support the employment of both a Project Manager and a Change Manager to help bring these plans to fruition. More information on this will be included in the 2019 report.

Mercers Company Preservation Project

In March, The Mercers Company agreed to extend the preservation project until November 2018. The company also agreed that the underspend still available in the shelving budget could be reallocated to other aspects of the project and this was spent on additional boxes, Tiny Tag temperature monitoring devices and two rolls of Tyvek (for wrapping oversize items).

The final project evaluation report was submitted to the company in December 2018; the company agreed that the remaining underspend in the project could be retained by the trust for the purchase of more boxes, a new dehumidifier and conservation materials.

New Catalogue Management System

The Trust was informed earlier in the year that the current catalogue on the MHT website would not be usable in six months due to an essential upgrade to the website which the database is not compatible with. A project was therefore implemented to examine and compare collections management software systems to find the most ideal package for the Trust.

The Collections Manager along with Will Lownsborough (trustee) visited several archives to survey the systems on offer i.e. Barclays Archives (DBTextworks), Borthwick Institute (Atom) and also had online demonstrations of Lucidea's Cuadra STAR and DS CALM.

A project tendering document was compiled which will be sent out to suppliers in early 2019. The costs of the system have been incorporated into the HLF Resilience Bid.

File Storage

Currently all of MHT's electronic files are stored on the desktop, with data being backed up to an external hard disk once a month. The hope is that going forward the Trust will be able to access a dedicated MHT server which would have benefits for disaster recovery, user management and file security; it would also potentially reduce the costs of a dedicated archive catalogue system if we had the capacity to host it in house. These costs have been included in the HLF Resilience Bid (see section for more information).

Savage Arena Exhibition

The Joe Tasker Savage Arena Exhibition moved to the Preston Park Museum in March; closing in June. This was the third time the exhibition had been curated and exhibited and was once again met with both positive visitor feedback and a significant footfall. As part of this tour a lecture was given by Chris Brown OBE, which helped to raise public awareness of the Trust and its aims. It is hoped that the exhibition will transfer to another venue in the near future.

GDPR

In accordance with the implementation of the new General Data Protection Regulations in May; the Collection Manager [Kelda] undertook several actions at the beginning of the year including:

- Adding privacy notices to any forms or agreements where the Trust collects personal data. Jonny has also undertaken this for the newsletter signup form on the website and also created a paper copy which will be handed out to any visitors to the office or event attendees.
- Standardisation of MHT filing systems: an electronic filing system was implemented for emails.
- The implementation of a records retention schedule for the Trust (started – needs further work).

Events

Date	Event
September 2017 - December 2018	British Women Climb Exhibition at Keswick Museum
05 February 2018	Visit by Braithwaite history group
16 February 2018	Tour of MHT for Japanese students from University of Cumbria
March – June 2018	Joe Tasker Savage Arena Exhibition at Preston Park Museum
13 April 2018	RGS NW Event at Blencathra: Explorers, Anthropologists & Tourists: what’s the difference?
May 2018 – January 2019	Man & Mountain Exhibition at Keswick Museum
25 July 2018	Visit by This Girl Did Project working party
25 July 2018	RGS NW Event at Blencathra: The 1924 British Mount Everest Expedition
September – December 2018	Scaling the Heights Exhibition at Oriental Museum, Durham
15 September 2018	RGS NW Event at Blencathra: Over the Horizon
8 th October 2018	Visit by Bassenthwaite Rotary Club
17 th October 2018	Visit to the archive by researcher Peter H. Hansen (Everest)
9 th November 2018	Visit to the archive by an undergraduate photography student at the University of Cumbria who was basing her final project on women climbers.
15-18 November 2018	Kendal Mountain Festival: women climbing theme to the BMC stand
15 th November 2018	Meeting with the University of Cumbria to talk about renewal of our Memorandum of Association
27 th November 2018	Meeting with MREW
November – December 2018	Chorley Hopkinson Memorial Library working days

5 th December 2018	Visit by Cathy from the Climbers Shop Ambleside to discuss us supporting them with their 60 th Anniversary in 2019 (more in the 2019 report)
10 th December 2018	Man & Mountain session with University of Cumbria primary education student teachers

Partnership Work

BMC

As a British Mountaineering Council Trust which is also part funded by the BMC, the Mountain Heritage Trust seeks to work more closely with the BMC. This year the Trust has collaborated with the BMC on a number of events and projects including:

- Attendance at the BMC AGM in April 2018
- Keswick Mountain Festival
- Kendal Mountain Festival (November)
- The Marketing of MHT
- Digital media (cross promotion of events and projects)

Keswick Museum

The Mountain Heritage Trust has an ongoing relationship with Keswick Museum and has hosted six temporary exhibitions since the museum's refurbishment in 2013. Collaboration has continued in 2018:

- The continuation of the British Women Climb exhibition (opened Sep 2017) which explores the history of British women's climbing and mountaineering. Graphics were designed by Chris Sherwin of CSDesigns. This exhibition was extended until February 2019.
- The opening of the HLF Funded Exhibition, Man & Mountain in May 2018, which will run until January 2019.
- Initial work on Scaling the Heights exhibition which will transfer to the museum in February 2019.

Scaling the Heights

Artists Stephen and Margaret Livingstone worked in partnership with Abbie Gilmore of Durham University on a project linking mountain heritage, mountaineering libraries and childhood nostalgia. They researched some of the most iconic Himalayan climbs in mountaineering history and recreated them in miniature using two vintage action men at significant mountaineering libraries and archives, including here at MHT.

An exhibition showcasing images of these climbs opened at the Oriental Museum in on 20th September 2018 and ran until 21 December. The exhibition showcased items borrowed from the MHT Archives. This exhibition will move to Keswick Museum in February 2019.

This Girl Did – Wordsworth Trust

In July, the Trust hosted a visit by Melissa Mitchell (Wordsworth Trust), artist Alex Jakob-Whitworth and local GP, Paul Davies who project were managing a series of events commemorating the climbing by Dorothy Wordsworth of Scafell Pike on 7 October 1818.

The purpose of the visit was for them to get some insight into women climbers of the period; they also visited the Women Climb exhibition at Keswick Museum for inspiration.

Royal Geographical Society (North West Region)

A collaboration between the Trust, Blencathra Field Centre and The Royal Geographical Society culminated in a series of talks held in Threlkeld. The talks included:

- Explorers, Anthropologists & Tourists: what's the difference? By Mary Ann Ochota FRGS (13 April)
- The 1924 British Mount Everest Expedition by Eugene Rae, Dr Carol Osbourne and John Innerdale (25 July)
- Over the Horizon by Nigel Vardy (15 September)

Having been so successful this year, discussions are already taking place between the three organisations to host another programme of talks in 2019.

Allan Bank – National Trust

In June 2018, it was agreed with the National Trust to extend the loan agreement in relation to Lord Chorley's Mountaineering Library for a period of three months; this has since been extended further until early 2019.

MHT are currently working with Suzannah Brown the National Trust's Collections Registrar for the North to inventory and catalogue the books onto the NT's CMS system. After this has been completed the collection will be moved to open shelving making it more accessible and user friendly to the general public/visitors to the property.

University of Cumbria

The Mountain Heritage Trust continues to maintain its stores at the University of Cumbria's Ambleside campus. The University is currently looking to develop its heritage partnerships more seriously; with this in mind the MHT Collections Manager [Kelda] attended a meeting in March 2018 with: Jo Chaffer (a consultant who has led on the new University of Cumbria Ambleside development plan), Roddy Hunter (Head of the Institute of Arts, University of Cumbria), Deborah Walsh (Curator, Armit Museum) and Gabrielle Heffernan (Curatorial Manager, Tullie House Museum); at which it was proposed that a joint working group was set up with the specific aims of exploring how the University can further open up their campus through public engagement and exploration of the cultural landscape.

A further meeting was held in November 2018 with Dr Lois Mansfield, the new Director of the University's Ambleside campus, in which we discussed new ways of working and the drawing up of a three year memorandum of understanding. More information on this will be included within the 2019 Annual Report.

Kendal Mountain Festival

The Trust supported the BMC stand at the Kendal Mountain Festival, 15-18th November 2018. Jonny worked closely with the BMC marketing team to theme their stand around Women Climbers; the end result included images of female climbers including Mabel Barker and Gwen Moffatt; an article also appeared in the Winter Edition of Summit.

MREW

A meeting took place between staff from MREW including the Vice Chairman of Operations Mike Margeson and MHT in November 2018. The meeting looked at possible development of a heritage programme (creation of an archive/oral history programme) at the organisation and how MHT could help them undertake this. More information in this project will be included in the 2019 report.

Recruitment

Trustees

In February an advert was placed in various online locations calling for new Trustees to support the Trust – specifically in office management, human resources and strategy writing. Following shortlisting and interview, we welcomed Chris Martin (Strategy) and Christine Renouf (HR).

In August, Dr Carol Osbourne resigned as a Trustee due to other commitments. Carol became a Trustee in 2017 and, in addition to her longstanding enthusiasm for the history of British climbing and experience of managing events, she made a significant impact on the work of the Trust through the organisation of talks and events. The Trust thanks Carol for her hard work and support of mountain heritage.

Jeff Ford stepped down as MHT Chairman and trustee in September 2018 (a post he had held for 6 years) and was replaced by Terry Tasker.

Collections Manager (Maternity Cover)

Charlotte McCarthy was recruited as the Collections Manager (Maternity Cover) in June 2018. A qualified archivist with over twenty years' experience in specialist and business archives (Laban, Diageo and Boots UK), she undertook an MA Art Gallery & Museum Studies at the University of Manchester, graduating in 2017. Most recently she has volunteered for the National Trust (Lyme Park) and at ARC Stockport.

Current Staff

Administrator and Social Media Coordinator

Since the start of the year Jonny's predominant marketing focus has been to build more strategic content in to the Mountain Heritage Trusts communications channels. Working closely with Will Lownsbrough, MHT's communications are now not only responsive to day to day events and news, but planned months in advance to a consistent message.

The first of these campaigns dealt with the evolution of the ice axe which consisted of both image and copy based content that was marketed across web, social media and email. Following on from this was the large campaign of the year on MHT's Man and Mountain exhibition, which started from April. Jonny again produced a large quantity of written and image based content which brought elements of the exhibition to an online audience, increasing the reach of this Heritage Lottery Funded project. This is ongoing until January 2019.

Currently Jonny is planning the next campaign which will focus around Mountain Rescue and he is seeking to link in with Mountain Rescue England and Wales to support this marketing project. This work has seen an increase in reach of 46,000 people on Twitter in the first half of 2018 compared with the second half of 2017.

Jonny also ran a separate GDPR campaign to maintain as many email subscribers as possible and re-subscriber rates were well above industry expectations. This has been accompanied with added promotion of the MHT newsletter which has seen further added increases in subscribers. Numbers since last August have increased by 12%.

The core administrative tasks are ongoing; minutes, agendas, enquiries and orders are actioned promptly and Jonny continues to assist the Collections Manager wherever possible.

Jonny also takes on a substantial amount of extra work outside of the core job role such as assisting with events and fixing any IT or office issues that arise. He also created a new design for the general MHT leaflet which was out of date and has worked with Will Lownsborough to completely update the Mountain Heritage Trust website.

Volunteers

The Trust currently has three dedicated and passionate volunteers who come in 1 day a week to support the Collection Manager in the day to day running of the archive. They are currently supporting the accessioning and cataloguing of the Peter Boardman collection, assisting on various advertising and repackaging projects and organising the library collections.

The Trust also hosted a two week work experience student this year who focussed largely on the Man and Mountain exhibition volunteer projects.

Other Activities

- The Collections Manager [Kelda] attended the Cumbria Museums Consortium conference in June, attending sessions on good practice and governance.
- Several groups asked for tours of the MHT archive this year which has raised awareness of the Collection; going forward it is hoped that this will continue.
- The Collections Manager wrote an article on Gwen Moffatt that appeared in the Journal of the Archives Association.
- The MHT Social Media co-ordinator compiled an article on Ice Axes which will appear in Summit Magazine.