



SLACC-*tt* Annual Report 2019

Charity Number No. 1139474

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1. Trustees Report

Overview:

In 2019 our Trustees were:

Chair: Angela Lovett

Treasurer: Robin Cope

Trustees: Sally Fleming, Chris Rowley, Karen

Bentley-Brown, Helen Pateman

Town Council representatives: Jon Owen and Eamonn Hennessy



The Trustees oversee the governance of SLACC-*tt*. Many SLACC-*tt* policies were updated in 2019 to keep them fit-for-purpose as our activities changed. We meet every two months on Thursdays from 7.30-9.30 pm to plan and review progress. We recruit trustees from among our members and by spreading the word amongst other groups, and encourage anyone interested in becoming a Trustee to attend a meeting and talk with existing Trustees to better gauge whether becoming a Trustee is for them. We welcome new Trustees with all levels of experience – all we ask is that you bring a can-do attitude and share our values. Current guidance suggests that the Trustees of Charities should change after a period of about 3 years.

Members and supporters are welcome to attend any Trustees meeting, by request. We ask for prior notice of matters attendees wish to raise for adding to the agenda.

Meetings for 2020: June 4; August 6; October 1; December 3.

Tracey Gannon provides administrative support to the Trustees and further supported SLACC-*tt* in 2019 by registering volunteers for the Kendal Peoples Cafe.

Insurance

Our policy with Zurich (Policy No. XAO 1220618953) is valid until March 2021. This covers all our activities with a maximum of 2 full time equivalent volunteers (up to 70 hours/week).

Constitution

Our constitution is unchanged since its last ratification on 13 January 2011.

Objectives

SLACC-*tt* undertakes to 1) promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, and 2) raise public awareness about the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

In furtherance of these objectives, SLACC-*tt* aims to:

- 1) increase local awareness of local and global issues surrounding climate change;
- 2) reduce South Lakeland's overall greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels;
- 3) establish and support South Lakeland as a Transition District;
- 4) minimise the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the group's activities.

2. Campaigning

We must again thank Dr. Henry Adams for his diligent work in ensuring that our campaigning activities are continued with the credibility that careful referencing and widespread dialogue with experts in the field brings.

8.4 million tonnes

Annual predicted emissions from extraction of coal at Whitehaven That is double the current net annual emissions for the whole of Cumbria

Source “The Case against new coal mines in the UK”

Green Alliance January 2020 by Rebecca Willis, Mike Berners Lee, Rosie Watson & Mike Elm

Whitehaven coal mine

SLACC-*tt* first wrote to object to this proposal at the beginning of 2018. Over a year later, on 19 March 2019, and despite referenced written and verbal submissions by Henry Adams (on behalf of SLACC-*tt*), Maggie Mason and others on the climate change impact of the Whitehaven coal mine proposal, a Cumbria County Council (CCC) planning committee voted unanimously to approve the application.



SLACC-*tt* continues to campaign against this decision

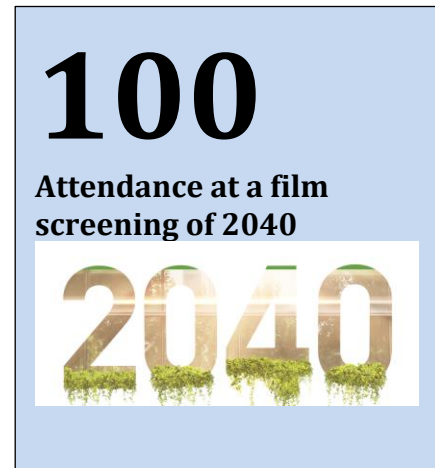
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/15/new-cumbria-coalmine-incompatible-with-climate-crisis-goals>

3. Education and Awareness

Film Screenings at the Brewery Arts Centre in Kendal

We were involved with the Brewery Arts Centre in the screenings of the following films:

- **Sorry We Missed you**
- **2040**
- **Capernaum**



Presentations

Bike generator

Our 8-bike generator is now stored with Becky Willis. It has been much used in 2019, or at least parts of it were, with the smoothie generator in particular in use for 2 events at Kendal Leisure Centre. We are currently seeking a new team to take on running and managing it as a means of energy education.

Edible Planters

Three Town council planters are managed by our volunteers. Chris Poole manages one at the Leisure Centre and Liz Wright another 2, outside Maudes Meadow. We have also facilitated the management of two more planters outside the South Lakes Foyer which are currently being developed by Gudrun Fritz who works at the Foyer for Impact.

Monthly newsletter

Twelve editions of the SLACC-*tt* newsletter have enabled many local activities to be publicised to more than 160 readers each month. Thanks to Tracey Gannon for her work on this during 2019.

Social media

We continue to have a website, Twitter account and Facebook account. All need regular monitoring and in 2020 we need to find new volunteers to help us manage these alongside a clear policy on how we do that.

2038

Insects counted during
the duration of the
Pollinators Project by the
720 children involved

4. SLACC-tt Key Activities

i) Pollinators Project



Over the last 3 years SLACC-tt has managed a Citizen Science project on pollination involving 720 children, mixing classroom learning and outdoor real science. Children talking about the experience of taking part in surveys said they'd enjoyed the project with many taking the importance of pollination to friends and family, and some children making artworks to express what they've got out of their surveys. The partner schools and groups involved welcomed Project Coordinator Ian Rodham's report on the children's findings: many are continuing with work on pollination, with some having already or intending to set up their own wildflower areas.

This Project received the support of Kendal Town Council, South Lakes District Council plus seed corn funding from the Ernest Cook Trust and advice from the Centre for Hydrology and Ecology at Lancaster University.

Feedback included these comments from children and teachers involved.

"The report makes for really fascinating reading. It will be great to share this with the children and see what discussions it generates"

"[T]he Year 5 children were delighted to receive the outside banner that they were involved in making with Nicki the artist, as the culmination of the pollinator project. [The banner] is incredible – so vibrant and colourful and so child-friendly. The kids loved spotting their art contributions."

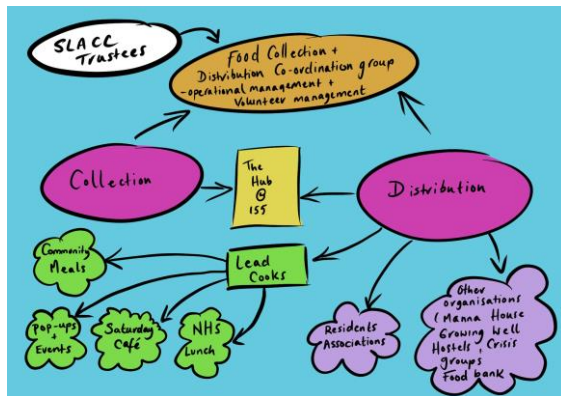
1 metric tonne

Food rescued from waste from August to October 2019

ii) Kendal People's Café



The Kendal People's Café (KPC), based at the South Lakes Foyer served over 3000 meals in 2019 as well as distributed large quantities of fresh food to those



who needed it. Most of this food would otherwise have been destroyed and added to methane emissions. This fits perfectly with SLACC-*tt*'s stated aim to reduce South Lakeland's overall greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels.

KPC became a constituent group of SLACC-*tt* in April 2018. Thanks to a grant from the Freida Scott Trust we have been able to take on Stacy Hurley on a part time contract to help manage the operation in 2020.

The Café has a group of enthusiastic volunteers who currently process, distribute and prepare food made from supermarket and local shop surplus, collected from the following businesses:

- Morrisons supermarket
- Booths supermarket
- Parsons (fruit and vegetable wholesalers)
- Plumgarths Artisan bakery
- Growing Well
- Tesco Express
- Comida
- Asda supermarket

Beneficiaries included various Residents' Associations, Pop up Café's such as the Simply Repair Cafe and the Lads and Girls Club.



In 2019 SLACC-*tt* members negotiated the lease of @155 Stricklandgate (shown above). The building was first renovated and decorated, then fitted with fridges and freezers for the storage of food that would otherwise be wasted.

5. Related Activities on Climate Change

- **Simply Repair** continued to hold free pop-up repair workshops, with volunteer repairers on hand to help people mend clothes, small electricals and other household items.
- **Open Space** held regular monthly meetings.
- **Sustainable Staveley**
- **Kendal Quakers**
- **Global Justice Now South Lakes**
- **South Lakeland District Council (SLDC)** ran a series of public consultations on climate change throughout the summer coordinated and managed by Cllr Giles Archibald and the SLDC environment portfolio holder Dyan Jones.
- **Cumbria Action for Sustainability** Together with other Cumbrian groups we are supporting a bid for funding from the Lottery Environmental Fund
- **Sprint Mill**
- **Cumbria Wildlife Trust**
- **Extinction Rebellion South Lakes (XRSL)**
- **KASTLE** (Which has grown out of the student strike movement in Kendal)

20

Approximate number of other groups active in the South Lakes on climate change issues

6. Progress on targets from 2018 annual report

- We have continued to support the development of the Kendal People's Café and the Hub;
- We still need to find new ways to manage our social media;
- We continue to aim to engage more people in supporting our campaigning activities;
- We have supported and monitored the Town and District Councils in their adoption of emergency climate change policy;
- We developed a business plan for Kendal People's Café and made successful grant applications for a part time coordinator for KPC and the food distribution centre.

Targets for 2020

1. Increase our membership and to collaborate with other groups in the area which have similar interests and aims;
2. Find funding to secure the continued support of the new part-time coordinator for the Kendal Peoples Café and food Hub;
3. Respond to developments and grow the KPC and food hub alongside our business plan;
4. Continue supporting those members who wish to focus on campaigning on issues that our charitable objectives support;
5. Continue to support community resilience after the Covid-19 virus emergency period has passed;
6. Increase membership of SLACC-*tt* from our Kendal People's Cafe and Waste into Wellbeing volunteers;
7. Continue to support and monitor the Town and District Councils in their adoption of emergency climate change policy;
8. Set up an active travel network to promote walking and cycling locally.

7. Membership

There are approximately 60 paying members.

Membership fees contribute vital funds to meet the production costs of the SLACC-*tt* monthly newsletter, which typically reaches 160 subscribers each month. This free newsletter shares topical news, events and project updates and is a much valued resource.

Administered formerly by SLACC-*tt* officers, membership has grown organically over the years. The administrative burden has increased as members pay by different means and it takes time to manage each member's data and renewal.

Attempts to prompt members to use BT MyDonate to pay membership fees initially worked well until the service was discontinued during 2019.

In December 2019, following a successful focussed advertising campaign, a volunteer membership administrator was recruited. Lisa Kenton brought with her a wealth of experience of working with a national children's charity and membership administration skills.

Memberships are already growing and new membership fee choices are now available for members, ranging from £10 per year. We are delighted that some members are now choosing to pay far more than the minimum £10.

Throughout the coming year existing members will be encouraged to migrate to using an established payment gateway, Go Cardless, to renew their membership fees. The new system allows members to choose how much they pay for membership and reduces the administrative burden on officers and Trustees.

We aim to increase membership numbers going forward whilst continuing to streamline the signup process making use of low cost digital tools available to us. Having members able to sign up via the website is one such goal. Also, claiming Gift Aid is now possible as Gift Aid forms are actively collected.

Where possible, membership will be encouraged at events hosted by SLACC. This area is one for development over the coming years as more people wake up to the climate crisis we face and want to make a difference.

8. Volunteering opportunities with SLACC-*tt*

SLACC-*tt* needs you for a range of administrative tasks and support for our campaigning activities. We are also always interested to hear *your* proposals, although our policy is not to take on new projects unless the capacity is there to run them.

We particularly need volunteers for the Kendal People's Café continuing development of @155 Stricklandgate as a food distribution hub. Helpers are needed to help monitor, manage and record food kept freezers and other storage facilities; support food preparation sessions and help in the bi-monthly Café and support a wide range of other tasks. Applications to join our team of volunteers should be emailed to slacc@slacc.org.uk in order to arrange an initial meeting and discussion.