Miners' Welfare Newsletter



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THE COAL MINING CHARITY

Edition 12 - November 2026

Welcome

Welcome to the twelfth edition of CISWO's newsletter for Miners' welfare trustees

Regional contacts:

North England
North England Development Manager CISWO, The Old Rectory, Rectory Drive, Whiston, S60 4JG
Email: NorthEngland@ciswo.org.uk
Tel: 01709 728115

South England
South England Development Manager CISWO, Welfare Offices, Berry Hill Lane, Mansfield, NG18 4JR
Email: SouthEngland@ciswo.org.uk
Tel: 01623 625767

Wales
Wales Development Manager CISWO, Ground Floor Unit 5, Melin Corrwg Business Parc, Upper Boat, Pontypridd, CF37 5BE
Email: Wales@ciswo.org.uk
Tel: 01443 485233

Scotland
Scotland Development Manager CISWO, Coalburn Miners' Welfare, 42 Coalburn Road, Coalburn, M11 0HL
Email: Scotland@ciswo.org.uk
Tel: 01506 635550

You can also keep up to date with our activities through our website: **www.ciswo.org.uk** and our social media pages on Facebook and LinkedIn.



Meet the team

Craig Wolstenholme
Grants Officer

My role
As a CISWO Grants Officer, I help miners' welfare charities secure funding for a wide range of needs, from essential building repairs to community projects and activities that bring people together. I work closely with trustees to understand their priorities, identify suitable funding opportunities and write compelling applications that demonstrate how funding will make a positive difference to people and communities.

My background
My background is in education, having previously worked as a secondary school music teacher, as well as a specialist at an educational publisher. As a musician, I've performed across Europe and have also had the privilege of performing in front of both Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles on several occasions! I'm also Secretary of a local community group where I've helped secure grants for community projects. These experiences strengthened my passion for helping communities turn ideas into reality and inspired me to join CISWO.

What I enjoy about my work
The most rewarding part of my job is hearing from trustees when their grant application has been successful and sharing in their excitement. Knowing that the funding will help bring their plans to life makes all the effort worthwhile. I also enjoy visiting miners' welfare charities to see first-hand the difference the funding I've secured has made. I'm proud to be part of the CISWO team, working alongside colleagues who share my genuine passion for helping miners' welfare charities and making a lasting difference to the communities they serve.

Craig Wolstenholme

Trustees Week 2026



A Message from Nicola Didlock, Chief Executive, CISWO

As we mark national Trustees' Week 2026, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every trustee across miners' welfare charities for the dedication, insight and care you bring to your role. This week is a national celebration of trustees and the vital contribution they make and it offers a moment to recognise the impact your leadership has on the communities you serve.

Trustees play an essential part in shaping the future of miners' welfare charities. You guide strategic direction, uphold good governance, protect charitable assets and ensure your organisations continue to provide valued spaces and services. These responsibilities are significant, and the commitment you show, often alongside work, family and other community roles, deserves real appreciation.

Trustees' Week is also a reminder of the strength that comes from collective effort. Trustees bring diverse skills, experiences and perspectives, helping to sustain the heritage of miners' welfares while supporting their evolution to meet modern needs. At CISWO, we are proud to work alongside you, championing miners' welfare charities and providing the guidance, resources and support you need to lead with confidence.

In this newsletter, you'll find stories, updates and insights that celebrate trustees and showcase the difference you make. I hope they inspire you and reinforce just how valued your work is.

Thank you for everything you do. If you'd like to explore further support or discuss any aspect of your charity's development, please get in touch. We are here to help you continue leading your organisation with purpose and pride.

Nicola

Trustees' Week Spotlight

Katie's journey into trusteeship at Fallin Miners Welfare



Katie's decision to become a trustee at Fallin Miners' Welfare in Stirling comes from a strong family connection. With her dad as Treasurer and her mum involved in the Women's Committee, she grew up seeing how much the Welfare means to local people. But it was watching the documentary Strike: The Village That Fought Back that truly inspired her. "It made me realise this isn't just a social club; it's part of our village's identity. I wanted to help protect that."

Since joining the charity, Katie has supported fundraising, grant applications, events, social media and building improvements. She's been surprised by how much work goes on behind the scenes, but also by how rewarding it is. "Seeing a busy hall or a successful event makes all the hours worthwhile."

Katie believes many people hesitate because the word "trustee" sounds formal or intimidating. "You don't need years of experience. You learn as you go, and a good welfare supports each other." She also feels younger people often don't realise how much they're needed. "If new generations don't get involved, these organisations won't survive."

She's keen to challenge misconceptions too. "It's not all meetings and paperwork. At Fallin Miners Welfare, trusteeship means organising events, working with tradespeople, applying for grants and finding new ways to keep the building valued. You can genuinely see the difference you make."

Trusteeship has also helped Katie grow personally and professionally, building skills in communication, project management, governance and decision-making. "It builds confidence. You realise your ideas matter."

Her advice is simple: "Don't assume you're too young or inexperienced. If you care about your community and want to help, that's enough." For Katie, trusteeship is about honouring the past while protecting the future. "I'd love to look back one day and know I played even a small part in keeping Fallin Miners Welfare thriving for generations to come."

THE COAL MINING CHARITY

Why Sarah stepped up for Pinxton Miners' Welfare

Sarah became a trustee after first being invited to consider the steward role at Pinxton Miners' Welfare in Nottinghamshire. Although she knew stewardship wasn't the right fit, she wanted to support the community, joined the committee and soon stepped into trusteeship. Since then, she has focused on modernising the welfare while protecting its long-standing values.



For Sarah, the most rewarding moments are the ones that bring the community together, Christmas parties, family events and seeing all generations enjoying the building. She is especially proud of securing a major grant to replace the heating system after two difficult years. "Knowing that meant the Welfare could stay open was incredible."

The role has challenges too. As chair, she often has to help the board reach decisions even when opinions differ. Financial pressures also make it hard to keep footfall strong. "Times are tough, and getting people through the door isn't always easy."

Sarah relies heavily on her bar manager, Vicky, and on the support of her husband and children, who make it possible for her to dedicate the time the welfare needs.

To encourage new trustees, Sarah believes in showing what the welfare can achieve. When people see successful events and projects, they're more likely to get involved. Prospective trustees are invited to help out first so they understand the commitment before joining.

She also wants to challenge misconceptions. "People assume trustees benefit financially, but that's not the case. It's rewarding for the community, but it takes time, dedication and a lot of unseen work."

For Sarah, trusteeship is about keeping Pinxton Miners' Welfare strong, welcoming and rooted in its community for years to come.

Upcoming events from Trustees' Week and OSCR

Trustees' Week and OSCR hold a number of **free** training events aimed at helping and supporting trustees' on charities across the UK.

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9 November @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Festival Launch: How will tomorrow's boards be different?
Online webinar

Explore what the charity boards of the future might look like as Dame Julia Unwin opens this year's Festival, followed by a lively panel discussion.

10 November @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Income Generation Health Check
Online webinar

This session will help trustees understand how to carry out an effective organisational health check, assess financial sustainability, and strengthen policies, procedures and income-generation strategies for long-term resilience.

11 November @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Effective Governance with Darwin Gray
Online webinar

Join Managing Partner Fflur Jones for a session examining the governance challenges trustees commonly face, from unclear roles to financial oversight and reputational risk, and exploring how effective governance, transparent reporting, diverse skills and accountability can strengthen charity decision-making.

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10 November @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Being a Charity Trustee: The Basics
Online webinar

This introductory webinar outlines the basics of being a charity trustee in Scotland, covering key duties, expectations and where to find support and guidance.

12 November @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Beyond the Basics: Understanding Board Dynamics
Online webinar

This webinar looks beyond basic trustee duties to explore common board challenges, from conflicts of interest to dominant personalities, and how trustees, chairs and chief executives can navigate them effectively.

You can sign up to the events or find out more information online at: **trusteesweek.org** or **www.oscr.org.uk**



Small Grants Service

We're pleased to share that information about CISWO's new Small Grants Programme has been sent to all trustees via email. The programme offers up to £2,000 for miners' welfare charities and is designed to help welfares make practical improvements, meet urgent compliance needs and deliver new activities for their communities.

The programme supports essential work that strengthens welfare facilities. Eligible charities can apply for grants covering practical improvements, time-critical compliance, community activities and standalone projects that would otherwise be difficult to fund.



Further details and application guidance are available from CISWO's Regional Development Managers.

Miners' welfare charities encouraged to check new 2026 accounting rules

The Charity Commission is encouraging charities to review new accounting rules taking effect in 2026.

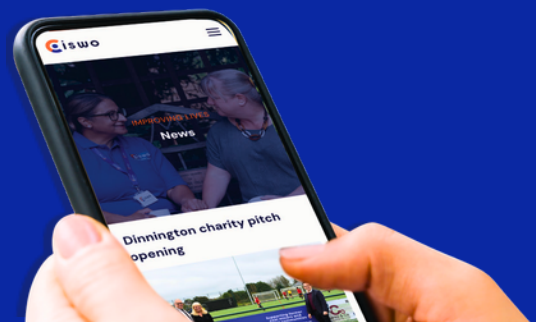
The revised UK Charities SORP applies to financial years starting on or after 1 January 2026, with updated reporting requirements and tailored guidance for each main charity structure.

In England and Wales, higher thresholds apply to financial years ending on or after 30 September 2026:

- Accruals accounts: income above £500,000.
- Independent examination: income above £40,000.
- Mandatory audit: gross income above £1.5 million, or income above £500,000 with gross assets over £5 million.

Clear, timely reporting builds trust, and the guidance helps charities understand what applies. More information is available online at www.charitysorp.org or you can contact your CISWO Regional Development Manager for further advice.

CISWO News



CISWO helps deliver new Bentley cricket wicket



Bentley Miners' Welfare has enhanced its community sports facilities with the installation of a new ECB-approved all-weather cricket wicket, funded through a £9,750 Recreational Facilities Grant from CISWO.

The new surface replaces a deteriorated wicket and provides a safer, more reliable space for junior teams, adult community clubs and children attending Holiday Activities Fund (HAF) programmes. The welfare supports more than 1,000 local residents each year and remains an important hub for sport and community activity.

The project forms part of CISWO's ongoing work to improve recreational facilities in former mining communities, helping ensure local people have access to safe, high-quality spaces for sport and social activity.

Scan here to find out more about the project

SCAN HERE

Annual survey 2026



Your feedback is important to us.

Each year we carry out our annual survey to gather trustees' views on the support and services CISWO provides.

This year's survey will be launching shortly. Your input last time was invaluable in helping us refine and improve our work, and we're keen to hear from you again to help shape future support.

Please keep an eye on your email inbox for details on how to take part.

We appreciate your time and look forward to hearing your views.

Please share your good news stories with us

Do you have any good news stories about the work of your charity? Please let us know and we would be more than happy to share this on our social media platforms. If you do, please get in touch with your regional development manager.

Future newsletter suggestions

We would love to hear your ideas about content for our future newsletters. For comments, please email us at: mail@ciswo.org.uk.

You can also use this email address if you would like any CISWO publicity to display in your welfare including leaflets about CISWO's personal welfare service or education grants.