

**Remembering The Past, Resourcing The Future CIO
(Registered Charity 1155014)**

**Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statements
for the period
1st January to 31st December
2024**

**Remembering The Past, Resourcing The Future CIO
(Registered Charity 1155014)**

Charity name: Remembering The Past, Resourcing the Future CIO

Charity Number: 1155014

Charity's Principal address: Room R11b, The Linskill Centre, Linskill Terrace, North Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE30 2AY

Trustees: Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

David Hodgson – Treasurer,

Ron Hillaby

Kath Smith

Chris Wray

Guy Moody (from 23/05/24)

All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration.

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members

Alexandra Watson, Charity Manager

Bankers: HSBC Bank Plc, 110 Grey Street, Newcastle, Tyne & Wear, NE1 6JG

Independent Examiners: North Tyneside VODA , Spirit or North Tyneside Wing , Wallsend Customer First Centre, Wallsend, NE28 8JR.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Included within the Trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objectives

1. Advance the education of the public in Tyne and Wear in particular but not exclusively by: Educating school children through the collection and dissemination of memories, experiences and thoughts of older people and establishing and maintaining a community archive recording social history through the medium of oral history and reminiscence.
2. Promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people and assisting them to integrate into society.

Achieving Public Benefit

Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the 2006 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance on public benefit. The focus of our activities continues to be the alleviation of loneliness, social and digital isolation faced by older people in North Tyneside. The method used to achieve this is the collection by volunteers of older people's memories relating to the cultural, working and social life of the area and the dissemination of this content to the wider community.

Public Benefit in Action

Our collection is a record of the social history of the North East, covering the stories of ordinary people. It includes the voices of people involved in many of the area's lost industries and trades, as well as vivid descriptions of cultural traditions. The quality and context these often-missing voices add to an understanding of history is highly valued by our local, national and international audiences. We help our communities to understand more about the heritage of the places in which they live and the lives of their own relatives.

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Our method of engagement is based on gaining and retaining the confidence of contributors, raising their self-esteem as the team makes them aware of the importance of the stories they are sharing. By listening to their stories, and bearing witness to their unique experience of life, skilled volunteer interviewers empower and engage people from all walks of life. Our digital team prepare and disseminate these memories and oral histories, returning copies to contributors and adding them to our web-based community history archive, www.rememberingthepast.co.uk.

We develop our work in partnership with communities, academics, volunteers, artists and organisations and our approach is one of co-curation, led by our contributors and interviewees.

Achievements of the Charity during 2024

2024 was a year of development and transition for the organisation, as it refocussed following the retirement of Kath Smith in late August 2023. As the founder and manager of the organisation for 25 years, Kath developed RTP from a small voluntary group to a highly regarded charity that has won national awards and, since her retirement, she has been deeply missed by volunteers, staff and trustees alike.

The necessary refocussing following Kath's departure has been facilitated through our '*Remembering The Past, Shaping The Future: Heritage Resilience Project*' funded by National Lottery Heritage fund. This began in September 2023 and will run until Autumn 2025. It aims to secure the future of the charity, through developing stronger internal structures, building capacity and undertaking strategic planning. This year we have undertaken development and planning work on all seven strands of the project including Governance, Volunteers, Business Planning, Evaluation, Collections Development, Audience Development and Marketing.

Our project work with partners continued:

Herring Girls

Begun in 2023 in partnership with the North Shields Fishermen's Heritage Project (NSFHP) this project sought to recognise the role and contribution that women have played over the years in the local fishing industry. NSFHP commissioned Remembering the Past to collect a set of oral history interviews with people with memories of the herring girls. Collecting, sharing and archiving these stories has helped to increase local knowledge about the work the Herring Girls did and celebrates their character and resilience. We undertook 8 interviews against an initial target of 7 and trialled a 'listening event' to showcase the stories for an audience of the participants, their families and invited guests. This was a great way to share our work and we will be repeating this format in the future.

Women in Shipbuilding First World War

This was a partnership project with Historic England which began in late 2023 with an exhibition of photographs of women working in the Tyne & Wear shipyards during the First

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World War. RTP was commissioned to undertake interviews with people who had family stories of women who worked in the shipyards during this time, as well as contemporary accounts of young women who aspired to work in the STEM sector. In total 7 interviews were recorded and shared via project page created on the website.

New projects in 2024:

Women in Shipbuilding 1945 – 1980s

During our time working on the *Women in Shipbuilding First World War* exhibition, we spoke to many women who had worked in the shipyards during the period from the end of the Second World War up to the closure of the yards in the 1980s. They were keen to put their voices on the record and tell their experiences and in June 2023, we were awarded £1990 from the Frederick Milburn Trust to enable us to do this. We have begun advertising the project and recording interviews and aim to complete this work by Summer 2025.

Bishopwearmouth THI

As part of our work on business planning, we have been looking at ways to diversify income streams and this year trialled charging a fee to undertake transcription work, host archive records and host a project page on our web site for the Bishopwearmouth Townscape Heritage Initiative. Feedback from the client was that our fee of £700 was modest and this was further emphasised by the length of time that our volunteers spent working on the records to get them ready to showcase on the website. Following evaluation of the trial, we have developed some more accurate pricing and also a list of key areas to consider when taking on other organisation's recordings.

Events

Local History Day

We attended Local History Day at North Shields Library in May with an exhibition of local local photographs. Although not a great attendance at the event as a whole, we made some new contacts and had some great engagement with people visiting our stand.

New York Primary Heritage Day

2 of our volunteers attended a Heritage Day, where they ran an oral history activity for 55 pupils from New York Primary School.

Talks Programme:

We made the decision in 2023 to halt the talks programme for 2024 whilst we reviewed this area of work as part of our business planning process. However, one of our volunteers was happy to continue giving talks and spoke to three different societies during the year.

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Looking forward to 2025

We look ahead to 2025 with optimism and anticipate that this year will see the end of our process of review and development and the start of putting our new strategies into practice. However, our NLHF funding will finish towards the end of 2025 and we are keenly aware of the state of the funding landscape in the UK at present; funding for UK charities and voluntary organisations has seen sharp declines across the board: central government funding decreased by 33% from 2022 to 2023, local authority funding dropped by 23% since 2009-2010, and individual donations have fallen by 14% in recent years. To be successful in such a competitive environment, we will need to clearly articulate our aims and demonstrate the impact of our work.

The Trustees would like to thank all our partners, stakeholders, freelancers, staff, funders, volunteers and audiences who have supported the charity over the past year.

Financial Review

Financial information

At the end of the financial year, the charity's total reserves stood at £11,849. This comprised of unrestricted reserves of £19,326 and restricted reserves overspent of £(7,477) which was recovered within 2025.

In 2024 RPRF raised funds from the following charitable sources:

Funder	Amount
Milburn Trust	£1,990

In 2024 RPRF raised funds as a result of fees for service from:

Project	Funded by	Amount
Herring Girls	North Shields fishing Heritage Project	£1,000
Historic England	Historic England	£2,500
Bishopwearmouth THI	Sunderland City Council	£ 700

In 2024 RPRF raised funds from the following sources:

Funding Source	Amount
Donations, Talks & Sales of Books	£ 135
Bank Interest	£ 488

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The charity's policy on reserves

We are aware as trustees of the need to have sufficient free reserves (unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or otherwise designated) to enable the organisation to respond to any unexpected reductions in funding or additional unexpected expenditure. It is the intention of the Trustees to grow and maintain the charity's reserves to the equivalent of six months' operational expenditure. This is calculated at approximately £16,000.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution adopted: 16" December 2013

How the charity is constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods: Trustees are appointed for a period of three years

Trustee Meetings: The Trustees met on four occasions to receive quarterly reports on activities and financial updates and review policy.

Additional Governance Information: RPRF is a member of North Tyneside VODA, the local voluntary development agency, which provides support and guidance on governance and good practice in employment matters from the charity sector perspective and an associate member of the North East Business Chamber which keeps us in touch with local developments in the business world. The charity is also a member of the Oral History Society, the professional body relating specifically to our memory collection activities. OHS provides training and resources to ensure we adhere to good practice in the collection and archiving of oral histories.

The contribution of volunteers:

RPRF is an organisation which only exists because of the work done by its committed team of volunteers. We are grateful for the many hours they have spent collecting and disseminating memories, developing new local history resources and managing the day to day running of the organisation. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise the organisation would not exist.

RPRF offers the following benefits to volunteers:

- Varied and rewarding volunteering opportunities to ensure that the RPRF community history archive is maintained, expanded and made publicly available to as wide an audience as possible and in as many formats.
- A non-threatening introduction to every aspect of IT technology through activities relating to collecting memories for the organisation's website and archive.
- An opportunity to develop high levels of skills in oral history collection, archiving and dissemination. These are recognised to be at professional or skilled level by National Heritage Lottery Fund criteria.

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An opportunity to influence the development of new projects and develop new organisational skills as well as the core skills of the organisation

Risk Management



Risk assessment has made us aware of the importance of protecting all participants at every stage of the memory collection process and especially the importance of safeguarding and data protection. There is a vulnerable adults and equal opportunities policy in place which guides all of our work. In 2022 our policies and procedures in relation to General Data Protection Regulation were reviewed. This was in addition to the completion of a review of all other policies and procedures relevant to our activities.

Looking ahead to 2025, key risks to mitigate for include losing volunteer interest whilst we are working on our internal project and continuing to run day to day operations whilst also delivering the NLHF project.

Compliance with Prevailing Law and Regulations

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the financial reporting standard for Smaller Entities published on 16th July 2014.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report,

	
Signature: Treasurer	Signature: Trustee
Date 4 June 2025	Date 4 June 2025

**North Shields Library Club's
Remembering the Past, Resourcing the Future Project**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

**Report to the
trustees of**

Remembering the Past, Resourcing the Future CIO

**On accounts for
the year ended**

31 December 2024

Charity no 1155014

**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 41 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: 14 October, 2025

**Name:
Address:**

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

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Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year to 31st December 2024

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Year to</u> <u>31-Dec-23</u>
Grants	-			
National Heritage Fund				27119
RW Mann Trust				1,000
Rothley Trust				320
Milburn Trust		1,990	1,990	
Fees for Service	4,200		4,200	3,055
Donations & Sale of Books	135		135	155
Bank Interest	488		488	219
Total Receipts	£ 4,823	£ 1,990	£ 6,813	£ 31,868
<u>PAYMENTS</u>				
Salaries & Pension	-	18,000	18,000	16,702
Training/Professional Costs	14	1,225	1,239	2,461
Staff & Volunteer Travel Costs	-(241)	287	46	268
Other Volunteer Expenses	28	266	293	839
Insurance	575		575	455
Internet & Telephones	608		608	605
Room Hire	486	6,626	7,112	5,847
IT Costs	151	659	810	966
Resource Materials	19		19	350
Marketing	-		-	786
Subscriptions & Licences	257	298	555	285
Postage and Stationery	40		40	70
Lease Renewal	250		250	-
Accountancy Costs	250		250	220
Bank Charges	63		63	64
Total Expenses	£ 2,500	£ 27,360	£ 29,860	£ 29,918
Surplus for the Year	2,322	-(25,370)	-(23,048)	1,950
Funds Brought Forward	17,004	17,893	34,897	32,947
Transfer between funds			-	
Funds Carried Forward	£ 19,326	-(7,477)	£ 11,849	£ 34,897

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BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 December 2024

	<u>31-Dec-24</u>	<u>31-Dec-23</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	12,102	34,922
Debtors	-	2,800
Prepayments	-	-
Total Assets	<u>£ 12,102</u>	<u>£ 37,722</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and Accruals	253	2,825
Total Expenses	<u>£ 253</u>	<u>£ 2,825</u>
Net Current Assets	11,849	34,897
Net Assets at 31 December 2021	<u>£ 11,849</u>	<u>£ 34,897</u>
Represented by:-		
Restricted Funds	-(7,477)	17,893
Unrestricted Funds	19,326	17,004
Funds Carried Forward	<u>£ 11,849</u>	<u>£ 34,897</u>

Signed:-


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RON HILLABY - Trustee


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DAVID HODGSON -Trustee/Treasurer

Date - 4th June 2025

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Notes to the Accounts
Year to 31st December 2024

1). Basis of Accounts

These accounts have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis reflecting prepayments and accruals

2). Grants

Grants were received during the Period as follows:-

Restricted Fund:

Milburn Trust	<u>£ 1,900</u>
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3). Fee for Service Work

Work carried out on this basis during the Period was as follows:-

North Shields Fishing Heritage Project - Herring Girls	£ 1,000
Historic England	£ 2,500
Sunderland City Council - Bishopwearmouth THI	£ 700
Fees for Talks etc	£ 135
	<u>£ 4,335</u>

4). Analysis of Funds

	Balance 01/01/2024	Income	Expended	Balance 31/12/2024
National Heritage Lottery	£ 17,893		£ 26,520	-£ 8,627
Milburn Trust		£ 1,990	£ 840	£ 1,150
	<u>£ 17,893</u>	<u>£ 1,990</u>	<u>£ 27,360</u>	<u>-£ 7,477</u>