

THE
COMMON
ROOM



Graft &



glory

The Common Room will be a celebration of graft and glory. Telling the stories of the North East that changed the world, then and now.

By revitalising our Grade 2* Listed building and making a step change in the access and interpretation of our internationally recognised archive of the industrial revolution we will provide the space, and inspiration, for new collaborations and innovations.

Instilling pride, ownership and understanding to continue to support the North East economy. Using our unique heritage to inspire the next generation of innovators and engineers.

The Common Room programme will engage with the business community to deliver this, it will provide education and enrichment for young people, promoting skills development for the region's workforce and engaging the public with the heritage.

We will provide comfortable and accessible meeting rooms with first class facilities and menus for commercial meetings and a curious public to generate income to fund our ambitions.

The vision

To use our unique heritage to inspire the next generation of innovators and engineers.

“Skill shortages are at a critical point for the region’s engineering sector. The Common Room will provide a city-centre space for young people to understand the region’s heritage, current industry and see their role in this. Young engineers will have a meeting point in central Newcastle to socialise, do business and broaden their awareness of why the North East continues to be a centre of excellence in engineering.”

Paul Robson, Chairman NA College which provides in house training, apprentice and school engagement programmes for Nissan and Toyota.

1715- 1795 Fuelling a nation, innovating for change

Coal has been mined in the North East of England since Roman times. It was export of our coal by sea to London that enabled the Capital to grow in the 16th and 17th Centuries and by the mid-18th Century coal from the Great Northern Coalfield was beginning to fuel the acceleration of the Industrial Revolution across the country.

Natural resource and new technology in the North East were able to combine within a new legislated framework to extraordinary effect and establish the centrality of the region to the UK's accelerated industrial expansion.

At the core of this, in 1795, a group of farmers/colliery operators had combined to recruit Mr Craiggy – a noted mathematician and map-maker – to lead a specialist school at Crawcrook to focus on engineering, technical drawing and business. Founding President of the Institute,

Nicholas Wood himself is sent to work with George Stephenson at Killingworth where he contributes substantially to the development of the Miners' Safety Lamp. The group he led including George Elliott, William Coulson, Thomas Young Hall and J.B. Simpson were by the early 1820s challenging the conclusions of John Buddle, the Tyneside based premier mining engineer of the day, who states that there is no coal to be found below the limestone.

They are part of the team that sink the first deep pit through the limestone at Hetton-le-Hole, taking the coal out on the River Wear. Fortunes are made through the new geological knowledge and engineering innovation but, at the same time, the scale of the new pits mean that disasters, when they occur, kill and injure many more men and render more families destitute. Popular concern and unrest is growing.



Revolution & ambition





Knowledge &



connection

1852 -1912 The Institute

In 1852 a meeting at the Mill Inn in Seaham resolves to found the North of England Institute of Mining Engineers with the motto Moneo et Munio: 'I protect and I advise'.

The object of the Institution is twofold: First – By a union or concentration of professional experience, to endeavour if possible, to devise measures which may avert or alleviate those dreadful calamities, which have so frequently produced such destruction to life and property, and which are always attended with such misery and distress to the mining population of the district. Second – To establish a Literary Institution, more particularly applicable to the theory, art, and practice of Mining, than the Institutions in the locality present, or which are within the reach of the profession in this locality.

Through monthly meetings the Transactions track the Institute's concerted address to these objects whilst, simultaneously, the influence and wealth of individual members grows. In 1865 Nicholas Wood died and his colleagues and friends constructed the Wood Hall in his

memory, adding Neville Hall to the brief for the building as what was thought to have been a speculative office development.

The mixture of first tenants shows 'clustering' of expertise, connections and resources under one roof. On the second floor, academic research in the College of Physical Sciences of Durham University, which was later to become the Engineering Department of King's College and Newcastle University. On the first floor, the Coal Trades Associations of Northumberland and Durham, the colliery owners and the venture capitalists of their day. On the ground floor was the Board Room of the Blyth and Tyne Railway. Completing the network was the bridge built to connect the Institute to the Literary and Philosophical Society, then housing the Natural History Society's collection. At the heart and hub of the cluster sat the Wood Memorial Hall and the engineers.

Professor Margaret Jacob, one the world's pre-eminent scholars of the Industrial Revolution researched her latest book, *The First Knowledge Economy* in our archive, which she describes as 'One of the two most important collections in the world for the study of the birth of the Industrial Revolution'. By 1911, the Institute had over 2,300 accredited members with 45% of them working abroad and – from their surnames – with most from the North of England. And the engineers were, of course, followed by the skilled miners such as Peter Lee who sold his skill and strength in America and then in South Africa where he returned to become the reforming political leader of the first socialist County in the world at Durham.

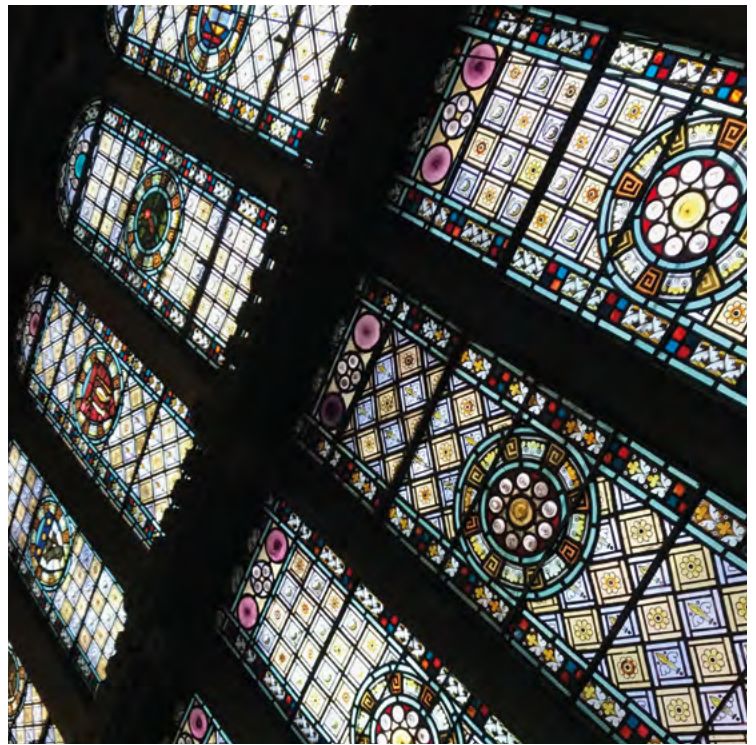
20th and 21st century challenge

The interwar years saw the industry affected by the overall depression and the central importance of the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers to the industry declines. The profession also wanes as other more profitable fields are opened and as London becomes the unquestioned base for professional institute headquarters. With nationalisation and *The Plan for Coal*, decline across much of the north eastern coalfield is mirrored in the fortunes of the Institute itself with the loss of the building's griffins and ornamentation in the 1950s, followed by the loss of professional accrediting powers (and a vital source of income) to universities in the '60s. In the mid '70s Neville Hall is sold to the Masons to bolster reserves and the mid '80s sees the miners' strike and then the apparent certainty of closure of the industry in the region,

with the consequent end to the 'seam of membership' that has sustained the management of the Institute in terms of both finance and voluntary effort.

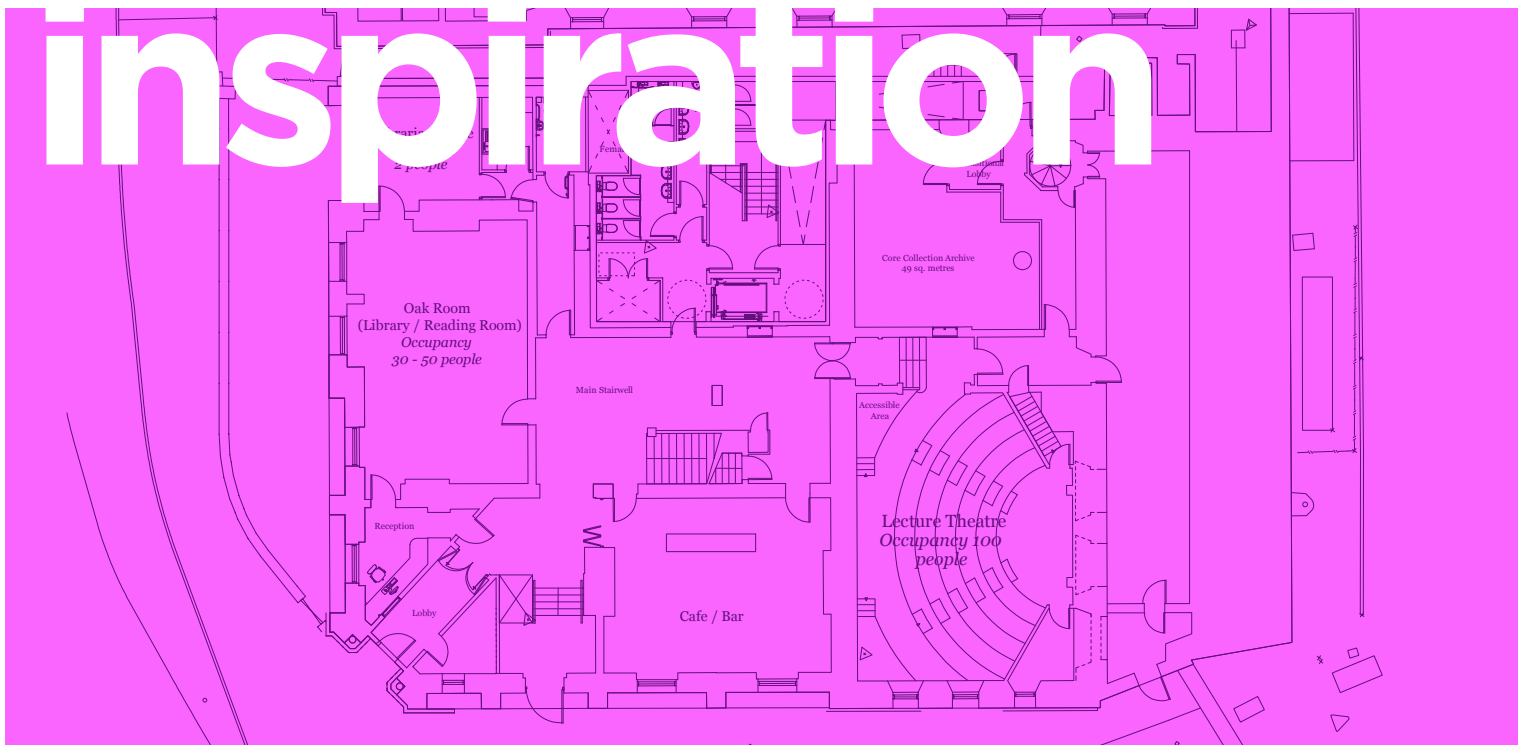
Through the 1990s and into the new century a sequence of initiatives to find a new future for the buildings faltered, culminating in the collapse of the joint venture with the Literary and Philosophical Society in 2010. After this new low point in the Institute's fortunes the Masons place Neville Hall on the market and there is the opportunity to reunite the building again. The support of Newcastle City Council with a mortgage, makes the purchase possible but brings the fiscal cliff closer as operating costs rise.

Our project now provides a future that can retain the integrity of the Royal Chartered Institute itself and its building and collection.





Discovery &



inspiration

Oak Room
(Library / Reading Room)
Occupancy
30 - 50 people

Core Collection Archive
49 sq. metres

Lecture Theatre
Occupancy 100
people

Reception

Lobby

Main Stairwell

Cafe / Bar

Accessible
Area

Developing a plan

In November 2016, the National Lottery Heritage Fund awarded NEIMME a grant of £600,000 to undertake an extensive development phase to fully scope designs, technical needs and restoration required for a sustainable and resilient building.

The Council of the Institute agreed a historical resolution in October 2017- to transfer the assets and staff of the Institute to a new charity **The Common Room of the Great North**, to be known as **The Common Room**. At the same time a detailed governance, management, programme and business structure for a sustainable future was prepared ahead of the submission of the final application for a further £4.1 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in March 2018.

“I am delighted as we enter the final phases of a hard won strategy to revitalise Neville Hall and secure the future, within it, of NEIMME’s valuable collections. Our founders would have approved wholeheartedly of the Common Room Project and its charitable objectives.”

Dr Rick Smith,
President of NEIMME

March 2018

Submission to Phase 2 application to The National Lottery Heritage Fund

June 2018

The National Lottery Heritage Fund Award Granted, £4.1m towards the project total of £7.1m

June 2018 – September 2018

Neville Hall welcomes over 34,500 visitors into the building during the Great Exhibition of The North

June – November 2018

£1.5 million match funding raised

June – November 2018

Prep phase for programme begins

November 2018

Permission to start the project from The National Lottery Heritage Fund granted

December 2018

Building closed and re-development work begins

April 2019 – Autumn 2020

“On the road” programme of activity delivered

Autumn 2020

Building re-opens





What will the Common Room do?

The Common Room will deliver its vision through a time-sliced venue operation, that will see 80,000 visitors a year using the building.

Market appraisal has resulted in 3 strands of activity that run through the business and activity plans:

The Core Common Room programme is where our heritage plays a primary role in engagement, funded through trading profits and sponsorship.

We will use our time out of the building and “on the road”:

- To raise awareness, understanding and active participation in the Common Room.
- Create new and lasting partnerships (regionally and nationally).
- Deliver at least one major event a month in the region relating to the Common Room.
- Research concepts and develop potential markets for all programmes of the Common Room.
- Reach new audiences through our lecture programme.

Affiliations with organisations (Eg, IMechE, CBI, ICE, EEF) whose vision is aligned with ours and are already identifying us as a key delivery partner in their mission.

In 2018 we worked with the North East community of professional engineers to deliver the Great North Engineering Experience, as part of the Great Exhibition of the North. During our “on the road” period we will build on this collaboration, with the Common Room acting as the hub organisation for coordination of their engagement and outreach activities. This community will also ensure our engineering outreach activity is informed by current trends and innovations in the sector.

Commercial activity, once we are back in the building, will enable the Common Room to generate the revenue surpluses that will make the mission a possibility.

The Common Room will provide first class conferencing and banqueting facilities, and an awe inspiring venue for weddings and celebrations. Our cafe bar provides the perfect venue for informal meetings and day time socialising, for after work drinks or a pre-dinner meeting place.





Outcomes

Young people

Gain a pride and understanding of their region in a future facing setting. Raise their aspirations to engage in STEM for future careers.

Business community

Gain inspiration from the past, take ownership of current societal and economic challenges as the founders of the Institute once did, and through engaging at the Common Room make an impact on the future of our region.

Staff

We aspire to become IIP accredited. New roles will be created to support operations, training and development will support us to be an employer of choice, with a modern and flexible working culture.

Building users

A better experience, warm, comfortable, welcoming. Better heritage interpretation so they learn from the spaces they are in.

Common Room Programme

Graft & Glory

'Graft & Glory' is our travelling exhibition which explores the North East's industrial heritage. It challenges thoughts on innovations we take for granted and will engage discussion on the issues facing our world today. Family friendly engineering events, thought provoking lectures and industry involvement, will take the unique heritage of the building into the community to inspire the next generation of innovators and engineers.

The Common Room Youth Board

A shadow board for under 30s will influence the content and delivery of the core programme. By listening to young people's views on this city, this region, our planet and beyond we will harness the passions, causes, experiences and opinions of a range of young people who will have a direct input into the future of The Common Room.

Animating the Institute

Animating the Institute is a series of films which celebrate its stories, its people and collections; bringing the building and The Common Room to life. Some films focus on the broader story of the building, mining and engineering,

while others focus on the way specific rooms were used. These films will feature within our Graft & Glory exhibition, and in our opening festival programme.

Our Voices

The Our Voices programme will capture the voices of all engineers and innovators and their experiences of transitioning through industry changes. Our archived oral histories will generate a map showing the impact of industry in the North East for the people working in region past, present and future.

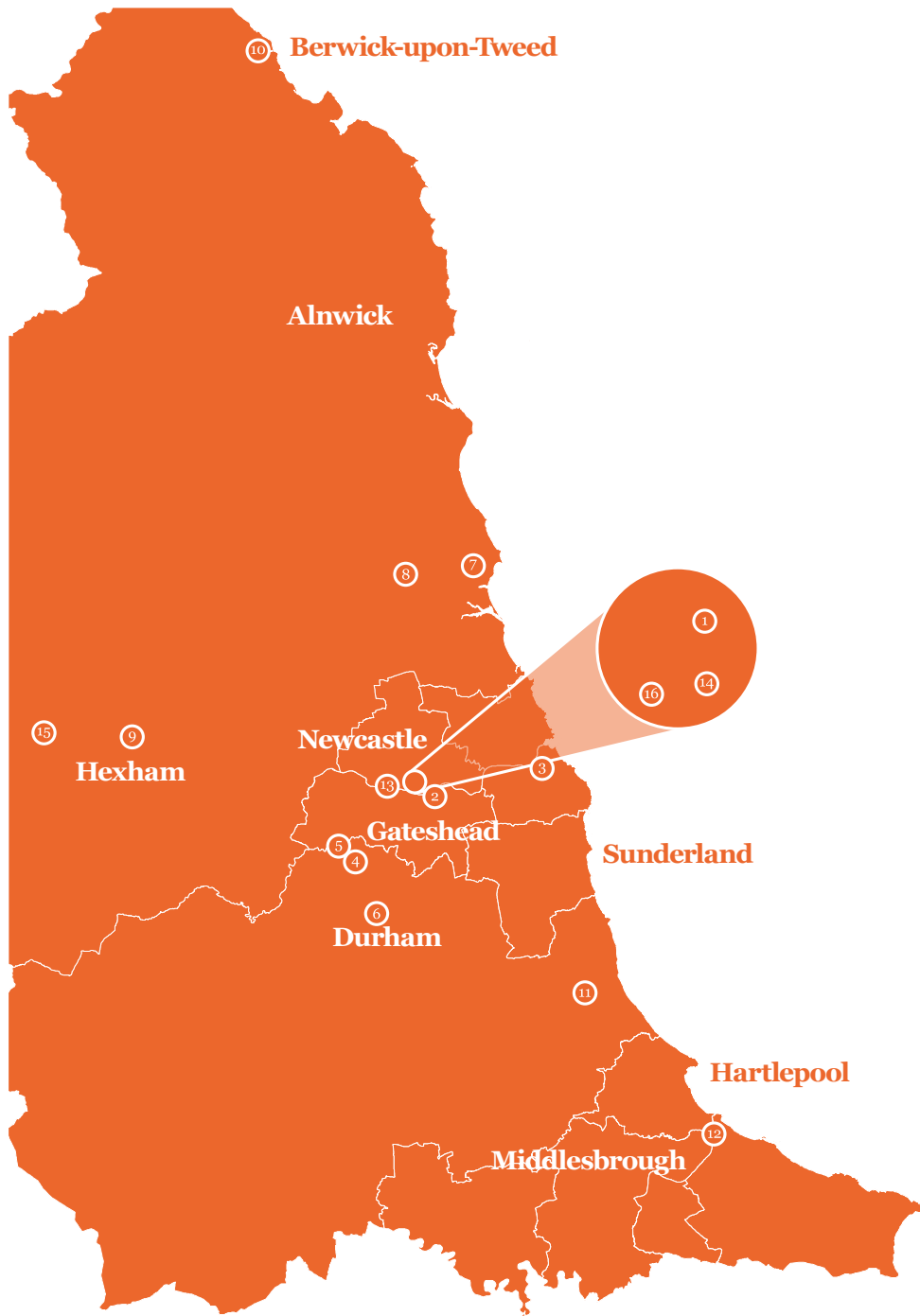
Children of the Revolution

The Common Room is taking the themes of skills, impact, innovation, altruism and economics into the classroom through an education programme for primary and secondary pupils. Our programme draws on the heritage of the Mining Institute and makes links with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the science and technology national curriculum and a growing interest in the role of creativity and arts in supporting our innovation aspirations.

Our apprentices programme is being developed with a robust and ever-growing industry partnership with organisations engineering and innovating in the North East today. Engaging with young people at the early stage of their engineering career, we will use our heritage to inspire, enrich and excite their learning.

Opening Festival

A high profile opening festival in winter 2020 will showcase our past, present and future. The main feature will be a commissioned major art / engineering installation inspired by the building and the project. There will be opportunities to showcase work produced by the region's schools, communities and industry along with a programme of talks and events.



- 1 Newcastle City Library

- 2 St Mary's Heritage Centre

- 3 St Hilda's Pit Head

- 4 Beamish The Living Museum of The North

- 5 Tanfield Railway

- 6 Redhills Durham Miners' Association

- 7 Museums Northumberland:
Woodhorn Museum

- 8 Museums Northumberland:
Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum

- 9 Museums Northumberland:
Hexham Old Gaol

- 10 Museums Northumberland:
Berwick Museum and Art Gallery

- 11 Caterpillar Articulated Trucks

- 12 Materials Processing Institute

- 13 Reece Group

- 14 Newcastle Castle

- 15 The Sill National Landscape
Discovery Centre

- 16 Crowne Plaza

And many more...

To get involved with our programme
please contact **emily.tench@
thecommonroom.org.uk**



Regional buy in

We have consulted with over 200 organisations and individuals. Support for our plans is unwaveringly positive.

“We believe that the Mining Institute has enormous potential as a unique and exciting meeting and events space, in the heart of the city centre. We would envision the Institute supporting our Business Events vision, to attract business events aligned to the region’s research industry and business strengths and inward invest meant ambitions... We love to work with organisations who share our vision, organisations who recognise the vital importance of collaboration and partnership and who want to play an integral role in boosting the profile of our place”

Sarah Stewart CEO and
John Marshall Chair,
Newcastle Gateshead Initiative

“My team and I could immediately see the benefits of revitalising the Institute and turning it into a fit for purpose venue, as a hub and meeting place for engineers. The apprentices we brought with us agreed too! We are committed to using the venue to support our business operations, from celebration events to training sessions, corporate dinners and away days. There is nowhere in Newcastle that can offer such a relevant setting for the current strategic discussions that our business has- particularly given the global mining industry is still a major market for the products we make at our 1300 staff factory in Peterlee. The idea of drawing the heritage through into these discussions is very exciting indeed.”

Phil Handley
Managing Director,
Caterpillar Peterlee

“The Uff Review of UK Engineering, published in 2016 exhorted the Professional Institutions to break down barriers, do away with artificial divisions that have no relevance today, and to grow our membership. It is very difficult to do that whilst we all work in our different ways and separate spaces. The Common Room of the North provides an ideal opportunity for us to follow in the footsteps of the engineering greats of the past, and work together to deliver 21st century innovation.”

Penny Marshall
Regional Director,
Institute of Civil Engineers North
East, Yorkshire and Humber

“Engineering and Manufacturing are key areas of employment in the North East and forecasts demonstrate growth in both replacement demand and new innovative and emerging businesses. An understanding of the importance of STEM-focussed subject choices and career options that these choices open up is critical for our young people.”

Michelle Rainbow

Skills Director,
NE LEP

“I wish to offer my support for the plans to redevelop the Mining Institute, in Newcastle and particularly the ambitious vision to position this valuable part of our national industrial heritage, as an open access hub for industrialists, apprentices and graduates. The proposals are less a repurposing and more a rediscovery of the original function of the Institute, to be the catalyst for invention, discovery, skills and learning. Your proposals are an exciting opportunity to build on the extensive heritage assets and leverage their capability to inspire the next generation of engineers and innovators.”

Chris McDonald

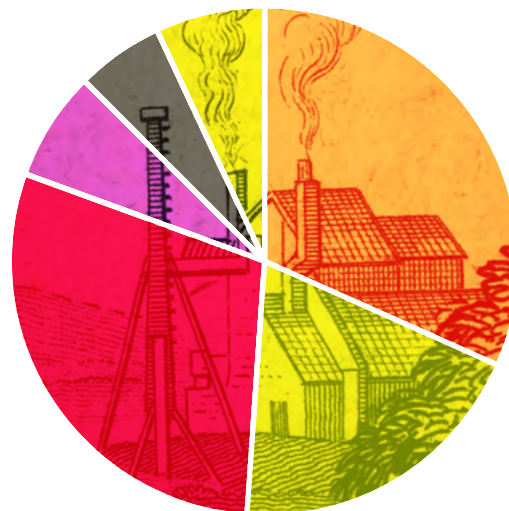
CEO,
Materials Processing Institute

“I was particularly taken by the vision to rekindle the innovating spirit and determination of the engineers and makers that were so crucial to the early days of the Mining Institute. It is crucial for the North of England that we build on this spirit – that’s why it is a key feature of the Northern Powerhouse strategy... I hope that the Common Room can provide a building block to ensure that this vision is translated into long term cultural change – influencing the skills and collaboration of the current workforce, and inspiring the next generation”

Tom Smyth

Deputy Area Director,
Department for Business Energy
and Industrial Strategy

Capital Phase: Heritage and Improvement



Income Summary - Capital Phase	£m
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	4.10
Trusts, Foundations, Donors & Sponsorship	3.01
Volunteer Time In Kind	0.41
	<hr/> 7.52

Expenditure Summary - Capital Phase	£m
Restoration	2.54
New Build	1.42
Other Capital Costs incl Fes & Contingency	2.16
Staffing & Operating Costs	0.57
Activity Costs	0.42
Volunteer Time In Kind	0.41
	<hr/> 7.52

Post Re-opening: A Sustainable Future



Income Summary - Baseline Year	£k
Café Bar	397
Room Hire	271
Event Bar & Catering	299
Retail	45
Programme	168
	1,180



Expenditure Summary - Baseline Year	£k
Café Bar Costs & Staffing	274
Room Hire Costs & Staffing	81
Event Bar & Catering Costs & Staffing	146
Retail Costs	16
Programme (Excl Programme Staff)	62
Marketing & Communications	51
Core Staff Costs	244
Overheads	262
	1,136



Commitment



& passion

Fundraising

Our project costs are £7.1m, in August 2018 we received notification from The National Lottery Heritage Fund of their grant award to the project of £4.1m, leaving us with a match funding target of £3m.

To date we have secured £1.5m in direct grant commitments from trusts and foundations and individual donors. We are incredibly grateful to have had the support of such a diverse range of local and national supporters who have bought into our vision and aspirations for the Common Room.

We are seeking an additional £1.5m to complete the project and have been supported over the next 3 years by the North East LEP who have agreed a £1.5m cash flow loan to enable us time to fill this funding gap.

We now begin to approach more trusts and foundations and individual donors and will be setting up a legacy giving scheme, corporate sponsorship schemes, online crowd funding and room naming schemes.

Please do get in touch with our CEO Liz Mayes if you would like to be involved in supporting our project.

Our thanks to

Our Supporters



Our Funders

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Reece Foundation | Garfield Weston Foundation | The Foyle Foundation | N.A.C Trust | Sir James Knott Foundation | Sir James Knott Foundation Jersey | Community Foundation Platten Family Fund | The Wolfson Foundation | Charles Hayward Foundation | IMechE and IET Engineering Education Grant Scheme | Community Foundation Roland Cookson Trust | Sylvia Waddilove Foundation UK | Leche Trust | National Manuscript Conservation Trust

Getting in touch

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