

NORTHERN FELLS RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1093814

Details

Other names NORTHERN FELLS GROUP

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [04504085](#)

Registered 2002-09-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS FOR WHICH THE GROUP IS ESTABLISHED ARE PRIMARILY TO PROMOTE THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE PARISHES OF IREBY WITH ULDALE, BOLTONS, WESTWARD, SEBERGHAM, CALDBECK, CASTLE SOWERBY AND MUNGRISDALE IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBRIA WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF AGE, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE, DISABILITY OR POLITICAL RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER WITH THE SAID INHABITANTS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO ADVANCE EDUCATION, RELIEVE POVERTY, SICKNESS AND DISTRESS AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE SAID INHABITANTS AND SECONDARILY AND ANCILLARY TO THE PRIMARY OBJECTS TO BENEFIT PERSONS LIVING OUTSIDE THE NAMED PARISHES ON THE SAME TERMS AND BY THE SAME MEANS

Activities: The Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group promotes and undertakes charitable activities of any kind for the benefit and welfare of the inhabitants, communities and organisations in the parishes of Ireby with Uldale, Boltons, Westward, Sebergham, Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby and Mungrisdale in Cumbria

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** PARISHES OF IREBY WITH ULDALE, BOLTONS, WESTWARD, SEBERGHAM, CALDBECK, CASTLE SOWERBY AND MUNGRISDALE IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBRIA
- Cumbria

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£632,328	£191,073	£531,180	8
2024-03-31	£143,252	£183,810	-	-
2023-03-31	£186,984	£144,873	-	-
2022-03-31	£149,197	£136,303	-	-
2021-03-31	£125,578	£131,954	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PETER GEOFFREY HINE	Chair	2013-12-18
ANDREW ROSE		2019-05-13
Anne Burgess		2019-01-28
ELIZABETH GRAHAM		2022-10-15
KEITH ANTHONY BRIDGES		
Karen Atkinson		2022-10-17
Michael Richardson		2015-09-03
PETER JOHN HAY PEARSON		2014-09-10
Philippa Groves		2022-01-28
STEPHEN ROUTH BROCKBANK		2016-05-18
TIMOTHY HENRY CARTMELL		2015-09-03

NORTHERN FELLS RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1093814

Accounts



Northern Fells Group Annual Report 2025



For more info, visit northernfellsgroup.org.uk.



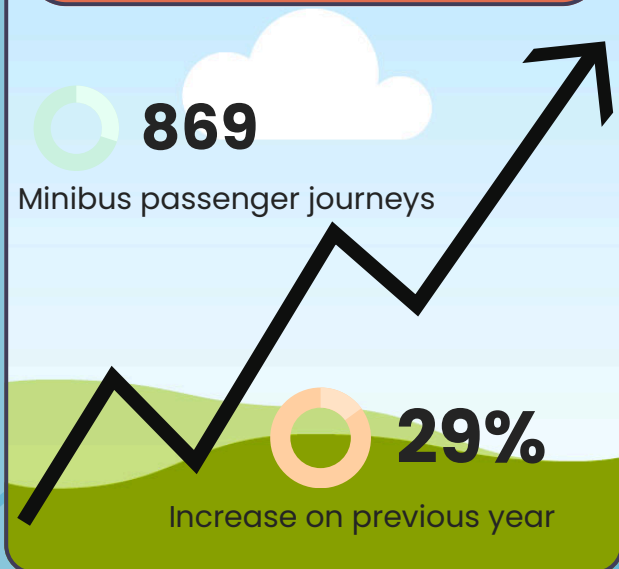
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ACTION THROUGH COMMUNITY

A YEAR AT NFG...

TRANSPORT SERVICE



WALKING GROUPS

60 Volunteer Led Walks

with 935 attendances

VILLAGE AGENTS

360 village agent sessions with 60 new clients

BENEFIT SUPPORT

96 Benefit Support Cases Completed

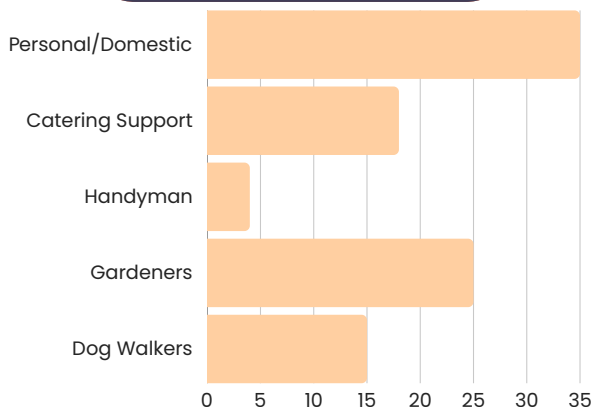
YOUTH WORK

345 hours

Ages 5-16

4 venues

LEND A HAND VOLUNTEERS





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Message from our Chair

Geoff Hine



Once again it gives me very great pleasure to introduce our annual report, which once more demonstrates a successful year of operations. It is a delight to do so as we also celebrate the contributions of our wonderful volunteers as well as our staff team and my colleague trustees.

It has always been my practice to let the annual report describe our activities and successes and use this opportunity to talk about our current situation; our actual year end now seven months behind us. My thanks go to all who have worked so hard to compile this report, particularly to our Treasurer, Andy Rose. I am also indebted to the work of those trustees who have done so much work on the Finance and Human Resource sub groups. This year has seen a huge increase in the tasks undertaken by trustees which, in some cases, has literally involved rolling up sleeves and getting very dirty indeed!

It has been my practice to let the report describe our activity to our 31st March year end, now more than half a year past, and comment more generally on our current situation.

At our meeting a year ago I welcomed our then new CEO, James Baggley. I want to say a very warm thank you to him and all the team for their enthusiastic work over the year to ensure we deliver on our core purposes as a charity. Those who visited our stand at Heskett Show should have felt the buzz which the team bring to their work.

I have some very special contributions to acknowledge this year. First the exceptional generosity of the late Audrey Johnstone in the legacy she bequeathed to us. Audrey was a remarkable lady who supported the NFG since its inception. She is cited in a reference in the original 'Under the Stones' report of 2002. This report can be accessed on the NFG website and still makes fascinating reading.

Our website has been made much more interactive and one new feature that I want to welcome wholeheartedly is the video documentary that expresses so eloquently and powerfully what we do. I want to thank Andy Hayes, the videographer who produced the film and gave his professional service freely and enthusiastically – thank you Andy.

We remain as an organisation heavily dependant upon grant funding but we also need to be mindful of opportunities to generate income for ourselves. This is where I want to pay tribute to Margaret Rose and her team who have worked so hard to make the Mosedale Coffee Shop and ongoing successful initiative. This provides a hugely welcome service to visitors to the area and this last season has generated some £23,500 to our funds.

I continue to be excited by our future and confident that 2025/26 will be another very successful year.

Finally I want to thank our funders, who account for 69% of our income. These include the parish councils of Boltons, Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby, Ireby with Uldale, Mungrisdale, Sebergham & Welton and Westward & Rosley. We are also grateful to the National Lottery, Cumbria Community Foundation and the Joyce Wilkinson Trust.

Geoffrey Hine
Chair – Northern Fells Rural Development Group



Message from our CEO

James Baggley

This year marks my first full year as Chief Executive of the Northern Fells Group, and it has been both a privilege and an inspiration to lead such a dedicated and compassionate organisation. From my very first day, I have been struck by the strength of community spirit that runs through everything we do – from the kindness of our volunteers to the professionalism of our staff and the steadfast commitment of our trustees.

As we look back over 2024/25, I am immensely proud of how the organisation has continued to meet the growing needs of our rural communities. Despite the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis, rural isolation, and rising demand for support, the Northern Fells Group has remained a vital source of help, connection, and friendship for local people.

Our Village Agent team remains at the heart of this work, providing practical assistance, guidance, and emotional support to hundreds of residents across our seven parishes. Whether arranging transport, helping to access benefits, or simply offering a listening ear, they represent the compassion and reliability that our community has come to depend upon.

The Men in Sheds project continues to flourish, offering a welcoming space for men to work, talk, and share skills.

Our Dementia Awareness and Support Programme has also grown in depth and reach, helping people live well with dementia while supporting families and carers through advice, social activity, and training. This work has strengthened understanding and compassion within our local communities and has been widely praised by participants and partners alike. Thanks to the national lottery we have received grant funding to secure our dementia support work for the next two years. Our youth programmes have continued to grow this year, offering opportunities for young people across the Northern Fells to connect, learn, and have fun in a safe, supportive environment. These sessions not only give young people new experiences and friendships but also strengthen their sense of belonging within the wider community. By working alongside local partners and volunteers, we're helping the next generation develop vital life skills while keeping the rural spirit of our area alive and thriving.

Behind the scenes, we have focused on strengthening our governance, systems, and infrastructure. This has included a review of policies, HR improvements, and careful financial planning to ensure long-term sustainability. I also want to acknowledge the extraordinary generosity of the late Audrey Johnston, whose legacy has enabled us to invest in essential infrastructure and strengthen our organisation for the future. Her gift represents not only a financial contribution but a lasting expression of trust in the Northern Fells Group and its mission.

None of our success this year would have been possible without our volunteers. From drivers and coffee shop helpers to trustees, shed members, and fundraisers – their kindness, energy, and generosity of spirit continue to shape everything we achieve together.

Looking ahead, our focus will remain on sustainability, collaboration, and lasting community impact. Through our five-year plan we will continue to evolve, grow, and serve our communities with creativity and care.

James Baggley
Chief Executive Officer



Trustees' Annual Report (incorporating the directors' report)



The Board of Trustees, who are the Group's directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law and are referred to through this report as 'the Trustees', present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group ('the Group' or 'NFG') for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the Objects as set out in the governing document

The Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group promotes and undertakes (either alone or on behalf of or in association with other bodies, organisations and individuals) charitable activities of any kind for the benefit and welfare of the inhabitants, communities and organisations in the seven parishes of rural Cumbria; namely the parishes of Boltons, Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby, Ireby with Uldale, Mungrisdale, Sebergham & Welton and Westward & Rosley.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these Objects

The Group runs the following services:

- Village Agents – linking people to the Group's services and outside organisations with four agents working throughout the seven parishes.
- Lend a Hand – providing neighbourly support to people who are ill or less able, and their carers.
- Transport service – providing a flexible, accessible door to door service for people of any age without their own transport, and group hire.
- Benefits Awareness and Help – supporting the elderly, people with disabilities or on low income in claiming benefits to which they are entitled.
- Dementia Support – providing information on, and raising awareness of, dementia.
- Men in Sheds – operating a fully stocked workshop in Caldbeck.
- Youth Activities – running a range of activities including drama, dance, arts and sports for younger people and networking with local, county and national youth schemes.
- General administration, research and development, and fundraising.
- Additional services provided include parish based lunch clubs, drop-in sessions and Tai-Chi for elderly people.

Public Benefit

The Group carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The Trustees consider that the Group's activities, summarised above, provide many benefits for the inhabitants, communities and organisations within the seven parishes. The Chief Executive Officer reviews the performance and objectives set for all the Group's services and reports to the Trustees thereby ensuring the needs of the residents in our community are being met.

Achievement and Performance

The Group continues to achieve its aims: helping, supporting, guiding, serving and enabling the inhabitants of the seven parishes.

The Village Agents



Gillian Skillicorn
Ireby, Uldale & Boltons



Chloe Duerdin
Caldbeck
Hesket Newmarket & Millhouse



Jackie Clayton
Sebergham & Welton,
Westward & Rosley
Mungrisdale & Castle Sowerby

Village Agent Projects

Woodlands Lunch Club

A very well attended regular lunch club organised by Gillian. Lunch clubs across the NFG area provide regular social interaction and an opportunity for Village Agents to offer support. Even in very snowy winter conditions 12 local residents attended!



“Thanks Gillian – and thank you for organising the very good lunches supporting our community.” **Lunch Club member**

Rainbow Pantry Visits

Our visits to the Rainbow Pantry have brought clear and lasting benefits to local residents across the Northern Fells area. By strengthening links between the Pantry and the Northern Fells Group, we’ve been able to help residents access affordable food and essential household items at a time when many are struggling with rising costs.





Allotment Project

Thanks to funding from the Green Social Prescribing fund NFG has been able to provide the opportunity for local residents to attend our allotment and benefit from guidance and support as well as a quiet place to chat.

Crafty Thursdays

Following continued success Crafty Thursdays have been running monthly at The Old Crown Pub at Hesket Newmarket and The Bell Institute at Boltongate. These sessions provide the opportunity for local residents to meet, learn new skills and make new friends.



Local residents enjoying a felting workshop

Lunch Clubs

There are now a number of lunch clubs across the area including Ireby and Rosley. The lunch clubs have continued to grow. With the addition of a lunch club and coffee mornings in Mungrisdale there are more and more options for getting to together!



1-2-1 sessions

Offering tailored support with clients, helping people to get back out into the community after illness or for social companionship, befriending, etc.



Good News Story

Food Cumberland Big Lunch 2025 – Bolton Low Houses Pop-Up Picnic

This year Gillian obtained funding from Cumberland County Council to set up the Big Lunch. The Big Lunch is the UK’s annual get-together for neighbours and communities, which sees millions of people coming together for a few hours of friendship, food and fun. CCC was offering funding to help us get started and run our own Food Cumberland Big Local Lunch.



By combining the pop up picnic with a trip to the rainbow pantry the event brought together many members of the community for a great day out!

Feedback from the community:

“Many thanks to you too Gillian, and the NFG, for organising such an enjoyable afternoon! Delicious food and meeting friends old and new, fabulous! Roll on the next one!”



Men in Sheds



The Men in Sheds project has continued to thrive over the past year, providing a welcoming and purposeful space for local people to come together, share skills, and support one another. Membership has remained strong, with several new participants joining throughout the year and quickly becoming part of the group's routine and camaraderie.

The Shed has produced a wide range of items, from bug hotels for the youth projects to restoring lawn mowers, with sales at local events helping to generate valuable income for both the Shed and the wider charity. Beyond the practical work, the social side of the project remains its biggest strength – offering friendship, routine, and a sense of belonging for those who may otherwise feel isolated.

Volunteers have maintained the workshop to a high standard, supporting health and safety reviews and contributing ideas for future improvements.

**Shed Master
Andrew Swainson**



Transport Service

The Northern Fells Group has once again offered it's invaluable transport service to help people in our area by offering an affordable, flexible minibus service, bookable by contacting our Transport Co-ordinator on the phone or by text or email.

We could not do what we do without our team of fantastic volunteer drivers who willingly dedicate their time to shifts driving the minibus.

In total there were 869 return passenger journeys, the majority of which are for social events or visits but a high proportion are also for hospital appointments or GP visits .

The minibus takes people to appointments of all kinds both near and far - to Cumberland Infirmary, the hospital in Whitehaven, and for various engagements in Wigton, Carlisle and Penrith including hair salons, dentists, therapeutic classes, shopping and social visits to friends, lifts to the station, village activities, shopping and more.

Striking in this period was the support offered to a local man in a wheelchair who regularly used the bus for social outings with his wife - he has subsequently passed away and his family have told us what a difference the transport Service made to them in the final months of his life. Another passenger, aged 94, who used the service almost weekly was enabled to maintain his independence with trips to Penrith.



**Transport Co-ordinator
Kitty Booth**

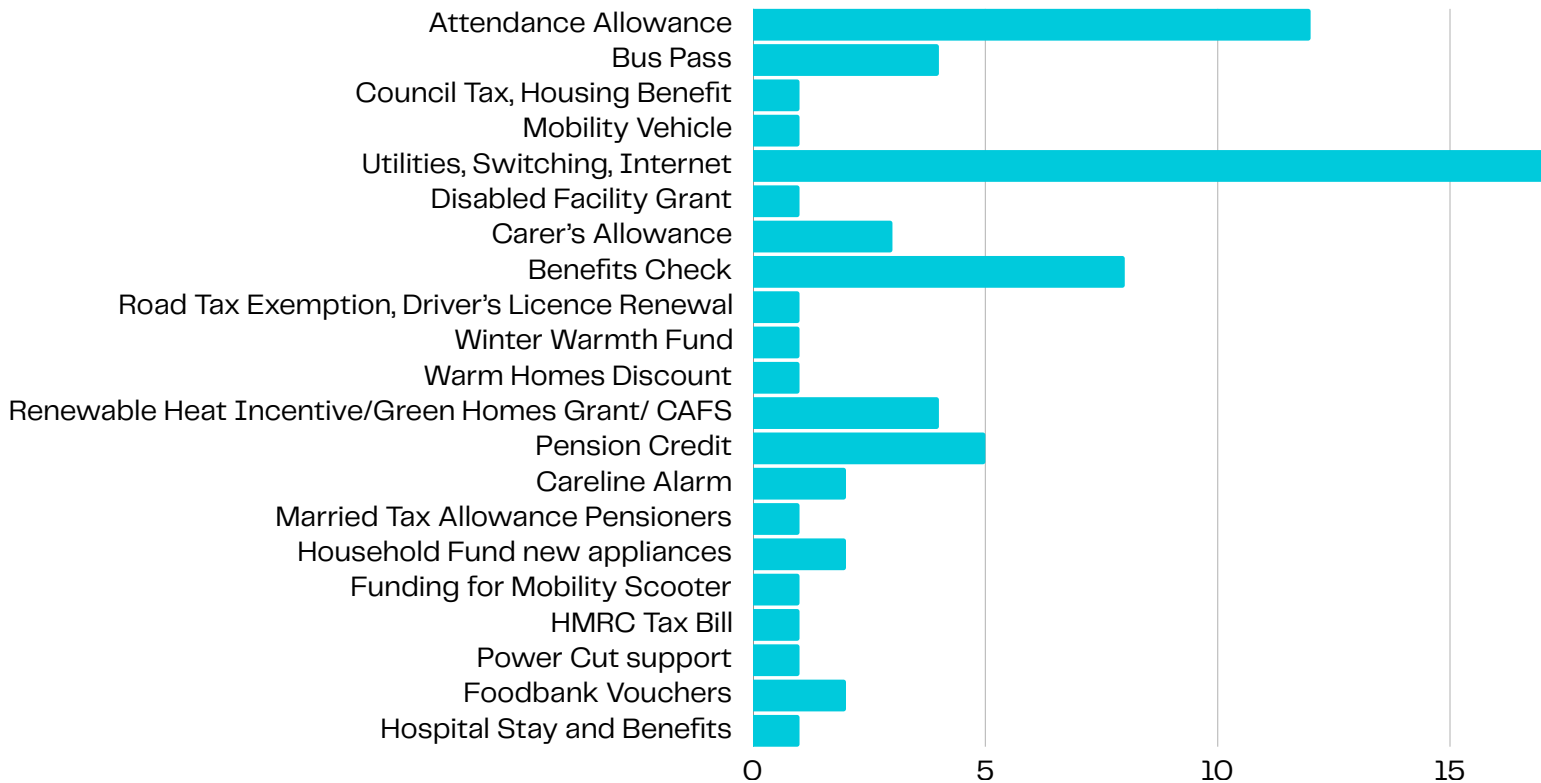


Benefits Advice and Support



Benefits Advisor Jackie Clayton

Throughout the last year Jackie provided a confidential and approachable service, helping people to identify what they're entitled to, complete forms accurately, and understand the range of support available through Government schemes, Local Authorities, Sustainability programmes, and Adult Social Care. Jackie also liaises directly with officials when needed – by phone, letter, or in person – to help resolve issues on behalf of clients. Over the past year, the service has also built new links with Futureproof Cumbria (formerly Cumbria Action for Sustainability) and with local foodbanks, strengthening the network of practical support available to residents who are struggling with living costs or accessing essential services.



Youth Work

The Northern Fells Group successfully delivered a vibrant and well-attended summer youth scheme for children living in or attending school within the Northern Fells catchment area. With the support of Cumberland Council's funding (Community Investment Project).



The scheme supported 39 children, including 12 families with multiple siblings attending. This was especially valuable for farming families, who often face increased workloads during the summer months. The local delivery of the scheme meant families didn't have to travel far, making participation convenient and reducing barriers to access. The affordability of the programme ensured that families from a range of economic backgrounds could take part.



A good news story...



Feedback from parent of young person taking part in Summer 2025 programme:

"I just wanted to say thank you so much to you and your lovely ladies, who have done such an amazing job of keeping our little ones safe (and us sane!) during the summer holidays. I know I am not the only person who is grateful to you, but I just wanted to make sure you all know. I cannot tell you how great you all were, and how much easier you made working in the summer holiday. I really am so grateful."

Dementia Awareness

This year Move it & Groove it continues to go strong, with a revolving core group of people attending. As a group we had a lovely visit to a private garden

Dance & Sing has also continued well over the last 12 months. Health professionals have referred individuals to both groups. A big thank you to all the volunteers who give their time to help the sessions be so successful.

NFG has also continued to support the local community with training on Dementia Awareness. A special thank you to volunteers Libby Graham and Philippa Groves for their hard work on this area.



Good News Story....

For Dementia Action week this year we hosted an Emotional Resilience and Self Care Workshop for carers in partnership with Emma Andrews from Hospice at Home. The session was beneficial for all those who attended. Some feedback from the session:-

- “I found it useful to be able to share my situation with others. It was good to hear how things are for others and how they manage. The slides were clear and easy to follow. The trainer was flexible in giving all present enough time to talk.”
- “It was WONDERFUL!”
- “The trainer enabled a very welcoming, relaxed atmosphere and lots of sharing of experiences happened, all of which will be very useful for me as I embark on my possible future role as carer for my partner. I now have some positive ideas for handling what may well become a somewhat daunting situation. Thank you for the day.”
- “It is very reassuring to find one’s own experience of (and reactions to!) caring mirrored in that of others – as emphasised at the session: **NO ONE IS ALONE!**”

As a result of this workshop 5 of the carers are wanting to meet regularly to support and encourage one another, the first session has now taken place.



Thank You to Our Volunteers

Volunteers have once again been at the heart of everything we've achieved this year. From running the community coffee shop and leading walking groups to supporting the Cooking for Men sessions, their time, energy, and commitment continue to make a real difference. Every conversation, cup of tea, and shared laugh helps to build the sense of community that makes the Northern Fells Group what it is.



Our thanks also go to the trustees, drivers, shed members, event helpers, and countless others who give their time so generously behind the scenes. Whether organising, fundraising, or lending a practical hand, their efforts ensure that our services remain welcoming, personal, and deeply rooted in the local area. We simply couldn't do it without them.



Financial Review of the Year

The financial result for the Group shows an overall income of £632,328 (2024: £143,252) and, after deducting expenditure of £191,073 (2024: £183,810), a surplus of £441,255 (2024: deficit of £40,558).

During the year the Group was the beneficiary of a legacy from the estate of the late Audrey Johnston. The legacy included three properties which have contributed £475,000 to Group's income. At 31st March 2025 these properties had not been sold and are included in the balance sheet as a non-cash current asset.

The receipt of the legacy from the late Audrey Johnston has a transformational impact on the Group's finances and has provided the trustees with the opportunity to undertake a strategic review of the Group's operational activities and financial resources for the next five years. The receipt of this legacy is also timely as the five-year funding programme from the National Lottery, through their Enabling Communities Programme, which had been the Group's major funder over the last ten years came to an end on 30th September 2025.

Source of Income

Audrey Johnston legacy	£474,859
Grant support	£108,439
Fundraising	£25,353
Donations and other legacies	£10,448
Other	£13,229

Excluding the legacy from the estate of the late Audrey Johnston grant funding represented 69% of this year's income. The National Lottery, through their Enabling Communities Programme, provided £46,246 of this year's grant income. This income is part of a five-year funding programme which ended in September 2025. The Joyce Wilkinson Fund provided £19,649 of income as part of two-year funding programme to June 2026.

Other grant providers include the seven parish councils within the Group's operating area, Francis C Scott Trust and Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Fund.

The cornerstone of the Group's fundraising activities is the coffee shop at Mosedale. Over a thirteen-week period the coffee shop generated an income of just over £22,000. This is a 10% increase on the previous year and is a tremendous result. A huge thanks must go Margaret Rose for her management of the coffee shop and the team of 60 volunteers. The Mungrisdale Craft Fair overseen by Ilona Furrokh was a highly successful event raising nearly £2,000. Other fundraising activities included the sale of cards and items made by the Men in Sheds team.

Other sources of income during the year include individual and legacy donations, membership subscriptions, minibus fares, and contributions to specific Group activities.

Expenditure for the year of £191,073 which represents a modest overall increase of 4% on the previous year's total expenditure.

Village Agent expenditure activity has increased in the year by £8,826. This is a result of an increase in village activities and a reduced salary cost in the previous year. For seven months in the previous year there were only three village agents rather than four.

In the last quarter of the previous year the opportunity was taken to strategically review how the Lend a Hand activity was managed. As a result, Lend a Hand expenditure for this year is £6,000 less than the previous year without a detrimental impact on service levels.

Reserves Policy

Total reserves at the end of the year were £531,180 (2024: £91,653) of which £525,378 (2024: £83,628) were unrestricted funds and £5,802 (2024: £7,935) were restricted funds.

The level of reserves is determined by balancing the need to maintain sufficient reserves to enable the Group's charitable work to continue when faced with difficult circumstances, with the need to maximise the use of our resources. Reserves, therefore, need to be sufficient to allow the trustees sufficient time to address potential funding shortfalls. At the year-end cash and investments equated to approximately seven months average expenditure. The trustees consider the Group's reserves at the year-end to be adequate and in-line with the reserves policy.

Financial Management

The management team operate budgetary control over all aspects of the Group's charitable activities. Budgets, which are discussed and agreed with the Trustees, are prepared on an annual basis and monitored against actual. In addition, quarterly management accounts are prepared and reviewed by the Trustees.

Structure, Governance and Management

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 6 August 2002, amended 27 September 2006 and reamended on 26 September 2022.

Board of Trustees

Management of the Group is entrusted to the Board of Trustees; consisting of the Officers, namely, Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer, and ten other members. The Board of Trustees meet four times a year.

All Trustees are members of the Group. Each of the seven parish councils nominate a trustee representative at the Annual General Meeting who serve for the following year. The other five trustees and three Officers are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees have the powers to do all things necessary and desirable in pursuit of the Objects of the Group.

All new trustees undergo training and are fully briefed on the Group's policies and procedures and receive copies of the Good Governance Guide and the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

All trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration during the year.

Senior Management

The day-to-day management of the Group is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer, James Baggley.

Membership

There are currently 200 members of the Group. Membership costs £5 for individual or £15 per annum for joint or family membership. Membership is open to anyone living within the Northern Fells area or wishing to support the work of the Group.

Risk Management

The Trustees monitor the major strategic, business and organisational risks which the Group faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Small Company Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees annual report was approved on 12th November 2025 signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by:

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Geoff Hine

Chair and Trustee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2025

		2025		2024
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Income and endowments				
Donations and legacies	5	485,307	-	485,307
Charitable activities	6	-	108,439	108,439
Other trading activities	7	25,353	-	25,353
Investment income	8	1,514	-	1,514
Other income	9	8,645	3,070	11,715
Total income		520,819	111,509	632,328
Expenditure				
Expenditure on raising funds:				
Costs of other trading activities	10	4,854	-	4,854
Expenditure on charitable activities	11, 12	1,574	184,645	186,219
Total Expenditure		6,428	184,645	191,073
Net Income/(Expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	14	514,391	(73,136)	441,255
Net gains/(losses) on investments	19	(1,638)	-	(1,638)
Net Income/(expenditure)		512,753	(73,136)	439,617
Transfer between funds		(71,003)	71,003	-
Net movement in funds		441,750	(2,133)	439,617
Total funds as at 1 April 2024		83,628	7,935	91,563
Total funds as at 31 March 2025		525,378	5,802	531,180

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 24 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	18	4,642	6,757
Investments	19	<u>54,262</u>	<u>55,900</u>
		58,904	62,657
Current Assets			
Inventories	20	472,010	-
Debtors	21	6,430	3,561
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>58,935</u>	<u>63,060</u>
		537,375	66,621
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Accruals and deferred income	22	<u>(65,099)</u>	<u>(37,715)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>472,276</u>	<u>28,906</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>531,180</u>	<u>91,563</u>
Net Assets		<u>531,180</u>	<u>91,563</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds	24	5,802	7,935
Unrestricted funds	24	<u>525,378</u>	<u>83,628</u>
Total charity funds		<u>531,180</u>	<u>91,563</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime, were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 12th November 2025 and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Geoff Hine
Chair and Trustee

Andrew Rose
Treasurer and Trustee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2025

Cash flows from operating activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(2,036)</u>	<u>(3,152)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of equipment	(2,089)	(2,350)
Purchase of investments	-	(4,391)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities	<u>(2,089)</u>	<u>(6,741)</u>
Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(4,125)	(9,893)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	63,060	72,953
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	<u>58,935</u>	<u>63,060</u>
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Net Income/(expenditure) for the reporting period	439,617	(34,658)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	4,204	7,341
(Gains)/losses on investments	1,638	(5,900)
(Increase)/decrease in goods held for resale	(472,010)	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(2,869)	39,428
Increase/(decrease) in accruals and deferred income	27,384	(9,363)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(2,036)</u>	<u>(3,152)</u>
	2025	2024
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	58,935	63,060
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>58,935</u>	<u>63,060</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Millhouse Village Hall, Millhouse, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 8HR.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Significant judgements

There are no judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entities accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Key sources of estimation and uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. There are no key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Properties held for resale

Properties gifted by way of a legacy and held for resale are classified as current assets and are stated at the lower of probate value or net realisable value. Net realisable value represents the estimated selling price less all estimated costs to maintain and sell the property.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity period of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account (other than those held for investment purposes).

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income resources receivable or generated and are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- Legacy income is recognised when the receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Income is deferred when either the donor specifies that the grant must only be used in future periods of account or the funding relates to activities in future accounting periods.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis – based on time taken. These support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

- Motor vehicles - 20% straight line
- Equipment - 25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transactions costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financial transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

4. Limited by guarantee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group is a charity limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital.

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations			
Donations	9,088	-	9,088
Legacies			
Legacies	476,219	-	476,219
	<u>485,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>485,307</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	4,329	-	4,329
Legacies			
Legacies	-	-	-
	<u>4,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,329</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

6 Charitable activities

	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Parish Council Grants	3,100	3,100	2,350	2,350
Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Trust	2,625	2,625	3,500	3,500
Cumbria Community Foundation	26,665	26,665	29,184	29,184
Joyce Wilkinson Fund	19,649	19,649	20,231	20,231
Lottery Community Fund	46,246	46,246	44,850	44,850
Cumberland Council	4,417	4,417	-	-
Francis C Scott Trust	4,167	4,167	-	-
Other Grants received	1,570	1,570	2,480	2,480
	<u>108,439</u>	<u>108,439</u>	<u>102,595</u>	<u>102,595</u>

7 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025
	£	£	£
Fundraising	<u>25,353</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,353</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£
Fundraising	<u>23,948</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,948</u>

8 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable	<u>1,514</u>	<u>1,514</u>	<u>1,789</u>	<u>1,789</u>

9 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025
	£	£	£
Membership subscriptions	2,566	-	2,566
Contributions to activity expenditure	4,824	-	4,824
Minibus fares	-	3,070	3,070
Gift Aid reclaim	1,255	-	1,255
	<u>8,645</u>	<u>3,070</u>	<u>11,715</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£
Membership Subscriptions	2,479	-	2,479
Contributions to activity expenditure	6,210	-	6,210
Minibus fares	-	1,902	1,902
Gift Aid reclaim	-	-	-
	<u>8,689</u>	<u>1,902</u>	<u>10,591</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

10 Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	4,854	4,854	4,175	4,175

11 Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025
	£	£	£
Minibus	-	13,869	13,869
Lend a Hand	-	8,369	8,369
Village Agents	-	33,838	33,838
Men in Sheds	-	8,183	8,183
Youth activities	-	5,512	5,512
Benefits Awareness	-	10,788	10,788
Dementia Support	-	6,615	6,615
Depreciation	-	4,204	4,204
Support costs	1,574	93,267	94,841
	<u>1,574</u>	<u>184,645</u>	<u>186,219</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£
Minibus	-	13,120	13,120
Lend a Hand	-	13,518	13,518
Village Agents	-	25,854	25,854
Men in Sheds	-	8,502	8,502
Youth activities	-	5,989	5,989
Benefits Awareness	-	10,134	10,134
Dementia Support	-	6,128	6,128
Depreciation	-	7,341	7,341
Support costs	1,200	87,849	89,049
	<u>1,200</u>	<u>178,435</u>	<u>179,635</u>

12 Expenditure on charity activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Minibus	13,869	665	14,534	14,763
Lend a Hand	8,369	3,199	11,568	17,583
Village Agents	33,838	9,133	42,971	34,145
Men in Sheds	8,183	4,459	12,642	12,327
Youth activities	5,512	3,006	8,518	7,881
Benefits Awareness	10,788	1,264	12,052	11,365
Dementia Support	6,615	1,655	8,270	6,707
General support	-	69,886	69,886	66,323
Depreciation	4,204	-	4,204	7,341
Governance costs	-	1,574	1,574	1,200
	<u>91,378</u>	<u>94,841</u>	<u>186,219</u>	<u>179,635</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

13 Analysis of support costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	53,461	45,650
Premises	14,182	9,715
Communications and IT	7,629	12,907
General office	5,268	5,290
Governance costs	1,574	1,200
Other costs	12,727	14,287
	<u>94,841</u>	<u>89,049</u>

14 Net income/ (expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>4,204</u>	<u>7,341</u>

15 Independent examination fees

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fees payable to the Independent Examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,574	1,200
Other financial services	576	724
	<u>2,150</u>	<u>1,924</u>

16 Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>129,774</u>	<u>119,497</u>

of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Chief Executive Officer	1	1
Finance & Administration	1	1
Minibus	1	2
Men in Sheds	1	1
Village Agents (including Young People, Lend a Hand, Benefits Awareness and Dementia Awareness)	3	3
	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil).

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

17 Trustee Remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

Expenses amounting to £170 (2024: £129) were reimbursed to one trustee during the year for materials for a charitable activity.

18 Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
As at 1 April 2024	27,650	15,797	43,447
Additions	-	2,089	2,089
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2025	<u>27,650</u>	<u>17,886</u>	<u>45,536</u>
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2024	25,810	10,880	36,690
Charge for the year	1,840	2,364	4,204
As at 31 March 2025	<u>27,650</u>	<u>13,244</u>	<u>40,894</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>4,642</u>	<u>4,642</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,840</u>	<u>4,917</u>	<u>6,757</u>

19 Investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Market value at 1 April 2024	55,900	45,609
Purchase of investments at cost	-	50,000
Disposal proceeds	-	(45,609)
	<u>55,900</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Net gain/(loss) on investments	(1,638)	5,900
Market value at 31 March 2025	<u>54,262</u>	<u>55,900</u>
Original cost	50,000	45,000
Represented by		
Cash or cash equivalent investments	50,000	45,000

20 Inventories

	2025 £	2024 £
Goods held for resale	<u>472,010</u>	<u>-</u>

21 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	500	1,327
Prepayments	5,930	2,234
	<u>6,430</u>	<u>3,561</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

22 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>65,099</u>	<u>37,715</u>

23 Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
As at 1 April 2024	(32,544)	(43,435)
Amount released to income	32,544	43,435
Amount deferred in year	<u>61,395</u>	<u>32,544</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>61,395</u>	<u>32,544</u>

24 Analysis of charitable funds

<i>Unrestricted funds</i>	Gains/(Losses)					
	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	on Investments	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>83,628</u>	<u>520,819</u>	<u>(6,428)</u>	<u>(1,638)</u>	<u>(71,003)</u>	<u>525,378</u>

	Gains/(Losses)					
	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	on Investments	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>113,055</u>	<u>38,755</u>	<u>(5,375)</u>	<u>5,900</u>	<u>(68,707)</u>	<u>83,628</u>

<i>Restricted Funds</i>	Gains/(Losses)					
	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	on Investments	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	<u>7,935</u>	<u>111,509</u>	<u>(184,645)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,003</u>	<u>5,802</u>

	Gains/(Losses)					
	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	on Investments	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	<u>13,166</u>	<u>104,497</u>	<u>(178,435)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,707</u>	<u>7,935</u>

25 Related Parties

During the year one trustee and the wife of one trustee were reimbursed for the following expenditure: Mungrisdale Craft Fair consumables: £462 and materials for charitable activities: £170.

There were no other related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2025.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purpose of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirements that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Liddle FCA for and on behalf of Saint & Co Independent Examiner

4 Mason Court
Gillan Way
Penrith 40 Business Park
Penrith
Cumbria
CA11 9GR

Trustees, Officers and Professional Advisers

Royal Patron	HM King Charles III
Honorary Patron	Dr Jim Cox
Trustees and Directors	Geoff Hine (Chair) Tim Cartmell (Vice Chair) Andrew Rose (Treasurer) Karen Atkinson Elspeth Alexander (Resigned 31 st January 2025) Keith Bridges Steve Brockbank Anne Burgess Libby Graham Philippa Groves Peter Pearson Mike Richardson
Company Secretary	James Baggley
Chief Executive Officer	James Baggley
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 6 Lowther Street Carlisle CA3 8DB
Independent Examiner	Saint & Co Penrith Cumbria CA11 9GR
Principal office and registered office	Millhouse Village Hall Millhouse Wigton Cumbria CA7 8HR

Notes

NORTHERN FELLS RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1093814

Accounts



ACTION THROUGH COMMUNITY



Northern Fells Group Annual Report 2024



For more info, visit northernfellsgroup.org.uk.



Follow us on facebook: [@NorthernFells](https://www.facebook.com/NorthernFells)

Company Registration Number 04504085

Charity Registration Number 1093814

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS..



556

Sessions run by Village Agents

120

Home visits by Village Agents

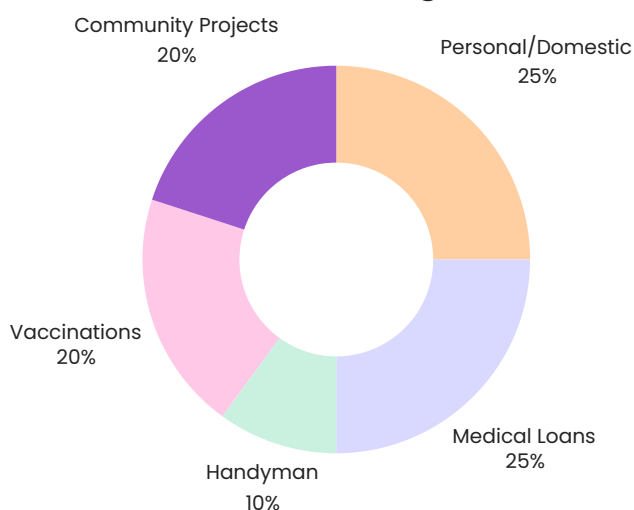
100

Men in Sheds Sessions

85

Hearing Aid Appointments Provided

Lend a Hand Volunteering - 540 assists



Benefits Advice

113 issues addressed

for 78 Clients

claiming £117,000

Transport Service

673

Minibus passenger journeys

23%

Increase on previous year

Youth Work Sessions

28 sessions

3 school holidays

120 young people

20 Families



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Message from our Chair

Geoff Hine



Once again it gives me very great pleasure to introduce our annual report, which once more demonstrates a successful year of operations. It is a delight to do so as we also celebrate the contributions of our wonderful volunteers as well as our staff team and my colleague trustees. My thanks go to all who have worked so hard to compile this report, particularly to our Treasurer, Andy Rose.

The report demonstrates that we are delivering on our core purposes as a charity. It has been my practice to let the report describe our activity to our 31st March year end, now more than half a year past, and comment more generally on our current situation.

One of the great highlights for us has been the renewal of our Royal Patronage. For some time after His Majesty King Charles' accession to the throne the charities he extended patronage to as Prince of Wales were subject to review. We were delighted with the news that His Majesty is maintaining his interest in the NFG. It is a recognition of the work of so many in our community.

A great part of the ethos of our organisation is 'service'. Service to individuals and the wider community by dedicated volunteers and staff. I want to pay tribute to some of them. Firstly, Antoinette Ward who retired in June after 25 years service in a variety of roles. Antoinette played a key role in the local initiative under the then Prince of Wales Rural Revival Project launched in 1999. She was a major contributor to the report, 'Under The Stones – Hidden need in Rural Cumbria' published in 2002. At her retirement presentation other key individuals from those days came forward to pay tribute.

Simon Braithwaite retired as our 'Lend a Hand' Co-ordinator. Simon was also a key player in our IT systems but his contribution to the work of the NFG during the Covid pandemic is perhaps his greatest legacy. Our volunteer network expanded fivefold to around 180 – many from out of our immediate area. When the vaccination roll-out began we supported the Keswick and Solway Primary Care group to deliver some 66,000 jabs and great credit goes to Simon for a lot of the organisation.

We said farewell to our CEO, Andrea Sales, in June. Andrea impelled the NFG organisation and activity to new levels and we are deeply grateful for all that she achieved. It is a testament to her work that her successor has been appointed on a full time basis whereas Andrea was engaged part time. We welcome James Baggley as our new CEO and already he is making his considerable mark.

The NFG is robust in its organisation and in a strong financial position. I am excited by our future and confident that 2024/25 will be another very successful year.

Finally I want to thank our grant funders, who account for 72% of our income. These include the parish councils of Boltons, Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby, Ireby with Uldale, Mungrisdale, Sebergham & Welton and Westward & Rosley. We are also grateful to the National Lottery, Cumbria Community Foundation and the Joyce Wilkinson Trust.

Geoffrey Hine
Chair



Message from our CEO

James Baggley

I am pleased to present my first report as Chief Executive Officer of NFG. Since joining in June 2024, I have had the privilege of working with a dedicated team, passionate volunteers, and supportive communities, all committed to improving the lives of those in the rural areas we serve.

The transition into this role has been both rewarding and challenging. One of my primary goals upon joining was to ensure a seamless continuation of the vital services NFG provides, while exploring new opportunities for growth and improvement. In collaboration with our board of trustees, staff, and volunteers, we have already made great strides in strengthening the foundations of our services and enhancing our impact.

Despite the ongoing challenges posed by rural isolation, limited resources, and challenges in public services, I am proud to report NFG has continued to deliver a variety of key services over the past year.

Our minibus service driven by a team of passionate volunteers, has completed 673 passenger journeys. This has allowed us to reach more people in need, helping individuals access essential services from medical appointments to social activities. Our volunteering programmes have also facilitated 85 volunteers, providing support and practical help to local residents, many of whom are elderly or living in isolated rural locations.

Our new youth programme, launched in collaboration with local schools, has fostered intergenerational connections and provided opportunities for young people in rural communities. In addition, we have secured new grants and partnerships that have enabled us to invest in new projects, as well as continue the existing great work of NFG.

While we have accomplished much, the challenges we face are ongoing. Rising costs of living, increasing demand for services, and the geographical challenges of rural areas mean we must continue to innovate and adapt. Our focus moving forward is on ensuring long-term sustainability, diversifying our funding streams, and deepening our relationships with key stakeholders.

As we head into 2025, I am optimistic about the future of NFG. We will continue to champion the needs of rural communities, build stronger networks, and create new opportunities for collaboration. Our priorities include expanding access to digital tools and training for those who are digitally excluded, strengthening partnerships to deliver holistic support services, and enhancing our offer to all age groups to ensure that the Northern Fells area remains vibrant and self-sustaining.

In closing, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners. Your dedication and generosity make our work possible. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve, and I am honoured to be part of this incredible journey.

James Baggley
Chief Executive Officer



Trustees' Annual Report (incorporating the directors' report)



The Board of Trustees, who are the Group's directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law and are referred to through this report as 'the Trustees', present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group ('the Group' or 'NFG') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the Objects as set out in the governing document

The Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group promotes and undertakes (either alone or on behalf of or in association with other bodies, organisations and individuals) charitable activities of any kind for the benefit and welfare of the inhabitants, communities and organisations in the seven parishes of rural Cumbria; namely the parishes of Boltons, Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby, Ireby with Uldale, Mungrisdale, Sebergham & Welton and Westward & Rosley.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these Objects

The Group runs the following services:

- Village Agents – linking people to the Group's services and outside organisations with four agents working throughout the seven parishes.
- Lend a Hand – providing neighbourly support to people who are ill or less able, and their carers.
- Minibus service – providing a flexible, accessible door to door service for people of any age without their own transport, and group hire.
- Benefits Awareness and Help – supporting the elderly, people with disabilities or on low income in claiming benefits to which they are entitled.
- Dementia Support – providing information on, and raising awareness of, dementia.
- Men in Sheds – operating a fully stocked workshop in Caldbeck.
- Youth Activities – running a range of activities including drama, dance, arts and sports for younger people and networking with local, county and national youth schemes.
- General administration, research and development, and fundraising.
- Additional services provided include parish based lunch clubs, drop-in sessions and Tai-Chi for elderly people.

Public Benefit

The Group carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The Trustees consider that the Group's activities, summarised above, provide many benefits for the inhabitants, communities and organisations within the seven parishes. The Chief Executive Officer reviews the performance and objectives set for all the Group's services and reports to the Trustees thereby ensuring the needs of the residents in our community are being met.

Achievement and Performance

The Group continues to achieve its aims: helping, supporting, guiding, serving and enabling the inhabitants of the seven parishes.

Village Agent Service



Our Village Agents:



Sheila Fleet



Gillian Skillicorn



Chloe Duerdin



Jackie Clayton

Village Agent Projects

Evening arts and crafts (Ireby)

The group mainly consists of working mums who cannot access NFG's daytime arts and crafts groups. We were lucky to have along local artist Julia Garner who shared her knowledge in Lino cutting and printing.



Hearing Aid Clinic

This is a much sought after service offering basic hearing aid advice and repairs as local support over the years has decreased. Especially benefiting elderly and disabled clients who would find it challenging travelling to Carlisle hospital.





Cooking for Men (Caldbeck)

A popular monthly group where men can come together to learn cooking skills and socialise together over lunch. The group is led by a team of wonderful volunteers!

Crafty Thursdays

Crafty Thursdays are held at The Old Crown Pub at Hesket Newmarket and The Bell Institute at Boltongate once a month. This year has seen the addition of a group called Make Do and Mend starting at Welton.



Lunch Clubs

There are now a number of lunch clubs across the area including Ireby and Rosley. Rosley Lunch Hub has grown from last years Warm Hubs, the group runs from September through to April, there is home-made soup, rolls, tea, coffee and cake and sometimes a beetle drive. There is great core group of helpers including a fabulous volunteer who makes all the soup with others providing bread rolls and cakes.



Bereavement Café

December 2023 saw a new Bereavement Café at Rosley Village Hall set up to coincide with National Grief Week, this has a regular attendance of local residents who are bereaved along with a regular volunteer and a representative from CRUSE bereavement support charity.

Over 65's exercise – Including strengthening and Pilates.

These groups commenced with residents in the area that met the criteria for this type of exercise. It was identified that the frailer adult resident would not be able to participate in these groups, so staff and volunteers were identified to participate in training to be able to deliver movement activities in future groups or in the home.

Line Dancing at Bolton Low Houses



Line dancing classes offer both individual and community benefits. For attendees, it's an enjoyable way to stay physically active, improving cardiovascular health, balance, and coordination. Line dancing also provides mental stimulation by learning new steps and sequences, enhancing memory and focus. Socially, it creates opportunities for connection, combating loneliness and fostering friendships, especially in rural communities.

1-2-1 sessions

Offering tailored support with clients, helping people to get back out into the community after illness or for social companionship, befriending, etc.



Good News Story

Ireby Plant and Seed Swap 2024

Local resident Abi Driver started a group calling itself the “North Cumbrian Food Growing Network” with the aim of starting a seed, plant and produce exchange for folks based in North West Cumbria. A place to swap stories, trade seed and plant stocks, compare findings, and more. A place to grow local community food resilience by sharing seed, seedlings and produce. Gillian thought “What a great idea!” and contacted her to suggest her group worked with NFG to create a plant and seed swap event locally. A plan was hatched!

We decided we wanted the event to be free for all but we would fund raise by holding a raffle and asking volunteers to bake for the event and ask for donations towards refreshments. We set about collecting raffle prizes which included: Fat Dave’s Workshop made an extraordinary bespoke candelabra; Oakhurst Garden Centre gave a generous donation of seeds as did Sarah Ravens Seeds and Sutton Seeds; Phil Bradley- Willow Artist made a fabulous obelisk; Monty Don sent us a signed book: Charles Dowding gave a signed copy of his book- Skills for Growing and a signed Calendar for sowing dates, he also sent us some seeds for swapping too; Sally Phillip’s from Chimney Sheep sent a selection of garden products; and many more

The Men in Sheds made us squirrel boxes and bird boxes and bird feeders. Debbie Adkins from Cumbria Master Composters joined us to talk about all things compost!



Good News Story...

The raffle and tea/coffee/cake donations came to a fabulous £360 which was all donated to the NFG. After the event Abi posted: “ A special thanks to our volunteers on the day and thankyou to all those community members who donated seeds, plants, raffle prizes and cakes! But we have an extra special thankyou to Gillian Skillicorn of the Northern Fells Group who saw the potential in our idea and helped us to bring it to life! All monies made will be donated to Northern Fells Group and we hope they will support this event to be an annual one!”



Men in Sheds



The Shed has produced many projects this year, and been involved in a few community projects (bikes for the school, a bench for Heskett allotments, items for the spring fling and numerous others) This being said there is still a long way to go in improving the Shed and we have many exciting ideas for future projects and improvements.

Attendance at the shed has been steady and improved as the year has gone on, we have welcomed several new members throughout the year. We have had up to 19 attendees at a time.

We would also like to mention the help we have had from members of the Northern Fells community who have donated items and their time and resources to the shed in the past year.

We have upgraded much of our equipment with help from NFG and through kind donations, we have managed to update our heating which has improved conditions on cold days and improved attendance as a result.

**Shed Master
Andrew Swainson**



Transport Service

The challenges with transport in a rural area are immense and NFG does what it can to help people in our area by offering an affordable, flexible minibus service, bookable by contacting our Transport Co-ordinator on the phone or by text or email. We also regularly signpost to other transport options.

We can help people who no longer have access to their own transport or during temporary periods of illness or disability. The minibus takes people to appointments of all kinds both near and far - to Cumberland Infirmary, the hospital in Whitehaven, and for various engagements in Wigton, Carlisle and Penrith including hair salons, dentists, therapeutic classes, shopping and social visits to friends, lifts to the station, village activities, shopping and more.

The past year has seen 673 passenger journeys, delivered by a team of passionate volunteer drivers - who tell us it is a very rewarding role while passengers describe it as a “lifeline”. The passengers often express their gratitude to the voluntary drivers for their helpfulness and patience and we join them in that appreciation.

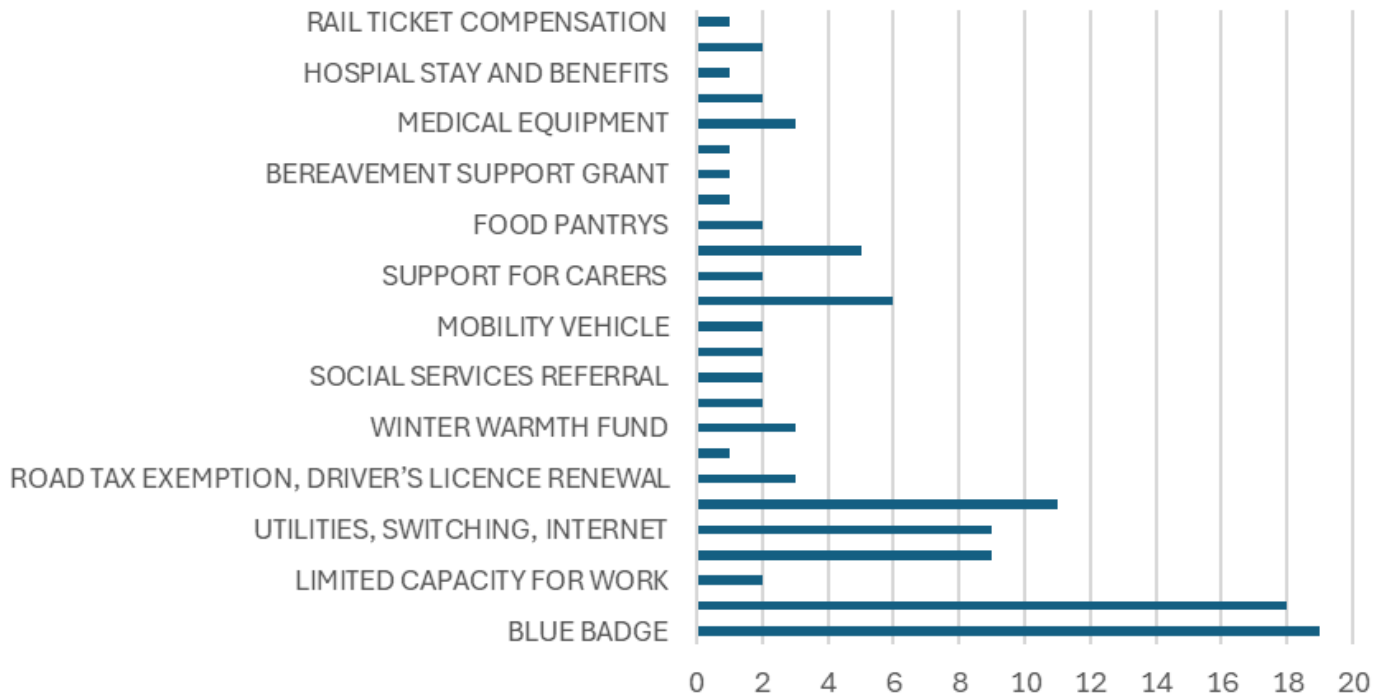


**Transport Co-ordinator
Kitty Booth**



Benefits Advice and Support

Benefits Cases During the Year



Benefits Advisor Jackie Clayton

This year has seen an 18% increase in benefits support cases.

Jackie offers free, confidential support to help increase awareness of benefits and grants local residents may be entitled to, help with filling forms, checking what support is available from the Government, Local Authorities, Sustainability Schemes, Adult Social Care, etc. We can also signpost to other organisations who can help.

Support can include communicating with officials by letter, telephone or in person.

This year has seen partnering with other local organisations such as Cumbria Action for Sustainability and the Newcastle Building Society to provide further support to residents.

Youth Work



In the past year we have delivered youth activities during the school holidays. We've had an excellent uptake with Easter and Summer schemes being fully booked. All schemes have been popular due to the variety of activities on offer at subsidised prices thanks to external funding.

We have had the opportunity to partner with local clubs, groups and charities to enhance the offering to our youth scheme.

This summer, taster sessions have been delivered by Caldbeck Cricket Club, Caldbeck Bowls Club, Euphoric Circus, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Ernest Cook Trust and RLC Drama. Feedback so far is that these groups would be interested in working with us in the future and will benefit children in our local community.



**Youth Co-Ordinator
Chloe Duerdin**



**Youth Worker
Caitlin
Parsonage**



**Youth Worker
Hannah Martin**

A good news story...

Feedback from parent of young person taking part in Summer 2024 programme:

“Our daughter has absolutely loved going to the scheme and it’s really helped us get through the summer holidays which can be quite long! They can miss social interaction especially when you live quite rurally like we do, it’s been nice for her to have that routine and fun to see her friends.

Her favourite activity was circus skills! She came away with a real sense of achievement”



Dementia Awareness

Two new groups have been created this year, Move it & Groove it!! and Dance & Sing! These groups have linked people in the community who live with dementia and their loved ones with others in their locality and provided a safe space for them to enjoy light activities and singing. There is a dedicated group of volunteers who help with these sessions and relationships have developed with all who attend, such that the group are visiting a local garden and have been invited by a local farmer for a social event. The groups have been incredibly successful for those who attend, lots of smiling happy faces. Both groups have received referrals from health professionals as a way to encourage movement and wellbeing.

At the end of the first session of Move it and Groove it! one husband and carer for his wife living with dementia said “I’ve had not seen my wife so animated in a long time!”.



During Dementia Action week an Anticipatory Grief session was hosted for those living with dementia and their loved ones. The session was delivered by Karen Dutton RGH (Project Lead for Let's Talk Bereavement), it was very beneficial for those who attended, the feedback included :

“I feel so useless. This session has really helped me”.

“It is so reassuring to know that I am not alone in how I feel”.



Regular welfare visits and coffee outings occur for those living with dementia and/or their carers which have proved invaluable in demonstrating that they are not alone. One lady a carer for her husband has said “Your visits mean so much to me, it’s wonderful when you pop in and see how we are, and knowing you are there if I need you is very reassuring, I am so grateful”.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

To our remarkable volunteers, we owe an enormous thank you. Your hard work and selflessness are the backbone of the Northern Fells Group. Every day, you bring kindness, care, and dedication to those who need it most—whether it's driving a neighbour to a crucial appointment, offering companionship, or supporting our community events.



You've helped us grow, thrive, and continue providing essential services. The time, energy, and passion you give are invaluable, and we are truly grateful for everything you do. Thank you for making a real difference!

Financial Review of the Year

The financial result for the Group shows an overall income of £143,252 (2023: £186,984) and, after deducting expenditure of £183,810 (2023: £144,873), a deficit of £40,558 (2023: surplus of £42,111).

During the year the Group received legacy income of £40,253 from the estate of the late Anna Browne. During the previous year to 31 March 2023 the Group received confirmation of its share of the estate and that Probate has been granted. Consequently, this legacy income was recognised as income in the year to 31 March 2023 and not as received in the year ended 31 March 2024.

Source of Income	
Grant support	£102,595
Fundraising	£23,948
Donations	£4,329
Contributions to activity expenditure	£6,210
Membership subscriptions	£2,479
Other	£3,691

The Mosedale Coffee shop was again open for thirteen weeks during the summer and generated an income of £20,083. This is a tremendous result which accounts for 49% of the Group's non-grant income. A huge thanks must go to the team of volunteers, without whom this would not be possible. Other fundraising activities included the Mungrisdale Arts and Crafts weekend and a charity horse racing evening.

Contributions to activity expenditure by participators amounted to £6,210. Other sources of income during the year include membership subscriptions, individual and corporate donations and minibus fares. Overall non-grant income amounted to 28% of this year's income. Grant funding, which represented 72% of this year's income, is an essential source of income. Thee major grant providers during the year were the National Lottery, through their Enabling Communities Programme, Cumbria Community Foundation, and The Joyce Wilkinson Trust. To provide the Group with financial stability beyond the short-term, grant aid is secured over three-to-five-year periods. In July 2024 we will be entering the second of a three year funding programme with The Joyce Wilkinson Trust and in October 2024 we enter the last year of a five year funding programme with the National Lottery Enabling Communities Programme. We would like to thank our members, local supporters and the seven parish councils, as well as all the grant funders for their continued support.

Expenditure for the year of £183,810 represented an increase of £38,937 when compared to the previous year ended 31 March 2023. £25,000 of this was attributable to the appointment of a Finance and Administration Officer, Youth Activities Scheme Workers, and an increase in the Chief Executive Officer's weekly hours. In addition the Group incurred costs of £8,500 on the commissioning of a new website and strengthening its IT support and cyber-security with the appointment of an independent firm of IT consultants.

Reserves Policy

Total reserves at the end of the year were £91,563 (2023: £126,221) of which £83,628 (2023: £113,055) were unrestricted funds and £7,935 (2023: £13,166) were restricted funds.

The level of reserves is determined by balancing the need to maintain sufficient reserves to enable our charitable work to continue when faced with difficult circumstances, with the need to maximise the use of our resources. Our reserves, therefore, need to be sufficient to allow the Trustees time to address potential funding shortfalls. At the year-end our cash and cash equivalent reserves equated to approximately eight months average expenditure. The Trustees consider the Group's reserves at the year-end to be adequate and in-line with the reserves policy.

Financial Management

The management team operate budgetary control over all aspects of the Group's charitable activities. Budgets, which are discussed and agreed with the Trustees, are prepared on an annual basis and monitored against actual. In addition quarterly management accounts are prepared and reviewed by the Trustees.

Structure, Governance and Management

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 6 August 2002, amended 27 September 2006 and reamended on 26 September 2022.

Board of Trustees

Management of the Group is entrusted to the Board of Trustees; consisting of the Officers, namely, Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer, and ten other members. The Board of Trustees meet four times a year.

All Trustees are members of the Group. Each of the seven parish councils nominate a trustee representative at the Annual General Meeting who serve for the following year. The other five trustees and three Officers are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees have the powers to do all things necessary and desirable in pursuit of the Objects of the Group.

All new trustees undergo training and are fully briefed on the Group's policies and procedures and receive copies of the Good Governance Guide and the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

All trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration during the year.

Senior Management

The day-to-day management of the Group is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer, James Baggley.

Membership

There are currently 200 members of the Group. Membership costs £5 for individual or £15 per annum for joint or family membership. Membership is open to anyone living within the Northern Fells area or wishing to support the work of the Group.

Risk Management

The Trustees monitor the major strategic, business and organisational risks which the Group faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Small Company Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees annual report was approved on 25th October 2024 signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by:

.....

Geoff Hine

Chair and Trustee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2024

		2024		Total	2023
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	4,329	-	4,329	52,461
Charitable activities	6	-	102,595	102,595	103,494
Other trading activities	7	23,948	-	23,948	19,459
Investment income	8	1,789	-	1,789	354
Other income	9	8,689	1,902	10,591	11,216
Total income		38,755	104,497	143,252	186,984
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of other trading activities	10	4,175	-	4,175	4,365
Expenditure on charitable activities	11, 12	1,200	178,435	179,635	140,508
Total Expenditure		5,375	178,435	183,810	144,873
Net Income/(Expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)					
		33,380	(73,938)	(40,558)	42,111
Net gains/(losses) on investments					
		5,900	-	5,900	-
Net Income/(expenditure)					
		39,280	(73,938)	(34,658)	42,111
Transfer between funds					
		(68,707)	68,707	-	-
Net movement in funds					
		(29,427)	(5,231)	(34,658)	42,111
Total funds as at 1 April 2023					
		113,055	13,166	126,221	84,110
Total funds as at 31 March 2024					
		83,628	7,935	91,563	126,221

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 25 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2024

	N o t e s	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	18	6,757	11,748
Investments	19	55,900	45,609
		<u>62,657</u>	<u>57,357</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	20	3,561	42,989
Cash at bank and in hand		63,060	72,953
		<u>66,621</u>	<u>115,942</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Accruals and deferred income	21	(37,715)	(47,078)
Net Current Assets		<u>28,906</u>	<u>68,864</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>91,563</u>	<u>126,221</u>
Net Assets		<u>91,563</u>	<u>126,221</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds	23	7,935	13,166
Unrestricted funds	23	83,628	113,055
Total charity funds		<u>91,563</u>	<u>126,221</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime, were approved by the board of trustees and

Authorised for issue on 25th October 2024 and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Geoff Hine
Chair and Trustee

Andrew Rose
Treasurer and Trustee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. General Information The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England

and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Millhouse Village Hall, Millhouse, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 8HR.

2. Statement of Compliance These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting

Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)(Charities SORP(FRS 102)) and the Companies

Act 2006.

3. Accounting Policies *Basis of preparation*

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Significant judgements

There are no judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entities accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Key sources of estimation and uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. There are no key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity period of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account (other than those held for investment purposes).

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income resources receivable or generated and are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- Legacy income is recognised when the receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Income is deferred when either the donor specifies that the grant must only be used in future periods of account or the funding relates to activities in future accounting periods.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis – based on time taken. These support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

- Motor vehicles - 20% straight line
- Equipment - 25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transactions costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financial transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise

be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

4 Limited by guarantee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group is a charity limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital.

5 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	4,329	-	4,329
Legacies			
Legacies	-	-	-
	<u>4,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,329</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Donations	12,270	-	12,270
Legacies			
Legacies	40,191	-	40,191
	<u>52,461</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,461</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

6 Charitable activities

	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Parish Council Grants	2,350	2,350	2,200	2,200
Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Trust	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Cumbria Community Foundation	29,184	29,184	29,363	29,363
Joyce Wilkinson Fund	20,231	20,231	20,167	20,167
The Big Lottery Fund	44,850	44,850	44,072	44,072
The Prince's Countryside Funds	-	-	1,667	1,667
Co-op Community Funds	-	-	2,096	2,096
Other Grants received	2,480	2,480	429	429
	<u>102,595</u>	<u>102,595</u>	<u>103,494</u>	<u>103,494</u>

7 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fundraising	<u>23,948</u>	-	<u>23,948</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fundraising	<u>19,459</u>	-	<u>19,459</u>

8 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	<u>1,789</u>	<u>1,789</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>354</u>

9 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Membership subscriptions	2,479	-	2,479
Contributions to activity expenditure	6,210	-	6,210
Minibus fares	-	1,902	1,902
	<u>8,689</u>	<u>1,902</u>	<u>10,591</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Membership Subscriptions	2,402	-	2,402
Contributions to activity expenditure	4,545	-	4,545
Minibus fares	-	1,777	1,777
Gift Aid reclaim	2,492	-	2,492
	<u>9,439</u>	<u>1,777</u>	<u>11,216</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

10 Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fundraising	4,175	4,175	4,365	4,365

11 Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Re stri cte d Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Minibus	-	13,120	13,120
Lend a Hand	-	13,518	13,518
Village Agents	-	25,854	25,854
Men in Sheds	-	8,502	8,502
Youth activities	-	5,989	5,989
Benefits Awareness	-	10,134	10,134
Dementia Support	-	6,128	6,128
Depreciation	-	7,341	7,341
Support costs	1,200	87,849	89,049
	<u>1,200</u>	<u>178,435</u>	<u>179,635</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Re stri cte d Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Minibus	-	11,103	11,103
Lend a Hand	-	14,150	14,150
Village Agents	-	30,772	30,772
Men in Sheds	-	8,084	8,084
Youth activities	-	-	-
Benefits Awareness	-	9,296	9,296
Dementia Support	-	1,439	1,439
Depreciation	-	6,576	6,576
Support costs	1,152	57,936	59,088
	<u>1,152</u>	<u>139,356</u>	<u>140,508</u>

12 Expenditure on charity activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken di re ctl y £	Support costs £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Minibus	13,120	1,643	14,763	11,880
Lend a Hand	13,518	4,065	17,583	19,877
Village Agents	25,854	8,291	34,145	39,671
Men in Sheds	8,502	3,825	12,327	11,799
Youth activities	5,989	1,892	7,881	579
Benefits Awareness	10,134	1,231	11,365	9,296
Dementia Support	6,128	579	6,707	1,439
General support	-	66,323	66,323	38,108
Depreciation	7,341	-	7,341	6,707
Governance costs	-	1,200	1,200	1,152
	<u>90,586</u>	<u>89,049</u>	<u>179,635</u>	<u>140,508</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

13 Analysis of support costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs	45,650	25,130
Premises	9,715	7,296
Communications and IT	12,907	3,747
General office	5,290	6,740
Governance costs	1,200	1,152
Other costs	14,287	15,023
	<u>89,049</u>	<u>59,088</u>

14 Net income/ (expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>7,341</u>	<u>6,707</u>

15 Independent examination fees

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fees payable to the Independent Examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,200	1,152
Other financial services	724	576
	<u>1,924</u>	<u>1,728</u>

16 Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>119,497</u>	<u>93,094</u>

number of employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Chief Executive Officer	1	1
Finance & Administration	1	-
Minibus	2	2
Lend a Hand	1	1
Village Agents	4	4
Men in Sheds	1	1
Benefits Awareness	1	1
Dementia awareness	1	1
	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Key Management Personnel Key management personnel include all persons that have the authority and responsibility

for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £29,461 (2023: £22,357).

17 Trustee Remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

Expenses amounting to £129 (2023: £97) were reimbursed to one trustee and one trustee related party during the year for travel expenditure, materials for a charitable activity, and office consumable expenditure.

18 Tangible fixed assets	Motor vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2023	27,650	13,447	41,097
Additions	-	2,350	2,350
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	27,650	15,797	43,447
De pre ci ati on			
As at 1 April 2023	20,280	9,069	29,349
Charge for the year	5,530	1,811	7,341
As at 31 March 2024	25,810	10,880	36,690
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2024	1,840	4,917	6,757
At 31 March 2023	7,370	4,378	11,748

19 Investments	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value at 1 April 2023	45,609	45,292
Purchase of investments at cost	50,000	-
Disposal proceeds	(45,609)	-
	50,000	45,292
Net gain/(loss) on investments	5,900	317
Market value at 31 March 2024	55,900	45,609
Original cost	50,000	45,000
Represented by		
Cash or cash equivalent investments	50,000	45,000

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

20 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	1,327	41,839
Prepayments	<u>2,234</u>	<u>1,150</u>
	<u>3,561</u>	<u>42,989</u>

21 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>37,715</u>	<u>47,078</u>

22 Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£	£
As at 1 April 2023	(43,435)	(40,086)
Amount released to income	43,435	40,086
Amount deferred in year	<u>32,544</u>	<u>43,435</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>32,544</u>	<u>43,435</u>

23 Analysis of charitable funds

		Gains/(Losses)				
		on				
		Investments				
		Transfers				
		At 31 March 2024				
		£				
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>						
	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Investments	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>113,055</u>	<u>38,755</u>	<u>(5,375)</u>	<u>5,900</u>	<u>(68,707)</u>	<u>83,628</u>
	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Investments	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>66,547</u>	<u>81,713</u>	<u>(5,517)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(29,688)</u>	<u>113,055</u>
<i>Restricted Funds</i>						
	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Investments	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	<u>13,166</u>	<u>104,497</u>	<u>(178,435)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,707</u>	<u>7,935</u>
	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Investments	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	<u>17,563</u>	<u>105,271</u>	<u>(139,356)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,688</u>	<u>13,166</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

24 Analysis of Net Assets By Fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Re stri cte d Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	520	6, 237	6, 757
Fixed assets investments	55, 900	-	55, 900
Current assets	31, 399	35, 222	66, 621
Creditors less than 1 year	(4, 191)	(33, 524)	(37, 715)
	<u>83, 628</u>	<u>7, 935</u>	<u>91, 563</u>
	Unrestricted Funds	Re stri cte d Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	737	11, 011	11, 748
Fixed assets investment	45, 609	-	45, 609
Current assets	69, 709	46, 233	115, 942
Creditors less than 1 year	(3, 000)	(44, 078)	(47, 078)
	<u>113, 055</u>	<u>13, 166</u>	<u>126, 221</u>

25 Related Parties

During the year two trustees and the wives of two trustees were reimbursed for the following expenditure: Mosedale Coffee Shop consumables: £1,135, materials for charitable activities: £45, office equipment: £178, and minibus consumables £54, and office consumable expenditure of £84.

There were no other related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2024.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purpose of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act. Independent Examiner's Statement I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirements that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Liddle FCA for and on behalf of Saint & Co Independent Examiner

4 Mason Court
Gillan Way
Penrith 40 Business Park
Penrith
Cumbria
CA11 9G

Trustees, Officers and Professional Advisers

Royal Patron	HM King Charles III
Honorary Patron	Dr Jim Cox
Trustees and Directors	Geoff Hine (Chair) Tim Cartmell (Vice Chair) Andrew Rose (Treasurer) Karen Atkinson Elspeth Alexander Jenny Bush (resigned 15 October 2023) Keith Bridges Steve Brockbank Anne Burgess Libby Graham Philippa Groves Peter Pearson Mike Richardson David Ward (resigned 9 August 2023)
Company Secretary	Andrea Sales (resigned 19 June 2024) James Baggley (appointed 19 June 2024)
Chief Executive Officer	Andrea Sales (resigned 19 June 2024) James Baggley (appointed 19 June 2024)
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 6 Lowther Street Carlisle CA3 8DB
Independent Examiner	Saint & Co Penrith Cumbria CA11 9GR
Principal office and registered office	Millhouse Village Hall Millhouse Wigton Cumbria CA7 8HR

Notes

NORTHERN FELLS RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1093814

Accounts

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

ACTION THROUGH COMMUNITY



Annual Report and Accounts 2023

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 04504085

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1093814

Just some of the things we do...



From Top - Left to Right: Grand day out at Lingholm, Youth activities – cricket and Christmas activities, Art Group, Minibus, Walking Group, Men in Sheds – bike restoration, Lend a Hand at Wigton Hospital Garden, Cooking For Men, Coffee at Mosedale Coffee Shop, Badminton.

Summary of the year at a glance...



487

Community sessions delivered by staff & volunteers



125

People accessed these sessions



24 Warm Hubs



92

Village Agent home visits



93

Referrals for benefits advice



Lend a Hand & Medi loans



50

Clients supported

191

assists



515

Minibus journeys



85

Hearing aid check appointments



£16,815

of donations



Over 120

volunteers involved in various projects, groups, support services and fundraising

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Northern Fells Group



www.northernfellsgroup.org.uk

Message from our Chair

I am again delighted to introduce this annual report and to pay tribute to all our staff, volunteers and my fellow trustees for all their hard work and dedication. My special thanks go to those who have put this report together so that it presents a detailed and comprehensive report of activity, while being eminently readable at the same time.

Looking back on the year we said farewell to our Group Coordinator, Diane Barraclough, and wish her every blessing in her retirement. Her service to the NFG was exceptional and I pay tribute to it. As we look back it is good to honour our roots; particularly in a time of challenge and change. I am delighted to say that Dr Jim Cox, who along with others had a pivotal role in our foundation, has accepted the trustees invitation to be named as our Honorary President. He has no functional duties as such. He stands with others, who were key to our formation and development over the years, to receive our salute and grateful thanks. If I attempted to make a list I would surely omit some names so I will simply pay tribute to one further person. Antoinette Ward has been a dedicated and highly effective member of the staff team since the very beginning fulfilling a number of different roles. She, along with our other staff members past and present, have enabled the NFG to deliver its mission: 'Action Through Community'.

As an organization we need to be forward looking. We have welcomed Andrea Sales as our new Chief Executive Officer. Andrea has brought a huge range of relevant skills and third sector experience to the role. It has been a delight to work with her and to be refreshed by her energy and enthusiasm. The trustees have welcomed new members; Libby Graham and Karen Atkinson. They bring a rich blend of experience and wisdom to our proceedings and Libby does so as a former key staff member.

Along with our Chief Executive Officer we are seeking to implement the findings of the Strategic Review we commissioned from Wingspan Consulting. The scale of our operation and our turnover puts the NFG in the top quartile of all charities registered in England and Wales and this carries responsibilities of governance, compliance and accountability. We are a charity focused on a locally defined area involving staff and volunteers drawn largely from that community. Whilst we may be informal in our working, we must be professional in our reporting and in the delivery of our services.

Hopefully the strictures of the pandemic are behind us, even if Covid certainly is not. As we look carefully at our activities on an ongoing basis, we look also for new opportunities. Some of these lie in the support of children and young people's activities and with the families of people living with dementia. The ongoing work to improve the accessibility and currency of our website should soon be apparent.

I firmly believe 2023/24 will be an exciting and productive time for us and I look forward to its challenge.

Geoff Hine
Chair of Trustees

Message from our Chief Executive Officer

As this is my first annual report for NFG I think it's helpful to say a little bit about myself. I joined the team in August 2022, so I'm still a bit of a 'newbie'. I moved into the area just as the first lockdown started, what a time to move! Having lived and worked in the area in my mid twenties, it seems it has taken me much longer than I hoped to be able to come back. Work has taken me to various locations in the UK and abroad, including the North East, Greater Manchester and Lancashire (where I am originally from) Throughout my work life I have always worked in community development settings and services that support vulnerable people that are hard to reach. I've worked in various towns, cities and rural areas for a number of charities as well as the statutory sector.

Anyway, less about me and more about how things have gone this last year!

In my relatively short time here, I've seen and felt the passion and commitment of both staff and our amazingly dedicated volunteers. This has meant that despite some setbacks staff and volunteers have continued to provide the majority of our services and activities.

We are still recovering after the disruption of the Covid pandemic. There continues to be an understandable level of worry and fear about covid which means sometimes there is greater reluctance to take part in community activities, particularly from those with pre-existing health conditions or carers. The cost of living crisis further compounds these issues for people of different ages as many struggle to afford to heat their homes properly, eat a balanced diet, travel to work because of the cost of fuel, afford childcare etc. These challenges mean that for many of our residents some of their most basic needs aren't being met, which can impact health, quality of life and access to opportunities to fully participate in what life has to offer. These issues increase the likelihood of social isolation and loneliness, therefore having a detrimental effect on physical and mental wellbeing.

In response to these challenges, we have the opportunity to broaden our offer of activities and services to all age groups. It is also paramount that we build on the amazing work of all those that have been involved over the last 25 years, by developing and maintaining our existing much needed groups, activities and services, as they are a lifeline for many.

Financially we had a good year and end the year in a healthy position which will help us weather the storm that inevitably followed on from the Covid pandemic. We are eternally grateful to our funders, many of whom support us year after year as they have confidence in our services and the outcomes we achieve. We are especially grateful for the donations we receive and the time and effort given by our volunteers and Men in Shed members to help raise unrestricted funding which help keep our services and activities going.

Finally, I would like to quote someone I was chatting to the other month, who has only been in the area a few years and wanted to get involved in NFG, I thought this captured much of what NFG is about:

"I see the Northern Fells Group as a charity that is about helping make the community a place where people love to live."

Andrea Sales
Chief Executive Officer

The Board of Trustees, who are the Group's directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law and are referred through this report as 'the Trustees', present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group ('the Group' or 'NFG') for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the Objects as set out in the governing document

The Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group promotes and undertakes (either alone or on behalf of or in association with other bodies, organisations and individuals) charitable activities of any kind for the benefit and welfare of the inhabitants, communities and organisations in the seven parishes of rural Cumbria; namely the parishes of Boltons, Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby, Ireby with Uldale, Mungrisdale, Sebergham & Welton and Westward & Rosley.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these Objects

The Group runs the following services:

- Village Agents – linking people to the Group's services and outside organisations with four agents working throughout the seven parishes.
- Lend a Hand – providing neighbourly support to people who are ill or less able, and their carers.
- Minibus service – providing a flexible, accessible door to door service for people of any age without their own transport, and group hire.
- Benefits Awareness and Help – supporting the elderly, people with disabilities or on low income in claiming benefits to which they are entitled.
- Dementia Support – providing information on, and raising awareness of, dementia.
- Men in Sheds – operating a fully stocked workshop in Caldbeck.
- Youth Initiative – running a range of activities including drama, dance, arts and sports for younger people and networking with local, county and national youth schemes.
- General administration, research and development, and fundraising.
- Additional services provided include parish based lunch clubs, drop-in sessions and Tai-Chi for elderly people.

Public Benefit

The Group carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The Trustees consider that the Group's activities, summarised above, provide many benefits for the inhabitants, communities and organisations within the seven parishes. The Chief Executive Officer reviews the performance and objectives set for all the Group's services and reports to the Trustees thereby ensuring the needs of the residents in our community are being met.

Achievement and Performance

The Group continues to achieve its aims: helping, supporting, guiding, serving and enabling the inhabitants of the seven parishes.

Village Agent, volunteer services and activities

The Village Agents service has not yet returned to the level of service that we had during pre covid times. The long term impact of the pandemic means that there continues to be perceptions and fears of the pandemic that have reduced the number of people engaging in some of our groups and activities. Despite these challenges our Village Agents have delivered a range of groups and activities alongside our volunteers and have new ideas and plans in place for 2023/24. 16 different groups have been run by Village Agents and volunteers. These groups take place on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis and amount to 336 sessions over the year. Examples of activities and groups that have taken place over the last year:

- Art and crafts groups
- Pop ins and drop ins in
- Cooking For Men
- Spinning and wool craft
- Walking group
- Tai Chi
- Line dancing
- Badminton
- Christmas activities for children

*“I am usually a volunteer who helps out, which in itself feels a good thing to do but I have recently been a recipient after having had knee surgery **and** unable to get out. So being able to join an art session run locally by a Village Agent gave me a great mental boost – a social occasion in a warm and comfortable setting (local café) as well as learning a new skill. Thanks to Gillian, a local Village Agent for the Northern Fells Group.”*

“Myself and my husband moved to the area in 2020. I soon found out about the NFG but of course it was the time of Covid so there weren’t any groups on at that time. The gentleman we bought the house off told us about the oil syndicate which we use regularly to get a better rate on heating oil. I found out more about all the NFG help you could get and also about all the volunteers who work so hard to help keep things going. The Village Agents are a godsend and they deal with different areas. They can help and advise you on many things going on in your area and also put you in touch with other people if necessary. Since moving I have met some lovely people and as soon as the groups started again it made it much easier to settle in. There are so many coffee mornings and craft groups going on which keep everyone in touch and in the summer a lovely tea room in an old Quaker Meeting House. I haven’t lived anywhere before that has something like NFG. It covers so many different things and is an absolute necessity for people who live in its catchment area and I know people would miss it dreadfully if it didn’t exist.”

The common theme with all of our groups is that they create an opportunity for people to get together and connect, reducing social isolation and loneliness. These are great places to take part in activities and hobbies, have a good chat with others, share ideas, learn new skills etc. 125 people have accessed these sessions on a regular basis.

Oil Syndicates

Village Agents have also supported and organized oil syndicates and septic tank emptying in Caldbeck, Hesketh Newmarket, Rosley, Westward, Castle Sowerby, Mungrisdale, Boltons and Welton & Sebergham. Over 230 households have taken advantage of the service and enjoyed reduced prices.

Home Visits

Part of our Village Agents role is to visit people in their homes to often just provide listening ear, to provide emotional support and when appropriate to refer to Northern fells Group support services such as Lend a Hand, Benefits Advice, Dementia Support, as well as external organisations. Over the last year Village Agents made over 92 home visits.

Hearing aid checks

One of our Village Agents completed hearing aid check training, as a result we have been able to provide 6 clinics over the last year, this amounts to 85 individual appointments. The ability to provide these clinics as a Northern Fells Group service also means we have the flexibility to provide follow up support through home visits.

“The Hearing Aid Workshops held by Mark at Millhouse Village Hall are a really important service enabling parishioners to have their hearing aids regularly checked and fitted with new tubes when appropriate as well as supplying batteries.”

Warm hubs

Our village agents also ran weekly warm hubs throughout the autumn and winter months to provide further opportunity for people to connect with one another in warm and cozy environment. Our Village Agents provided 24 warm hub sessions in total, one of which continued throughout the year as a drop in.

Lend a Hand Service

Over the last 12 months we have supported 50 clients with a 191 assists consisting of medical equipment loans, personal and domestic, basic DIY and one off garden tidy ups. We have also provided marshalling for Caldbeck Surgery flu jabs, which involved 51 volunteers, amounting to over 100 hours of volunteering.

This summer we had 30 Lend a Hand volunteers involved in helping to improve the courtyard garden at Wigton Hospital as it was in great need of some TLC. The team cleared the site, provided a picnic table which will be adapted for wheelchair users. The existing flower bed was tidied up and a new raised bed built. Where possible the materials used have been re-purposed. A garden storage shed, fated to go to the tip, was restored by our Men in Sheds members, who also made window boxes out of reclaimed pallet wood. There were other elements in the garden which needed some attention. The garden already had one raised bed for flowers. This was made of railway sleepers and our volunteers refurbished it. A second raised bed was built from scratch and has sensory plants in it, suitable for helping visually impaired patients and providing people with other sensory disorders a focus via touch, scent, colour & texture.



Each raised bed is accessible to wheelchair users. Now in good order, the garden is a place where patients and staff can sit outside, but will also be an ongoing project, with certain patients helping to maintain the garden. It is well known that being in a garden, and the activity of working with plants, is therapeutic, being beneficial in helping people with various health issues, in particular mental health issues.

Transport Services

The Minibus continued its much appreciated, flexible, accessible, door to door service for people of any age without their own transport.

We have 17 regular voluntary drivers who normally provide a 6 day a week service. Two drivers retired during the year but two new drivers joined the voluntary team. An additional driver is still having to shield from Covid risks due to the health of a close family member.

The minibus is established as a flexible service for people without their own transport and for those who need the disabled access. It also helps people during temporary periods of illness or disability and can take carers out to give them a break. The minibus takes people to both medically related appointments (doctors, dentists, opticians, physio appointments etc) and social visits to friends, village activities, shopping and more. It takes older people to lunch groups and coffee mornings throughout the seven parishes.

In this reporting year the minibus did 515 passenger journeys, a very similar number to the previous year. The minibus use fluctuates depending on need and its use was considerably reduced during the Covid pandemic; numbers have increased a lot since the pandemic but they have not yet recovered to their previous level. However the minibus is in use on most days of the week. If someone needs transport and the minibus is already booked and going in the wrong direction, we refer the passenger to the Cumbria County Council Voluntary Car Scheme and are grateful for their back up.

The passengers often express their gratitude to the voluntary drivers for their helpfulness and patience and we join them in that appreciation.

Benefits Advice and Support

Mid-way through the reporting period we saw a change of staff, this didn't disrupt service delivery as the handover process ran very smoothly. We have had 93 cases referred for support this year which has helped clients access the following benefits and support:

	NUMBER
BLUE BADGE	19
ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE	23
COST OF LIVING ADVICE	9
COUNCIL TAX, HOUSING BENEFIT	2
UTILITIES, SWITCHING, INTERNET	5
BENEFITS CHECK	9
ROAD TAX EXEMPTION, DRIVER'S LICENCE RENEWAL	2
SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION/HOUSE MOVE	1
WINTER WARMTH FUND	3
WARM HOMES DISCOUNT	1
PENSION CREDIT	4
UNIVERSAL CREDIT	4
CARELINE ALARM	1
PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT	1
SUPPORT FOR CARERS	1
LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY (SIGNPOSTING ONLY)	1
NI CONTRIBUTIONS/BOOST (SIGNPOSTING ONLY)	2
SELF EMPLOYED TAX – (SIGNPOSTING ONLY)	1
PARKING TICKET APPEAL	1
HMRC TAX BILL	1
FORWARD PLANNING FOR DISABLED SON	1
SEPTIC TANK NEW REGULATIONS ADVICE	1
TOTAL CASES	93

Dementia Support

Under the guidance and support of the NF DAA (Northern Fells Dementia Action Alliance) our Dementia Awareness and Support project has proved incredibly successful in raising awareness about dementia through the launch of the NF DAA in 2019, which was attended by 95 people. This was then followed by a series of training events which 120 people completed. These sessions have helped create dementia friendly environments and also helped enable those living with dementia access to the right services and support. During the pandemic it became increasingly more difficult to maintain this level of activity, but we were able to continue networking through video calls and slowly began to have face to face events again as lockdowns were lifted. Over the last 6 months the NF DAA has reflected on it's journey so far and how needs have changed in our catchment area. The remit of the project was broadened to be able

to provide 'hands on' support to those living with dementia and their carers as well as continuing to raise awareness. Plans are now in place to increase our 121 support for carers and to also facilitate a support group in our area by summer 2023.

Men in Sheds



We ran 2-3 sessions per week, with an average of 8-12 clients attending each sessions. Over the 12 month period we delivered 135 sessions. The sessions are popular and have many clients that regularly attend, share skills and ideas for projects. We welcome clients of all ages and genders. Most importantly these sessions provide safe space in an informal setting for clients to spend time together. This peer support reduces social isolation and often helps enhance health and wellbeing. Projects include bike maintenance, community projects, raising money and receiving donations by mending and fixing items brought in by the public. These donations are used towards the running of the shed and other NFG projects.

Youth Activities

In December 2022 we reintroduced youth activities, our Village Agents ran a Christmas themed treasure hunt which was attended by over 20 children and their parents/carers. In February we recruited a Youth Activities Coordinator to deliver an Easter and summer activities programme in 2023/24. The plan will be to provide activities in various locations that are accessible and affordable for families.



Our Volunteers

Our army of volunteers are invaluable, without them many of our much needed groups, activities and services wouldn't exist. Over 120 people have volunteered this year and have been involved in a range of activities, examples of these are:

- Marshalling for vaccinations and events at local surgery and hospital.
- Driving the NFG minibus.
- Running the NFG pop up Coffee Shop in Mosedale.
- Providing carer relief through our Lend A Hand service.
- Collecting and delivering medical equipment to local residents.
- Running various drop ins, coffee mornings, lunch clubs, Cooking For Men, CRAFT group etc.
- Running activities such as walking groups, line dancing, Tai Chi, ukulele lessons etc.

As a thanks for all their help, as part of our 25th anniversary we had a volunteer celebration event, over 80 volunteers attended and enjoyed pie, peas and a pint, as well as ceilidh with The Bald Mountain String Band.

"I volunteer as I want to give something back to my community. I feel very supported by staff so that makes my involvement stress free and enjoyable. It also helps me to get out of the house and meet other people, now I'm not working I think that's really important."

Finance

Financial Review

The financial result for the Group shows an overall income of £186,984 (2022: £149,197) and, after deducting expenditure of £144,873 (2022: £136,313), a surplus of £42,111 (2022: surplus of £12,884).

This has been the first full year since the Covid pandemic in which we were able to deliver our core activities, and at the same time to begin to implement the findings of the Wingspan Consultants' Strategic Review report. We have not been immune to the general inflationary pressures within the UK economy which have had a material impact on our overall expenditure for the year. With the changes being made as a result of the Strategic Review report and the inflationary pressures on our overall expenditure it is pleasing to report that, excluding the legacy donation, we achieved a surplus of income over expenditure of £1,920.

Source of Income	
Grant support	£103,494
Legacy donation	£40,191
Fundraising	£18,840
Donations	£16,815
Membership subscriptions	£2,402
Other	£5,242

Grant support

To provide the Group with financial stability beyond the short-term grant aid is secured over three-to-five-year periods. The major grant providers during the year were the National Lottery, through their Enabling Communities Programme and The Joyce Wilkinson Trust. With the former we will be entering year four of a five-year funding programme in October 2023, with the latter we are in the middle of a three year funding programme.

Grant funding, which represents 55% of this year's annual income, is an essential source of income. Without the support of our grant funders our ability to deliver our services on an ongoing basis would be severely impaired.

Legacy donation

The Group is a beneficiary of the Estate of the late Anna Browne. During the year the Executors confirmed probate had been granted and estimated the Group's share of the late Anna Browne's estate to be £40,191. Accordingly this amount has, in accordance with accounting standards, been included in the income for the year and as a debtor at 31 March 2023. The funds were received in June 2023.

The Mosedale Coffee Shop was again open for thirteen weeks during the summer and generated £17,944 of income. This is a tremendous result and huge thanks must go to our team of 71 volunteers. Other fundraising activities included the sale of our post cards and jute bags.

Other sources of income during the year were: membership subscriptions, individual and corporate donations, minibus fares. Overall non-grant income accounted for 45% of this year's income.

We would like to thank our members, local supporters and the seven parish councils, as well as the National Lottery Community Fund and the Cumbria Community Fund for their continued support.

Reserves Policy

Total reserves at the end of the year were £126,221 (2022: £84,110) of which £113,055 (2022: £66,547) were unrestricted funds and £13,166 (2022: £17,563) were restricted funds.

The level of reserves is determined by balancing the need to maintain sufficient reserves to enable our charitable work to continue when faced with difficult circumstances, with the need to maximise the use of our resources. Our reserves, therefore, need to be sufficient to allow the Trustees sufficient time to address potential funding shortfalls. At the year-end our cash and cash equivalent reserves equated to approximately ten months average expenditure. The Trustees consider the Group's reserves at the year-end to be adequate and in-line with the reserves policy.

Financial Management

The management team operate budgetary control over all aspects of the Group's charitable activities. Budgets, which are discussed and agreed with the Trustees, are prepared on an annual basis and monitored against actual. In addition quarterly management accounts are prepared and reviewed by the Trustees.

Structure, Governance and Management

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 6 August 2002, amended 27 September 2006 and reamended on 26 September 2022.

Board of Trustees

Management of the Group is entrusted to the Board of Trustees; consisting of the Officers, namely, Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer, and ten other members. The Board of Trustees meet four times a year.

All Trustees are members of the Group. Each of the seven parish councils nominate a trustee representative at the Annual General Meeting who serve for the following year. The other five trustees and three Officers are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees have the powers to do all things necessary and desirable in pursuit of the Objects of the Group.

All new trustees undergo training and are fully briefed on the Group’s policies and procedures and receive copies of the Good Governance Guide and the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

All trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration during the year.

Senior Management

The day-to-day management of the Group is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer, Andrea Sales.

Membership

There are currently 200 members of the Group. Membership costs £5 for individual or £15 per annum for joint or family membership. Membership is open to anyone living within the Northern Fells area or wishing to support the work of the Group.

Risk Management

The Trustees monitor the major strategic, business and organisational risks which the Group faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Small Company Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees annual report was approved on 28th November 2023 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by:

.....

Geoff Hine

Chair and Trustee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2023

		2023	2023	Total	2022
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Funds £	Total Funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	57,006	-	57,006	17,545
Charitable activities	6	-	103,494	103,494	108,224
Other trading activities	7	19,459	-	19,459	18,466
Investment income	8	354	-	354	448
Other income	9	4,894	1,777	6,671	4,514
Total income		<u>81,713</u>	<u>105,271</u>	<u>186,984</u>	<u>149,197</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of other trading activities	10	4,365	-	4,365	3,669
Expenditure on charitable activities	11, 12	1,152	139,356	140,508	132,644
Total Expenditure		<u>5,517</u>	<u>139,356</u>	<u>144,873</u>	<u>136,313</u>
Net Income/(expenditure)		76,196	(34,085)	42,111	12,884
Transfer between funds		(29,688)	29,688	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>46,508</u>	<u>(4,397)</u>	<u>42,111</u>	<u>12,884</u>
Total funds as at 1 April 2022		66,547	17,563	84,110	71,216
Total funds as at 31 March 2023		<u>113,055</u>	<u>13,166</u>	<u>126,221</u>	<u>84,110</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 12 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	18	11,748	15,451
Investments	19	<u>45,609</u>	<u>45,292</u>
		57,357	60,743
Current Assets			
Debtors	20	42,989	2,111
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>72,953</u>	<u>62,467</u>
		115,942	64,578
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Accruals and deferred income	21	<u>(47,078)</u>	<u>(41,211)</u>
Net Current Assets		68,864	23,367
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>126,221</u>	<u>84,110</u>
Net Assets		<u>126,221</u>	<u>84,110</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds	23	13,166	17,563
Unrestricted funds	23	<u>113,055</u>	<u>66,547</u>
Total charity funds		<u>126,221</u>	<u>84,110</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime, were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 28th November 2023 and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Geoff Hine
Chair and Trustee

Andrew Rose
Treasurer and Trustee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Millhouse Village Hall, Millhouse, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 8HR.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)(Charities SORP(FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Significant judgements

There are no judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entities accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Key sources of estimation and uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. There are no key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity period of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account (other than those held for investment purposes).

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income resources receivable or generated and are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- Legacy income is recognised when the receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Income is deferred when either the donor specifies that the grant must only be used in future periods of account or the funding relates to activities in future accounting periods.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis – based on time taken. These support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

- Motor vehicles - 20% straight line
- Equipment - 25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transactions costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financial transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

4 Limited by guarantee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group is a charity limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital.

5 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Donations	16,815	-	16,815
Legacies			
Legacies	40,191	-	40,191
	<u>57,006</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57,006</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations			
Donations	5,695	11,850	17,545
Legacies			
Legacies	-	-	-
	<u>5,695</u>	<u>11,850</u>	<u>17,545</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

6 Charitable activities

	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Parish Council Grants	2,200	2,200	2,900	2,900
Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Trust	3,500	3,500	3,000	3,000
Cumbria Community Foundation	49,530	49,530	45,657	45,657
The Big Lottery Fund	44,072	44,072	44,883	44,883
The Prince's Countryside Funds	1,667	1,667	9,672	9,672
Co-op Community Funds	2,096	2,096	-	-
Other Grants received	429	429	2,112	2,112
	<u>103,494</u>	<u>103,494</u>	<u>108,224</u>	<u>108,224</u>

7 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fundraising	<u>19,459</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,459</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fundraising	<u>18,466</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,466</u>

8 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>354</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>448</u>	<u>448</u>

9 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Membership subscriptions	2,402	-	2,402
Minibus fares	-	1,777	1,777
Gift Aid reclaim	2,492	-	2,492
	<u>4,894</u>	<u>1,777</u>	<u>6,671</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Membership Subscriptions	2,365	-	2,365
Minibus fares	-	2,149	2,149
	<u>2,365</u>	<u>2,149</u>	<u>4,514</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

10 Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fundraising	4,365	4,365	3,659	3,659

11 Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Minibus	-	11,103	11,103
Lend a Hand	-	23,446	23,446
Village Agents	-	30,772	30,772
Men in Sheds	-	8,084	8,084
Depreciation	-	6,576	6,576
Support costs	1,152	59,375	60,527
	<u>1,152</u>	<u>139,356</u>	<u>140,508</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Minibus	-	9,771	9,771
Lend a Hand	-	25,244	25,244
Village Agents	-	31,701	31,701
Men in Sheds	-	7,078	7,078
Depreciation	-	6,063	6,063
Support costs	2,182	50,605	52,787
	<u>2,182</u>	<u>130,462</u>	<u>132,644</u>

12 Expenditure on charity activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Minibus	11,103	777	11,880	10,776
Lend a Hand	23,446	5,727	29,173	29,076
Village Agents	30,772	8,899	39,671	36,827
Men in Sheds	8,084	3,715	11,799	8,890
Youth Initiative	-	579	579	-
Core	-	39,547	39,547	38,830
Depreciation	6,576	131	6,707	6,063
Governance costs	-	1,152	1,152	2,182
	<u>79,981</u>	<u>60,527</u>	<u>140,508</u>	<u>132,644</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

13 Analysis of support costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	26,569	26,746
Premises	7,296	4,268
Communications and IT	3,747	3,923
General office	6,740	5,298
Governance costs	1,152	2,182
Other costs	15,023	10,370
	<u>60,527</u>	<u>52,787</u>

14 Net income/ (expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>6,707</u>	<u>6,063</u>

15 Independent examination fees

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fees payable to the Independent Examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,152	2,182
Other financial services	576	576
	<u>1,728</u>	<u>2,758</u>

16 Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>93,094</u>	<u>94,682</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 11 (2022: 11). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Chief Executive Officer	1	-
Group co-ordinator	-	1
Fund raising co-ordinator	-	1
Minibus	2	2
Lend a Hand/ Benefits awareness	2	2
Village Agents	4	3
Men in Sheds	1	1
Dementia awareness	1	1
	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel include all persons that have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £22,357 (2022: £20,115).

17 Trustee Remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

Expenses amounting to £117.45 (2022: £97) were reimbursed to one trustee related party during the year for travel expenditure incurred.

18 Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2022	27,650	10,443	38,093
Additions	-	3,004	3,004
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2023	<u>27,650</u>	<u>13,447</u>	<u>41,097</u>
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2022	14,750	7,892	22,642
Charge for the year	<u>5,530</u>	<u>1,177</u>	<u>6,707</u>
As at 31 March 2023	<u>20,280</u>	<u>9,069</u>	<u>29,349</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2023	<u>7,370</u>	<u>4,378</u>	<u>11,748</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>12,900</u>	<u>2,551</u>	<u>15,451</u>

19 Investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Long-term bond	<u>45,609</u>	<u>45,292</u>

20 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other debtors	41,839	1,117
Prepayments	<u>1,150</u>	<u>994</u>
	<u>42,989</u>	<u>2,111</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

21 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>47,078</u>	<u>41,211</u>

22 Deferred income

	2023	2022
	£	£
As at 1 April 2022	(40,086)	(25,191)
Amount released to income	40,086	25,191
Amount deferred in year	<u>43,435</u>	<u>40,086</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>43,435</u>	<u>40,086</u>

23 Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>66,547</u>	<u>81,713</u>	<u>(5,517)</u>	<u>(29,688)</u>	<u>113,055</u>

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>50,495</u>	<u>26,974</u>	<u>(5,841)</u>	<u>(5,081)</u>	<u>66,547</u>

Restricted Funds

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	<u>17,563</u>	<u>105,271</u>	<u>(139,356)</u>	<u>29,688</u>	<u>13,166</u>

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	<u>20,721</u>	<u>122,223</u>	<u>(130,462)</u>	<u>5,081</u>	<u>17,563</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

24 Analysis of Net Assets By Fund

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	737	11,011	11,748
Fixed assets investment	45,609	-	45,609
Current assets	69,709	46,233	115,942
Creditors less than 1 year	<u>(3,000)</u>	<u>(44,078)</u>	<u>(47,078)</u>
	<u>113,055</u>	<u>13,166</u>	<u>126,221</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	15,451	15,451
Fixed assets investment	45,292	-	45,292
Current assets	22,380	42,198	64,578
Creditors less than 1 year	<u>(1,125)</u>	<u>(40,086)</u>	<u>(41,211)</u>
	<u>66,547</u>	<u>17,563</u>	<u>84,110</u>

25 Related Parties

During the year two trustees and the wives of two trustees were reimbursed for the following expenditure: fuel for the minibus: £22.15, Mosedale Coffee Shop consumables: £1,165, office equipment: £178, and minibus fuel: £22.

There were no other related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2023.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purpose of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirements that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Liddle FCA for and on behalf of Saint & Co Independent Examiner

4 Mason Court
Gillan Way
Penrith 40 Business Park
Penrith
Cumbria
CA11 9GR

Trustees, Officers and Professional Advisers

Honorary Patron	Dr J Cox
Trustees and Directors	Mr G Hine (Chair) Mr T Cartmell (Vice Chair) Mr A S Rose (Treasurer) Ms K Atkinson (appointed 17 October 2022) Ms E Alexander Mr K Bridges Mr S Brockbank Ms A Burgess Ms J Bush Ms E Graham (appointed 15 October 2022) Ms P Groves Mr P Pearson Mr M Richardson Mr D Ward (resigned 9 August 2023)
Company Secretary	Ms D M Barraclough (resigned 18 July 2022) Ms A Sales (appointed 18 July 2022)
Chief Executive Officer	Ms A Sales
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 6 Lowther Street Carlisle CA3 8DB
Independent Examiner	Saint & Co Penrith Cumbria CA11 9GR
Principal office and registered office	Millhouse Village Hall Millhouse Wigton Cumbria CA7 8HR

Notes

NORTHERN FELLS RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1093814

Accounts



Northern Fells Group

Action through Community

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 04504085

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1093814



Northern Fells Group

Action through Community



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Northern Fells Group

Northern Fells Group



Action through Community

www.northernfellsgroup.org.uk

An introduction from the Chair

I am delighted to introduce this annual report and to pay tribute to all our staff, volunteers and my fellow trustees for all the work and dedication that has made the year so successful on many different fronts. My special thanks go to those who have put this report together so that it presents a detailed and comprehensive report of activity, while being eminently readable at the same time.

We are going through a period of changing staff members which happens to most organisations at one time or another. My sincere thanks to all those who have retired for their devoted service. We have welcomed new members and have brought our management structure more in line with today's practices rather than those we formed with twenty years ago. I look forward very much to working with our newly appointed Chief Operating Officer, Andrea Sales, over the coming year.

I also want to thank our various funders for their support. These include our parish councils and the wonderful community in which we operate and seek to serve.

The Northern Fells Group responded magnificently to the challenges that the pandemic presented in such short order. It was able to do so because it had a sound infrastructure in place that adapted brilliantly to new needs. Our staff were creative and imaginative in reaching out to the vulnerable and isolated.

Covid 19 may no longer be the threat it was but it is still there and we wait to see what winter may bring. We have been working in more partnerships over the last year; The Primary Care Network, NFG Dementia Action Alliance and now Community Catalysts to mention a few. This pattern is likely to become more important as time goes on. We still have the infrastructure that enabled us to respond to 'lockdown' and the pandemic. The new threats from rocketing energy costs, food price inflation and the likely diminution of various support services present us with new challenges. They will make new demands on our services, some of which we may need to address in partnership with others. At this stage we cannot tell.

The Northern Fells Group is in a robust position financially and we have a wonderful team in place. I look forward to the coming year with confidence.



Geoff Hine
Chair of Trustees

The Board of Trustees, who are the Group's directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law and are referred through this report as 'the Trustees', present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group ('the Group' or 'NFG') for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the Objects as set out in the governing document

The Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group promotes and undertakes (either alone or on behalf of or in association with other bodies, organisations and individuals) charitable activities of any kind for the benefit and welfare of the inhabitants, communities and organisations in the seven parishes of rural Cumbria; namely the parishes of Boltons, Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby, Ireby with Uldale, Mungrisdale, Sebergham & Welton and Westward & Rosley.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these Objects

The Group runs the following services:

- Lend a Hand – providing neighbourly support to people who are ill or less able, and their carers.
- Benefits Awareness and Help – supporting the elderly, people with disabilities or on low income in claiming benefits to which they are entitled.
- Village Agents – linking people to the Group's services and outside organisations with four agents working throughout the seven parishes.
- Minibus service – providing a flexible, accessible door to door service for people of any age without their own transport, and group hire.
- Men in Sheds - operating a fully stocked workshop in Caldbeck.
- Youth Initiative – running a range of activities including drama, dance, arts and sports for younger people and networking with local, county and national youth schemes.
- Dementia Awareness – providing information on, and raising awareness of, dementia.
- Core administration, research and development, and fundraising.
- Additional services provided include parish based lunch clubs, drop-in sessions and Tai-Chi for elderly people.

Public Benefit

The Group carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The Trustees consider that the Group's activities, summarised above, provide many benefits for the inhabitants, communities and organisations within the seven parishes. The Group Co-ordinator, and subsequently the Chief Operating Officer reviews the performance and objectives set for all the Group's services and reports to the Trustees thereby ensuring the needs of the residents in our community are being met.

Achievement and Performance

The Group continues to achieve its aims: helping, supporting, guiding, serving and enabling the inhabitants of the seven parishes.

We began the year with our ability to provide our full range of pre-covid activities limited by the Government's covid restrictions. As the year progressed the work marshalling the car park at the Wigton vaccination clinic came to an end and most of our pre-covid activities began to return. The rate and timing of our activities returning varied depending on how comfortable activity leaders and participants were with being involved in group activities after the covid lockdowns. Where appropriate additional risk assessments were undertaken and covid related procedures put in place to encourage participation.

In the summer of 2021, the Trustees commissioned a strategic review to examine the impact of the Covid pandemic on the Group's activities and the implications for the Group's future work. This in part was driven by a desire to review the long-term sustainability of the Group and to review our operational structure and efficiency. The strategic review, which was led by an independent firm of consultants, involved all trustees and employees, representatives from our volunteer group, funders and other interested third parties. The strategic review was completed in March 2022 and identified areas where operational improvements and additional activities could be considered by the Group. These have been initially considered by both Trustees and staff and the work is ongoing.

During the year a number of our long-standing team members retired. Barbara Stoddart, Helen Sturges and Philippa Groves all of whom were Village Agents. After the year-end Libby Graham, Grants Co-ordinator and Diane Barraclough, Group Co-ordinator also retired after long service. The Trustees would like to place on record their gratitude to all five for their outstanding contribution to Group.

It would not be possible to offer our services without the dedication of our team and the support of our wonderful volunteers; the Trustees express their sincere thanks for all their dedication and continuous support.

Structure, Governance and Management

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 6 August 2002 and amended 27 September 2006.

Board of Trustees

Management of the Group is entrusted to the Board of Trustees; consisting of the Officers, namely, Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer, and nine other members. The Board of Trustees meet four times a year.

All Trustees are members of the Group. Each of the seven parish councils nominate a trustee representative at the Annual General Meeting who serve for the following year. The other five trustees and three Officers are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees have the powers to do all things necessary and desirable in pursuit of the Objects of the Group.

All new trustees undergo training and are fully briefed on the Group's policies and procedures and receive copies of the Good Governance Guide and the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

All trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration during the year.

Senior Management

During the year the day-to-day management of the Group has been the responsibility of the Group Co-ordinator, Diane Barraclough. Following her retirement at the end of July 2022 the responsibility now rests with our new appointed Chief Operating Officer, Andrea Sales.

Membership

There are currently 195 individual and 81 family members of the Group. Membership costs £5 or £15 per annum for individual or family memberships respectively. Membership is open to anyone living within the Northern Fells area or wishing to support the work of the Group.

Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and organisational risks which the Group faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Village Agent Service

The seven parishes are covered by four Village Agents.

Village Agents continue to attend existing clubs, events, lunch groups and parish council meetings to promote NFG's service's both formally and informally and advertisements are placed in local publications and on local notice boards. They run and support regular events that have been set up under the project.

It has been a difficult year for the Village Agents service with three agents retiring. One post had been vacant for six months with cover being provided by the other Village Agents and their co-ordinator. The geographical boundaries for some agents have been changed during the year. Caldbeck will now have a dedicated agent, as will the combined area of the Sebergham & Welton and Westward & Rosley parishes.

Village Agents have helped with:

- Individual issues such as bus passes, utility bills, benefits, cleaners, bereavement support, hearing advice, home safety referrals, meals on wheels referrals, emotional support and referrals to existing NFG services.
- Queries/Assists: A total of 1,760 queries/ contacts have been made during the year.
- Supporting and organizing oil syndicates in Caldbeck, Hesket Newmarket, Rosley, Westward, Castle Sowerby, Mungrisdale, Boltons and Welton & Sebergham. Over 330 residents have taken advantage of the service and enjoyed reduced oil prices. Estimated savings for the year were £8,062
- Septic tank emptying. Saved 48 residents approximately £1,960, approximately £40 a tank.
- NHS hearing aid checks: Jean Mason has been able to hold six clinics under Government guidelines. Funded by Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Fund.

We have gradually been able to open some of our activities during the year which have included:

- Walking groups, which now meet regularly with up to twenty people participating and are led by volunteers.
- Nordic walking meeting weekly in school term time.

- Weekly exercise classes have continued on Zoom with two sessions a week during school term time.
- Art for all.
- Singing.
- Wi-fi.
- CRAFTY Thursdays.
- Spinning.
- Cooking for Men.
- Book lovers started back in September and is now being run independently.

During the year the following new activities commenced:

- Ukulele group meeting weekly in Ireby.
- A coffee morning in Ireby, held monthly in the WI hall, at the request of residents.
- Lino cutting and Gelli printing taster sessions which started in July 2021.
- Wordsworth Trust Moss hut project was well attended in September with an exhibition taking place in Grasmere.
- Shorter stroller groups are running fortnightly and are volunteer led.

Attendance is varied depending on Covid numbers within our parishes

A weekly barter board is still running for residents to exchange unwanted items for a small donation to the Group or a charity of their choice. This is now run by a volunteer.

People across all age ranges within the seven parishes have taken advantage of the Village Agent's services.

Minibus Service

The Minibus continued its much appreciated, flexible, accessible, door to door service for people of any age without their own transport. It has been able to continue the service throughout the Covid pandemic restrictions, maintained by those drivers who were not required to shield. Covid compliant procedures have stayed in place: social distancing, a perspex shield between driver and passenger areas, mask wearing, regular sanitising and only one passenger/ household carried on any one journey. Since the Covid restrictions were eased nationally we have continued with these precautions except we do now take more



than one household at a time if they are travelling on journeys that fit easily together and if both passengers/ households are happy to do so.

We have seventeen regular voluntary drivers who normally provide a six day a week service. Five drivers retired during the year but three new drivers joined the voluntary team. An additional driver is still having to shield due to the health of a close family member.

The minibus is established as a flexible service for people without their own transport and for those who need the disabled access. It also helps people during temporary periods of illness or disability and can take carers out to give them a break. The minibus takes people to both medically related appointments and social journeys such as visits to friends, village activities, and shopping. It takes older people to lunch groups and coffee mornings throughout the seven parishes. The service takes passengers out of the area to appointments or to public service connections for longer journeys. In March 2020 the service was reconfigured for essential journeys only for the duration of the coronavirus restrictions but as restrictions have changed and recently been removed the minibus is once again taking people on journeys for a variety of purposes.

During the year the minibus undertook 536 passenger journeys. The minibus use fluctuates depending on need and its use was reduced during the Covid pandemic but during the year has seen a considerable increase in number of passenger journeys compared with the previous year. It is in use on most days of the week.

Lend a Hand Service

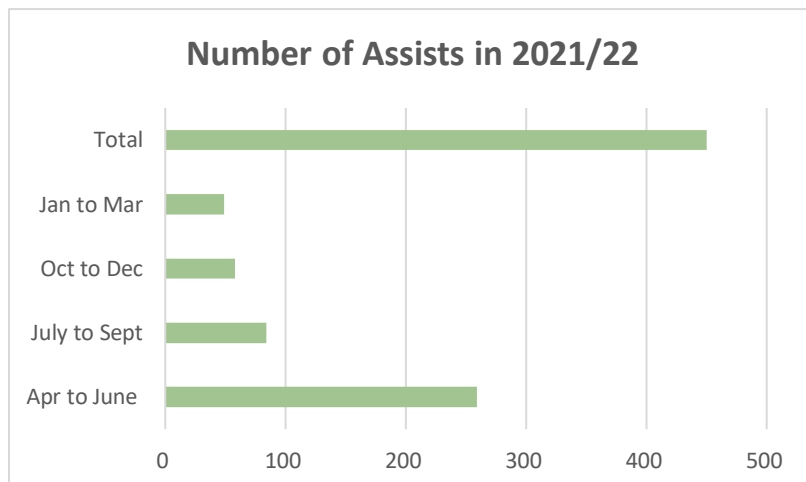
This year has been both challenging and rewarding for the Lend a Hand service ('LAH'). The year started during the third Covid lock down so the LAH again helped with shopping, prescription pick-ups and similar activities.

When the pandemic and subsequent first lockdown struck, the LAH service changed from being one of several services offered by NFG to being the prime contact service for clients. This situation continued through most of 2021, with a gradual change towards attempting to offer the pre-pandemic services in the latter part of that year and into 2022. This was inhibited by the third lockdown. Subsequently the LAH has started to provide a limited sitting service whilst continuing to provide shopping and medical loan services to clients.

In the autumn Caldbeck surgery asked if we could help marshal patients, who were receiving their flu jabs at Caldbeck Parish Hall.

The Wigton Covid vaccination programme continued throughout the year and ended in April 2022. Since December 2020 we have carried out 2,788 volunteer shifts of which 1,699 were performed during this financial year.

The response to the Covid pandemic crisis appeal for volunteers was magnificent, and many of the new volunteers have remained with us. In March 2020 we had 33 volunteers and now have 269 volunteers. These volunteers fall into three groups, which are not mutually exclusive. The groups are: the original LAH volunteers, the volunteers who came on stream during the first lockdown, and the volunteers helping at Wigton with the Covid vaccination programme. A lot of the volunteers at the Wigton vaccination clinics are from a wider area themselves; living in Carlisle, Keswick, Aspatria and Dalston to name a few locations. A number of volunteers have become LAH volunteers.



Summary

Providing assistance to local people remains the key goal of the LAH service. As we move into a world where Covid is as much a part of life as flu is we are striving to both deliver and strengthen the LAH service. This will continue to provide challenges, which given the volunteer response over the last 2 years, we are confident of meeting successfully.

Men In Sheds



The Shed opened fully in June 2014 and since then numbers of regular attenders have grown steadily. At present there are eight attenders visiting the Shed three times per week, and three who regularly attend twice a week. The Shed accepts men and ladies of all ages and backgrounds. Core activities have changed little over the years with exception of bicycle repairs and sales which have developed in the last few years.

When the Shed re-opened after the last lockdown Covid testing kits were available free from the Government's website. All attendees were encouraged to undertake a Covid test three times per week typically on a Sunday, Tuesday and Friday. Results were published on the Shed's WhatsApp noticeboard. Compliance was 100% and no one tested positive. Now that testing is no longer free, and that the general consensus is that we need to learn to live with Covid, this policy has ended.

Since January Men in Sheds have contributed £600 to NFG's funds from the sale of bikes and from donations.

Benefits Awareness and Support Service

Referrals

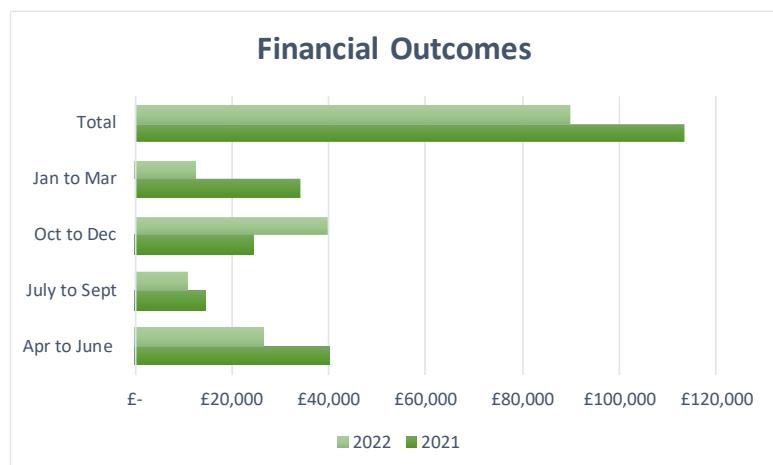
The Benefits Service has been affected by the ongoing Covid situation but our Benefits Awareness officer has been able to restart home visits where agreeable with the clients. Where this has not been possible support with awareness of eligibility, guidance with form filling and sometimes online form filling has been conducted by telephone with the client.

We had 97 cases referred for support this year:

Support Service	Number of Cases
Blue Badge	19
Attendance Allowance	29
Council Tax, Housing Benefit	4
Employment Support Allowance	3
Utilities, Switching, Internet	9
Disabled Facility Grant, Equipment Provision	1
Carer's Allowance	3
Benefits Check	5
Road Tax Exemption, Driver's Licence Renewal	4
Winter Warmth Fund	5
Warm Homes Discount	3
Pension Credit	3
Universal Credit	3
Careline Alarm	1
Personal Independence Payment	3
Lasting Power of Attorney (signposting only)	1
Green Homes Grant	1
TOTAL	97

Outcomes

The following financial results have been achieved this year, in addition to the provision of advice, support and signposting to other services:



Results shown are annual amounts plus any backdated payment awarded at the time.

One client commented that since receiving her Attendance Allowance of almost £90 a week, she has been able to get a cleaner, a window cleaner, a gardener and is now able to keep the heating on as much as she wants, to help her arthritis.

Northern Fells Dementia Action Alliance

In 2019 NFG was an integral partner in the setting up the Northern Fells Dementia Action Alliance ('DAA') and from 2020 we have successfully applied for grant aid funding to appoint a dementia information role within the Village Agents team.

During the previous year the work of the DAA had been severely constrained by the Covid pandemic and a revised action plan was adopted which included producing information bulletins, producing a comprehensive database of services for people with dementia and their carers, networking and joint work with The Alzheimer's Society, Dignity in Dementia and other partners. This included building checks in village halls to ensure that they were dementia friendly.

In June 2021 Amanda Ingram, the information worker left the Group and after a gap of six months Janet Wilkinson joined in January. She completed her induction at the end of January and since then has been familiarising herself with services, partners and projects. Janet also helped organise the NFG/ Community Catalysts/ DAA Care Fair which was held in March at Caldbeck Village Hall. This brought together eighteen groups who provide support to people with dementia and their carers and for older people or those who suffer from ill health.

Youth initiative

We are looking to provide activity programmes for young people as soon as is practically possible. After the year-end we have provided funding support for the provision of tennis coaching, by a qualified tennis coach, at Caldbeck during the summer school holidays.

Fundraising

Grant Funding

The fundraising strategy for the Group has, for the last few years, been to try and consolidate funding for all our activities into longer term grant aid settlements, for three to five years as opposed to annual submissions, thereby giving us greater stability and sustainability. Restricted grant aid funding provides our bedrock, paying for salaries and essential running costs.

Through adopting this approach, we are now in a position where funding has been secured for the next three years for the Village Agents and the Men in Sheds Co-ordinator through the National Lottery Enabling Communities Programme, our core funding for the next eighteen months through The Joyce Wilkinson Trust and The Princes Countryside Trust, and for the next three years for the Lend a Hand Co-ordinator and Benefits Support Officer through a cocktail of funders via Cumbria Community Foundation. We also have secured funding for the Northern Fells Dementia Action Alliance Information officer for the next two years via the National Lottery Enabling Communities Programme, the Joyce Wilkinson Trust, the Quarry Hill and Kipling Fund. This has created a strong financial position for NFG over the next few years.

Securing grant aid is essential to our ability to deliver our services on an ongoing basis. At a time when many charitable organisations and groups are struggling to exist, this is a huge affirmation of the value placed upon the activities of NFG and of the commitment and hard work undertaken by our employees and volunteers.

All funders require extensive monitoring and evaluation of the impact of their grant. Bi-annual, annual and end of project reports are produced for each different element of grant aid we receive. We are constantly researching and opening dialogues with potential new funders, including those who support community enterprises, alongside consolidating and strengthening our relationships with current funders and partners by attending local forums and conferences.

Non-Grant Fundraising

During the year our various fund raising activities recommenced after being interrupted by the Covid pandemic.

The Mosedale Meeting House Coffee Shop was able to open this year under covid guidelines agreed with the Quakers. The weeks open were extended from ten to thirteen with an extra day each week. The response from volunteers was amazing and £13,288 was raised for Group funds.

Other fundraising activities included sale of our cards, calendars and jute bags at various events and locations and two Café Days at Mungrisdale. These activities generated a total of £2,430 of income.

Finance

Financial Review

The financial result for the Group shows an overall income of £149,197 (2021: £125,578) and, after deducting expenditure of £136,303 (2021: £131,954), a surplus of £12,894 (2021: net deficit of £6,376).

This has been a year where our response to the Covid pandemic has come to an end and a renewed focus on bringing back core activities began, along with the additional new activities. This resulted in a reduction in costs directly attributable to our response to the Covid pandemic being replaced with costs associated with returning charitable activities. It is, therefore, pleasing that our overall charitable expenditure for the year is broadly the same as last year.

Non-grant income accounted for 27% of NFG's income for the year. This is in no small measure due to the successful return of the Mosedale Coffee Shop and the sale of NFG cards and calendars. Other sources of income have been earned from the minibus service, membership subscriptions and individual donations.

We would like to thank all our members and local supporters and the seven parish councils, as well as the following organisations for their ongoing support:



Reserves Policy

Total reserves at the end of the year were £84,110 (2021: £71,216) of which £66,547 (2021: £50,495) were unrestricted funds and £17,563 (2021: £20,721) were restricted funds.

The level of reserves is determined by balancing the need to maintain sufficient reserves to enable our charitable work to continue when faced with difficult circumstances, with the need to maximise the use of our resources. Our reserves, therefore, need to be sufficient to allow the Trustees sufficient time to address potential funding shortfalls. At the year-end our cash reserves equated to approximately ten months average expenditure. The Trustees consider the Group's reserves at the year-end to be adequate and in-line with the reserves policy.

Financial Management

The management team operate budgetary control over every aspect of the Group's charitable activities. Budgets, which are discussed and agreed with the Trustees, are prepared for each of our charitable activities and monitored against actual. In addition quarterly management accounts are prepared and reviewed by the Trustees at their quarterly meetings.

Small Company Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees annual report was approved on 26th September 2022 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by:

.....

Geoff Hine

Chair and Trustee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2022

		2022			2021
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	5,695	11,850	17,545	11,769
Charitable activities	6	-	108,224	108,224	108,238
Other trading activities	7	18,466	-	18,466	469
Investment income	8	448	-	448	867
Other income	9	2,365	2,149	4,514	4,235
Total income		26,974	122,223	149,197	125,578
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of other trading activities	10	3,659	-	3,659	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	11, 12	2,182	130,462	132,644	131,954
Total Expenditure		5,841	130,462	136,303	131,954
Net Income/(expenditure)		21,133	(8,239)	12,894	(6,376)
Transfer between funds		(5,081)	5,081	-	-
Net movement in funds		16,052	(3,158)	12,894	(6,376)
Total funds as at 1 April 2021		50,495	20,721	71,216	77,592
Total funds as at 31 March 2022		66,547	17,563	84,110	71,216

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 15 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	18	15,451	19,743
Current Assets			
Debtors	19	2,111	1,822
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>107,759</u>	<u>74,936</u>
		109,870	76,758
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Accruals and deferred income	20	<u>(41,211)</u>	<u>(25,285)</u>
Net Current Assets		68,659	51,473
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>84,110</u>	<u>71,216</u>
Net Assets		<u><u>84,110</u></u>	<u><u>71,216</u></u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds	22	17,563	20,721
Unrestricted funds	22	<u>66,547</u>	<u>50,495</u>
Total charity funds		<u>84,110</u>	<u>71,216</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime, were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 26th September 2022 and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Geoff Hine
Chair and Trustee

Andrew Rose
Treasurer and Trustee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Millhouse Village Hall, Millhouse, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 8HR.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)(Charities SORP(FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Significant judgements

There are no judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entities accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Key sources of estimation and uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. There are no key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity period of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account (other than those held for investment purposes).

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income resources receivable or generated and are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- Legacy income is recognised when the receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Income is deferred when either the donor specifies that the grant must only be used in future periods of account or the funding relates to activities in future accounting periods.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis – based on time taken. These support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

- Motor vehicles - 20% straight line
- Equipment - 25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transactions costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financial transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

4 Limited by guarantee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group is a charity limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital.

5 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations			
Donations	5,695	11,850	17,545
Legacies			
Legacies	-	-	-
	<u>5,695</u>	<u>11,850</u>	<u>17,545</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations			
Donations	7,827	3,942	11,769
Legacies			
Legacies	-	-	-
	<u>7,827</u>	<u>3,942</u>	<u>11,769</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

6 Charitable activities	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Parish Council Grants	2,900	2,900	3,650	3,650
Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Trust	3,000	3,000	5,000	5,000
Cumbria Community Foundation	45,657	45,657	19,072	19,072
The Big Lottery Fund	44,883	44,883	49,221	49,221
The Joyce Wilkinson Trust	-	-	25,750	25,750
The Prince's Countryside Funds	9,672	9,672	2,464	2,464
Co-op Community Funds	-	-	681	681
Other Grants received	2,112	2,112	2,400	2,400
	<u>108,224</u>	<u>108,224</u>	<u>108,238</u>	<u>108,238</u>
 7 Other trading activities				
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	
Fundraising	<u>18,466</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,466</u>	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	
Fundraising	<u>438</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>469</u>	
 8 Investment income				
	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>448</u>	<u>448</u>	<u>867</u>	<u>867</u>
 9 Other income				
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	
Membership subscriptions	2,365	-	2,365	
Minibus fares	-	2,149	2,149	
	<u>2,365</u>	<u>2,149</u>	<u>4,514</u>	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	
Membership Subscriptions	2,487	-	2,487	
Minibus fares	-	1,748	1,748	
	<u>2,487</u>	<u>1,748</u>	<u>4,235</u>	

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

10 Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Fundraising	3,659	3,659	-	-

11 Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Minibus	-	9,771	9,771
Lend a Hand	-	25,244	25,244
Village Agents	-	31,701	31,701
Men in Sheds	-	7,078	7,078
Depreciation	-	6,063	6,063
Support costs	2,182	50,605	52,787
	<u>2,182</u>	<u>130,462</u>	<u>132,644</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Minibus	-	8,334	8,334
Lend a Hand	-	24,072	24,072
Village Agents	-	35,497	35,497
Men in Sheds	-	6,847	6,847
Depreciation	-	5,602	5,602
Support costs	1,938	49,664	51,602
	<u>1,938</u>	<u>130,016</u>	<u>131,954</u>

12 Expenditure on charity activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Minibus	9,771	1,005	10,776	9,033
Lend a Hand	25,244	3,832	29,076	27,714
Village Agents	31,701	5,126	36,827	38,434
Men in Sheds	7,078	1,812	8,890	8,474
Youth Initiative	-	-	-	324
Core	-	38,830	38,830	40,405
Depreciation	6,063	-	6,063	5,632
Governance costs	-	2,182	2,182	1,938
	<u>79,857</u>	<u>52,787</u>	<u>132,644</u>	<u>131,954</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

13 Analysis of support costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs	26,746	34,571
Premises	4,268	2,746
Communications and IT	3,923	3,576
General office	5,298	3,151
Governance costs	2,182	1,938
Other costs	10,370	5,620
	<u>52,787</u>	<u>51,602</u>

14 Net income/ (expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging (crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>6,063</u>	<u>5,632</u>

15 Independent examination fees

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fees payable to the Independent Examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	2,182	1,938
Other financial services	576	559
	<u>2,758</u>	<u>2,497</u>

16 Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>94,682</u>	<u>104,633</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

16 Staff costs (continued)

The average head count of employees during the year was 11 (2021: 12). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Group co-ordinator	1	1
Fund raising co-ordinator	1	1
Minibus	2	2
Lend a Hand/ Benefits awareness	2	2
Village Agents	3	4
Men in Sheds	1	1
Dementia awareness	1	1
	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2021: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel include all persons that have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £20,115 (2021: £21,278).

17 Trustee Remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

Expenses amounting to £97.20 (2021: £80) were reimbursed to one trustee related party during the year for travel expenditure incurred.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

18 Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2021	27,650	8,672	36,322
Additions	-	1,771	1,771
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2022	<u>27,650</u>	<u>10,443</u>	<u>38,093</u>
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2021	9,220	7,359	16,579
Charge for the year	5,530	533	6,063
As at 31 March 2021	<u>14,750</u>	<u>7,892</u>	<u>22,642</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2022	<u>12,900</u>	<u>2,551</u>	<u>15,451</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>18,430</u>	<u>1,313</u>	<u>19,743</u>

19 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other debtors	1,117	900
Prepayments	994	922
	<u>2,111</u>	<u>1,822</u>

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>41,211</u>	<u>25,285</u>

21 Deferred income

	2022	2021
	£	£
As at 1 April 2021	(25,191)	(17,839)
Amount released to income	25,191	17,839
Amount deferred in year	40,086	25,191
At 31 March 2022	<u>40,086</u>	<u>25,191</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

22 Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>50,495</u>	<u>26,974</u>	<u>(5,841)</u>	<u>(5,081)</u>	<u>66,547</u>

	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>72,520</u>	<u>11,619</u>	<u>(1,938)</u>	<u>(31,706)</u>	<u>50,495</u>

Restricted Funds

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	<u>20,721</u>	<u>122,223</u>	<u>(130,462)</u>	<u>5,081</u>	<u>17,563</u>

	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	<u>5,072</u>	<u>113,959</u>	<u>(130,016)</u>	<u>31,706</u>	<u>20,721</u>

23 Analysis of Net Assets By Fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	15,451	15,451
Current assets	67,672	42,198	109,870
Creditors less than 1 year	<u>(1,125)</u>	<u>(40,086)</u>	<u>(41,211)</u>
	<u>66,547</u>	<u>17,563</u>	<u>84,110</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2,021
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	19,743	19,743
Current assets	50,495	26,263	76,758
Creditors less than 1 year	<u>-</u>	<u>(25,285)</u>	<u>(25,285)</u>
	<u>50,495</u>	<u>20,721</u>	<u>71,216</u>

24 Related Parties

During the year two trustees and the wives of two trustees were reimbursed for the following expenditure: fuel for the minibus: £1,979, Mosedale Coffee Shop consumables: £1,450, fundraising promotional material and equipment: £339, minibus repairs and parts: £80.

There were no other related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2022.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purpose of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirements that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Liddle FCA for and on behalf of Saint & Co Independent Examiner

4 Mason Court
Gillan Way
Penrith 40 Business Park
Penrith
Cumbria
CA11 9GR

Trustees, Officers and Professional Advisers

Patron	HRH The Prince of Wales
Trustees and Directors	Mr G Hine (Chair) Mr T Cartmell (Vice Chair) Mr A S Rose (Treasurer) Ms E Alexander (appointed 24 April 2021) Ms J Bland (resigned 13 September 2021) Mr K Bridges Mr S Brockbank Ms A Burgess Ms J Bush (appointed 16 September 2021) Ms P Groves (appointed 28 January 2022) Mr P Huntingdon (resigned 24 January 2022) Mr P Pearson Mr M Richardson Mr M Threlkeld (resigned 14 September 2021) Mr D Ward
Company Secretary	Ms D M Barraclough (resigned 18 July 2022) Ms A Sales (appointed 18 July 2022)
Chief Operating Officer	Ms A Sales (appointed 25 July 2022)
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 6 Lowther Street Carlisle CA3 8DB
Independent Examiner	Saint & Co Penrith Cumbria CA11 9GR
Principal office and registered office	Millhouse Village Hall Millhouse Wigton Cumbria CA7 8HR

Notes

Notes

NORTHERN FELLS RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1093814

Accounts



Northern Fells Group

Action through Community

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 04504085

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1093814



Northern Fells Group

Action through Community

Who

- We are a community charity based in North Cumbria serving 3,700 residents in an area of 200 square miles.

Aims

- Combatting rural social isolation and exclusion.
- Alleviating deprivation.
- Improving access to services.
- Enabling people to live independently at home.

Team

- We have 12 members of staff and 280 volunteers.

Finance

- Income of £125,578 and Expenditure of 131,954.
- Net assets of £71,216.

Community Benefit

- Delivered over 6,000 Community Assists.
- Undertaken 352 minibus journeys.
- Helped secure £113,447 of Benefit Income.
- Produced 3 x weekly community information newsletters since the start of the first lockdown.

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Since the intervention of our Lend a Hand team a lady who lives alone now has a meal delivered four times a week, a volunteer visits once a week for coffee and a chat, and she now uses the Northern Fells Group minibus. The family receive regular updates from our Lend a Hand co-ordinator. "I can't believe what you have done for my mother".

"The end is almost definitely in sight and we could not have done this without you and the Northern Fells Group of volunteers, they have been amazing"

Catherine Penrice, NHS Operations Manager

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group ('the Group' or 'NFG') for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the Objects as set out in the governing document

The Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group promotes and undertakes (either alone or on behalf of or in association with other bodies, organisations and individuals) charitable activities of any kind for the benefit and welfare of the inhabitants, communities and organisations in the parishes of Boltons, Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby, Ireby with Uldale, Mungrisdale, Sebergham & Welton and Westward & Rosley in the county of Cumbria and elsewhere.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these Objects

The Group runs the following services:

- Lend a Hand – providing neighbourly support to people who are ill or less able, and their carers.
- Benefits Awareness and Help – supporting the elderly, people with disabilities or on low income in claiming benefits to which they are entitled.
- Village Agents – linking people to the Group's services and outside organisations with four agents working throughout the seven parishes.
- Minibus service – providing a flexible, accessible door to door service for people of any age without their own transport, and group hire.
- Men in Sheds - operating a fully stocked workshop in Caldbeck.
- Youth Initiative – running a range of activities including drama, dance, arts and sports for younger people and networking with local, county and national youth schemes.
- Core administration, research and development, and fundraising.
- Additional services provided include parish based lunch clubs, drop-in sessions and Tai-Chi for elderly people.

Public Benefit

The Group carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The Trustees consider that the Group's activities, summarised above, provide many benefits for the inhabitants, communities and organisations within the seven parishes of rural Cumbria. The Group Co-ordinator reviews the performance and objectives set for all the Group's services and reports to the Trustees thereby ensuring the needs of the residents in our community are being met.

Achievement and Performance

The Group continues to achieve its aims: helping, supporting, guiding, serving and enabling the inhabitants of our parishes.

The Group has continued to promote membership but has been unable to maintain its trading activities due to Covid-19 restrictions. The annual newsletter was unable to be circulated this year but we sent a Christmas card out to all households with our membership renewal form. We have made two claims to

the Department for Transport for a fuel duty rebate, due to our geographical remoteness, to help with fuel costs. I have continued to liaise with all our co-ordinators and staff via weekly Zoom meetings maintaining good communication within the Group.

We were awarded the High Sheriff's Award in recognition of great and valuable service to the community. We were also runner up in the Community Social Enterprise (Community) Awards. Both of these awards recognise the value of our volunteers in the community.

The Mosedale Meeting House Coffee Shop was unable to open due to Covid-19 restrictions. We are extremely grateful for everyone's support and express our thanks to all our generous funders, including all the kind supporters of the Group for their donations.

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak all our activities were cancelled and we have concentrated on our services and working to support residents self-isolating through our Lend a Hand scheme.

Funding for this service and the Fundraising Co-ordinator came from the Prince's Countryside Fund, Joyce Wilkinson Trust, Big Lottery Fund, Beeby Family Fund, Abbeyfield Carlisle Society Fund and Group Donations.

It would not be possible to offer our services without the work of our wonderful volunteers; the Trustees and co-ordinators express their sincere thanks for all their dedication and continuous support in a very challenging year.

Diane Barraclough - Group Co-ordinator

Fundraising

This year has perhaps been the most challenging in the 22 years of the Group's lifespan. Covid-19, the lockdowns and the shielding of some of our most vulnerable users meant that all our staff had to find new and innovative ways of working to provide the increased levels of support required by the community. To help facilitate this we applied successfully for additional grants to support staff to work in new and different ways. We received funding from the Emergency Covid-19 Fund administered by Cumbria Community Foundation, The Prince's Countryside Emergency Fund and the Big Lottery Covid 19 Funds.

Our fundraising strategy for the Group continues to be to try and consolidate funding for all our activities into longer term grant aid settlements, for 3 to 5 years as opposed to annual submissions, thereby giving us greater stability and sustainability. This has proven to be difficult as the pandemic has had an adverse impact on some grant aid bodies and trusts which have diverted funds into the Covid-19 response or have been affected by the fallout from the subsequent economic crisis. Luckily most of our funding was secured before this and for the areas of work that weren't part of a longer term settlement we were successful in securing short term finding for the shortfall.

At a time when many charitable organisations and groups are struggling to exist, this is a huge affirmation of the value placed upon the activities of the NFG and of the commitment and hard work undertaken by our part time staff and volunteers!

Our key grant aid funders during the 2020/21 financial year continued to be The National Lottery – Community Fund, The Cumbria Fund and the Joyce Wilkinson Trust. These have provided a much valued financial cushion and a secured baseline for our funding and viability. The Group also managed to draw down funding from the Beeby Family Trust, the Quarry Hill Grassroots Fund, the Kipling Fund for Older People, Abbeyfield Carlisle Society Community First Fund and The Coop Community Fund. Many thanks must go to all our funders and to Cumbria Community Foundation for their ongoing support. Securing grant aid is essential for the Group to enable us to continue to deliver our services, run the minibus, organise events and activities for the community and support our volunteers. To generate the amount of grant aid funding we require a cocktail of funders!

Welcomed contributions from our many local supporters such as the Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Fund, the parish councils, individual donations and legacies supplemented our grant aid income as well as gratefully received donations from users and members of the NFG.

All funders require extensive monitoring and evaluation of the impact of their grant. Bi-annual, annual and end of project reports are produced for each different element of grant aid we receive.

We are constantly researching and opening dialogues with potential new funders, including those who support community enterprises, alongside consolidating and strengthening our relationships with current funders and partners by attending local forums and conferences.

All our fundraising is a team effort, and I would like to thank all our donors, grant aid funders, members, staff, supporters, trustees and volunteers for their time, commitment and efforts.

Libby Graham - Fundraising Co-ordinator

Northern Fells Dementia Action Alliance

DAA
Northern Fells
Dementia Action Alliance

In 2019 the Group was an integral partner in setting up the Northern Fells Dementia Action Alliance and from 2020 the group successfully applied for grant aid funding to appoint a dementia support role within the Village Agents team.

An action plan for the year's work was signed off by the NF Dementia Action Alliance in late February highlighting a number of objectives, tasks and activities to develop our area into a Dementia Friendly Community. However, this work was severely constrained by the onset of the pandemic and most of the action plan was put on hold due to lockdowns and shielding. A revised action plan was produced and key activities for the year include:

- Partnership work with The Alzheimer's Society and other relevant organisations to enhance services for people with dementia and their carers.
- Production of Dementia Information bulletins for distribution to all NFG database users and contacts.
- Production of a comprehensive database of services available for people with dementia and their carers.
- Production of a comprehensive 'Activities calendar' for distribution when "things are back to normal".

- Training for and completion of Dementia Friends Zoom training sessions.
- Engagement in county wide work to promote Dementia Friends through Allerdale and Carlisle DAAs.
- Completion of a feasibility study for a 'Respite for Carers' scheme.
- Research and distribution a check sheet for village hall committees on how to make their buildings dementia friendly.
- Facilitation of training and information sessions for carers, other local groups and churches via Dignity in Dementia.

Funding for this service came from Allerdale Dementia Action Alliance, Eden District Council, Cumbria Community Foundation and the Big Lottery.

Diane Barraclough - Group Co-ordinator

Benefits Awareness and Support Service

Referrals

During the year to 31 March 2021 I have covered the Benefits Awareness and Support Service on 10 hours per week, working from home for the majority of the time due to the ongoing Coronavirus restrictions. Support has been more difficult over the phone than in person, so forms have taken longer and involved posting partially completed forms to clients to check, sign and forward.

Referrals have come from NFG staff, GP surgery staff, response to adverts on noticeboards around the Parishes and recommendations from existing clients. We had 66 new clients (2020: 60) referred for support within the year, needing help with the following 82 issues (2020: 80):

Support	Cases	Support	Cases
Blue Badge	17 (15)	Hospital Discharge Planning	0/(1)
Attendance Allowance	10/(15)	Renewable Heat Incentive/Green Homes Grant	1/(1)
Covid-related Support	9/(0)	Social Housing Allocation/House move	2/(1)
Council Tax	1(7)	Job Seeker's Allowance	1/(1)
Employment Support Allowance	0/(5)	Pension Credit	3/(1)
Utilities, Switching, Internet Access,	7/(3)	Statutory Sick Pay	0/(1)
Bereavement Support	2/(2)	Road Tax Discount	0/(1)
Disabled Facility Grant	1/(2)	Universal Credit	3/(1)
Carer's Allowance	3/(2)	Careline Alarm	4/(1)
Benefits Check	2/(2)	Personal Independence Payment	3/(1)
Disabled Living Allowance	0/(1)	Support for carers	3/(0)
Housing Benefit	3/(0)	NHS Funded Care	1/(0)
Winter Fuel Payment	1/(0)	Lasting Power of Attorney (signposting only)	3/(0)
Winter Warmth Fund	2/(0)		

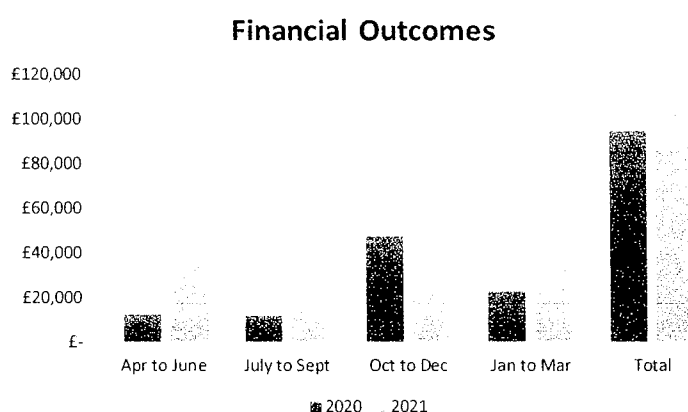
Figures in brackets: 2019/20

Outcomes:

The following financial results have been confirmed this year, in addition to the intangible results obtained from provision of advice, support and signposting to other services. In addition to the financial benefits, we have supported our clients to obtain blue badge parking permits, disabled facilities grants for home equipment such as new boiler/stairlift, assistance with getting Careline alarms installed and others.

There was one Payment of over £19,000 in April which was back payment I obtained for a client whose benefit had wrongly been stopped over two years before.

Results shown are annual amounts plus any backdated payment awarded at the time.



Dianne Bowes - Benefits Awareness and Support Service

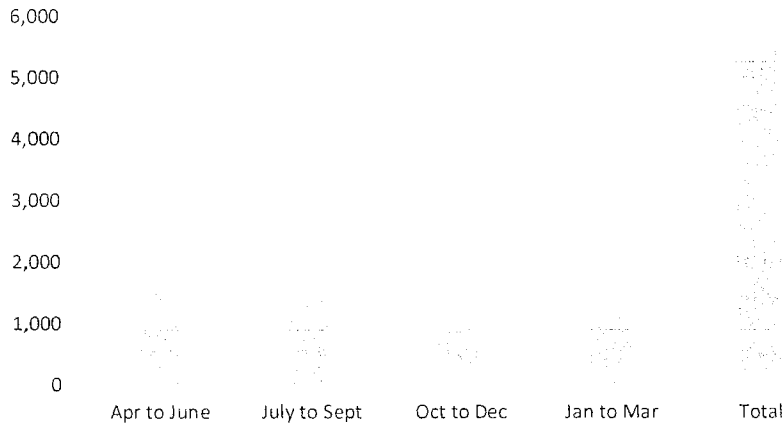
Lend a Hand Service

This year has been both rewarding and challenging in equal measure.

In March 2020 I was happily reporting that we had completed 607 assists, for the year gone, thinking that that was a good number, which reflected well on the Lend a Hand service ('LAH') and our volunteers.

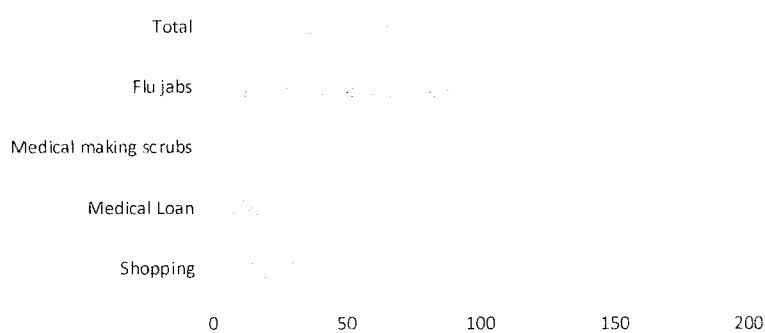
At the time of writing, we continue to use the Village Agents as local volunteer co-ordinators, and they have organised the following number of assists:

Number of Assists in 2020/21



On top of these assists, we also carried out our normal shopping assists, which were ongoing pre-pandemic, and our medical and medical loan services. In the autumn we were asked by Caldbeck surgery if we could help marshal patients, who were receiving the Flu jabs at Caldbeck Parish Hall. This led to an upsurge in the use of many volunteers who, due to all the time in lockdowns last year, had been unable to perform a lot of the usual LAH assists.

Number of Shopping and Medical Assists in 2020/21



The marshalling at the Flu jabs went so well that we were asked to help in organising the marshalling for the Covid-19 Jabs at Wigton hospital. This did not exclusively cover the Northern Fells area, but a much wider geographic, serving surgeries in Wigton, Keswick, Kirkbride, Silloth, Dalston and Caldbeck. We started in mid-December and we are still performing an essential role at the hospital as vaccinations will probably continue there until August or September. Between December and March we have co-ordinated the equivalent of 1,070 assists at the Wigton site alone.

So, looking at the Total number of assists we have completed at least 6,824 over the last year. I say at least, because we were so busy at times it was impossible for everyone to record the assists as they

happened. As a result of helping clients, some volunteers have, in some cases, kept on assisting them without any record being kept, so this total is a conservative figure.

Because of the sheer numbers we were unable to use the database directly and so records were kept in the main on spreadsheets, recording the minimum of data. These records were then further processed by me, so that they could be loaded retrospectively on to the database. We are about to load the third tranche of data in this way.

Lend a Hand Co-ordinator

When the pandemic and subsequent first lockdown struck the LAH service changed from being one of several services offered by NFG to being the prime contact service for clients.

As mentioned earlier the NFG organisation was amended, so as to be in a good position to meet the increased requests for help. As the pandemic did not have any boundaries we set ourselves up to help all people needing assistance, beyond our normal operating limits. We benefitted from having a rapid surge of new volunteers to help meet this new demand and we used over 60% of the volunteers in the first lockdown.

Processing and recording this activity, was my main task in the first few months of the lockdown. To enable this to be subsequently recorded, this meant holding spreadsheet data on clients, volunteers, assists given and queries answered. This data was then processed so as to enable it to be uploaded to the database. The spreadsheets were also used to provide real time statistics throughout the year.

In the middle of all this we also had to find a home for, and re-locate, the substantial quantity of medical loan equipment which we now hold. We were fortunate to find a local, convenient and dry storage facility.

Volunteers

The response to the Covid-19 crisis appeal for volunteers was, and continues to be, magnificent. We set out with 33 volunteers in March 2020 and currently have 265. These volunteers fall into three groups, which are not mutually exclusive. The groups are the original LAH volunteers, the volunteers who came on stream during the first lockdown, and the volunteers helping at Wigton with the Covid-19 jabs. A lot of the volunteers at Wigton vaccination clinics are from a wider area themselves; living in Carlisle, Keswick, Aspatria and Dalston to name a few locations. I hope that we will be able to host a volunteers' meet up sometime later this year, so that we can thank them all properly and also look at how we can involve this wonderful team in the future.

Clients

The client base continues to grow both within and outside the NFG boundaries. As a result of the Covid-19 jabs we now have a better relationship with Wigton Surgery and we have strengthened our ties with



Caldbeck Surgery. In the early stages of the pandemic we were asked if we would participate in the 'pathway zero', which was essentially an early discharge of patients, who could go home with community support, to make way for the expected surge of Covid patients. Although we prepared for this particular role, we did not actually receive any referrals. However, we have recently been contacted by Cumbria CVS to help a client who is requiring some support, now that they have got home after a hospital stay.

Summary

We have come a long way during the year. The pandemic still continues, but the vaccination program is making a difference and hopefully we will be able to operate more normally in the future. Patients and staff alike at Wigton hospital have very much appreciated the cheerful assistance of our volunteers, provided in all weathers. I think the actions and selflessness of the volunteers and NFG staff have served to raise the profile of the Group both locally and within Cumbria, which gives us a good basis on which to move forward.

Funding for this and the Benefits service came from The Joyce Wilkinson Trust, The Cumbria Fund, Prince's Countryside Fund, Big Lottery Reaching Communities, Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Fund, Cumbria Community Foundation and group donations.

Simon Braithwaite - Lend a Hand Co-ordinator

Men In Sheds

The past year has been challenging as the shed was closed until 6th July. We then opened for 3 shorter sessions, instead of 2, with a risk assessment in place and all equipment checked to make sure it was in good working order. Only 6 members were allowed to attend and a one-way system was in place. Contact details were recorded and no visitors were allowed in the shed. A gazebo was purchased for outdoor work.

A bike project has been a particular success. Through social media and following a slot on BBC radio Cumbria we have had donations of many fine bikes, some hardly used, and have collected over £800 so far from local people desperate to get their hands-on good quality, recycled push bikes. These bikes range from racing bikes to mountain bikes and children's bikes. All the bikes are repaired, cleaned and new parts used if they are needed. They have a test ride to ensure brakes and gears are all working properly before being displayed outside the shed ready for sale.

Prior to Christmas we repaired and donated six children's bikes to CFM Cash for kids.

When we were back in lockdown in December members were still repairing bikes in their own workshops.

The workshop is checked regularly for any safety issues when we are unable to attend.

We continue to enjoy the support from the local community, and not so local people.

Funding for this project is from Big Lottery Reaching Communities, Joyce Wilkinson Charitable Fund and the Co-op.

Ken Graham – Men in Sheds Co-ordinator

Minibus Service

The Minibus continued its much appreciated, flexible, accessible, door to door service for people of any age without their own transport. It has been able to continue the service throughout the Covid pandemic restrictions, maintained by those drivers who were not required to shield. Covid compliant procedures were put in place: social distancing, a Perspex shield between driver and passenger areas, mask wearing, regular sanitising and only one passenger/household carried on any one journey.

We have twenty one regular voluntary drivers who normally provide a six day a week service. Six drivers retired during the year but two new drivers joined the voluntary team. Seven drivers are shielding, either for their own health or that of close family members. Fourteen drivers continue to offer transport for essential journeys.

The minibus is established as a flexible service for people without their own transport and for those who need the disabled access. It also helps people during temporary periods of illness or disability and can take carers out to give them a break. The minibus takes people to both medically related appointments and social visits to friends, village activities, shopping etc. It takes older people to lunch groups and coffee mornings throughout the seven parishes. The service also takes passengers out of the area to appointments or to public service connections for longer journeys. In March 2020 the service was reconfigured for essential journeys only for the duration of the coronavirus restrictions and those restrictions are still in place.

During the year the minibus did 352 passenger journeys. The minibus use fluctuates depending on need and its use has clearly been reduced during the Covid pandemic. Nevertheless it is in use on most days of the week. If someone needs transport and the minibus is already booked and going in the wrong direction, we refer the passenger to the Cumbria County Council Voluntary Car Scheme and are grateful for their back up.

The passengers often express their gratitude to the voluntary drivers for their helpfulness and patience and we join them in that appreciation.

Funding for this service came from Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Fund and Parish Council Donations.

Antoinette Ward and Carol Hickson – Minibus Co-ordinators

VILLAGE AGENT INITIATIVE

Four Village Agents cover the seven Parishes of the NFG.



It has been a difficult year for the agents as all activities were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Agents have been assisting with the Lend a Hand service, matching volunteers, to support residents who were self-isolating. This included shopping, delivering prescriptions and dog walking.

Bulletins are being sent out three times a week with all the latest Government information, restrictions and advice.

Agents have also:

- Helped with individual issues such as bus passes, utility bills, benefit referrals, cleaners, bereavement support, hearing advice, home safety referrals, meals on wheels referrals, emotional support and referrals to existing NFG services.
- A total of 975 individual non Covid-19 queries/ contacts have been made.
- Queries/Assists: Covid-19. All queries and assists relating to Covid-19 are being recorded by the Lend a Hand co-ordinator.
- Continued to support and organise Oil Syndicates in Caldbeck, Heskett Newmarket, Rosley, Westward, Castle Sowerby, Mungrisdale, Boltons and Welton & Sebergham with over 328 residents taking advantage of the service at a reduced oil price. Estimated savings for the year amounted to £9,809.
- Energy Switching: Is ongoing, an annual saving of £506 was made for one resident.
- Septic tank emptying: Saved residents approximately £790.
- Walking for Health: All walks were cancelled until 1st July when we were allowed to have clusters groups, of no more than 6 people, maintaining social distancing. Risk assessments were in place and all contact details were recorded. As there is only one leader per group extra first aid equipment was purchased. These had to be cancelled when we went back into lockdown in December.
- NHS hearing aid checks: Jean Mason has been able to hold two clinics when allowed under Government guidelines. Funded by Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Fund.

Covid-19: We are trying to keep in touch with as many people as possible, who would usually attend our activities, with weekly phone calls for those not on the internet. I have received emails from grateful family members, who live away, who appreciate how much support we are giving resident. They are less worried about their family knowing they have a good support network.

A weekly bargain board was set up for residents to exchange unwanted items for a small donation to the Group.

Singing for Fun, coffee mornings, exercise classes, Art for All, Woolcrafts and the Walking Groups are Zooming weekly and some also have WhatsApp groups.

Cooking 4 Men are getting monthly recipes and Quizzes, the Spinners are getting a weekly newsletter and emails or phone calls for those not on line. CRAFT club members are getting weekly phone calls as many

are not on line. Poetry/ book lovers are getting Book Club News. Boltongate Art group have a Facebook page with 55 members and regular art challenges. Singing for Pleasure are getting YouTube videos to sing along to and weekly phone calls.

People across all age ranges from all seven parishes have taken advantage of the Village Agent Service.

Grant funding received from the following: Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, Joyce Wilkinson Trust and Aspatria & District Community Fund.

Diane Barraclough - Village Agent Co-ordinator

Youth initiative

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we were unable to offer this service. Funding has been carried forward to next year.

Finance

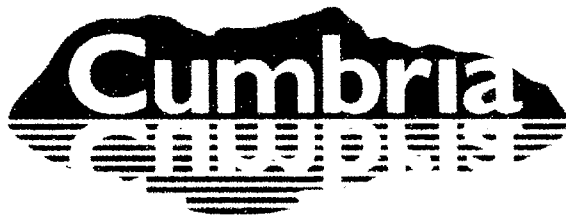
Financial Review

The financial result for the Group shows an overall income of £125,578 and, after deducting expenditure on charitable activities of £131,954, a net deficit of £6,376.

This has been a challenging year financially for the Group. Our ability to generate income through fund raising or trading activities was curtailed whilst at the same time our charitable activity expenditure increased as a direct result of our response to the pandemic. Grant income from funds supporting rural communities and sustainable development or care for the elderly and disadvantaged along with additional one-off emergency Covid-19 grants have been critically important in enabling the Group to adapt its charitable activities to meet the needs of the inhabitants of the seven parishes during this period without having to endure a shortfall in income.

Grant income remains key to our funding now and in the future. The good news during the year was the Big Lottery's commitment to continue funding our Village Agent and Men in Sheds activities for a further five years. During the year we received grants from the following funds:





County Council



Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Fund

Abbeyfield Carlisle Society Over 55 Community First Fund

.....and the parish councils of: Boltons, Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby, Ireby with Uldale, Mungrisdale, Sebergham & Welton, and Westward & Rosley.

Other sources of income during the year have been earned income from the minibus service, membership subscription income and donations.

Reserves Policy

Total reserves at the end of the year were £71,216 (2020: £77,592) of which £50,495 (2020: £72,520) were unrestricted funds and £20,721 (2020: £5,072) were restricted funds.

The level of reserves is determined by balancing the need to maintain sufficient reserves to enable our charitable work to continue when faced with difficult circumstances, with the need to maximise the use of our resources. Our reserves, therefore, need to be sufficient to allow the Trustees sufficient time to address potential funding shortfalls. At the year-end our cash reserves equated to approximately seven months average expenditure. Given the financial challenges faced during the year the Trustees consider the Group's reserves at the year-end to be adequate and in-line with the reserves policy.

Financial Management

The management team operate budgetary control over every aspect of the Group's charitable activities. Budgets, which are discussed and agreed with the Trustees, are prepared for each of our charitable activities and monitored against actual. In addition quarterly management accounts are prepared and reviewed by the Trustees at their quarterly meetings.

Structure, Governance and Management

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 6 August 2002 and amended 11 January 2007.

Board of Trustees

Management of the Group is entrusted to the Board of Trustees; a committee consisting of the officers, namely, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer, and ten other members. The Board of Trustees meet four times a year.

The Board of Trustees are the Group's directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law and are referred through this report as 'the Trustees'.

All officers and committee members are members of the Group. Each of the seven parish councils nominate a committee member at the Annual General Meeting who serve for the following year. Other officers and committee members are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees have the powers to do all things necessary and desirable in pursuit of the Objects of the Group.

Trustee Training

Induction and training of Trustees is undertaken by the Group Co-ordinator. All new trustees are fully briefed on the Group's policies and procedures and receive copies of the Good Governance Guide and the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Senior Management

Day to day management of the Group is the responsibility of the Group Co-ordinator and her senior management team.

The Trustees consider that the Board of Trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Group in charge of directing and controlling the Group on a day to day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration during the year.

The pay of the Group's employees is received annually and are subject to affordability, job evaluation and market rates.

Membership

There are currently 139 individual and 99 family members of the Group. Membership costs £5 per or £15 per annum for individual or family memberships respectively. Membership is open to anyone living within the Northern Fells area or wishing to support the work of the Group.

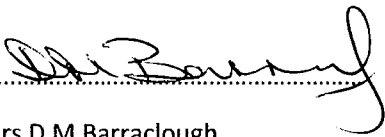
Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and organisational risks which the Group faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Small Company Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees annual report was approved on 14th September 2021 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Barraclough', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Mrs D M Barraclough

**Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 March 2021**

		2021			2020
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	7,827	3,942	11,769	11,120
Charitable activities	6	-	108,238	108,238	79,244
Other trading activities	7	438	31	469	5,153
Investment income	8	867	-	867	858
Other income	9	2,487	1,748	4,235	20,219
Total income		<u>11,619</u>	<u>113,959</u>	<u>125,578</u>	<u>116,594</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of other trading activities	10	-	-	-	647
Expenditure on charitable activities	11, 12	1,938	130,016	131,954	124,133
Total Expenditure		<u>1,938</u>	<u>130,016</u>	<u>131,954</u>	<u>124,780</u>
Net Income/(expenditure)		9,681	(16,057)	(6,376)	(8,186)
Transfer between funds		(31,706)	31,706	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(22,025)</u>	<u>15,649</u>	<u>(6,376)</u>	<u>(8,186)</u>
Total funds as at 1 April 2020		72,520	5,072	77,592	85,778
Total funds as at 31 March 2021		<u>50,495</u>	<u>20,721</u>	<u>71,216</u>	<u>77,592</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

**Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2021**


	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	18	19,743	23,960
Current Assets			
Debtors	19	1,822	3,175
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>74,936</u>	<u>70,096</u>
		76,758	73,271
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Accruals and deferred income	20	(25,285)	(19,639)
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>71,216</u>	<u>77,592</u>
Net Assets		<u>71,216</u>	<u>77,592</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds	22	20,721	5,072
Unrestricted funds	22	<u>50,495</u>	<u>72,520</u>
Total charity funds		<u>71,216</u>	<u>77,592</u>


For the year ended 31 March 2021 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime, were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 14th September 2021 and are signed on behalf of the board by:


Geoff Hine
Chair and Trustee


Andrew Rose
Treasurer and Trustee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Millhouse Village Hall, Millhouse, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 8HR.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)(Charities SORP(FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Significant judgements

There are no judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entities accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Key sources of estimation and uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. There are no key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity period of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account (other than those held for investment purposes).

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income resources receivable or generated and are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- Legacy income is recognised when the receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted. Income is deferred when either the donor specifies that the grant must only be used in future periods of account or the funding relates to activities in future accounting periods.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Share costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis – based on time taken. These support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

- Motor vehicles - 20% straight line
- Equipment - 25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transactions costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financial transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

4 Limited by guarantee

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group is a charity limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital.

5 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations			
Donations	7,827	3,942	11,769
Legacies			
Legacies	-	-	-
	<u>7,827</u>	<u>3,942</u>	<u>11,769</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Donations			
Donations	4,359	4,315	8,674
Legacies			
Legacies	2,446	-	2,446
	<u>6,805</u>	<u>4,315</u>	<u>11,120</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

6 Charitable activities

	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Parish Council Grants	3,650	3,650	2,150	2,150
Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Trust	5,000	5,000	3,000	3,000
Cumbria Community Foundation	19,072	19,072	13,637	13,637
The Big Lottery Fund	49,221	49,221	39,582	39,582
The Joyce Wilkinson Trust	25,750	25,750	14,000	14,000
The Prince's Countryside Funds	2,464	2,464	5,000	5,000
Co-op Community Funds	681	681	-	-
Other Grants received	2,400	2,400	1,875	1,875
	<u>108,238</u>	<u>108,238</u>	<u>79,244</u>	<u>79,244</u>

7 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Fundraising	<u>438</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>469</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Fundraising	<u>2,589</u>	<u>2,564</u>	<u>5,153</u>

8 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>867</u>	<u>867</u>	<u>858</u>	<u>858</u>

9 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Other income	-	-	-
Membership subscriptions	2,487	-	2,487
Minibus fares	-	1,748	1,748
	<u>2,487</u>	<u>1,748</u>	<u>4,235</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets held for charity's own use	-	9,685	9,685
Other income	4,922	1,336	6,258
Membership Subscriptions	2,315	-	2,315
Minibus fares	-	1,961	1,961
	<u>7,237</u>	<u>12,982</u>	<u>20,219</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

10 Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	-	-	647	647

11 Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£
Minibus	-	8,334	8,334
Lend a Hand	-	24,072	24,072
Village Agents	-	35,497	35,497
Men in Sheds	-	6,847	6,847
Depreciation	-	5,602	5,602
Support costs	1,938	49,664	51,602
	<u>1,938</u>	<u>130,016</u>	<u>131,954</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£
Minibus	-	10,671	10,671
Lend a Hand	-	11,016	11,016
Village Agents	-	28,516	28,516
Men in Sheds	-	9,400	9,400
Depreciation	-	5,758	5,758
Support costs	1,783	56,989	58,772
	<u>1,783</u>	<u>122,350</u>	<u>124,133</u>

12 Expenditure on charity activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Minibus	8,334	699	9,033	12,240
Lend a Hand	24,072	3,642	27,714	14,758
Village Agents	35,497	2,937	38,434	41,828
Men in Sheds	6,847	1,627	8,474	9,768
Youth Initiative	-	324	324	6,368
Core	-	40,405	40,405	31,630
Depreciation	5,602	30	5,632	5,758
Governance costs	-	1,938	1,938	1,783
	<u>80,352</u>	<u>51,602</u>	<u>131,954</u>	<u>124,133</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

13 Analysis of support costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff costs	34,571	23,325
Premises	2,746	7,328
Communications and IT	3,576	3,185
General office	3,151	7,657
Governance costs	1,938	1,782
Other costs	5,620	15,495
	<u>51,602</u>	<u>58,772</u>

14 Net income/ (expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/ (crediting):

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	5,632	5,758
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	(9,685)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,685)</u>

15 Independent examination fees

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fees payable to the Independent Examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,938	1,782
Other financial services	559	576
	<u>2,497</u>	<u>2,358</u>

Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>104,633</u>	<u>73,825</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

16 Staff costs (continued)

The average head count of employees during the year was 12 (2020: 12). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Group co-ordinator	1	1
Fund raising co-ordinator	1	1
Minibus	2	2
Lend a Hand/ Benefits awareness	2	2
Village Agents	4	4
Men in Sheds	1	1
Dementia awareness	1	1
	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2020: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel include all persons that have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £21,278 (2020: £18,528).

17 Trustee Remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

Expenses amounting to £80 (2020: £163) were reimbursed to one trustee during the year for minibus expenditure incurred.

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

18 Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2020	27,650	7,257	34,907
Additions		1,415	1,415
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2021	<u>27,650</u>	<u>8,672</u>	<u>36,322</u>
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2020	3,690	7,257	10,947
Charge for the year	<u>5,530</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>5,632</u>
As at 31 March 2021	<u>9,220</u>	<u>7,359</u>	<u>16,579</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2021	<u>18,430</u>	<u>1,313</u>	<u>19,743</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>23,960</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,960</u>

19 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	900	3,175
Prepayments	<u>922</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1,822</u>	<u>3,175</u>

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>25,285</u>	<u>19,639</u>

21 Deferred income

	2021	2020
	£	£
As at 1 April 2020	(17,839)	(12,414)
Amount released to income	17,839	12,414
Amount deferred in year	<u>25,191</u>	<u>17,839</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>25,191</u>	<u>17,839</u>

Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

22 Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>72,520</u>	<u>11,619</u>	<u>(1,938)</u>	<u>(31,706)</u>	<u>50,495</u>

	At 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>59,461</u>	<u>17,489</u>	<u>(2,430)</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>72,520</u>

Restricted Funds

	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	<u>5,072</u>	<u>113,959</u>	<u>(130,016)</u>	<u>31,706</u>	<u>20,721</u>

	At 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	<u>26,317</u>	<u>99,105</u>	<u>(122,350)</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>5,072</u>

23 Analysis of Net Assets By Fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	19,743	19,743
Current assets	50,495	26,263	76,758
Creditors less than 1 year	-	(25,285)	(25,285)
	<u>50,495</u>	<u>20,721</u>	<u>71,216</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	23,960	23,960
Current assets	74,320	(1,049)	73,271
Creditors less than 1 year	(1,800)	(17,839)	(19,639)
	<u>72,520</u>	<u>5,072</u>	<u>77,592</u>

24 Related Parties

From October 2020 the fuel for the minibus was paid by the wife of one of the trustees. This expenditure, amounted to £976 and was reimbursed in full during the year.

There were no other related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2021.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purpose of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirements that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Liddle FCA for and on behalf of Saint & Co Independent Examiner

4 Mason Court
Gillan Way
Penrith 40 Business Park
Penrith
Cumbria
CA11 9GR



Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name	Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group
Charity registration number	1093814
Company registration number	04504085
Principal office and registered office	Millhouse Village Hall Millhouse Wigton Cumbria CA7 8HR
The Trustees	Mr G Hine (Chair) Mr T Cartmell (Vice Chair) Mr A S Rose (Treasurer) Mr R G Batey (resigned 7 October 2020) Ms E Alexander (appointed 21 April 2021) Ms J Bland Mr K Bridges Mr S Brockbank Mrs A Burgess Mrs Jenny Bush (resigned 4 May 2020) Mr P Huntingdon Mr P Pearson Mr M Richardson Mr M Threlkeld Mr D Ward
Company Secretary & Group Co-ordinator	Mrs D M Barraclough
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 6 Lowther Street Carlisle CA3 8DB
Independent Examiner	Andrew Liddle Saint & Co 4 Mason Court Gillan Way Penrith Cumbria CA11 9GR

