

**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, natural 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 work 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	25562	39913
Current Liabilities	2333	2101
Net Current Assets	23229	37812
Net Assets at 31 December 2022	23229	37812
Represented By:		
Restricted Funds	1500	15562
Unrestricted Funds	21729	22250
	23229	37812
Total	23229	37812

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:

National Lottery Community Fund

Sir James Knott Trust

National Heritage

Historic England

NTC European Social Fund

HMRC SSP Grant

NTC Nora Ball

Total

Open Bal	Income	Expend	End Bal
3000		3000	0
12562	1000	13562	0
	33287	33287	0
	1500		1500
	4546	4546	0
	96	96	0
	1000	1000	0
15562	41429	55491	1500