

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST



**Annual Report & Accounts**

APRIL 2005 - MARCH 2006

## Company Information

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### Directors

Dr Arthur Mitchell – Chair  
Ms Isabel Hood – Vice Chair  
Mr William John Martin – Company Secretary  
Mr Jim Saunders – Treasurer  
Mr William Burns  
Mrs Rosemary Chestnutt  
Mr Seamus Doyle  
Mr Issac Hanna  
Mr John Ingram  
Mr Patrick Kelly  
Ms Maureen Killen  
Mr Sean McCarthy  
Mr Frank McDowell  
Mr John McGrillen  
Mrs Carmel O'Boyle  
Mr Desmond Patterson  
Mr David Thompson  
Mrs Jo Whatmough

### Secretary

W J Martin – Company Secretary

### Company Number

NI 32946

### Registered Office

87 Central Promenade  
Newcastle  
Co Down  
BT33 0HH

### Auditors

McClure Watters  
Number One  
Lanyon Quay  
Belfast BT1 3GP

### Bankers

Bank of Ireland Ltd  
19 Greencastle Street  
Kilkeel, Co Down  
BT34 4BH

### Solicitors

McBurney & Co  
5 Church Square  
Banbridge  
Co Down  
BT32 4AS

Our mission:

*‘to sustain and enhance the environment,  
rural regeneration, cultural heritage and  
visitor opportunities of the Mourne and  
Slieve Croob Area of Outstanding Natural  
Beauty and contribute to the well-being of  
Mourne’s communities’*

Nothing satisfies a Chairman and Board more than to work with an enthusiastic and committed staff. That is what we have in the Mourne Heritage Trust and I thank them on behalf of the Board for their efforts throughout the past year. Tony Gates, our previous CEO, left us in the autumn of 2005 having been selected by Northumberland National Park to become their CEO. In the interim Camilla Fitzpatrick, who was managing the Natural Resource Rural Tourism Programme, seamlessly and capably took over the 'hot seat' in addition to her own role, until we were able to fill the post permanently. I was delighted, on behalf of the Board and Staff, to welcome our new CEO, Martin Carey, when he joined us in February. He has joined at a particularly busy time as we are about to start, on behalf of our funders, to draw up our next Three Year Operational Plan.

We are extremely grateful to our funders whose continued support will ensure that we can carry on 'Caring for Mourne' until, hopefully, a Mourne National Park Management Authority will subsume our role and functions. I must add however that this is far from a 'done deal'. The Mourne National Park Working Party is working its way through a painstaking process of research, discussion and consultation prior to reporting to the appropriate Minister in the early summer of 2007.

The primary legislation to support a National Park has been delayed due to the need to produce new legislation to support the Review of Public Administration in Northern Ireland and now may not be in place until 2009. The earliest opportunity, therefore, to declare a National Park in Northern Ireland may not arise until 2010. We have great concerns with these delays because the farming and fishing communities in particular here in Mourne are under severe and progressing financial pressures and we must rapidly build alternative economies to support them.

In the meantime the Mourne Heritage Trust works on. As well as our work to care for Mourne we continue to manage the Natural Resource Rural Tourism Initiative. We anticipate that we will have all funds committed by the end of 2006, a total of almost £2.5 million. When you add to that our Built Heritage Programmes, a package of almost £1.5 million, and all our other non-core projects you will find that we are still attaining our targets. We have been raising funds so that for every £1 pound invested in our core functions we have attracted at least £4. However, as European Funding recedes as we move towards 2013 the competition for the remaining funding will dramatically increase and we are unable to forecast what our success rate in the future will be.

Mourne Heritage Trust alone therefore cannot deliver what is required to meet the social, economic and environmental pressures in Mourne before damage is done to our natural resources, our built and cultural heritage and, most importantly, our indigenous communities.



A radical yet appropriate solution must be sought. A Mourne National Park (Celtic Model) offers a solution. Such a Park would have a substantial budget of perhaps £3 to £4 million to invest in the area and this would go a long way to revive our faltering rural economy. I urge the people of Mourne and indeed the rest of Northern Ireland to seriously enter the debate about National Parks. The socio-economic advantages are there throughout the world for all to see. I have yet to discover one that has been closed down. We have an opportunity to learn from others, capitalise on the advantages and mitigate any disadvantages. It is up to us to examine the options and then to decide the way forward.

We look forward therefore to the consultative phase of the process, when we all will have the opportunity to have a rational and reasoned debate. This will give us a chance to 'lay to rest' the myths, legends and at times misleading statements that surround the subject of National Parks and to develop a consensus to move forward into a sustainable future for us all. Having lived and worked in Mourne for forty years the declaration of a National Park here appears to me to be our only option to create a sustainable economy for our future generations. If anyone has a better plan for the future then let us hear about it now. However, just saying no, for the sake of not wanting to change, could deny a priceless opportunity.

On a sad note, in the last year the Trust and the Mourne area lost a true friend with the passing of Gerry Douglas, a longstanding Board member. Gerry had a deep affinity with the Mourne area and its people and was an enthusiastic advocate for a Mourne National Park. He is also fondly remembered by his colleagues on the Board for his keen and warm sense of humour.

Lastly but not least, I would thank the Board for their dedication and commitment, throughout the past year, to the Mourne Heritage Trust and for 'Caring for Mourne'.



Dr Arthur Mitchell, MBE, Chairman



It is my privilege for the first time to present the Annual Report and Accounts of the Mourne Heritage Trust. Having taken up post in February 2006 I was immediately struck by the enthusiasm and knowledge of not only the Trust staff but also a very supportive and committed Board of Trustees. This positive impression is also testament to the work of my predecessor, Tony Gates, who oversaw the development of the Trust from its inception. In addition, I must particularly acknowledge the contribution in the last year of Camilla Fitzpatrick, who acted as CEO for several months. While the year has been one of significant transition for the Trust - with change also taking place in key personnel in the Built Heritage and Countryside Services functions - it was also one in which much was achieved.

As the Mourne National Park Working Party continued its consideration of a possible National Park in Mourne, the importance of sustainable management of the Mourne and Slieve Croob AONB came into even sharper relief. A Boundary Study highlighted the quality of the landscape by recognising the majority of it as of National Park standard. However the study also emphasised its vulnerability in concluding that some landscapes within the AONB did not currently meet the exacting criteria applied. While this report has provoked much debate on the National Park issue, the Trust has continued to do what it can within relatively limited resources to protect and enhance this important area.

Our Ranger Service and Countryside Team continued to deliver essential environmental and visitor management functions, while also finding time to complete work on a new Nature Trail at the Silent Valley and to further develop a Tree Nursery at the same location. Meanwhile, our Biodiversity Officer engaged with a wide range of stakeholders to produce and agree a draft Biodiversity Action Plan for Mourne. This painstaking work will ensure that there is a coherent vision to guide agencies, groups and the general public in protecting the rich diversity of life in the AONB.

As in previous years the Mourne Conservation Volunteers and Volunteer Rangers made a vital contribution. An exciting development this year was the appointment of a Volunteer Co-ordinator to take forward the Active Lifestyles programme. This was the catalyst for an extension of the Trust's volunteering opportunities to young people and special needs groups.

The Trust's Sustainable Tourism Conference in June 2006 attracted a large number of private sector tourism businesses while also providing a platform for the launch of the Mourne Sustainable Tourism Manual. This was complemented by a Tourism Training Programme which far exceeded its target for participants and earned very positive feedback.

Another exciting development for the Trust in the course of the year was to see restoration work on three traditional rural dwellings under the Mourne Homesteads Scheme take shape. This provided an inspirational example of how thoughtful design and traditional building techniques can be combined to provide modern accommodation without compromising the heritage value of these important landmarks in our rural landscape. The innovative nature of the Mourne Homesteads Scheme was recognised with its nomination as a finalist in the National Lottery Awards.

The Trust's website 'www.mournelive.com' has developed as a key information source to visitors and the general public with a number of new features added. Complementing these developments, the Trust has continued to produce high quality publications and to provide an AONB information and advice service.

Looking to the future the Trust is now entering the final year of its 3 year Operational Planning cycle in which effective delivery must be combined with an eye to the future. Consultations on a possible National Park in Mourne will rightly occupy the minds of many in the locality and beyond in the coming months. While such a development remains under consideration the day-to-day management and sustainable development of the Mourne and Slieve Croob AONB remains an urgent need. Mourne Heritage Trust will consequently be engaging with stakeholders to identify and cater for priority tasks. Increased pressure on government expenditure and a reduced level of EU funding to Northern Ireland present a challenging context to so do. Nonetheless, I am confident, given the track record, ability and commitment of the Trustees, staff and volunteers, that this challenge will be met with the commitment and creativity that has characterised the work of Mourne Heritage Trust to date.

Martin Carey, Chief Executive

## Overview of Operations

### RANGER SERVICE

The Trust's full-time Area Ranger continued to be a key element of the organisation's interface with both the natural environment and the public. As well as regularly monitoring countryside access and use and reporting any natural or man-made changes observed, the Ranger has helped to promote positive links between landowners, local communities, visitors, business sectors and volunteers, acting as a key contact for advice, information and practical assistance. In addition, the Ranger service responded to over 50 public enquiries and complaints on issues such as illegal dumping, abandoned cars, litter, fires and vandalism.

As well as these and other ongoing tasks the Ranger made a significant contribution to a number of specific projects during the course of the year. These included the monitoring, maintenance and download of data from electronic visitor counters installed at a range of strategic points across the AONB. This data will form a key resource for the Trust and other agencies in planning for the future. Adding to the Trust's information base the Ranger also co-ordinated a survey of the status of the Mourne Wall, conducted by Volunteer Rangers and the Conservation Volunteers.



*Dave Farnan, Area Ranger and Alan Whitcroft, Volunteer Co-ordinator in the Trust's tree nursery at the Silent Valley*

### VOLUNTEERING

The Mourne Conservation Volunteers continued work throughout the year on various practical environmental projects. 27 events were held during the reporting period which provided 191 days of work in support of AONB management, the equivalent of £9,550 worth of labour. 15 new volunteers registered during the year bringing the total volunteer register to 60.

An exciting development for the Trust was the provision of new volunteering opportunities under the banner of an 'Active Lifestyles' programme funded by Environment and Heritage Service and the 'Big Lottery'.

### Key Volunteer Outputs 2005/06 at a glance

- Significant works on the Silent Valley Tree Nursery were completed, bringing it into a fully operational state and suitable to receive volunteer groups with a range of physical abilities.
- Volunteers also took part in seed collection of Oak, Hazel and Scots Pine to contribute to programme of growing native tree species at the tree nursery.
- Extensive vegetation clearance work took place on the Silent Valley Nature Trail in preparation for its opening.
- Volunteers were involved in planting of native trees at Hanna's Close, hedges on a 'Mourne Homesteads' Project and heather at the new Fofanny Water Treatment Works.
- Litter collection and preservative treatment of stiles in the High Mournes took place on an ongoing basis.
- Volunteer Rangers and Volunteers completed a survey of the status of the Mourne Wall.

A part time Volunteer Co-ordinator, recruited in November 2005, co-ordinated a volunteering programme for special needs groups and began planning for a Mourne Youth Ranger Scheme to be piloted in Summer 2006.

Meanwhile the Trust continued to develop Volunteer Rangers as part of its longer term volunteering activities. At the end of the reporting period there were 4 registered and active with the Trust, acting as assistant leaders on the Guided Walks programme and helping oversee the programme of practical volunteering projects. While this represented a decrease from 2004-05, the Volunteer Ranger Programme increased its outputs from previous years. As well as providing an additional 36 volunteer days the Volunteer Rangers enhanced the impacts of their work by themselves recruiting additional voluntary help to their team for work in the High Mournes.

### BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PROGRAMME

During this year the Biodiversity Programme focused on finalising the Mourne Biodiversity Action Plan (Mourne BAP) and strengthening partnerships with statutory, voluntary and community bodies. By the end of the year a substantial draft of the plan had been completed, with the final document due for publication in the early autumn of 2006.

The Trust's Natural Heritage Sub Group brought a range of experts and stakeholders together on seven occasions to provide input to on the development of the Mourne BAP. This group also devoted considerable time to supporting the development of the Eastern Mourne Special Area of Conservation/Area of Special Scientific Interest Land Management Plan and responding to consultations on the Environment

and Heritage Service Strategic Plan and the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy.

With current funding for the Biodiversity Programme continuing through to February 2007 the focus now will be on raising awareness of the Mourne BAP among various organisations and the Mourne community and on developing projects for the implementation of the Mourne BAP actions to preserve and enhance bio-diversity.

### **MOURNE FARMER LIAISON GROUP**

The Trust has continued to maintain links with the farming community through its Farmers' Liaison Group. The group continues to meet biannually to provide a forum for discussion on issues of interest to the group. The group contributed to the development of the Eastern Mournes SAC Land Management Plan through a consultation session.



*Launch of education worksheets at All Childrens' Primary School, Newcastle*

relating to the Mourne Area and were distributed to every Primary School within the Mourne AONB. The sheets complement and draw upon the information contained in the existing range of fact sheets on the AONB and aim to stimulate both interest in and awareness of the local environment among our young people.

In addition a number of school visits to the Silent Valley Nature Trail and Tree Nursery were facilitated by the Ranger Service while trees produced at the Tree Nursery were provided free of charge for planting schemes in local primary schools. The Biodiversity Officer devoted time with several local groups to the development of various new community environmental projects, which will be submitted to possible funders. The Trust's Countryside Team provided support for the Belfast Royal Academy Litter Day in December 2005.

### **SAFER MOURNES PARTNERSHIP**

The Trust continued to chair for the Safer Mournes Partnership, a multi agency group aimed at strategically tackling safety and fire issues in the Mourne AONB. The partnership met twice during the year is planning to develop a Management Strategy for Wildfires and Emergencies.



*Catherine Murphy, Biodiversity Officer, planting a giant bird table at the Granite Trail, Newcastle, with the help of local schoolchildren*

### **SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

During the year the Trust commissioned and oversaw the research, design and production of 14 educational worksheets for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils. Launched at All Childrens' Pri7y School, Newcastle, in March 2006, the worksheets focused on seven key themes

*Catherine Murphy, Biodiversity Officer, with Down District Council Officers at wildflower meadow planted at Dundrum Inner Bay car park*



## VISITOR SURVEYS AND VISITOR MONITORING EFFORTS CONTINUE

The Trust has continued to build its knowledge bank in relation to visitor motivation and behaviours in the open countryside of the Mourne AONB.

A visitor survey was undertaken on behalf of the Mourne Heritage Trust by Research and Evaluation Services for the second year running. The outcomes of the survey, conducted at 14 key visitor locations within the AONB in the summer of 2005, were widely disseminated to the Trust's tourism and management partners and local tourism businesses.

Work continued to monitor, test and fully operationalise the electronic pedestrian and vehicle counters installed at 23 locations across the AONB. A number of problems including vandalism, defective elements, and even the removal of a counter by the Army Bomb Disposal Unit were resolved to allow the preparation of the first visitor monitoring report in February 2006.

As this information is built upon it will yield important data on the number and pattern of visits to key visitor sites, helping to target future strategies for managing the distribution of visits throughout the AONB and planning future service delivery.

## Overview of Operations

### COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The Trust employed a team of two full-time Countryside Officers, supplemented during the busier summer period by three temporary workers, to maintain the ever expanding provision of visitor infrastructure in the AONB. The Countryside Team's main outputs for the year are summarised below.

#### Key Countryside Management outputs

- Weekly maintenance of 19 car parks including litter clearance, grass cutting, graffiti removal and essential maintenance of site furniture and boundaries e.g. picnic tables, fences, bins.
- Maintenance of 44 public rights of way, green lanes and paths including removal of obstructions, hedge cutting and strimming of grass verges.
- Maintenance of 7 way-marked cycle routes with a total of 182 directional plates on wooden posts. Functions include clearing surrounding vegetation, removing graffiti, replacement of missing and broken plates and posts.
- Maintenance of 55 stiles within the High Mournes including treatment with wood preservative and replacement of metal mesh protection grills where necessary.
- Inspection of 54 Interpretative panels with maintenance, cleaning and essential repairs.
- Annual flailing of hedges on the rights of way network completed in February 2006.



*Countryside team on their way to install a stile*

### WALK, TALK AND PEDAL PROGRAMME

The Trust continued to offer a programme of 20 guided walks throughout the year. Summer and winter walks catering for a range of abilities took place on a variety of routes throughout the Mourne Mountains and Slieve Croob led by a former Volunteer Ranger and assisted by existing volunteer rangers. A cycling event entitled 'Pedal the Park' was organised in July 2005 in Castlewellan Forest Park to encourage adults and children of all ages to take advantage of the many cycling opportunities across the Mourne AONB.

### ACCESS TRAIL & VISITOR SITE ENHANCEMENT

With significant input from the Countryside Team, the Ranger and Mourne Conservation Volunteers, work was completed this year on a new nature trail at the Silent Valley in preparation for its launch in April 2006. The path reopened the route of the old railway line used during the construction of the Silent Valley Dam which had been overgrown for many years. The project also included the installation of a picnic area beside the Kilkeel River and fauna and flora information points along the trail.



*Countryside Team and Volunteer Ranger David Wilson at the Launch of Silent Valley Nature Trail*

The Ranger Service carried out audits in April, June and August of the condition of 43 paths, bridleways and other public rights of way, with survey forms submitted to the District Council's Access Officers for action. The Trust continued to engage with District Councils and other stakeholders regarding the possible establishment of a Mourne Way Route linking Newcastle and Rostrevor. A key objective is to attract funding to install adequate signage, interpretation and bridges along the route to make this project a reality.

During the year discussions were also held with council officers on a project to upgrade car parks across the AONB to be prepared. Planning

applications were submitted in March 2006 and the project is expected to be implemented later in the year.

### **MOURNE COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION STRATEGY REVIEW**

A review of this strategy, which was originally prepared in 2002, was undertaken through the Mourne Countryside Recreation Working Group (CRWG) and a number of meetings with key stakeholders. As the original strategy period finishes in 2006 priority activities for an extension of the strategy were identified and will be fed into the forthcoming MHT Operational Plan for 2007-2010.

## **Sustainable Tourism**

### **SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CONFERENCE AND MANUAL TO PROMOTE EUROPEAN CHARTER**

In June 2005 Mourne Heritage Trust organised a Sustainable Tourism Conference targeted primarily at private sector tourism businesses. This conference was also used as a platform to launch the Mourne Sustainable Tourism Manual, which provides practical guidance for businesses in adopting sustainable practices. Expert speakers from other regions of Europe including Parc Naturel Regional du Luberon (France) and Harz National Park (Germany) gave presentations to approximately 50 local business representatives.



*Official launch of the Burren Environmental Improvement Scheme*

The Conference was a key element of the Trust's work in maintaining the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, of which it became the first recipient in the United Kingdom and Ireland in 2003. To further promote the principles of sustainable tourism in the area expressions of interest were sought at the Conference for a private sector tourism forum. It is anticipated that development of the forum will progress in line with work on the Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Signature Project for the Mournes.

In terms of international co-operation, the Trust also continued to work with partners across the EU

Charter Park's Network to share best practice and develop new approaches to the Charter.

### **SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PROGRAMME (NRRTI)**

The main focus for the Natural Resource Rural Tourism Initiative this year has been achieving project expenditure, including expenditure on a number of projects delivered directly by the Trust. In the earlier part of the year a number of larger capital projects had encountered difficulties mostly relating to statutory consents but the majority of these issues were resolved to make a positive impact on the level of overall programme expenditure.

By the end of March 2006, the Trust had achieved significant project expenditure of £1,458,062. NRRTI now enters its final year in which the programme will be brought to a successful closure. This will include issuing payments to those projects completing within the necessary timescales and on-going monitoring and evaluation for those projects already completed.

### **Other key achievements in 2005/06**

#### **PILOT GREEN TOURISM PROJECT AND GREEN TOURISM ACCREDITATION**

Practical works in tourism businesses participating in a Pilot Green Tourism Project were completed during the year. Works included installation of gas meters, provision of recycling bins, composting bins and low voltage light bulbs.



*Corbet Lough Angling Stand*

Mourne Heritage Trust also continued to work on the development of a Northern Ireland wide Green Tourism Accreditation in conjunction with South Armagh Tourism Initiative, Causeway Coast Glens Heritage Trust, Mourne Heritage Trust and Northern Ireland Tourist Board. Agreement was reached on the production of a set of 'Good Practice Guidelines' which now await a suitable funding opportunity.

### **MOURNE INNS PROGRAMME**

Four Mourne Inns have received grant aid under the NRRTI Programme, namely; Maghera Inn, Maghera, Thierafurth Inn, Kilcoo, Anglers Rest, Corbett and Turley's Bar, Lowtown. All 4 projects have completed extensive refurbishment within this year and the enhanced facilities have made a very positive impact on the tourism product in the AONB.



*Above: The Angler's Rest, one of the four Mourne Inns  
Right: Hanna's Close, Kilkeel where new interpretative panels complemented enhanced access to the Kilkeel River*

### **MOURNE EVENTS PROGRAMME**

A total of 5 events were funded during the 2005 season. The nature of the events varied, ranging

from musical and cultural offerings to an Olympic Triathlon event.

### **NEW AND EXISTING TOURISM BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Significant progress was achieved in this area. One activity business (Peak Discovery) completed its project during this period, bringing the total number of completed projects to three (i.e. existing businesses). Two large capital projects, one new and one existing business, had progressed well by the end of March 2006. It is anticipated that both (Soak Seaweed Baths and Bluelough) will be completed within the first quarter of the new financial year.

### **TOURISM TRAINING PROGRAMME**

A successful Tourism Training Programme earning very positive feedback from participants was completed in September 2005. Attendance at a range of courses exceeded 100, more than double the original target of 40. Topics covered a range of issues relevant to tourism businesses including strategic planning, people management, customer service, food hygiene, accounting, business IT etc. As targets were achieved well within the project budget, an extension to the programme allowed others to benefit from the excellent range of training on offer.



## **Built and Cultural Heritage**



### **MOURNE HOMESTEADS PROGRAMME TAKES SHAPE**

In this year work began in earnest on three properties under Phase 1 of the Mourne Homesteads buildings restoration programme, namely Ballycoshone Road, Hilltown, Lowtown Road, Moneyslane and Whitehill Road, Leitrim. The building phase of this scheme aims to restore and adapt traditional Mourne dwellings to provide 21st century family accommodation without compromising their architectural integrity and thus preserving their heritage value. By the year end work on these properties was largely complete providing a very real example of what can be achieved with traditional buildings that it is hoped others will follow.

A reserve property, at Valley Road, Ballymartin, replaced a fourth dwelling whose owners withdrew from the scheme and preparatory work was progressed this year to allow a contractor to be appointed to commence the restoration.

Preparatory work, including securing of funding, continued on Phase II of the programme which will involve a further two properties at Dunaval, Kilkeel and Head Road, Annalong. Unfortunately, due to delays in securing funding and a resulting increase in the original estimated building costs, the owners of a third proposed property withdrew from the scheme at a stage which did not allow for a replacement to be brought in. Site work on this phase is due to commence in July '06.



*Ronan's Cottage, Ballycoshone Road, Hilltown restored under the Mourne Homesteads Scheme*



*Frank's Cottage, Moneyslane Road, Lowtown restored under the Mourne Homesteads Scheme*

The Trust took great pride this year in the nomination of Mourne Homesteads as a finalist in the National Lottery Awards. This represented a very significant accolade and recognition of the truly innovative nature of the scheme.

### Overview of Built and Cultural Heritage Activities

#### **TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS HANDBOOK – 'A KEY RESOURCE FOR OWNERS'**

Mourne Heritage Trust has continued to promote 'Traditional Buildings of Ireland – A Homeowners Handbook' which was launched in April 2005 to provide a first step practical guide and information source for those involved in projects to maintain or restore traditional buildings. The handbook, which draws on the Mourne Homesteads experience, was also showcased in February 2006 at the 'Self Build Exhibition' in the King's Hall, Belfast. Traditional Buildings of Ireland has been in great demand locally, nationally and beyond from home owners and building restoration practitioners alike and to date the Trust has distributed 625 copies and 107 CD Roms.

#### **TRADITIONAL SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME**

Courses in Lime and Hedge planting were delivered

by Mourne Heritage Trust under the Rural Down Partnership programme. Lime training courses were held at Narrow Water Lime Services in Warrenpoint in September and October 2005 attracting a total of 26 participants. Hedge planting courses were held at Moneyslane Road, Lowtown (one of the Mourne Homestead properties) in December 2005 involving 18 people. Another Mourne Homestead property, Whitehill Road, was the venue for eight participants on a one day dry stone walling course in November 2005.

#### **RURAL HERITAGE PROGRAMME**

A successful application was made this year to the Rural Development Council for European Union PEACE II funding for a Rural Heritage Programme to commence in late 2006. This will allow the Trust to employ a Rural Heritage Officer to take forward a cultural heritage audit of Mourne covering built, agricultural and industrial heritage, historic monuments and folklore. This will lead to an action plan and suite of interpretive initiatives. The programme will also incorporate a Mourne Branding Initiative to examine the potential for added value branding and direct marketing of Mourne produce, capitalising on the rural traditions and image of the area.



*Training Courses in the Use of Lime funded by Rural Down Partnership at Narrow Water Lime Works, Warrenpoint*

## MOURNE AONB WEBSITE MANAGEMENT

Having launched the MourneLive website last year to a very enthusiastic response the Trust has ensured that it is kept very much up to date with news articles and items of general interest relating to the Mourne AONB. It has also added new features and refinements including the following:

- Language translations of key sections into French, German, Spanish
- New images in the Photo Gallery
- A new section 'What's Happening at a Glance' showing current events
- Facility to download Trust Publications, fact sheets, reports and strategies in PDF format
- An Items for Sale section
- New content in the Natural Heritage section including a Recording Form for wild life sightings
- A new Children's Section under Natural Heritage

Over the year, the website achieved no less than 7,000 visits per month on average.

## MOURNE INFORMATION PUBLICATIONS

A comprehensive, colourful and attractive leaflet on the Mourne AONB was produced in 2005. This publication highlights and interprets the historic, cultural and landscape features of the AONB and in so doing promotes the area and encourages the sustainable use of the natural resources for tourism.

The information leaflet 'Sense and Safety in the Mournes' was updated and reprinted in the past year.

## Other Activities throughout the year

### MHT OFFICE INFORMATION SERVICE

Approximately 1,800 individuals used the Trust Office Information Service throughout the year through email, telephone, written and in person enquiries. The Trust continues to sell a number of maps, guidebooks, posters and post cards and also distributes information on the Mourne area to Tourist Information Centres within and surrounding Mourne as well as tourism businesses.

### MEDIA, PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Mourne Heritage Trust continued to enjoy a high profile in local and regional print and broadcast media throughout the year. 40 Trust /AONB related articles featured in local and regional press and other publications. Among the broadcast media appearances were interviews on BBC Radio Ulster with Bernard Davey (Board Member) promoting the Granite Trail in Newcastle and with David Farnan (MHT Area Ranger) on 'Your Place and Mine' showcasing volunteering activity. The Trust also continued to deal with media enquiries relating to the proposed Mourne National Park.

## COMMUNITY AND STATUTORY LIAISON AND CONSULTATION

The various sub-groups convened by the Trust, including Natural Heritage, Built Heritage and Countryside Recreation provide for communication between a wide range of statutory and non-statutory partners. Meetings have also been held to brief local elected representatives on issues relating to the Mourne area while invitations from community groups to undertake presentations and make keynote speeches were gladly accepted. The Trust has also contributed to consultation exercises relating to the formulation of Northern Ireland level policy, providing information and views on the particular implications for Mourne. These included the DARD consultation on the Study of Rural Policy in Northern Ireland and subsequent Draft Rural Strategy.

## FRIENDS OF MOURNE

An exciting development this year was the launch of the 'Junior Friends of Mourne' which extends to all school age children the opportunity to become formally associated with and support the work of Mourne Heritage Trust. Promotion of Friends of Mourne and recruitment of new members continued throughout the year. Across 4 different categories ('Ordinary', Life, Group and Business) there are now 138 registered Friends of Mourne.



*Glen Fofanny River at Bloody Bridge*

## NETWORKING AND HOSTING VISITS

Welcoming visits to Mourne by regional, national and international study groups and sharing best practice is a key area of the Trust's activities. This year saw visits involving individuals and groups from a range of localities and organisations including the Scottish Tourism and the Environment Forum; Luberon Regional Parc, France; the European Centre for Eco-Agri Tourism Amsterdam, and the SPAN Interreg project led by Queen's University.

In addition Trust staff attended a number of conferences exhibiting and/or presenting at the following: a Duke of Edinburgh Award Conference in Newcastle; the Green Living Fair at Castle Espie; a Europarc Conference at Apeldoorn, Holland; and a Forest of Bowland hosted Sustainable Tourism Conference in Lancashire.

### OFFICE AND FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

The Trust employs one full-time Office Manager and two part-time Administrative Assistants. This small team provided all administration and clerical support to the Trust. The team also provides an information service to the public from the Trust's Offices and is responsible for the maintenance of the AONB website.

### CORE FUNDING

The Trust received the following core funding:

	2004/05	2005/06
EHS	£139,788 (59%)	£145,901 (60%)
Banbridge District Council	£17,040 (7%)	£18,250 (8%)
Down District Council	£28,016 (12%)	£30,000 (12%)
Newry & Mourne District Council	£24,000 (10%)	£20,000 (8%)
NITB	£28,389 (12%)	£29,746 (12%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£237,233</b>	<b>£243,837</b>

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met on 11 occasions and the Executive Committee on 4 occasions during the year. There were a number of changes to the membership of the Board of Trustees. The sad passing of Cllr Gerry Douglas saw the Trust lose a knowledgeable, experienced and committed Trustee. Mrs Irene Adair and Mr Hugh O'Neill resigned from the Board in the course of the year with new members Cllr Jim Wells, Cllr John Ingram and Cllr Martin Connolly welcomed.

The Trust's eighth AGM was held on 28 September 2005 and was attended by 62 people.

### STAFFING

There a number of staff changes during this report period. Mrs Lorraine McCourt left the post of Countryside Services Manager in July 2005 to be replaced by Mr Barry Ferguson. Ms Anna Meenan left the post of Built Heritage Officer in September 2005. This position has been filled on a part time basis by Mr Dick Oram, Conservation Architect, with administrative support from Mrs Rosemary McVerry and Mrs Elaine McAlinden. In February 2006, Mr Martin Carey replaced Mr Tony Gates who left his post as Chief Executive of the Trust on 18 October 2005 after 8 years' service.

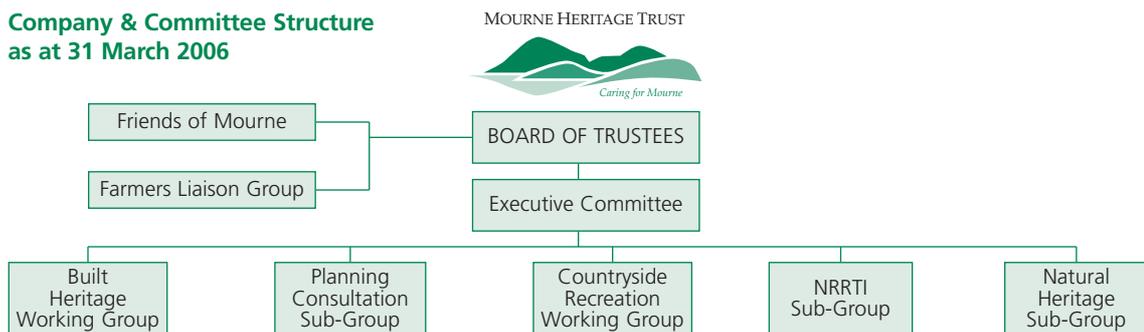
The number of full and part-time staff employed by the Trust was 15 with 3 seasonal workers being employed during the summer period.

### MOURNE NATIONAL PARK WORKING PARTY

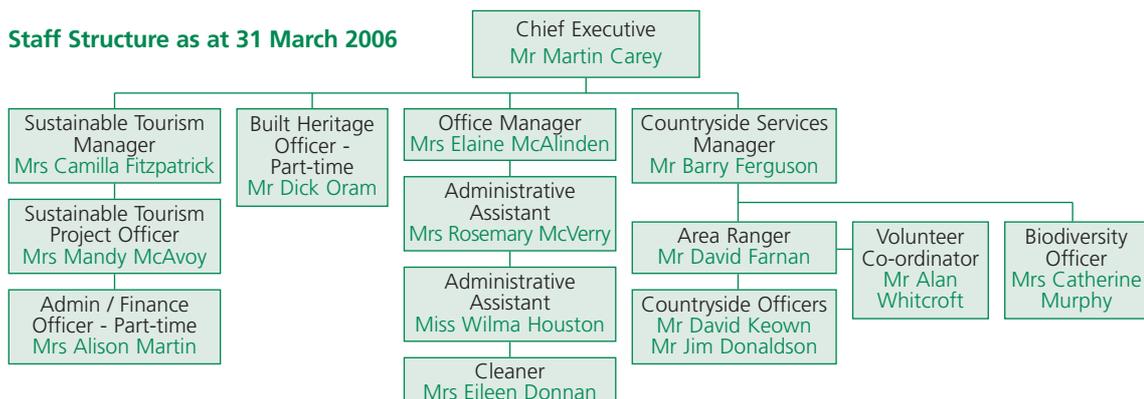
The Mourne National Park Working Party met on a monthly basis throughout the year. The Trust was represented on the MNPWP by its Chair (who serves as a full member), and its Chief Executive (who serves as an observer).

Both the Chair and Chief Executive contributed to a number of the sub groups established by the Working Party, including an Agriculture sub-group to consider the potential use of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas/Countryside Management Schemes in a National Park and a Consultation sub-group. Trust staff also worked with Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the MNPWP secretariat to provide information and assistance.

### Company & Committee Structure as at 31 March 2006



### Staff Structure as at 31 March 2006



## Directors' Report

The Directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2006.

### Principal Activities and Review of the Business

The principal activity of the company continued to be that of the protection, conservation and enhancement of the environment, historic buildings and cultural heritage of the Mourne and Slieve Croob area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, for the benefit of the general public.

### Results

The results for the year are set out on page 13.

### Fixed Assets

The significant changes in fixed assets during the year are explained in note 7 to the financial statements.

### Directors

The following directors have held office since 1 April 2005:

Dr A Mitchell – *Chair*  
 Ms I Hood – *Vice Chair*  
 H O'Neill – *Company Secretary (resigned 4.7.05)*  
 J Saunders – *Treasurer*  
 G Douglas (*deceased 4.7.05*)  
 W Burns                      P Kelly                      W J Martin  
 S Doyle                      J McGrillen              Mrs I Adair  
 D Patterson                B Davey                    Mrs R Chestnutt  
 Ms M Killen                I Hanna                    Mrs C O'Boyle  
 Mrs J Whatmough        D Thompson              S McCarthy  
 Mrs J O'Hare (*resigned 6.6.05*) Mr M Connolly (*appointed 25.5.05*)  
 Mr J Ingram (*appointed 25.5.05*) Mr J Wells (*appointed 25.5.05*)

### Directors' Interests

The company is a company limited by guarantee and so has no share capital.

### Chief Executive Officer

Day to day management of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Martin Carey.

### Auditors, Bankers and Solicitors

The names and addresses of the auditors, bankers and solicitors are stated on the Company Information page.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee. It is governed by its Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association.

Trustees of Mourne Heritage Trust were originally appointed by Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Council, Department of Environment, Environment and Heritage Service, Banbridge, Down and Newry and Mourne District Council and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. In addition a number of other Mourne interests were appointed by the nominated Trustees after expressions of interest and nominations were sought by public advertisement and a selection procedure was carried out.

One third of the Board of Trustees retire from office each year at the Trust's AGM. The retiring Trustees are eligible for re-election. The Trust then fills the vacated office by electing a person thereto and in default the retiring Trustee shall, if offering himself for re-election, be deemed to have been elected.

Persons other than a retiring Trustee can be eligible for election if recommended by the Board of Trustees or by nomination submitted in writing 21 Days before AGM by a member qualified to attend and vote at the meeting.

Voting if necessary is carried out by a membership panel, composed of accredited bodies and other Mourne Interests.

Trustees receive a thorough induction, including receipt of various key documents relating to the operation of the Trust and a briefing with the Chairman and Chief Executive.

The Organisation Structure of the Mourne Heritage Trust is shown in the diagram contained in the Annual Report.

Mourne Heritage Trust monitors risks on an ongoing basis and initiates action as appropriate.

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Mourne Heritage Trust is the management body for the Mourne and Slieve Croob Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Established in 1997, the Trust is a partnership of local and central government, local communities and key stakeholders. The aim of the Mourne Heritage Trust is as follows: '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 Mourne's communities'.

The following are the strategic aims as set out in the Trust's Operational Plan 2004 -2007:

'To safeguard and enhance the quality and diversity of the landscapes and biodiversity of the Mourne and Slieve Croob Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and to manage and influence change appropriately.'

'To provide and maintain opportunities for public enjoyment, education and recreation within the Mourne and Slieve Croob AONB in ways which safeguard the environment and protect land management and community interests.'

'To identify, promote, safeguard and enhance the built and cultural heritage of the Mourne and Slieve Croob AONB.'

'To promote rural regeneration through the development of appropriate sustainable tourism initiatives in the Mourne and Slieve Croob AONB, endeavouring to integrate with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board Signature Project.'

'To create awareness and promote greater understanding of the Mourne and Slieve Croob AONB as a unique and special area to local regional national and international audiences.'

The Trust also fulfils its Mission statement by pursuing activities related to Rural and Community Regeneration and Strategic Management and Co-ordination.

Each key performance area is made up of core operations and priority projects. Core operations are provided from the Trusts on-going core funding, and largely reflect the Trusts service level contracts with its core funders. Priority projects are complementary additional activities, which the Trust develops and seeks specific project funding for.

Key Core activities include Countryside Management in which the Trust maintains car parks, public rights of way, stiles, cycle routes, interpretative panels and undertakes weekly litter runs at visitor amenities. A Mourne Ranger Service is provided to monitor countryside access and promote positive links and understanding between landowners, local communities, visitors, business sectors and volunteers. Also important in core activity are visitor servicing through, among other things, a network of Tourism Information Points, the Mourne Website, an information service run from the Trust's Newcastle headquarters, and the development of sustainable tourism initiatives with local communities and tourism businesses.

### Key Priority Projects include:

The Natural Resource Rural Tourism Initiative - delivery of £2.5 million Peace II European funding in conjunction with DARD and EHS.

The Mourne Homesteads Programme – restoration of traditional rural dwellings together with awareness raising exhibitions and a range of traditional building skills courses.

Biodiversity Programme - Production of a Biodiversity Strategy and action plan for the Mourne area to protect the wildlife it contains.

Active Lifestyles Programme – provision of a programme of volunteer activity with emphasis on youth and vulnerable adults.

Key Objectives and detailed activities and targets in pursuit of these areas are set out in the Trust's Operational Plan for 2004 – 2007.

The Mourne Heritage Trust makes a significant use of volunteers in the course of undertaking charitable or income generating a wide range of activities. These include the Mourne Conservation Volunteers which offers people the chance to make a practical and worthwhile contribution to the conservation of the environment. There are quarterly programmes issued to the volunteers and advertised in our office and website. This is complemented by Volunteer Rangers, key volunteers who are committed to working at least 10 days per year and initiate and deliver volunteer events.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The Trust's main achievements in 2005/2006 are set out in detail in the accompanying Annual Report.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The results for the year are set out on page 13.

The Mourne Heritage Trust accounts this year are showing a deficit of £40,536. This is due to a loan being obtained in order to make payments to the contractors of the properties for restoration under the Mourne Homesteads Scheme. The Trust obtained the loan from the Architectural Heritage Fund for the interim period between claims and receiving the owner's contribution.

The Core funders of the Mourne Heritage Trust are detailed below and the amounts they contributed for year 2005/2006:

• Environment and Heritage Service	£143,981.00
• Newry and Mourne Council	£20,000.00
• Down District Council	£30,000.00
• Banbridge District Council	£18,250.00
• Northern Ireland Tourism Board	£29,747.00

Project Funders for the year 2005/2006 are as follows:

Mourne Homesteads Scheme funded by: Heritage Lottery Fund; Rural Development Council; Esmee Fairburn Foundation; Northern Housing Executive; Ulster Garden Villages Limited; Environment Heritage Service.

Natural Resource Rural Tourism Initiative funded by the Peace II Programme through Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Special European Union Programme Body.

Mourne Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership funded by: Environment and Heritage Service; Northern Ireland Water Service; Down District Council; Banbridge District Council.

Active Lifestyles Programme funded by: Big Lottery and Environment and Heritage Service.

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

In 2006/2007 MHT will deliver the ongoing and remaining elements of its Operational Plan for the period 2004–2007. A new Operational Plan for 2007–2010 will be developed in the course of the new financial year.

**Auditors**

In accordance with Article 393 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, a resolution proposing that McClure Watters be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting on 27 September 2006.

**Directors' Responsibilities**

Company law requires the directors to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit and loss of the company for that period. In preparing those Financial Statements, the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Board



Director  
30 August 2006

**Auditors' Report**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

We have audited the financial statements of Mourne Heritage Trust Limited for the year ended 31 March 2006 which comprise the Statement of Financial Affairs, the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the Trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Article 243 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and Trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Respective responsibilities of Directors and Auditors**

As described in the statement of directors' responsibilities on page 11 the Trust's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. We report to you whether, in our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements. We also report to you if, in our opinion the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read the Directors' Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

**Basis of opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Trust's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

**Opinion**

In our opinion: the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2006, and of its deficit for the year then ended; and the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986; and the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.



McClure Watters  
Chartered Accountants  
& Registered Auditors  
Number One, Lanyon Quay, Belfast BT1 3LG  
30 August 2006

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 March 2006

**Incoming Resources****Voluntary Income**

Grants and donations	-	145,452	145,452	139,788
Donations	50	-	50	-

**Investment Income**

	202	202	135
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**Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities**

Grants and donations	-	90,144	90,144	97,445
Sales Income	-	4,282	4,282	5,446
Friends of Mourne	-	915	915	300
Ranger Service	355	-	355	1,210
TCCF	186	-	186	47,263
NRRTI	83,748	-	83,748	107,099
Italian Study Visit	-	-	-	50
Biodiversity Programme	27,926	-	27,926	21,087
EU Charter Application	-	-	-	13,500
Visitor Monitoring	10,000	-	10,000	23,447
Built Heritage	360,367	-	360,367	153,698
Walk, Talk & Pedal	12,671	-	12,671	16,448
AONB Leaflet	-	-	-	7,000
Farmer Study Visit	-	-	-	13,200
Sustainable Tourism Training	3,000	-	3,000	50,000
Green Tourism Study Visit	200	-	200	8,333
NITB Signature Project	13,383	-	13,383	10,000
Visitor Site Enhancements	132	-	132	-
EHS Interpretation Leaflet	6,468	-	6,468	-
Natural Gyms	17,315	-	17,315	-

**Other Incoming Resources**

	-	4,815	4,815	1,904
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**Total Incoming Resources**

	535,801	245,810	781,611	717,353
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**Resources Expended**

Fundraising trading: costs of goods sold & other costs	<b>2.2</b>	-	6,212	6,212	9,611
Charitable Activities	<b>2.1</b>	577,457	29,021	606,478	431,493
Governance Costs	<b>2.2</b>	-	209,457	209,457	195,427
Gains and losses on fixed assets	<b>2.3</b>	-	-	-	1,140

**Total Resources Expended**

	577,457	244,690	822,147	637,671
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## Net Movement in Funds

	(41,656)	1,120	(40,536)	79,682
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**Balance brought forward at 1 April 2005**

	120,095	30,781	150,876	71,194
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**Balance brought forward at 31 March 2006**

	78,439	31,901	110,340	150,876
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## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 March 2006

	Notes	2006 £	2005 £
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>3</b>	781,409	717,218
Project and administrative expenses		(820,636)	(637,072)
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>4</b>	(39,227)	80,146
Other interest receivable and similar income	<b>5</b>	202	135
Interest payable and similar charges	<b>6</b>	(1,511)	(599)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>13</b>	(40,536)	79,682

The income and expenditure account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those passing through the income and expenditure account. The notes on pages 14 to 17 form part of the financial statements.

## 14 Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2006

	Notes	2006		2005
		£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets	7		56,684	60,213
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stock	8	3,406		2,401
Debtors & Prepayments	9	90,655		11,146
Cash at bank and in hand		152,953		96,589
VAT		4,920		-
		251,934		110,136
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	(186,244)		(5,483)
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>			65,690	104,653
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			122,374	164,866
<b>Accruals and deferred income</b>	11		(12,034)	(13,990)
			110,340	150,876
<b>Capital Reserves</b>				
Revaluation Reserve	13		11,630	11,630
General Funds	13		98,710	139,246
	14		110,340	150,876

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 30th August 2006



Chairman



Director

The notes on pages 14 to 17 form part of the financial statements.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2006

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention modified to include the revaluation of freehold land and buildings. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Revised 2005)', the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 and with applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), which have been applied consistently (except as otherwise stated).

The company has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No.1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement on the grounds that it is a small company.

#### 1.2 Incoming resources

Turnover represents grants and donations from the government and other bodies, and sundry income from certain activities undertaken by the company.

#### 1.2 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or

valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

- Land and Buildings Freehold
- 5% per annum on a straight line basis
- Plant and Machinery
- 15% per annum on a reducing balance basis
- Fixtures, fittings and equipment
- 15% per annum on a reducing balance basis
- Motor Vehicles
- 25% per annum on a reducing balance basis

#### 1.4 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

#### 1.5 Pensions

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the company during the year in accordance with FRS17.

#### 1.6 Government Grants

Grants are credited to deferred revenue. Grants towards capital expenditure are released to the profit and loss account over the expected useful life of the assets. Grants towards revenue expenditure are released to the profit and loss account as the related expenditure is incurred.

### 1.7 Built Heritage / Mourne Homesteads

The company runs a non profit making programme called Mourne Homesteads, which restores abandoned traditional dwellings on beautifully-sited parts of the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, thereby providing affordable and attractive homes for local people, while maintaining valuable historical resources and the character of the Mourne landscape. The buildings are selected according to a strict procedure with pre-determined selection criteria.

The available grant-funding required to restore the buildings can only be accessed through this programme and is not directly available to the private owner. Therefore the company enters into an agreement with the owner, by which the company buys the property for a nominal value of £1 and restores the property with assistance from the available grant-funding. The

company then sells the property back to the owner for an amount equivalent to the difference between the cost of restoration and the grant-funding received.

The company therefore acts as an intermediary, indirectly providing grant-funding for the restoration of suitable privately-owned properties which would not otherwise be available. In spite of legal title passing to the company, the economic substance of such a transaction is that the company has not acquired any assets. The income from grants and from payments made by the property owners and the costs of restoration are therefore accounted for through the Statement of Financial Activities and the Income and Expenditure Account as incurred. This treatment is in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 5, "Reporting the substance of transactions".

## 2. Notes to the Statement of Financial Activities

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2006 £	Total 2005 £
<b>2.1 Direct Charitable Expenditure</b>				
Staff costs	86,260	28,212	114,472	121,989
Friends of Mourne	-	809	809	-
Ranger	8,269	-	8,269	8,553
TCCF	-	-	-	72,111
NRRTI	9,902	-	9,902	11,381
Built Heritage	305,838	-	305,838	82,849
ANOB Website	284	-	284	7,711
Italian Study Visit	2,077	-	2,077	-
Biodiveristy Programme	26,418	-	26,418	27,810
Pilot Green Accrediation	5,660	-	5,660	13,109
Visitor Monitoring	28,070	-	28,070	10,485
Walk, Talk & Pedal	15,432	-	15,432	15,028
Farmers Study Visit	939	-	939	10,020
Tourism Training	7,729	-	7,729	45,195
Green Tourism	3,915	-	3,915	5,252
NITB Signature Project	6,639	-	6,639	-
Volunteer Co-ordinator	12,724	-	12,724	-
Silent Valley Nature Trail	33,807	-	33,807	-
AONB Leaflet	7,000	-	7,000	-
EHS Interpretation Leaflet	8,326	-	8,326	-
EU Charter Application	8,168	-	8,168	-
	<u>577,457</u>	<u>29,021</u>	<u>606,478</u>	<u>431,493</u>
<b>2.2 Fundraising trading: costs of goods sold &amp; other costs</b>				
Advertising & Publications	-	6,212	6,212	9,611
Hospitality	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,212</u>	<u>6,212</u>	<u>9,611</u>
<b>2.3 Governance costs</b>				
Staff costs	-	149,590	149,590	133,634
Motor and travel expenses	-	6,112	6,112	6,263
Professional fees	-	1,142	1,142	5,707
Insurance	-	1,481	1,481	5,863
Rentals	-	3,371	3,371	3,371
Office Supplies	-	3,391	3,391	4,725
Training and Workshops	-	4,907	4,907	3,314
Postage, Telephone & Electricity	-	8,361	8,361	8,785
Vehicle Exps, Equipment & tools	-	18,681	18,681	14,564
Interest payable	-	1,511	1,511	599
Other costs	-	2,067	2,067	(788)
Depreciation	-	8,843	8,843	9,3990
	<u>-</u>	<u>209,457</u>	<u>209,457</u>	<u>195,427</u>
<b>2.4 Other recognised gains/losses</b>				
Loss on Asset Disposal	-	-	-	1,140
	<u>-</u>	<u>209,457</u>	<u>209,457</u>	<u>196,567</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2006

**3. Income**

The major source of core operating income is grants received from Department of the Environment - EHS. Other sources of core operating income include support grants from Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Newry and Mourne District Council, Down District Council and Banbridge District Council. Project funding is received from Heritage Lottery Fund, DARD – EU Peace & Reconciliation programme (through SEUPB), Rural Development Council, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and EHS - Listed Buildings grant and Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

**4. Operating Surplus/(Deficit)**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Operating surplus/(deficit)		
is stated after charging:		
Loss/(Profit) on disposal of fixed assets	-	1,140
Depreciation of tangible assets	8,843	9,390
Auditors' remuneration	1,821	2,438
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**5. Other Interest Receivable and Similar Income**

Bank interest	202	135
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**6. Interest Payable and Similar Charges**

Bank interest	1,511	599
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**7. Tangible Fixed Assets**

	<b>Land &amp; Buildings Freehold</b>	<b>Plant &amp; Machinery</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>					
At 1 April 2005	24,357	29,015	45,344	14,688	113,404
Additions	-	2,501	2,813	-	5,314
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
At 31 March 2006	24,357	31,516	48,157	14,688	118,718
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 April 2005	6,136	12,784	23,163	11,108	53,191
On Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	1,218	2,810	3,920	895	8,843
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
At 31 March 2006	7,354	15,594	27,083	12,003	62,034
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>					
At 31 March 2006	17,003	15,922	21,074	2,685	56,684
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
At 31 March 2005	18,221	16,231	22,181	3,580	60,213
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**8. Stocks**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Finished goods and goods for resale	3,406	2,401
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**9. Debtors**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	87,649	10,029
Prepayments and accrued income	3,006	1,117
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	90,655	11,146
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-
Loan from Architectural Heritage Fund	122,000	-
Trade creditors	62,246	3,542
Taxes and social security costs	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	1,998	1,941
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	186,244	5,483
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

<b>11. Accruals and deferred income</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance at 1 April 2005	13,990	15,946
Grants received in the year	-	-
Amortisation in the year	(1,956)	(1,956)
Balance at 31 March 2006	<u>12,034</u>	<u>13,990</u>

**12. Pension Costs**

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £24,717 (2005 - £19,398).

<b>13. Statement of movements on funds</b>	<b>Revaluation Reserve Account</b>	<b>Income &amp; Expenditure Account</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance at 1 April 2005	11,630	139,246
Retained surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	(40,536)
Balance at 31 March 2006	<u>11,630</u>	<u>98,710</u>

<b>14. Reconciliation of movements in funds</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the financial year - Restricted	(41,656)	68,244
Surplus/(Deficit) for the financial year - Unrestricted	1,120	11,438
	<u>(40,536)</u>	<u>79,682</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the financial year		
Opening Funds - Restricted	120,095	51,851
Opening Funds - Unrestricted	30,781	19,343
	<u>150,876</u>	<u>71,194</u>
	<u>150,205</u>	<u>150,876</u>
Closing Funds - Restricted	78,439	120,095
Closing Funds - Unrestricted	31,901	30,781
Closing Funds	<u>110,340</u>	<u>150,876</u>

**15. Contingent Liabilities**

The company has a liability to refund grant monies received by it should it fail to comply with the relevant conditions as set out in the letter of offer.

<b>16. Employees</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Number of Employees</b>		
The average monthly number of employees (including directors) during the year was:	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Permanent Staff	13	13
N.I. Housing Executive Seconded Staff	-	-
	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>
<b>Employment Costs</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages & Salaries	221,360	216,432
Employers NIC	17,985	19,793
Other Pension costs	24,717	19,398
	<u>264,062</u>	<u>255,623</u>

**17. Transactions with directors**

In 2001, under the Built Heritage / Mourne Homesteads scheme described in Accounting Policy Note 1.7, the company selected a property owned by one of the directors, Mr William John Martin. Mr Martin had no part in the selection process, and his property was selected according to the programmes' normal criteria. The projected costs for the restoration of this property were £141,991 with projected grant funding of £103,598, leaving an owners contribution of £38,393 to be paid by Mr Martin. At 31 March 2006, the restoration had cost £91,842 to date, grant funding of £60,037 had been received and Mr Martin had paid £12,798.

During 2006, another director, Isabel Hood, provided a first-aid training course for a consideration of £900.

MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST



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Mourne Heritage Trust

87 Central Promenade, Newcastle, Co Down BT33 0HH

Tel: (028) 4372 4059 Fax: (028) 4372 6493

Email: mht@mourne.co.uk Web: www.mournelive.com