

**North Yorkshire Moors Association
Trustees' Report 2023-2024**

1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity Number 1169240

Address: c/o Glen Cottage, Carr Lane, Scalby, Scarborough YO13 OSB

President: Ian Carstairs OBE

Trustees as at 20 September 2024

- Tom Chadwick
- Ray Clarke
- Albert Elliot
- Tom Gillum
- Helen Gundry
- Adrian Leaman
- Brian Pearce (Hon. Treasurer)
- Tom Ratcliffe
- John Ritchie
- Colin Speakman
- Andy Wilson
- George Winn-Darley (Acting Chair)
- Elaine Wisdom

Executive Secretary:

- Janet Cochrane

Council of Trustees

The 'Council' is the body which manages NYMA. In addition to the Trustees, there is one Council member - the Executive Secretary - who is not a Trustee. Council members are nominated and seconded by members and elected at the AGM for a three-year term of office, along with the Chair and Vice-Chair who are elected on an annual basis. During 2023-24 we recruited one additional Council member, Tom Gillum, bringing the total number as of mid-September to 14.

George Winn-Darley, formerly Vice-Chair, took over as Acting Chair in Summer 2024 after Adrian Leaman's resignation as Chair due to ill-health.

What we do

- As 'Friends of the North York Moors', NYMA works to safeguard the landscapes, biodiversity and culture of the North York Moors National Park and surrounding areas.
- We carry out projects which foster understanding of the history, culture and environment of the Moors, including publication of the quarterly magazine 'Voice of the Moors'.
- We encourage land-use policies that favour biodiversity and natural beauty and support campaigns for the protection and enhancement of landscapes in National Parks and beyond.
- We scrutinise and influence planning applications for developments in the National Park and campaign against inappropriate ones.
- We support sustainable means of transport.

Introduction

NYMA has carried out a range of activities over the past year, although there have been particular challenges because of the difficulty in filling key posts within the management of the Association. In particular, our Chair Adrian Leaman unfortunately experienced health issues, which prompted his move away from North Yorkshire to a different part of the UK and his resignation as Chair of NYMA. Nevertheless, we have continued with fundraising and recruiting new members and Trustees, and Adrian continues to be involved in working on our projects.

ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Walks & Events: The monthly programme of guided walks, coordinated by Dave Moore, continued throughout the year, supplemented by opportunities to join walks organised by like-minded groups. The varied programme was influenced by the results of the walking survey run the previous year, with some longer and more challenging walks added to the shorter ones. Walks took place in most parts of the national park and beyond, with one walk in the Howardian Hills National Landscape around Nunnington. Highlights included two opportunities to follow the Hanging Stones Trail (featuring installations by landscape artist Andy Goldsworthy) in Northdale; an exploration of Loftus, a town in transition; and an invitation to join in the launch event of the St Aelred's Pilgrim Trail, where several NYMA members joined other walkers and horse-riders on a route around 'hamlet churches' in Upper Ryedale and for a special service in the nave of Rievaulx Abbey. In addition, a fascinating visit was arranged to the Helmsley Archaeological Store, run by English Heritage.

We thank all the leaders for their time in not only leading walks but also checking the routes in advance to ensure pleasant and safe walks: Ray Clarke, Janet Cochrane, Albert Elliot, Jane Ellis, David Lewis, Kath Mair, Heather and Colin Mather, Dave and Cal Moore, John and Joan Roberts, and Wendy Smith.

Social activities: The programme of 'Meet the Members' online socials continued throughout last winter, run by Adrian Leaman, and a well-attended Christmas tea-party was an opportunity for members to meet face-to-face. Core members of the walking group also organised their own end-of-year get-together.

'Soft Retrofit', Castleton: Thanks to Adrian Leaman's contacts in the sustainable building sector, NYMA has benefitted from a significant donation to fund a project trialling ways of improving comfort and energy efficiency in traditional buildings. The technical expertise of former Council member Dave Moore is proving invaluable in taking this initiative forward.

Voice of the Moors: 'Voice' continues to be edited by Janet Cochrane. It is distributed free to NYMA members, while Members and staff of the National Park Authority receive copies through a long-running partnership scheme whereby the NPA purchases 50 copies from us each quarter. Copies are on sale to members of the public through the National Park shops at Sutton Bank and Danby Lodge, with back copies available online. Topics covered include natural history, moorland management, art and culture, archaeology, practical conservation, exploring the national park, and policy. A reader commented in April 2024 that the magazine is "Well balanced and informative with many references to current world-wide problems and how they influence our local environment and actions in the North Yorkshire Moors - something of value for all members."

'Voice' could not exist without the many people who kindly contribute articles and photographs on a voluntary basis: in 2023-24 authors and other contributors included Ian Alexander, Derek Capes, Ian

Carstairs, John Cavana, Tom Chadwick, Ray Clarke, Janet Cochrane, Tim and Jane Dunn, Albert Elliot, Mark Ellis, Kate Giles, George Gyte, Mike Gray, Beatrix Elke Kaye, Adrian Leaman, David Lewis, Edward March-Shawcross, Colin Speakman, Martin Partridge, Harry Pearson, Anne Press, Jean Richards, Alan Staniforth, Mel Ullswater.

We continue to benefit from the comprehensive photographic archive compiled by the late Nan Sykes, which she generously bequeathed to NYMA, and we are very grateful to Pascal Thivillon and Nicola Chalton, of Basement Press in Glaisdale, for their indispensable contribution to 'Voice'.

Talks and Recruitment: Ray Clarke has continued to deliver a successful programme of talks and presentation to groups across Northeast Yorkshire and beyond, along with ensuring an occasional presence at local agricultural shows (when finances permit). The speaker's fees and sale of books and magazines on these occasions provide funds for NYMA as well as raising awareness of the Association and the North York Moors.

NYMA Awards: During the year the Trustees decided to rename NYMA's 'Conservation Award' simply as the 'NYMA Award'. We made contributions through the scheme to the 2024 Community Earth Festival run by Nicola Chalton, covering the Esk Valley area and beyond; to the group from Helmsley and Upper Ryedale which devised the St. Aelred's Pilgrim Trail for their guidebook and other essential materials such as waymarks; to the Environet group which has monitored water quality in Upper Danby Dale for over 3 decades to purchase new monitoring equipment; and to Moorsbus for their 2024 programme.

Hands-on conservation: Trustees (especially Ray Clarke) have continued their practical conservation work, especially in clearing and maintaining public rights-of-way for access.

PLANNING AND POLICY

Where resources allow, NYMA makes active contributions to planning and policy affecting the Moors and national parks and nature on a wider canvas. In the past year, for instance, we have been exploring new ways of supporting nature recovery via the WeCan initiative developed by NYMA President Ian Carstairs in Norfolk, which is currently being rolled out across parts of Yorkshire, and we have taken part in events run by the Yorkshire Society, including the annual Yorkshire Heritage Summit, which in 2024 was held in Hull Minster.

NYMA also contributes to national debate on the countryside and rural affairs. In 2024 a working group led by independent transport consultant Jonathan Tyler and including NYMA Trustee Colin Speakman has been looking at the potential in North Yorkshire for integrated transport planning based on Swiss practice in timetable planning. This hopes to influence the policymaking of both the new Labour government and the new North Yorkshire combined authority.

We continue our membership of the Campaign for National Parks (CNP), along with other National Park Societies, but while we support their campaigns such as the current one for ending water pollution in national parks, we have become concerned that some of the more nuanced aspects of policymaking on controversial issues affecting the North York Moors, such as open access and moorland burning, have been overlooked in their latest manifesto statements.

Other major planning topics such as industrial-scale mining have again come to the fore, this year with the scaling back of construction work at the Woodsmith polyhalite project. The issue could now

be the likely collapse of a global market for polyhalite fertiliser, in light of, for example, massive new discoveries of phosphate in Norway.

FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Although at the end of the last annual period of reporting we were pleased to have appointed Vic Worrall to replace Brian Pearce as Treasurer, at the start of 2024 Vic sadly had to leave us due to personal circumstances. Brian very kindly continued to manage NYMA's finances while we decided on the next step forward. At the same time, it proved impossible to find anyone to take on the role of Membership Secretary, so Janet Cochrane added the tasks of this role to her other responsibilities on a temporary basis. We eventually decided that a sensible way forward was to combine the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary and seek a suitable post-holder on a paid basis, and as the current period of reporting comes to an end, we are cautiously optimistic that a suitable candidate has come forward.

Treasurer's Report (for the year ended 31 March 2024): The year ended with a deficit of £351 (compared to the 2023 deficit £8,400), assisted by a reduction in expenditure of £1,000 and an increase in donations of £6,300.

Donations of £5,000 were received from the Carstairs Countryside Trust, including a grant of £3,500 to be spent on the Nature Recovery project. This is a restricted fund against which no expenditure was recorded in the financial year in question.

Expenditure meeting our charitable objectives amounted to £5,500, consisting of £2,000 to Moorbus, £2,000 to the Friends of Dalby Forest (for the Dry Stone Wall Maze), £1,250 to Upper Ryedale Parishes (for the St Aelred's Pilgrim Trail) and £250 to the Community Earth Festival.

Reserves carried forward amount to £43,700, of which £3,500 is a restricted fund as previously mentioned.

We are very grateful that many members generously add donations when they renew their memberships, and for the continuing support of local legal firm Crombie Wilkinson Solicitors, who make a quarterly financial contribution to 'Voice of the Moors' and give NYMA members a discount on fees for legal services. We also thank the North York Moors National Park Authority for their support, including allowing use of the lecture theatre at Danby Lodge free of charge for our AGM.

Special mention is due to the Esk Valley Fell Club, a local running club which Trustee Tom Ratcliffe is a member and which has now made two substantial donations to NYMA funds.

Membership: Member numbers are currently 331 in total, somewhat down on the previous year (370), partly due to some Life members not having responded to an 'opt-in' exercise carried out during the year. Some Life members however have generously renewed as 10-Year members or made additional donations to cover costs.

Membership falls into the following categories (last year's totals in brackets):

- Life: 78 (98)
- Annual: 148 (169)
- Annual Digital: 44 (26)
- 10-Year: 55 (57)
- Organisations and Businesses: (4) 5
- Honorary: 2 (4)

NYMA's online membership system (<https://membermojo.co.uk/nyma/>) is working well and saves a good deal of time, although we continue to accommodate non-computer users.

Looking to the future: As new Council members and post-holders take up their roles, we hope that they will soon be able to make a contribution to the energy and activities of NYMA.

NYMA

JC/GWD/AL September 2024

The North Yorkshire Moors Association
CIO No: 1169240

**Financial Accounts for the
year ended 31st March 2024**

Paul Tranter & Company
Chartered Accountants
Stokesley
North Yorkshire
TS9 5AD



Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name

THE NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS ASSOCIATION

On accounts for the year ended

310324

Charity no (if any)

1169240

Set out on pages

3-4

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to 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 Commission. 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below):

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed

Date

26 June 2024

Name

PAUL TRANTER

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

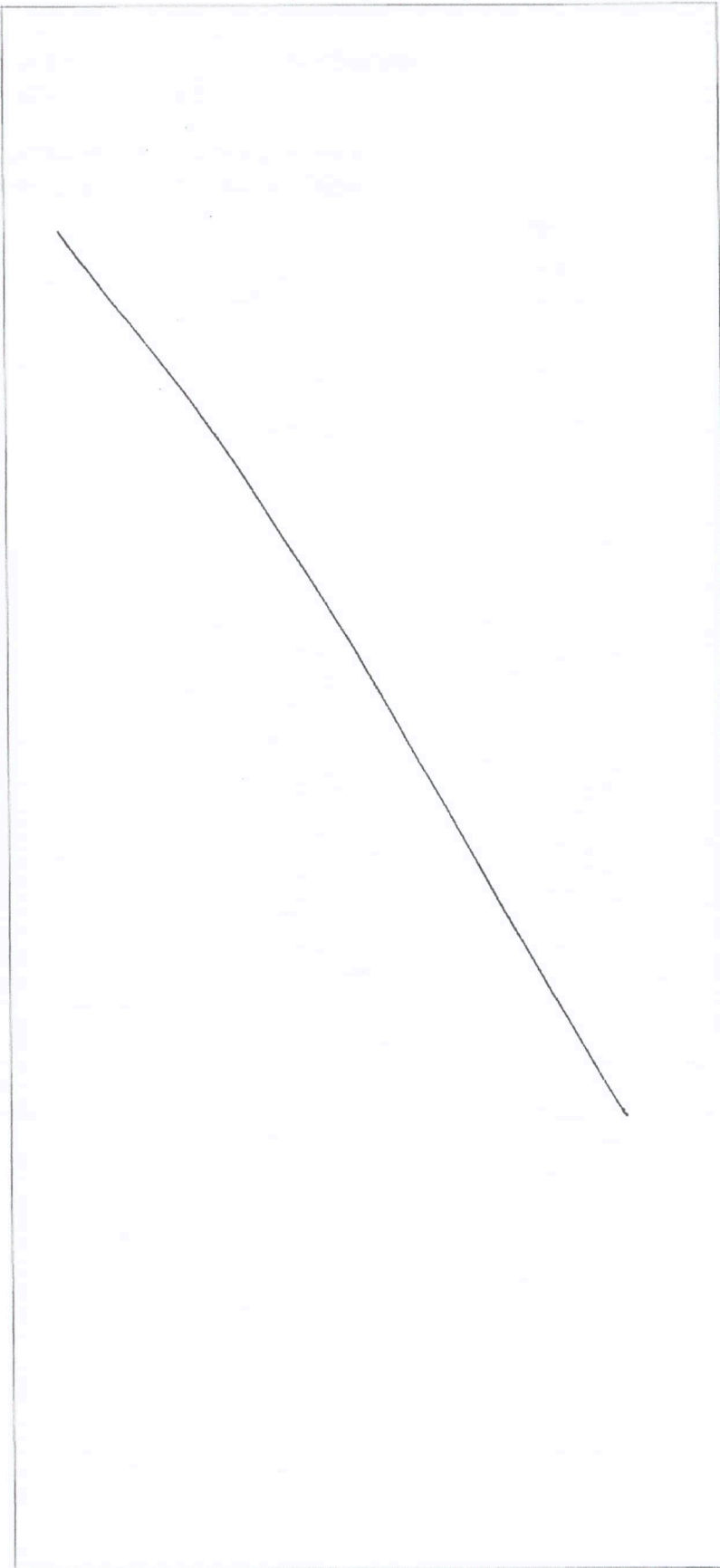
FCA (ICAEW)

Address

PAUL TRANTER & Co.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
31 HIGH STREET
STOKESLEY
NORTH YORKSHIRE TS9 5AD

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose



The North Yorkshire Moors Association
CIO No: 1169240

**Receipts & Payments Account for the
Financial year ended 31st March 2024**

				y/e 31.03.24 £	y/e 31.03.23 £
Receipts					
Subscriptions	Members			4,739.00	4,256.80
Book sales	History Tree			365.90	576.90
	Wild Flowers			465.70	199.50
	Voice of the Moors			375.50	444.75
Donations	Main Fund	note 1		7,692.70	1,366.03
Gift Aid				-	102.39
Interest				895.86	496.12
Total Receipts				<u>14,534.66</u>	<u>7,442.49</u>
Payments					
Insurance				307.45	263.24
AGM				621.00	131.67
Auditor				180.00	168.00
CNP Annual Subscription				527.00	-
Wild Flowers project				-	1,008.00
Photocopying & Stationery				78.94	183.31
Postage				1,106.92	1,076.66
Sundry				140.74	145.00
Secretary Fees & Expenses				3,705.10	3,795.85
Voice' Production				1,804.00	1,751.80
Bank Charges/Paypal fees				135.62	150.62
Website				676.80	676.80
Leaflets NYMA				42.00	-
Conservation Award		note 2		3,500.00	3,000.00
Council Meeting Costs				60.00	48.00
Moors Bus				2,000.00	2,000.00
National Parks Conference Costs				-	83.76
Battle of Byland Project (Patmore Bequest)				-	1,251.00
Membermojo Annual Sub				-	75.00
Total Payments				<u>14,885.57</u>	<u>15,808.71</u>
Deficit for the year transferred to					
General Funds (p/y deficit)				<u>- 350.91</u>	<u>- 8,366.22</u>

The North Yorkshire Moors Association
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**Balance Sheet as at
31st March 2024**

		31st March 2024	31st March 2023
	£	£	£
Current Assets			
CAF Cash account (00007628)	543.45	1,358.69	
CAF Savings account Main Fund (000084225)	<u>41,982.92</u>	<u>41,589.97</u>	
		42,526.37	42,948.66
PayPal		<u>1,174.75</u>	<u>1,103.37</u>
		<u>43,701.12</u>	<u>44,052.03</u>

Represented By:

General Fund	Note 1		
Balance b/f		44,052.03	52,418.25
Deficit for the Year (p/y deficit)		- 350.91	- 8,366.22
Balance c/f		<u>43,701.12</u>	<u>44,052.03</u>

Notes:

1 Donations and Restricted Funds

Donations received included £5,000 Carstairs Countryside Trust of which £3,500 is a restricted fund specified for the nature recovery project .

2 Conservation awards (£3,500)

Awards include £2,000 Friends of Dalby Forest, £1,250 Upper Ryedale Parish, and £250 Community Earth Festival.

George Mann-Daley

P.O.

Approved by the Committee on 16/7/24