

**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 BAVARD

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

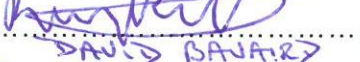
1 January to 31 December 2020

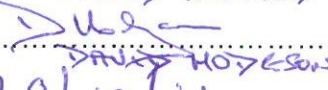
	Notes	2020 Unrestricted	2020 Restricted	2020 Total	2019 Total
Income					
Donations	(2)	97460	13786	111246	3858
Charitable Activities	(3)	3752		3752	14194
Other Trading Activities	(4)	38168		38168	170806
Investment Income		126		126	24
Total Income		139506	13786	153292	188882
Expenditure					
Cost of 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		38072	25068
Current Liabilities		5255	161
Net Current Assets		32817	24907
Net Assets at 31 December 2020		32817	27152
Represented By:			
Restricted Funds		4154	986
Unrestricted Funds		28663	26166
		32817	27152
Total		32817	27152

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