

THE NET NORTH SHIELDS

England & Wales · Charity number 1151677

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2013-04-18

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

Contact

Address The Old Low Light
Cliffords Fort
North Shields
Tyne and Wear
NE30 1JA

Phone 01912574506

Email info@oldlowlight.co.uk

Website oldlowlight.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:(1) FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE PRESERVATION, RESTORATION, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE BUILDING CALLED 'THE OLD LOW LIGHT' SITUATED IN NORTH SHIELDS, A GRADE II LISTED BUILDING.(2) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE INHABITANTS OF NORTH SHIELDS AND DISTRICT AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN THE LOCAL HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY, THE ARTS, LOCAL HERITAGE AND THE CONSERVATION OF THE LOCAL NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MUSEUM AND/OR HERITAGE CENTRE AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATIONS IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THE SAID INHABITANTS.

Activities: The activities to date have been working towards establishing a history and cultural centre at The Old Low Light, Cliffords Fort, North Shields Fish Quay, NE30 1JA

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- North Tyneside

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£167,024	£186,455	-	-
2023-12-31	£174,094	£168,889	-	-
2022-12-31	£152,204	£166,787	-	-
2021-12-31	£148,928	£143,933	-	-
2020-12-31	£153,292	£147,627	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BILL TAVERNOR		2013-03-14
Christina BROWN		2013-03-14
John Christopher Nolan		2014-03-11
LINDA KAY		2013-03-14
Rachel Chapman		2018-09-20
Stuart Barlow		2017-05-18

THE NET NORTH SHIELDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1151677

Accounts

**The Net North Shields
Registered Charity No. 1151677**

**Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 December 2024**

Legal and Administrative Information

Name: **The Net North Shields**
Charity no: 1151677
Structure: Unincorporated association governed by a constitution.
Trustees: D Hodgson
L Kay
B Tavernor
C Brown
JC Nolan
S Barlow
R Chapman
S Tempest

Trustees are elected by the membership at each Annual General Meeting.

Principal Office: The Old Low Light
Clifford Fort
North Shields
Tyne & Wear
NE30 1JA

Bankers: HSBC
110 Grey Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 6JG

Independent Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT
VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Community Hub & Library
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

The Net North Shields

Trustees Report: for the year ended December 2024

We are pleased to report that 2024 has been a positive and productive year for the Old Low Light Heritage Centre, with more than 130 events and activities delivered and close to 30,000 visitors welcomed through our doors.

Despite continued financial challenges facing small charities, we remained focused on our core objectives: preserving and sharing the rich heritage of North Shields and the Fish Quay, engaging and educating the community, and providing an inclusive, welcoming space for people of all ages and backgrounds. We are proud to say that we continued to deliver against all of these aims throughout the year.

1. Charitable Objectives and Public Benefit

The Old Low Light's charitable objectives focus on heritage education, community engagement, and public benefit through cultural programming. These were reflected in our 2024 activities, which included:

- . A well-attended **Merchant Navy exhibition**, praised by visitors and helping to interpret the region's maritime history.
- . Over **130 public events**, including heritage talks, live music, exhibitions, workshops, guided walks, and community gatherings.
- . A varied and expanding **talks programme**, including Saturday and Tuesday sessions.
- . Active **school engagement**, with hundreds of local children visiting for heritage and history activities.
- . Ongoing support for **FLOW**, a group supporting adults with additional needs through creative activity.
- . Continued use of the centre as a **'warm space'**, providing comfort and community to those who need it.

Our events and exhibitions continue to support education, reflection, and celebration of the area's rich local history, helping meet our charitable purpose.

2. Financial Management and Sustainability

In 2024, we continued to manage our finances prudently, responding to inflationary pressures and balancing income and expenditure wherever possible. Core funding was received from:

- . **The National Lottery Community Fund** (multi-year grant)
- . **Garfield Weston Trust**
- . **Community Foundation**
- . **Sir James Knott Trust** – £10,000 per year confirmed for the next three years

Alongside grant funding, we raised a significant portion of our income through charitable trading activities – including our café, shop, events, membership scheme, and room hire. Additional measures included:

- . **Increasing membership fees** and introducing **half-price talks for members** (helping reduce 'no shows' and improve attendance rates)
- . Running **plant sales** and a **five-day art exhibition** (raising funds through a 25% donation on sales)
- . Careful cost management and regular review of spending

This combination of grant funding, earned income, and financial controls has allowed us to remain operational and plan confidently for our tenth anniversary year in 2025.

3. Activities and Achievements

Highlights of the year included:

- . A full **programme of heritage and cultural events** – over 130 in total
- . **Live music concerts**, including the successful trial of Saturday afternoon performances
- . An increase in **guided walks**, with new routes covering Preston Village and Tynemouth alongside our coastal walks
- . A series of **arts and crafts workshops**, including ceramics and willow weaving, attracting new audiences and providing additional income
- . Ongoing collaboration with local schools and community groups
- . Strengthened partnerships with local organisations and new collaboration with **I Love North Shields**, a monthly cultural magazine
- . Physical improvements to the building, including **external decoration** and use of the **David W Bavaird Community Room** for a growing number of workshops and hires

4. Volunteering and Community Support

Our achievements in 2024 would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers, who continue to give their time, skills, and energy to keep the centre running and welcoming. We were pleased to welcome **new volunteers** to our team in 2024, helping to build capacity and ensure continuity.

The **plant sales**, regular guided walks, and support for exhibitions all benefited from community contributions and goodwill, demonstrating the value the local public places on the centre.

5. Looking Ahead to 2025

As we approach the **10th anniversary of our official opening**, we are preparing a range of activities to commemorate this milestone and to mark the **800th anniversary of the founding of North Shields** in 2025.

Plans for 2025 include:

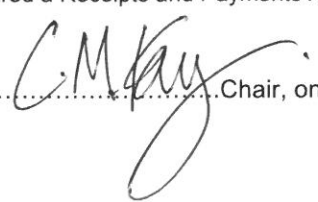
- . New **display boards** and exhibitions telling the story of North Shields from its founding to the present day
- . Themed talks, walks, and events linked to the 800th anniversary
- . Continued partnership with local organisations and the council to deliver a community-wide celebration
- . Much-needed **building repairs and improvements**, for which we will continue to seek funding

In Summary

2024 has been a strong year for the Old Low Light. We have remained true to our objectives, enhanced our programming, stabilised our finances, and built new relationships. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteers, the generosity of our funders, and the continued support of the community, we look ahead to 2025 with excitement and determination.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Signed:.....Chair, on behalf of the Trustees, date: **17 JULY 2025**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the
trustees of

The Net North Shields

On accounts for
the year ended

31 December 2024

Charity no 1151677

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and
examiner

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of
independent
examiner's
statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent
examiner's
statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 20 October 2025

Name:

Mark Thompson MAAT

Address:

VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Community Hub & Library
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

The Net North Shields
Receipts and payments account for the period
1 January to 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted	2024 Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
Income					
Donations	(2)	15669	24391	40060	55923
Charitable Activities	(3)	13245		13245	11333
Other Trading Activities	(4)	113564		113564	106675
Investment Income		155		155	163
Total Income		142633	24391	167024	174094
Expenditure					
Cost of Trading Activities	(5)	22827	1500	24327	22910
Charitable Activities	(6)	138759	23369	162128	145979
Depreciation				0	0
Total Expenditure		161586	24869	186455	168889
Surplus for the period		-18953	-478	-19431	5205
Transfers Between Funds					
Balance at 1 January 2024		23400	5034	28434	23229
Balance at 31 December 2024		4447	4556	9003	28434

**The Net North Shields
Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fixed Assets	0	0
Current Assets		
Debtors		
Prepayments	1145	2976
Stock	894	456
Cash at Bank & in Hand	10897	28723
Total Cash Balances	<u>12936</u>	<u>32155</u>
Current Liabilities	3933	3721
Net Current Assets	9003	28434
Net Assets at 31 December 2024	<u><u>9003</u></u>	<u><u>28434</u></u>
Represented By:		
Restricted Funds	4556	5034
Unrestricted Funds	4447	23400
	<u>9003</u>	<u>28434</u>
Total	<u><u>9003</u></u>	<u><u>28434</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the following members of the Management Committee :

Signed  Position TRUSTEE

Signed  Position TRUSTEE

Date 17 JULY 2025

The Net North Shields

Notes to the accounts, 2024

1. Accounting Policies

- a The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006

The Net North Shields meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

- b Grants received are accounted for on a received basis and credited to income.
- c Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Receipts and Payments Account when received.

2. Grants & Donations

North Tyneside Council - Winter Warm Space	3500
National Lottery Community Fund	20891
	24391

3. Charitable Activities

Room Hire	13245
	13245

4. Other Trading Activities

Café & Shop Income	88262
Event Income	16163
Admission and Ticket Sales	4129
Membership	5010
	113564

5. Costs of Trading Activities

Café Supplies	18287
Gift Shop Supplies	0
Event Costs of Sale	3125
Museum Costs	2915
	24327

6. Costs of Charitable Activities

Staff Costs	115007
Premises	36085
Insurance Fees	3772
Legal & Professional	897
Office Costs	6367
	162128

7. Trustees, staff and related party transactions

The organisation employed an average of 7 members of staff during the period of the accounts. No payments were made to trustees.

8. Restricted Funds

Analysis of Restricted Funds:	Open Bal	Income	Expend	End Bal
North Tyneside Council - Winter Warm Space	1000	3500	3500	1000
National Lottery Community Fund	4034	20891	21369	3556

Total	5034	24391	24869	4556
--------------	-------------	--------------	--------------	-------------

THE NET NORTH SHIELDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1151677

Accounts

**The Net North Shields
Registered Charity No. 1151677**

**Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 December 2023**

Legal and Administrative Information

Name: **The Net North Shields**
Charity no: 1151677
Structure: Unincorporated association governed by a constitution.
Trustees: D Hodgson
L Kay
B Tavernor
C Brown
JC Nolan
S Barlow
R Chapman
S Tempest

Trustees are elected by the membership at each Annual General Meeting.

Principal Office: The Old Low Light
Clifford Fort
North Shields
Tyne & Wear
NE30 1JA

Bankers: HSBC
110 Grey Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 6JG

Independent Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT
VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

The Net North Shields

Trustees Report: for the year ended December 2023.

We approach 2024 with optimism for the future and plans in place for a full programme of activities.

This is despite a difficult year and one that we will not forget, not least because our chair – and greatest champion – David W Bavaird, had to step back due to an illness from which he later passed away. David made such a significant contribution, always encouraging and guiding, even from the earliest days, when the centre was just a dream, that his loss has been sorely felt. We owe him a debt of gratitude and miss him very much. Although David was involved with many local organisations, the Old Low Light was a special place for him, so we thought it only fitting to name our top floor the 'David W Bavaird community room' in his memory. We also know that what he would really want us to do is succeed and over the year, despite financial worries, we have focused on building on his strong legacy.

In spring we received a welcome £2,000 from Asda and a £4,000 grant from the RW Mann Trust. This combined with £10,000 from the Sir James Knott Trust, helped us to overcome dramatic price rises at the start of the year, but we knew it only bought us time. So, we have focused on sourcing and applying to potential funders and 'working smart' – which means doing everything possible to maximise our profits and minimise our losses, including continuing with reduced opening times.

Thankfully, in 2023 our own income has steadily increased, and in recent months some of our grant applications have been successful, allowing us to make plans for the year ahead.

In November the Barbour Foundation awarded us £4,000 and The National Lottery Community Fund awarded £5,000 in 2023 and £21,000 a year for each of the next five years to support staffing costs. We received £15,000 from the Garfield Weston Trust and £5,000 from the Community Foundation, both to help with running costs. The Mouth of Tyne Collective is providing funding for five music events and North Tyneside Council has designated the centre as a 'warm space', which also comes with money.

Alongside grant funding our own charitable, commercial activities and smart working plans have continued to generate more than 70% of the income required to sustain the Old Low Light. The time, energy and effort of volunteers at the heritage centre have helped us generate £128,000 in 2023 through sales in our café, shop, room hire, admissions and membership scheme and events programme.

This financial success and support is wonderful and provides a welcome buffer, but we must continue to operate as efficiently as possible and do all we can to reduce losses.

The fact remains that it costs £430 every day we are open, and our income works out at £440 a day. So, our finances are still finely balanced.

Despite pressures, we have had a full events programme with visitor numbers increasing to well 31,000 – more than 10 per cent up on 2022. Events have included

- An expanded talks programme, including some on Tuesdays as well as the regular Saturday heritage talks.
- Two new exhibitions – one by Northern Threads which attracted 8,000 visitors over a two-month period and the other, the Merchant Navy, Tyneside Stories, researched, designed, and curated by our own volunteers which is also proving to be very popular.
- A display of marine paintings and model boats by retired fishermen, who also ran events at the Boy James Coble, explaining about traditional fishing.
- Regular guided walks from Clifford's Fort, as well as a new heritage walk in Preston Village.
- Several stitching and willow weaving workshops.

•Three classic concerts featuring top-class musicians, music events by community groups and regular music sessions in the café.

A highlight of the year was the 'sea of poppies' project involving several poppy making sessions, as well as people knitting and crocheting poppies at home. This resulted in over 3,000 poppies for a fabulous display outside the centre in the run up to Remembrance Sunday.

donation from some friends of the Old Low Light, who have Merchant Navy connections, helped to pay for our current exhibition.

We have been pleased to work with Keith Barrett, the artist commissioned by the council to create a public sculpture of Mary Ann Macham, the escaped enslaved woman whose story we told in our 2019 Breaking Chains exhibition.

Our friends from FLOW continue to meet here two days a week, we have mindfulness and yoga sessions as well as other meetings by the council and community groups.

We have also had a busy year with school visits, some just coming to find out more about the history, heritage and wildlife of the fish quay and others focusing on specific projects such as the Tyne in Tudor times.

We begin 2024 with plans for an expanded talks programme and some exciting music events, once again providing a venue for musicians who are also at home on national and international stages, as well as an afternoon of North East traditional songs by a popular community group. We hope it will not be too long before we can announce some new guided walks and craft workshops.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and

Signed:Chair, on behalf of the Trustees, date: 24 Oct 2024


Linda Kay

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the trustees of

The Net North Shields

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2023

Charity no 1151677

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 24 October 2024

Name:

Mark Thompson MAAT

Address:

VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

**The Net North Shields
Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fixed Assets	0	0
Current Assets		
Debtors		
Prepayments	2976	2466
Stock	456	232
Cash at Bank & in Hand	28723	22864
Total Cash Balances	<u>32155</u>	<u>25562</u>
Current Liabilities	3721	2333
Net Current Assets	28434	23229
Net Assets at 31 December 2023	<u><u>28434</u></u>	<u><u>23229</u></u>
Represented By:		
Restricted Funds	5034	1500
Unrestricted Funds	23400	21729
	<u>28434</u>	<u>23229</u>
Total	<u><u>28434</u></u>	<u><u>23229</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the following members of the Management Committee :

Signed  Position TRUSTEE

Linda Kay

Signed  Position TRUSTEE

David Hodgson

Date 24 October 2024

The Net North Shields
Receipts and payments account for the period
1 January to 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted	2023 Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
Income					
Donations	(2)	46739	9184	55923	54571
Charitable Activities	(3)	11333		11333	11241
Other Trading Activities	(4)	106675		106675	86372
Investment Income		163		163	20
Total Income		164910	9184	174094	152204
Expenditure					
Cost of Trading Activities	(5)	21410	1500	22910	24624
Charitable Activities	(6)	141829	4150	145979	142163
Depreciation	(7)			0	0
Total Expenditure		163239	5650	168889	166787
Surplus for the period		1671	3534	5205	-14583
Transfers Between Funds					
Balance at 1 January 2023		21729	1500	23229	37812
Balance at 31 December 2023		23400	5034	28434	23229

The Net North Shields

Notes to the accounts, 2023

1. Accounting Policies

- a The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006

The Net North Shields meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

- b Grants received are accounted for on a received basis and credited to income.
- c Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Receipts and Payments Account when received.

2. Grants & Donations

North Tyneside Council - Summer Space	1000
North Tyneside Council - Winter Warm Space	3000
National Lottery Community Fund	5184
	9184

3. Charitable Activities

Room Hire	11333
	11333

4. Other Trading Activities

Café & Shop Income	81801
Event Income	12389
Admission and Ticket Sales	6067
Membership	6418
	106675

5. Costs of Trading Activities

Café Supplies	18414
Gift Shop Supplies	0
Event Costs of Sale	2465
Museum Costs	2031
	22910

6. Costs of Charitable Activities

Staff Costs	106194
Premises	30481
Insurance Fees	3367
Legal & Professional	1585
Office Costs	4352
	145979

7. Trustees, staff and related party transactions

The organisation employed an average of 7 members of staff during the period of the accounts. No payments were made to trustees.

8. Restricted Funds

Analysis of Restricted Funds:	Open Bal	Income	Expend	End Bal
Historic England	1500		1500	0
North Tyneside Council - Summer Space		1000	1000	0
North Tyneside Council - Winter Warm Space		3000	2000	1000
National Lottery Community Fund		5184	1150	4034
Total	1500	9184	5650	5034

THE NET NORTH SHIELDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1151677

Accounts

**The Net North Shields
Registered Charity No. 1151677**

**Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 December 2022**

Legal and Administrative Information

Name: **The Net North Shields**
Charity no: 1151677
Structure: Unincorporated association governed by a constitution.
Trustees: D Hodgson
L Kay
B Tavernor
D Bavaird
C Brown
JC Nolan
S Barlow
R Chapman
S Tempest

Trustees are elected by the membership at each Annual General Meeting.

Principal Office: The Old Low Light
Cliffords Fort
North Shields
Tyne & Wear
NE30 1JA

Bankers: HSBC
110 Grey Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 6JG

Independent Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT
VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

The Net North Shields

Trustees Report: for the year ended December 2022.

The Net's two charitable objectives:

1. For the benefit of the people of North Shields, look after the Old Low Light (a grade II listed building) and keep it in public use.
2. For the benefit of the people of North Shields, promote local history, heritage, arts, national history, physical and mental wellbeing.

In order to achieve our charitable The Net North Shields has to raise funds, so that the organisation can be sustainable. As a result The Net operates on multiple levels. The Old Low Light has a café and shop which raise commercial income, which is put back into the charity. The Net also raises charitable income by charging admission to our heritage gallery, organising and delivering events, undertaking fundraising activities, and by seeking grant

The commercial and charitable activities are mainly undertaken by a small team of staff who support a large team of volunteers

The budget section of this annual report outlines our success and challenges in raising funds. It is worth noting that while the charity was self sufficient in 2019, the continued effect of the pandemic and the onset of the cost of living crisis in 2022 put the organisation under considerable strain. Despite these challenges, the Net continued to deliver on its charitable objectives

Caring for the building

The Net continued to care for and maintain Old Low Light in 2022. The charity spent over £3,000 on security in 2022 keeping the building safe and secure. £2,403 was spent on repairs and building working related to protecting the historic fabric of the building. £2146 was spent insuring the building against damage. Alongside these spends the charity performed regular site checks, audits, and surveys to make sure the building remains in a safe and operational state

Open and in public use

The building was open to the public 240 out of 365 days in 2022, on a schedule that provided access Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 3pm. In this time the Net welcomed 28135 visitors to the centre, an increase of 6.750 on the previous year and 24,130 more than 2021. This is still greatly short of the 62,958 visitors welcomed in 2019 but marks a definite trend of improvement. 37 community groups, community interest groups, charities, business and organisations made use of the community space at Old Low Light in 2022. This is more than double the 14 groups who used the space in 2021 and represents a recovery from restrictions imposed by the pandemic. This use in 2022 ranged from 1-hour meetings to multi day hires, to regular weekly bookings. The figure of 37 groups does not

For the benefit of the people of North Shields, promote local history, heritage, arts, natural history, physical and mental wellbeing.

Exhibitions

The Net organised and delivered two main exhibitions in 2022. The first was called 'That's Women's Work' which explored the history and heritage of women through employment in North Shields. The second exhibition was delivered in partnership with North Tyneside Council, Historic England and the Churches Trust and was called "Folk Who Shaped Shields". The second exhibition explored the impact of key local people who contributed to the development of the town over the last 200 years.

Events


The Net also organised and delivered 132 events in 2022, a considerable increase from the 27 we delivered in 2021 (though in 2021 we were under restrictions). These events were organised in order to promote local history, heritage, the arts, natural history, physical and mental wellbeing. Because of this the events were of different formats. Some were heritage talks, or heritage walks, others were wild life talks or wildlife spotting walks. We also organised direct exercise classes such as Yoga on a weekly basis, and activities to improve mental health such as mindfulness

Education

The Old Low Light was also open to school groups on 25 Mondays in 2022 and we welcomed 729 pupils from local schools to the centre, up from 621 in 2021. This again represents an improvement year on year.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and

Signed:  Chair, on behalf of the Trustees, date: 26 Sept 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the
trustees of

The Net North Shields

On accounts for
the year ended

31 December 2022

Charity no 1151677

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and
examiner

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of
independent
examiner's
statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent
examiner's
statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 3 October 2023

Name:
Address:

Mark Thompson MAAT
VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

**The Net North Shields
Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2022**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fixed Assets	0	0
Current Assets		
Debtors		245
Prepayments	2466	255
Stock	232	572
Cash at Bank & in Hand	22864	38841
Total Cash Balances	<u>25562</u>	<u>39913</u>
Current Liabilities	2333	2101
Net Current Assets	23229	37812
Net Assets at 31 December 2022	<u><u>23229</u></u>	<u><u>37812</u></u>
Represented By:		
Restricted Funds	1500	15562
Unrestricted Funds	21729	22250
	<u>23229</u>	<u>37812</u>
Total	<u><u>23229</u></u>	<u><u>37812</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the following members of the Management Committee:

Signed  Position *Chair*

Signed  Position *Secretary*

Date *26 September 2023*

The Net North Shields
Receipts and payments account for the period
1 January to 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 Unrestricted	2022 Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
Income					
Donations	(2)	13142	41429	54571	103891
Charitable Activities	(3)	11241		11241	6756
Other Trading Activities	(4)	82059		82059	35186
Membership Fees		4313		4313	3094
Investment Income		20		20	1
Total Income		110775	41429	152204	148928
Expenditure					
Cost of Trading Activities	(5)	24624		24624	10360
Charitable Activities	(6)	86672	55491	142163	133573
Depreciation	(7)			0	0
Total Expenditure		111296	55491	166787	143933
Surplus for the period		-521	-14062	-14583	4995
Transfers Between Funds					
Balance at 1 January 2022		22250	15562	37812	32817
Balance at 31 December 2022		21729	1500	23229	37812

The Net North Shields

Notes to the accounts, 2022

1. Accounting Policies

- a The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006

The Net North Shields meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

- b Grants received are accounted for on a received basis and credited to income.
- c Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Receipts and Payments Account when received.

2. Grants & Donations

Sir James Knott Trust	1000
National Heritage	33287
Historic England	1500
NTC European Social Fund	4546
HMRC SSP Grant	96
NTC Nora Ball	1000
	41429

3. Charitable Activities

Room Hire	11241
	11241

4. Other Trading Activities

Café & Shop Income	75367
Event Income	1767
Admission and Ticket Sales	4925
	82059

5. Costs of Trading Activities

Café Supplies	18283
Gift Shop Supplies	0
Event Costs of Sale	1092
Museum Costs	5249
	24624

6. Costs of Charitable Activities

Staff Costs	104638
Premises	26761
Insurance Fees	2832
Legal & Professional	1424
Office Costs	6508
	142163

7. Trustees, staff and related party transactions

The organisation employed an average of 8 members of staff during the period of the accounts. No payments were made to trustees.

8. Restricted Funds

Analysis of Restricted Funds:

	Open Bal	Income	Expend	End Bal
National Lottery Community Fund	3000		3000	0
Sir James Knott Trust	12562	1000	13562	0
National Heritage		33287	33287	0
Historic England		1500		1500
NTC European Social Fund		4546	4546	0
HMRC SSP Grant		96	96	0
NTC Nora Ball		1000	1000	0
Total	15562	41429	55491	1500

THE NET NORTH SHIELDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1151677

Accounts

**The Net North Shields
Registered Charity No. 1151677**

**Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 December 2021**

Legal and Administrative Information

Name: **The Net North Shields**
Charity no: 1151677
Structure: Unincorporated association governed by a constitution.
Trustees: D Hodgson
L Kay
B Tavernor
D Bavaird
C Brown
JC Nolan
S Barlow
R Chapman
S Tempest

Trustees are elected by the membership at each Annual General Meeting.

Principal Office: 26 Well Ridge Park
Whitley Bay
NE25 9PQ

Bankers: HSBC
110 Grey Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 6JG

Independent Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT
VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

The Net North Shields

Trustees Report: for the year ended December 2021.

The Net's two charitable objectives:

1. For the benefit of the people of North Shields, look after the Old Low Light (a grade II listed building) and keep it in public use.
2. For the benefit of the people of North Shields, promote local history, heritage, arts, national history, physical and mental wellbeing.

The Net employs a small team of staff (3 full time equivalents) and relies heavily upon support by volunteers to achieve this objectives. There are over 400 registered volunteers. 126 active on a monthly basis, 44 active in operational roles on a weekly basis.

Our main activity, dictated by our charitable objectives involved opening the heritage centre to the public and making sure our space was available and safe for them to use. The second objective mandated delivering a community heritage project titled to improve local knowledge of history and heritage. For this we chose a project titled 'That's Women's Work', focused on celebrating the history and heritage of women.

More than 33,000 visitors came to the centre during last year (April 2021 to end of December 2021).

In order to achieve our primary objective, The Net relies on a small team of staff supported by a large team of volunteers, co-ordinated by the volunteer co-ordinator. This joint staff/volunteer team, does everything at the centre. All operational roles are fulfilled from people drawn from this pool.

Volunteers work on the welcome desk, meeting and greeting visitors and relaying health and safety / covid secure information. These volunteers also process admissions to the centre, sell membership, and operate the shop. Volunteers work in the café, preparing and serving food and drinks to customers, taking orders, processing payments and maintaining high levels of food hygiene / covid secure practices.

Both of these key roles are important, as they allow us to open the building to the public, and to tell the story of North Shields. They also give volunteers an opportunity to gain skills and experience, which help them into employment, but also reduce social isolation (by working as part of a team) and maintain levels of physical activity.

Volunteers also prepare content for the heritage gallery. In 2021 the volunteers prepared an exhibition which was a true community heritage project and received creative contributions and support from hundreds of local people. Content was researched and curated by a small team of volunteers, and 22 volunteers, volunteered in operational roles on a weekly basis which enabled the exhibition to be open to the public from 22 July 2021 to 9 April 2022.

The project was researched and curated during periods of lockdown and restrictions when face to face communications with people were not possible. Visits to libraries and other organisations were also not possible. As such the volunteers had to rely mainly on emails, Zoom discussions and telephone calls. These activities were co-ordinated by the volunteer co-ordinator funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

The exhibition itself was paid for by money raised at plant sales organised by the volunteer coordinator, who marshalled green fingered volunteers and supported by friends of the Old Low Light who also donated plants. The project covered a wide variety of topics, to properly reflect the role of women in society passed and present. Its primary output was an exhibition which explored this history.

The exhibition was an excellent example of partnership working, also included works by local artists and crafts people.

Volunteers were overwhelmed by a shoal of around 250 herring knitted by Old Low Light friends. were overwhelmed at the response to a request for knitted fish which resulted in a shoal of 250 brought in by individuals and community groups. Some commented that knitting the fish had given them or their relatives a purpose during a period of lockdown.

Also, local craftspeople enthusiastically provided items they had made to include in the cabinet of curiosities. Including items produced by young adults with additional needs.

The programme of supporting activities was diverse providing something for people with wide ranging interests. It was an important way for us to link our project to other organisations and people. The activities included:

Talks

- o Graeme Rigby – story of the herring
- o Penny Payne – Horizons arts project (inc banners representing the skirts worn by Cullercoats Fisherwomen)
- o The Fisher King – story of Richard Irvin
- o Fish Quay artists

We also worked with new partners such as Northern Print, who's members provided content for the exhibition but also delivered some events and workshops. The most prominent of these was a Gyotaku workshop - Japanese fish painting.

Other local groups, such as the Northumbrian Basket Weavers did demonstrations and display of traditional crafts.

In order to ensure we attracted a wide audience, we also held music and poetry events. These included a song written about one of our volunteers, Sheila. The first female trawler skipper and poems by Katrina Porteous.

Some of the events we did were streamed internationally, in partnership with American Maritime Heritage Centres. Overall, it was a very popular exhibition, particularly with local people, including those who were related to or who knew some of the individuals featured on the display boards. Some visitors were interested in stories about the herring girls and women who had worked in the smokehouses and in fish processing, while others came to find out by women currently working in fishing and maritime related industries.

The oldest visitor was a former herring girl, now in her 90s, who visited the exhibition and commented how much she enjoyed seeing photographs of her younger self.

Some visitors left their stories, written up on cards. Some of these were followed up and additional display boards. There were several group visits, including a book club, members of the local U3A, Pearey House centre for people with visual impairment, a sewing group, a local high school, a local primary school (which described the visit as 'epic') and representatives from the Churches Conservation Trust. A senior representative from Tyne and Wear Buildings Preservation Trust, which is the centre's landlord, also brought a group of people to visit the exhibition and he later commented on Twitter: "Thanks for a wonderful visit to showcase your amazing work."

Visitors were invited to leave written comments. Over 170 people left their names alongside very positive comments – 23 pages of comments, of which the following is a sample:

- Enjoyed looking at myself from many years ago. Wonderful times.
- Informative, providing a real insight into lives of fisherwomen.
- Invaluable exhibition. So accessible.
- Beautifully presented information – easy to follow and I learned a lot.
- Excellent tour with fabulously well-informed volunteers – keeping women's history alive.
- What an exciting exhibition highlighting the need to work together in balance. Males and females all contributing with their various skills.
- Another very professional and well researched exhibition meeting the high standard I would expect of the OLL. It's the story of the 'common folk' and that's the kind of stories I love to hear about.
- This is such a fascinating exhibition – I have been in here hours reading, listening and looking at each piece. As my grandmother was a herring girl from Lewis who travelled as far as Great Yarmouth, I find it even more fascinating. Thank-you for all your hard work – this exhibition is amazing!!
- Came to honour the memory of my grandmother in law and her mother who were fisherwomen coming to collect their fish each day to sell in the market in Newcastle. Lots of memories!!
- Really interesting – can't believe how all this happened – such a different world – hard lives.
- Absolutely fascinating – look forward to my follow-up reading.
- Fantastic exhibition – thank-you to all your wonderful volunteers for all your hard work. Loved seeing my mam as part of it.
- Excellent exhibition – gives a real flavour of the women working in the fishing industry

- Amazing yet not widely known past.
- Superb – my 2nd visit.
- Wonderful, imaginative, inspiring, skilful, thank-you!
- Eye opening – so good to pause and reflect on the amazing yet not widely known past.
- So well presented will be back.

The project received much coverage on Facebook and Twitter, with some of the posts receiving more than 2,000 engagements.

It was also popular with the media resulting in coverage in The Journal, Chronicle, News Guardian online, The Northumbrian, Living North, Fishing News, BBC Who Do You think You Are? Magazine, Radio Newcastle and BBC Look North. It was also one of the first exhibitions covered in-depth and promoted on a new website Cultured North East.

The MP for Tynemouth and the elected Mayor of North Tyneside both visited the exhibition and spent time talking to staff, volunteers and members of the local fishing community. The Mayor returned on another occasion with a member of the council's media office team who made a small video about the exhibition which when posted online received several thousand views. A delegation from the DCMS, including a cultural commissioner also visited the heritage centre in September 2021.

They were heartened by the support they received and the strong links made with organisations including Scottish Fisheries Museum, Women in Fisheries, Blyth Tall Ship (particularly with those involved in a worldwide gansey knitting project), Middlesbrough Museum of Modern Art, Newbiggin Maritime Centre, Northern Print and the Northumbrian Basketry Group and Nexus.

Finally, the response of the local community for information to include in the exhibition was fantastic, with people willingly sharing stories, photographs and artefacts.

Shared and sustainable spaces and places, and stronger relationships.

All of the project just described was researched, curated and delivered by volunteers, co-ordinated by the volunteer co-ordinator funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. But the 'That's Women's Work' project was not the only one we engaged with over the last 12 months. Opening the centre to the public, involves more than just opening 'the heritage gallery'.

To ensure the Old Low Light is a shared, sustainable place we also open it up to many other groups. Volunteers are the life blood of the heritage centre, and without them we wouldn't exist. In the last 12 months we have had the following outcomes.

Volunteers – 126 engaged and active in the community, creating and sustaining a community

Before the pandemic we had 87 people active at Old Low Light on a weekly basis, with 400 volunteers registered over all. At that point the Old Low Light was a huge part of people's social lives, and when the pandemic hit, our volunteers were not immune to the negative impacts of lockdown. Not only did social isolation become a problem, but also the lack of physical activity. Before the pandemic most people said they volunteered at Old Low Light because they enjoy the social interaction from doing so. At this stage in the pandemic, that is still the main reason for volunteering – but more people now also comment on how important remaining staying 'physically active' is to them.

Other volunteers come to us to gain experience and skills, which will help them into employment. Since 2015 we have helped over 90 people on their journey into employment. In 2021 we continued this process, with many young volunteers joining us for this purpose. We will discuss a specific example of this further on.

The volunteer co-ordinator has maintained contact with all of our volunteers throughout the pandemic, and has increased the number of active volunteers from 87 in 2019 to 126 in 2022. The volunteer co-ordinator came up with new role descriptions, to allow more people to engage at the centre in a way that suits them. She also introduced new methods for recruitment, with a dedicated website page and customer management system. This allows people to sign up from anywhere, at anytime. Finally she created bespoke training packages for all of the roles at the centre, and deployed them in a standardized way – ensuring everyone felt prepared, confident and comfortable in their role.

621 school children visited Old Low Light

As well as having 33,000 members of the public visit the heritage centre, we also (from September 2021) welcomed 621 school pupils to the Old Low Light. These pupils attended on a Monday, a day when the rest of the centre was closed – allowing the school to have the whole centre to themselves.

Supported by the volunteer co-ordinator and volunteers, children explored Clifford's Fort, the fish quay, and mouth of the Tyne. They visited the heritage gallery, and the local RNLI station. Volunteers delivered specific activities such as workshops about RMS Titanic, rescues at sea, and wildlife on the river. None of the children had been on a school visit anywhere, since 2020. For one year 3 group, they had never been on any visits. Again, without the volunteer co-ordinator – we would not have been able to offer and deliver this.

59 community events

As well as the events linked to That's Women's Work, we also arranged and delivered 59 community events such as talks, walks, and workshops.

These are another keyway in which we achieve our charitable objectives and also generate commercial income. The pandemic stopped these, and even when they restarted we had to adapt many of them to the new reality of covid secure working. This meant delivering more, smaller events. This increased our costs somewhat. But was an important way of reconnecting with the community, and helping people to feel safe and move out of lockdown mentality.

All of these events were planned and delivered by volunteers.

200 attendees at 10 mental health and mindfulness sessions.

The first Saturday of every month, we run a mindfulness session in order to help provide mental health support. These are organised in partnership with The Centre for Mindfulness and Wellbeing.

48 exercise classes

Along with mental health wellbeing, we also restarted our exercise classes. These are attended by between 10 and 20 people, every Tuesday morning and one Saturday a week. The sessions are attended by around 20 people each. The sessions are delivered by a trained instructor, but the centre is opened by volunteers to allow them to go

2 seat fit events

In partnership with the Fishermen's Mission and North Tyneside Council we delivered 2 'seat fit events'. These events are designed to provide health and wellbeing services to local fishermen. These included dental checks, prostate checks, blood pressure checks and heart services. They also included financial advice from local banks and citizens advice.

Local community groups – using Old Low Light as a base of operations / social hub.

Many local groups use Old Low Light as a base of operations / social hub. These groups were some of the first to return to the centre in 2021, having had the longest absence – often due to the vulnerable nature of their members. These groups include:

- Flow (a group of young adults with additional needs, who have classes at the Old Low Light every Wednesday and Thursday).
- The Association of Retired Fishermen – who meet at the Old Low Light every day, but have formal get togethers every Wednesday.
- The North Shields Fishermen's Heritage Project – a very similar group to above, who used Old Low Light as a meeting place.
- The Fishermen's Mission Lunch Club – who meet for regular lunch functions.
- The Northumbrian Pipers – who meet on Tuesday evenings, to socialize and practice.
- Dolphin Quays Residence Group – who use the centre as a social hub, but also for business meetings.
- The Linkskill Centre Walking Group – who start their walks at Linkskill, but finish at the Old Low Light.
- The Northumbrian Basket Weavers – who produce traditional baskets.
- North Tyneside Mind – who meet clients who are their victims of crime at Old Low Light in a safe secure space, and offer practical as well as mental health support.

One group, had not met for 398 days. This had a considerable impact on their lives, and they were delighted to return. Others, were unable to return to their old meeting places because of size / capacity issues, so we were happy to accommodate them as new groups at the centre. Volunteers provide access to the centre for these groups, and the volunteers themselves are managed by the co-ordinator. Without this position we would not be able to deploy our volunteer resource in the flexible manner in which we currently do.

328 hours of third parties, local businesses, private groups and families using the community space for covid secure functions, activities and events.

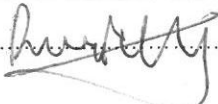
Irregular room hire, is as important to Old Low Light as regular hire. In 2021 we had 328 hours of irregular hire, with a variety of different groups, families, and businesses making use of our top floor community space for everything from parties, to training courses. Having a large, open, easily accessible and versatile space is fantastic. It is in high demand – but without the grant funding the lottery co-ordinator we would not have been able to deploy volunteers in a way to make the building as accessible as it is to everyone.

1 volunteer unemployed since 1987 given a chance to volunteer, and gain experience – then found his way into employment.

A good example of how the centre has made a huge difference to a single life is that of one of our volunteers, who had been homeless and unemployed between 1987 and 2017. This person began volunteering with us in 2017, moved from enforced sheltered accommodation to their own small home in 2018. Having passed their driving test in 1984, we encouraged and supported them in refreshing their skills through a refresher course in 2019. Though they didn't buy a car, refreshing this skill greatly improved their employment prospects and also their ability to socialize. When the pandemic hit in 2020 they took several steps back, but having somewhere to volunteer in 2021 meant when they applied for a job in 2022 they had gained the skills and experience for the employer to take them on. Without the volunteer co-ordinator to work them, this person would have been out on a limb. Alone with no support. They wouldn't have been able to volunteer here. They wouldn't have got the support and encouragement to apply for a job, and they wouldn't have got that job.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and

Signed:  Chair, on behalf of the Trustees, date: 16/10/22

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the trustees of

The Net North Shields

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2021

Charity no 1151677

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 17 October 2022

Name:
Address:

Mark Thompson MAAT
VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

The Net North Shields
Receipts and payments account for the period
1 January to 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted	2021 Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
Income					
Donations	(2)	26303	77588	103891	111246
Charitable Activities	(3)	6756		6756	3752
Other Trading Activities	(4)	38280		38280	38168
Investment Income		1		1	126
Total Income		71340	77588	148928	153292
Expenditure					
Cost of Trading Activities	(5)	10360		10360	16052
Charitable Activities	(6)	67393	66180	133573	129330
Depreciation	(7)	0		0	2245
Total Expenditure		77753	66180	143933	147627
Surplus for the period		-6413	11408	4995	5665
Transfers Between Funds					
Balance at 1 January 2021		28663	4154	32817	27152
Balance at 31 December 2021		22250	15562	37812	32817

The Net North Shields
Notes to the accounts, 2021

1. Accounting Policies

- a** The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006

The Net North Shields meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

- b** Grants received are accounted for on a received basis and credited to income.
- c** Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Receipts and Payments Account when received.

2. Grants & Donations

National Lottery Community Fund	14200
Public donations & fundraising	3447
Covid Job Retention Scheme	36828
Historic England - Cultural Recovery Trust	2560
North Tyneside Council - Business Support Grant	22356
Sir James Knott Trust	24000
British Museum Award	500

103891

3. Charitable Activities

Room Hire	6756
	6756

4. Other Trading Activities

Café & Shop Income	31507
Event Income	717
Admission and Ticket Sales	2962
Membership	3094
	38280

5. Costs of Trading Activities

Café Supplies	7884
Gift Shop Supplies	0
Event Costs of Sale	130
Museum Costs	2346
	10360

6. Costs of Charitable Activities

Staff Costs	100399
Premises	22717
Insurance Fees	1142
Legal & Professional	2032
Office Costs	7283
	133573

7. Trustees, staff and related party transactions

The organisation employed an average of 9 members of staff during the period of the accounts. No payments were made to trustees.

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	2021	2020
Cost		
At 1st January 2021	79958	79958
Additions		
Disposals		
At 31st December 2021	79958	79958
Depreciation		
At 1st January 2021	79958	77713
Additions		
Disposals		2245
At 31st December 2021	79958	79958
Net Book Value		
At 31st December 2021	0	0
At 31st December 2020	0	0

8. Restricted Funds

Analysis of Restricted Funds:	Open Bal	Income	Expend	End Bal
Telling Our Story	986		986	0
National Lottery Community Fund	3168	14200	14368	3000
Covid Job Retention Scheme	0	36828	36828	0
Historic England - Cultural Recovery Trust	0	2560	2560	0
Sir James Knott Trust	0	24000	11438	12562
Total	4154	77588	66180	15562

THE NET NORTH SHIELDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1151677

Accounts

**The Net North Shields
Registered Charity No. 1151677**

**Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 December 2020**

Legal and Administrative Information

Name: **The Net North Shields**
Charity no: 1151677
Structure: Unincorporated association governed by a constitution.
Trustees: D Hodgson
L Kay
B Tavernor
D Bavaird
C Brown
JC Nolan
S Barlow
R Chapman
S Tempest
D Young (until 26/11/2020)

Trustees are elected by the membership at each Annual General Meeting.

Principal Office: 26 Well Ridge Park
Whitley Bay
NE25 9PQ

Bankers: HSBC
110 Grey Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 6JG

Independent Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT
VODA
Linskill Centre
Linskill Terrace
North Shields
NE30 2AY

The Net North Shields

Trustees Report:

Performance Objectives – to 31st December 2020

2020 was without a doubt the Old Low Light's most challenging year in terms of performance against budget, but also our performance against our charitable objectives. This can be attributed to the global

1. For the benefit of the public the preservation, restoration, maintenance, repair and improvement of the building called 'The Old Low Light' situated in North Shields, a Grade II listed building.
2. To advance the education of the inhabitants of North Shields and district and the public at large in the local history of the community, the arts, local heritage and the conservation of the local natural environment by the establishment of a museum and/or heritage centre and to provide facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupations in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving

With regards to objective 1 – for the benefit of the public.

In 2020 The Net opened The Old Low Light remained open for 134 of the 365 days. The centre was forced to close for 231 days because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The team of volunteers, staff and trustees at the Old Low Light started 2020 with such optimism and plans for the year ahead.

As our hugely successful Breaking Chains exhibition drew to a close in February 2020 and we laid a lasting tribute on the unmarked grave of the escaped enslaved woman, Mary Ann Macham, whose

We had plans to celebrate our fifth anniversary in March and an exciting programme for walks, talks

However, as coronavirus gathered pace in March 2020, we entered the first lockdown. The Net found itself unable to generate income and therefore was unable to achieve our charitable objectives. Our primary focus in April and May of 2020 was to secure funds to help us maintain operations while we were unable to open the centre. During this time all members of staff were placed on furlough. An immediate online appeal to help us stay afloat hit its target within two days, which was an amazing show of support. Across 2020 we have benefited from national funding, successful grant applications.

The Centre Director returned to work in June 2020, and was given instructions to plan to reopen the heritage centre in a covid secure way. Our re-opening plans in September were shaped by members, volunteers and supporters who gave feedback on how we could make them feel safe when returning to

In September 2020 we were delighted to welcome back many old friends including volunteers who served in the café and helped keep customers and visitors safe. Sadly, within a couple of months we were back in lockdown, followed by Tier 3 restrictions.

With regards to objective 2 – heritage, culture, the natural environment, and social welfare.

The heritage, culture, the natural history and social welfare are all very important to Old Low Light and a large part of the reason we are here. The Covid-19 Pandemic forced the volunteers, staff and trustees to adjust how they approached The Net's second charitable objective.

2020 began well. Our Breaking Chains exhibition continued in January and February 2020, culminating in the laying of a memorial stone on the grave of the lady who inspired it. However much of 2020 was disrupted by the pandemic. Our focus therefore switched to producing online heritage content,

During the first Covid-19 lockdown, we wanted to make sure people could still enjoy finding out about the local history, heritage, culture and natural environment of North Shields and its Fish Quay and we felt digital and online content would be key to this.

Volunteers recorded short videos which they posted on social media and YouTube. Some had never made a video before and found the prospect a little daunting, but they developed new skills. Over the difficult year that followed, this collection continued to grow, now covering a range of topics from local characters of note, to local wildlife as well as the history of the Old Low Light itself and its many

We believed it was important to stay in touch with people in the interests and social welfare and to keep them updated on re-opening plans. This resulted in video messages from the chairman and regular updates/newsletters from the centre director emailed widely and posted online. Summary posters were

Before re-opening following lockdowns, we had meetings with staff and structured telephone calls with each of our volunteers to understand how they were feeling about returning to their roles at the centre and what measures they would like to see in place to help keep them safe.

We also ran online surveys to seek the views of people who might visit the centre, to inform our safety

We also stepped up social media activity, constantly looking for new ideas to maintain a dialogue with our volunteers, members, friends, local organisations etc. This has resulted in the development of new working relationships with a range of groups and individuals, including one who is an active volunteer, which were very helpful (and continue to be so) during research for the current exhibition.

We opened our fifth anniversary exhibition in September 2020. This exhibition showcased our many achievements since 2015 and proudly presented a new look heritage gallery with more interesting materials about some of the artists and industries that have made North Shields special, as well as

In Autumn 2020 – We were awarded the North East regional Marsh Award for Volunteers in Museum Learning 2019, run by the British Museum and the Marsh Christian Trust.

The Marsh award celebrates the achievements and contribution of volunteers in museums, galleries and heritage sites all over the UK, recognising their dedication, innovation and excellence in engaging

We were thrilled to be recognised as the North East winner. Old Low Light volunteers won the award for their exhibition “Breaking Chains” which told the story of how Mary Ann Macham escaped from a plantation in Virginia, eventually arriving in North Shields where she was met and cared for by the Spence family who were Quakers and local business people. The exhibition also focused on the part played by key local people in campaigns to abolish slavery and highlighted modern-day slavery. persist.

In applying for the award, volunteers had to show how they had made a difference to the people who visited the heritage centre during 2019. Judges were looking for innovation, dedication and excellence by volunteers who engage the public in museums, galleries and heritage sites.

We ensure that volunteering opportunities inspire and benefit those taking part, as much as providing vital support to the centre. We provide volunteers with training and experience in customer service. By welcoming visitors and acting as gallery guides, sharing information about North Shields and its Fish Quay, they can grow their communication and social skills. We also offer experience for volunteers, including those with additional needs, in our busy café. Overall, we have helped over 80 people into


We work hard to communicate with and engage our volunteers and members, keeping them up to date with newsletters and social media posts. During the pandemic and prolonged periods of lockdown this was a priority, enabling us to retain our valuable sense of community.

During lockdown we also called and spoke to volunteers, recognising the impact of social isolation.

Our top floor community space provides a safe and welcoming environment for a number of community support groups, including Flow, a community interest organisation which provides facilities for adults

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments Account and

Signed:  Chair, on behalf of the Trustees, date: 29/10/21

DAVID BAVAND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the
trustees of

The Net North Shields

On accounts for
the year ended

31 December 2020

Charity no 1151677

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and
examiner

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of
independent
examiner's
statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent
examiner's
statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 27 October 2021

Name:
Address:

Mark Thompson MAAT
VODA
Linskill Centre
Linskill Terrace
North Shields
NE30 2AY

The Net North Shields
Receipts and payments account for the period
1 January to 31 December 2020

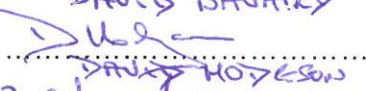
	Notes	2020 Unrestricted	2020 Restricted	2020 Total	2019 Total
Income					
Donations	(2)	97460	13786	111246	3858
Charitable Activities	(3)	3752		3752	14194
Other Trading Activities	(4)	38168		38168	170806
Investment Income		126		126	24
Total Income		139506	13786	153292	188882
Expenditure					
Cost of Trading Activities	(5)	16052		16052	37773
Charitable Activities	(6)	118712	10618	129330	140046
Depreciation	(7)	2245		2245	15992
Total Expenditure		137009	10618	147627	193811
Surplus for the period		2497	3168	5665	-4929
Transfers Between Funds					
Balance at 1 January 2020		26166	986	27152	32081
Balance at 31 December 2020		28663	4154	32817	27152

**The Net North Shields
Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2020**

		2020	2019
		£	£
Fixed Assets	8	0	2245
Current Assets			
Debtors		524	690
Prepayments		123	237
Stock		164	584
Cash at Bank & in Hand		37261	23557
Total Cash Balances		<u>38072</u>	<u>25068</u>
Current Liabilities		5255	161
Net Current Assets		32817	24907
Net Assets at 31 December 2020		<u><u>32817</u></u>	<u><u>27152</u></u>
Represented By:			
Restricted Funds		4154	986
Unrestricted Funds		28663	26166
		<u>32817</u>	<u>27152</u>
Total		<u><u>32817</u></u>	<u><u>27152</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the following members of the Management Committee :

Signed  Position CHAIR

Signed  Position TRUSTEE

Date 28/10/21

The Net North Shields
Notes to the accounts, 2020

1. Accounting Policies

- a The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006

The Net North Shields meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

- b Grants received are accounted for on a received basis and credited to income.
- c Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Receipts and Payments Account when received.

2. Grants & Donations

National Lottery Community Fund	13786
Public donations & fundraising	6021
HMRC Furlough Scheme	47100
Historic England	9399
North Tyneside Council - Business Support Grant	10000
Tyne & Wear Building Preservation Trust	1900
National Lottery Heritage Fund	23040
	111246

3. Charitable Activities

Room Hire	3752
	3752

4. Other Trading Activities

Café & Shop Income	31104
Event Income	3408
Admission and Ticket Sales	2556
Membership	1100
	38168

5. Costs of Trading Activities

Café Supplies	10020
Gift Shop Supplies	276
Event Costs of Sale	391
Museum Costs	5365
	16052

6. Costs of Charitable Activities

Staff Costs	99911
Premises	23031
Insurance Fees	1131
Legal & Professional	963
Office Costs	4294
	129330

7. Trustees, staff and related party transactions

The organisation employed an average of 9 members of staff during the period of the accounts. No payments were made to trustees.

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	2020	2019
Cost		
At 1st January 2020	79958	79958
Additions		
Disposals		
At 31st December 2020	79958	79958
Depreciation		
At 1st January 2020	77713	77713
Additions		
Disposals	2245	
At 31st December 2020	79958	77713
Net Book Value		
At 31st December 2020	0	2245
At 31st December 2019	2245	2245

8. Restricted Funds

Analysis of Restricted Funds:	Open Bal	Income	Expend	End Bal
Telling Our Story	986			986
National Lottery Community Fund	0	13786	10618	3168
Total	986	13786	10618	4154