



THE PAST WE INHERIT - THE FUTURE WE BUILD

☁ THE REDHILLS APPEAL ☁





The Pitman's Parliament is one of Historic England's Top Ten places in the nation's history of Power, Protest, and Progress.



THIS BROCHURE LAUNCHES THE REDHILLS APPEAL

The Redhills Appeal is the The Durham Miners' Association campaign to raise £5 million through donations and grant aid, to ensure the future of the Miners' Hall as a vital centre of education, heritage, and culture.

The Durham Miners' Association. November 20, 2018.



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REDHILLS: DURHAM MINERS' HALL

HOME OF THE PITMAN'S PARLIAMENT

“The marble-floored lobby of Redhills no longer resounds to the clatter of delegate’s studded brogues; arguments in pitmatic no longer thunder along the solid oak rows of the Miners’ Hall, where each colliery lodge has its own numbered seats.

The hall is a brilliant jewel embedded in this fine building. Anyone who cares about the industrial heritage of Britain should fervently hope that English Heritage’s Grade II listing will protect it forever.”

Peter Crookston

‘The Pitmen’s Requiem’ 2010





THE REDHILLS APPEAL

A place like no other in the world

Redhills: Durham Miners Hall has been recognised by Historic England (formerly English Heritage) as one of the most important places in the history of our country.

It regards Redhills – home of The Pitman's Parliament – as 'Irreplaceable', one of only 100 places in England's history celebrated in this way. Redhills stands alongside the Palace of Westminster in the top ten places in England's history of 'Power, Protest, and Progress'.

For more than a century, Redhills has been the home of the Durham Miners' Association (DMA). Throughout this time, Redhills has played a central role in the lives of the people of the Durham Coalfield.

Today, the Durham Miners' Association wants to return Redhills to the people.

With your support, and for generations to come:

- Redhills will serve the communities whose values inspired it, whose resilience sustained it, and whose labour paid for it.
- Redhills will be where people are inspired, and provided a place and a platform to explore and express their talents.
- Redhills will be a living, vibrant legacy for the countless Durham miners, their families, and their communities, who built it and have ensured it has survived for more than a century.
- Redhills will continue to honour the famous motto of the Durham Miners: 'The Past We Inherit, The Future We Build.'



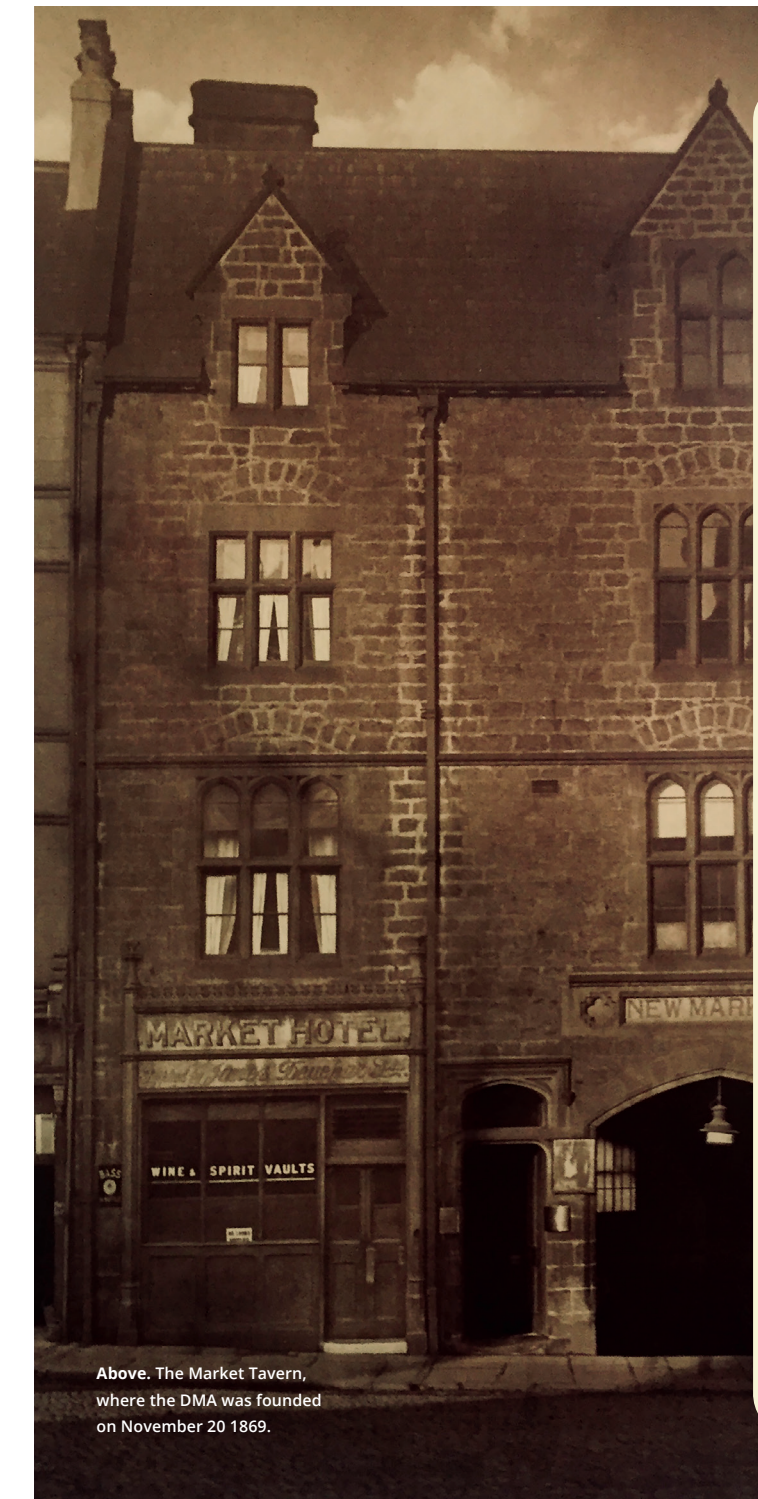
Above. The magnificent Pitman's Parliament in Redhills recognised as 'irreplaceable' by Historic England.



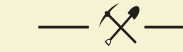
Below. The first Miners' Hall
opened in Durham's North
Road in 1875.



THE REDHILLS APPEAL. THE PAST WE INHERIT - THE FUTURE WE BUILD. *North Road and Miners Hall, Durham*



Above. The Market Tavern,
where the DMA was founded
on November 20 1869.



THE PAST

On November 20 1869, four good men sat at a table
in the Market Tavern in Durham. They were there
to improve the lives of pitmen.

Their meeting that chill Autumn night followed decades of struggle
against the oppressive brutality of Victorian coal owners.

This was a time when pit disasters frequently claimed
scores of lives; when grieving widows and children
were evicted from their homes the same day they lost
their husbands and fathers; when children worked
underground for more than 12 hours a day; when
mothers waved their ten-year-old sons off to work one
day, and then buried them the next; when those who
sought to organise colliery workers were imprisoned
and blacklisted.

The men who met at the Market Tavern that night were
progressive, liberal Methodists, determined to unite
the colliers and communities of the greatest coalfield
on Earth against injustice.

On that night, they formed the Durham
Miners' Association.

By 1915, those four good men had grown
in number to more than 150,000. The DMA
had become a powerful force of progress across
the nation. The Pitman's Parliament had been
formed so working people could manage their
own affairs. Countless lives had been improved.
The Durham Miners' Gala was already an institution.

And the DMA had outgrown the first Miners' Hall,
built in Durham's North Road.

The Durham miners needed a new home...





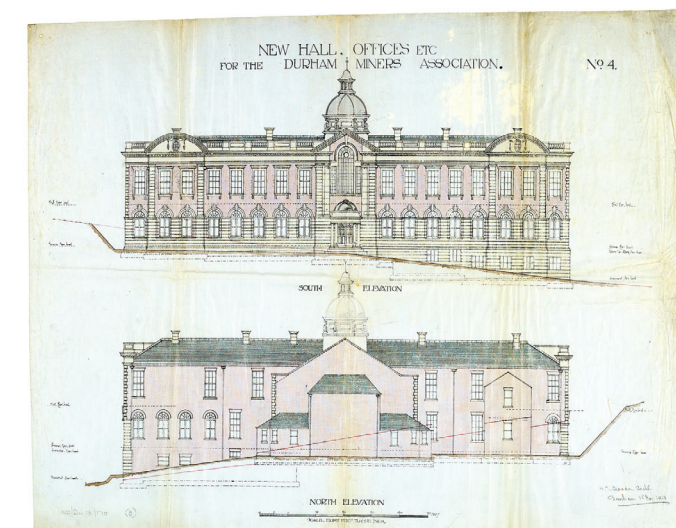
WE INHERIT



Below. Crowds pack the streets of Durham during the Gala in the 1950s.

Opposite Above. Postcard of the new miners' hall in 1915.

Opposite Below. Original architects drawing of Redhills.



The pennies and ha'pennies contributed by the miners of the Durham Coalfield paid for the finest trade union building in the world.

As grand as a coal owner's country house, it was built as an expression of pride, confidence, and collective power. The 'New Hall and Offices of the Durham Miners Association' opened on October 23 1915.

From that date, Redhills became the organising centre of the work and welfare of the people of the county.

From The Pitman's Parliament at Redhills, the elected leaders of the Durham miners continued the mission begun at the Market Tavern some 46 years earlier.

Long before the creation of the Welfare State, the people of Durham were creating their own pioneering social system across the coalfield.

There was education for the young, pensions for the old. Homes were built for aged mineworkers faced with eviction on retirement. There were unemployment benefits for those who lost their jobs; doctors, hospital care, and sick pay for those who fell ill.

The union built libraries and reading rooms throughout Durham's pit villages. DMA leaders commissioned clean water and sewage works. They built new roads across the county.

Countless children, including some of the greatest names in sport, scored their first goal, or took their first wicket, on the football and cricket pitches that began to appear across the county.

Brass bands, choirs, and drama groups formed in the new welfare halls that were becoming the centres of community life.

The talents and potential of the people began to be realised. Through their own creation, the people of the county bound themselves together, and a unique culture flourished.

At the heart of all of this, stood Redhills.





Right. The statues of the DMA founders - John Forman, William Hammond Patterson, Alexander Macdonald and William Crawford keep watch over Redhills.





Above. The Committee Room at Redhills.



Above. The Pitman's Parliament, where each numbered seat represents a colliery on the coalfield.



Left. Busts of Thomas Hepburn and Martin Jude - pioneering miners leaders.

Below. The Muniment Room at Redhills, where artefacts from the rich history of the DMA are stored and displayed.

Top Left. Richard Dawson concert in The Pitman's Parliament

Top Centre. Redhills façade transformed during the Lumiere light festival.

Bottom Left. Sir Bobby Robson biography film screening in The Pitman's Parliament



Top Right. Students from Durham Sixth Form Centre take an art class in The Pitman's Parliament.

Bottom Right. The Durham Miners' Gala attracts more than 200,000 people to the city every year



There are still 27 brass bands and 100 choirs in the county. More than 60 banner groups proudly restore and maintain the 'colours' of their communities. These banners are paraded every second Saturday in July at the Durham Miners' Gala.

And more than a century on from its opening, Redhills remains a cultural and spiritual home of the people of the coalfield.

In greater numbers each year, people gather together for lectures and meetings, for film screenings and theatre productions.

Redhills is a living archive of the history of the Durham Coalfield and the labour movement, a centre for research for students and local historians, and an important educational resource for schools.

Volunteers from the coalfield community proudly relay their rich history to visitors from near and far, and to a new generation. Schoolchildren who may never have seen a piece of coal, march regularly through the doors at Redhills to learn about a past – their past – that will inform the future they will build.

Redhills is a magnificent building, filled with meaning, and it continues to serve the people of the Durham Coalfield.

But Redhills could be so much more.

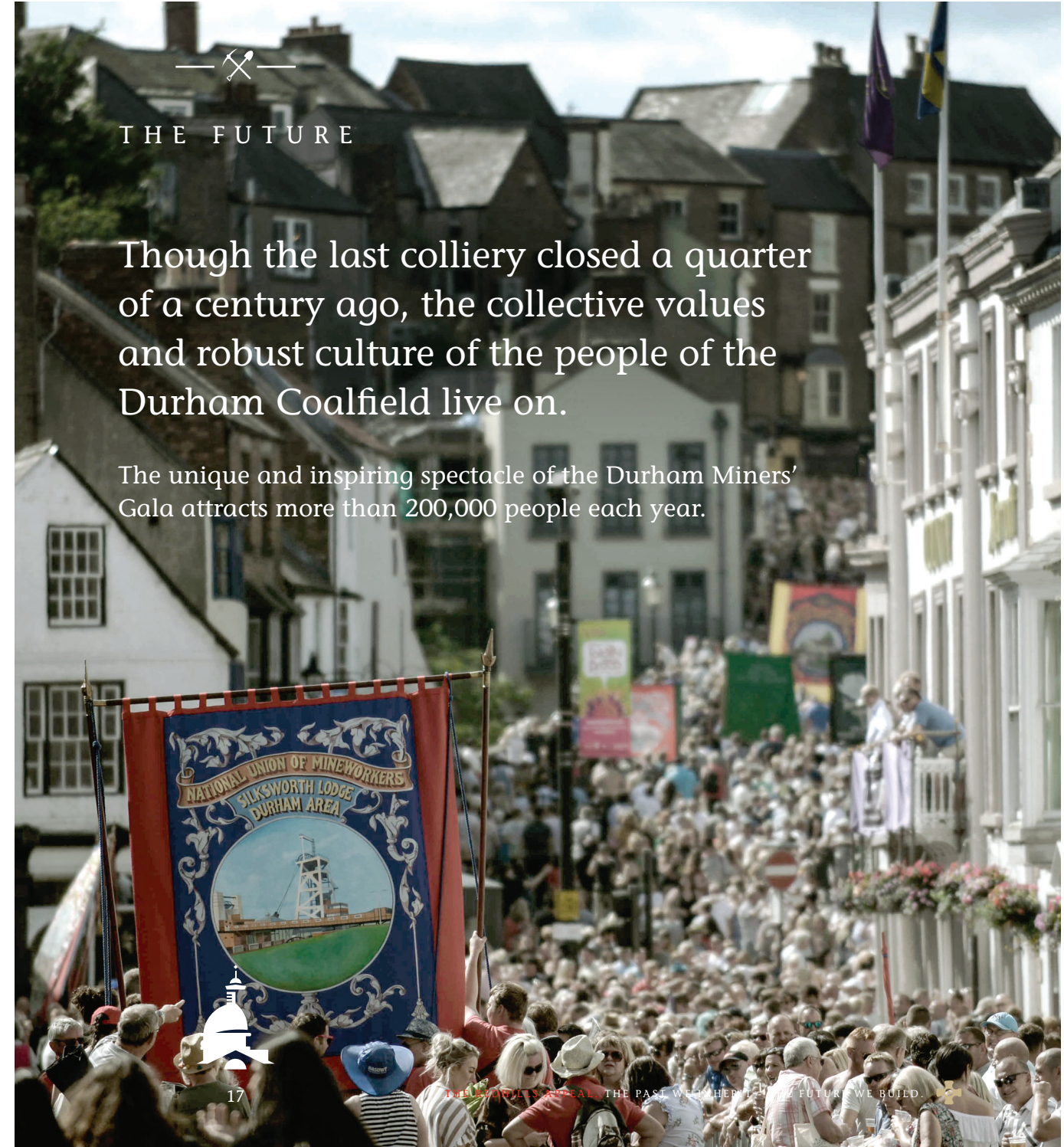
With your support, it will be.

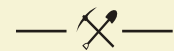


THE FUTURE

Though the last colliery closed a quarter of a century ago, the collective values and robust culture of the people of the Durham Coalfield live on.

The unique and inspiring spectacle of the Durham Miners' Gala attracts more than 200,000 people each year.





Above. Leading authors celebrate radical women during the Durham Book Festival at Redhills. Sarah Sayeed speaking, alongside Caroline Beck, Fern Riddell, and Caitlin Davies.

Top Right. Scenes from The Durham Miners' Gala by stevenlandles.com

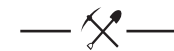


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Above Left. Saxophonist and rapper Soweto Kinch live in concert. Image by Ellie Slorick.

Above Centre. Women of the Durham coalfield were celebrated in The Pitman's Parliament during Durham Book Festival. Led by author Lucie Brownlee.

Above Right. Dennis Skinner arriving for questions in The Pitman's Parliament.



WE BUILD

Over the last year, the DMA has welcomed more and more people into our home. We are engaging with the communities who use the building, and potential new users, to discover what they would like Redhills to be.

Artists, teachers, performers, banner makers, and many others have shared with us their vision for the future of the historic Miners' Hall.

They see Redhills at the heart of a progressive cultural renaissance for County Durham and beyond.

They have told us that Redhills could fulfil a much-needed role, at the heart of County Durham, as a centre for performance, practice and learning.

The city of Durham and the surrounding area is in real need of such facilities. There are none in such an evocative and inspiring setting.

The people who use Redhills now and those who could use it in the future want it to be a place where things get done and new achievements are made.



A place where children connect with and understand their heritage.



A place where community groups can meet and organise.



A place where banners, quilts and traditional mats are made and repaired.



A place where poets and playwrights, artists and musicians can develop their talents and showcase their work.



A place where the traditions and culture of County Durham can be preserved, nurtured, and developed.



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WE BUILD



Standing for more than a century on a Durham hillside, The Miners' Hall is in need of restoration and renewal.

The roof at Redhills is in jeopardy and its interior is in urgent need of repair and upgrade. Volunteers and sponsors have already helped us make improvements, with the renewal of the seats in The Pitman's Parliament for the first time in its 103-year history.

Redhills requires £3m of funding to restore the building and a further £2m to build the modern, flexible facilities which will realise its full potential.

This would enable us to offer high-quality learning opportunities for schools, students and visitors. It would also make Redhills available for conferences, performances, meetings and year-round visits. This renovation and renewal would enable Redhills to operate sustainably, on an independent and viable financial footing.

We are seeking donations, applying to grant funders, and developing financial partnerships to help us achieve our goals.



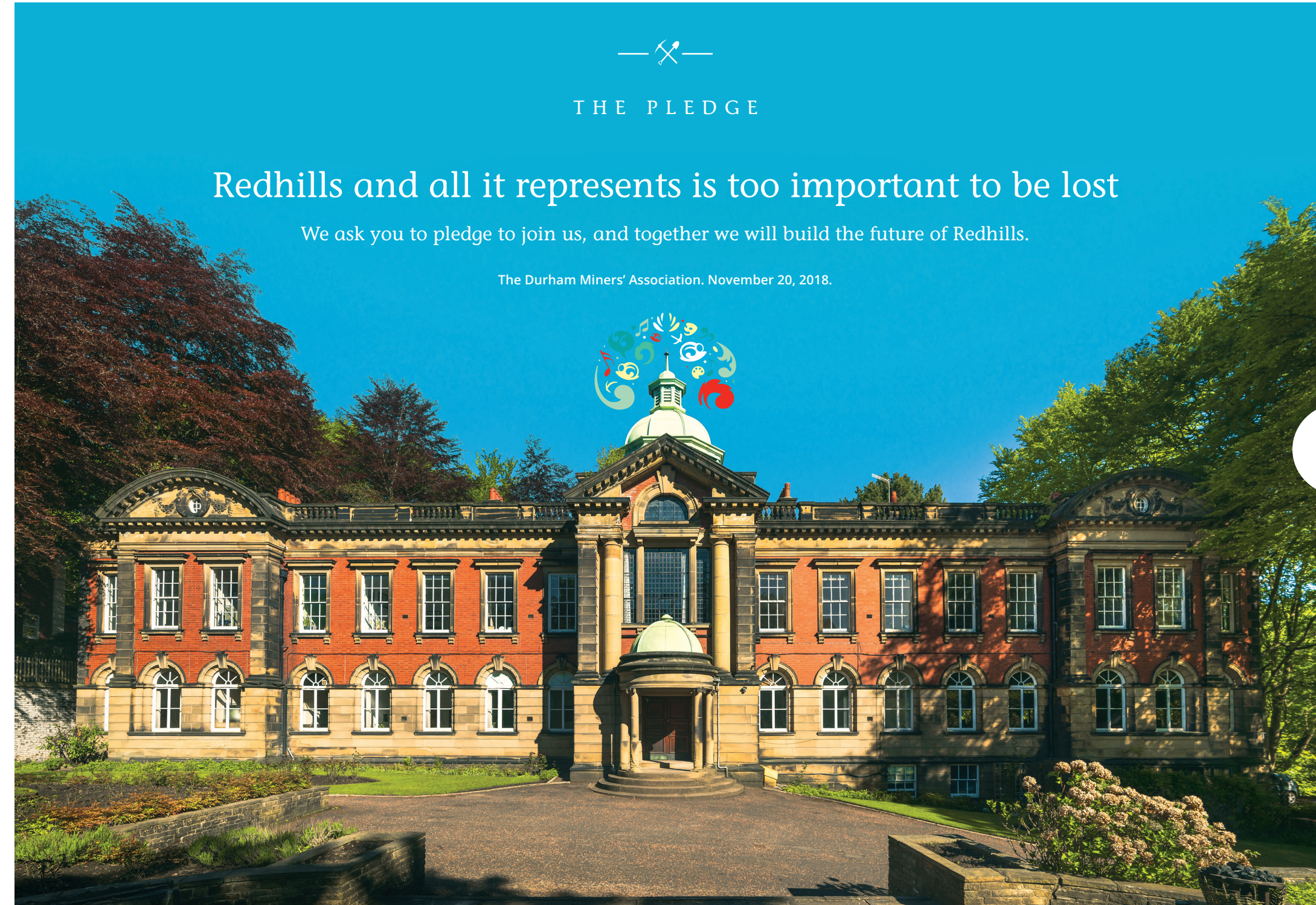
Above. Architect's impression of the future new building for Redhills.

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THE PLEDGE

Redhills and all it represents is too important to be lost

We ask you to pledge to join us, and together we will build the future of Redhills.

The Durham Miners' Association. November 20, 2018.



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THE PLEDGE

THE REDHILLS APPEAL

In 2019, the Durham Miners’ Association celebrates its 150th year.

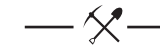
The Redhills Appeal is the opportunity for all of us to join together to build a vibrant future for The Miners’ Hall – for the next 150 years and beyond. All of us at the Durham Miners’ Association pledge to do all we can to ensure that Redhills survives and thrives; to honour all those who’ve gone before and to serve generations to come.

We ask you to Take the Pledge and become a supporter of The Redhills Appeal...

“I support The Redhills Appeal – the Durham Miners’ Association’s plan to renew the Miners’ Hall, and return it to the people as a centre for education, heritage, and culture.”



To take the Redhills pledge, visit us in person at our home, or go online at www.redhillsdurham.org/thepledge



Here are some ways you can be a supporter of The Redhills Appeal:

• Donate to The Redhills Appeal at <https://donorbox.org/redhills-appeal>

• Champion The Redhills Appeal in your community by spreading the word about our home and our plans, and encouraging others to get involved.

• Speak to us about developing a partnership with your organisation.

• Support The Redhills Appeal on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram by following [@redhillsdurham](https://www.facebook.com/redhillsdurham).



Please get in touch and find out how you can play your part in the future of Redhills

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www.redhillsdurham.org





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THE REDHILLS APPEAL

