

**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 | 32155 | 25562 |
| Current Liabilities | 3721 | 2333 |
| Net Current Assets | 28434 | 23229 |
| Net Assets at 31 December 2023 | 28434 | 23229 |
| Represented By: | | |
| Restricted Funds | 5034 | 1500 |
| Unrestricted Funds | 23400 | 21729 |
| | 28434 | 23229 |
| Total | 28434 | 23229 |

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 |