

Company Registration Number 10582100

Registered Charity Number 1173849

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ending 31 March 2022

**The NewBridge
Project**

The NewBridge Project (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Name	The NewBridge Project
Charity Registration Number	1173849
Company Registration Number	10582100
Registered Office	Shieldfield Centre, 4 - 8 Clarence Walk, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1AL

Trustees

For the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, the Board of Trustees is the Board of Directors of the charitable company and is referred to as the Trustees throughout this report.

The Trustees of The NewBridge Project during the year and to the date of signing this report are as follows:

Ilana Mitchell (Chair)	
Jonathan Combe	
Sally Dixon	
Julia Heslop	
Ray Mills	Resigned 6 December 2021
Dr Paul Richter	
Melanie Shee	Resigned 6 December 2021

Company Secretary	Rebecca Huggan
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Bankers	The Co-operative Bank, Norfolk House, 84-86 Grey Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6BZ
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Independent Examiner	Mr P O'Hara FCA, 4 Stoneyhurst Road West, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PG
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The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Documents

The NewBridge Project is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 25 January 2017 and registered as a charity on 18 July 2017. The charity is controlled by its governing document, its Memorandum & Articles of Association and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act.

The Directors of the company are also Trustees of the charity.

Eligibility for membership of the charity, and membership of the Board of Trustees, is governed by the Articles of Association. There are no restrictions in the governing document on the operation of the charity other than those imposed by general charity law.

Charitable Purpose

The NewBridge Project's charitable objects are to foster and advance the appreciation and understanding of the arts for the benefit of the public.

Structure and Governance

The charity currently has a Board of 5 non-executive Trustees.

The Board meets a minimum of 4 times per year. A written Director's report, quarterly management accounts, a meeting agenda and any other necessary Board papers are prepared by the Director and circulated in advance of meetings.

The NewBridge Project is governed by the Board of Trustees with a staff team (employed and freelance) overseeing the day to day operation, comprising of:

Director - Rebecca Huggan
Programme Director – Dawn Bothwell
Studio & Members Manager – Ruby Glover
Artist Development Programmer – Daniel Russell
Marketing Co-ordinator – Kitty McKay
For Solidarity Project Manager – Hannah Kirkham
Community Producer – Elaine Robertson
Create / Disrupt Project Manager – Izzy Finch
Youth Worker – Kate Jeffries
Programme & Front of House Assistant (Kickstart Apprentice) – Hannah Rickman Peddie
Bookkeeper – Niamh Cunningham

The Contribution of Volunteers

The charity makes extensive use of volunteers to support its activities.

The NewBridge Project (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Trustees (Cont.)

Any person who is willing to act as a Director and is permitted by law to do so, may be appointed to be a Director by a decision of the Directors. Any Director appointed by a resolution of the other Directors must retire at the next Annual General Meeting following his or her appointment and may offer themselves for re-election and if any Director is required to retire at an Annual General Meeting the retirement shall take effect from the conclusion of the meeting.

Trustees are recruited through an open call out process for Trustees, describing the skills required. This is advertised through a range of accessible channels and networks. Trustees are elected to the Board based on discussions and recommendations offered by Trustees, the Director and external advisors to the organisation.

Trustee Induction and Training

New Trustees are inducted by the Director and current Trustees and are provided with a range of resources to support their understanding of The NewBridge Project and its activities, including a document detailing the role of Trustees and staff within the company.

Artists and other creatives who pay to join are known as Studio or Associate Members of NewBridge. They become members of the community, but they are not members of the company or charity.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have reviewed the charity's needs for Reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission. We reviewed our reserves policy in April 2021 and have set a new minimum reserves level.

The NewBridge Project aims to hold free reserves of £100,000, which would enable us to meet all financial liabilities, overheads & majority of staff costs over a 6-month period, ensuring resilience if we face unplanned costs or disruptions.

The NewBridge Project then aims to build an additional, unrestricted designated reserve of £50,000 over the next 4 years to support charity to relocate at the end of our current lease (June 2026) if required. (The previous £50,000 allocation was used to support the relocation to Shieldfield).

The target level of Unrestricted Reserves is therefore £150,000.

The charity's total Unrestricted Reserves at 31 March 2022 are £158,699. Free reserves, defined as non-designated Unrestricted Reserves, minus the Net Book Value of Unrestricted Tangible Fixed Assets, are £118,698 at 31 March 2022. However, c£22k of these reserves has been committed to activity in 2022/23 and, consequently, available reserves are c£97k.

The Trustees aim, through their budgeting processes, to reach the aspirational level of reserves within 3-4 financial years.

Grant Making Policy

The charity does not currently engage in grant-making activity.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Overview

The NewBridge Project is an active artist-led community that supports artists, curators and communities through the provision of space for creative practice, curatorial opportunities and an ambitious artist-led programme of exhibitions, commissions, artist development and events.

The NewBridge Project was established in 2010 to provide exchange and support in an engaged community of artists. Our building houses 120 artists and numerous project and production spaces. Our public spaces, which include a gallery, bookshop and event spaces, are places where artists and local communities can come together to work, learn and socialise with each other.

We aim to deliver an outstanding programme in consultation with members, artists and the community. This creates a programme that reflects the diversity of contemporary art practice, is responsive to the environment within which it exists, builds solidarity, and places community-centred, experimental, collaborative and socially conscious programming at its heart.

Our programme consists of:

Commissions, exhibitions and projects:

We aim to deliver an artistic programme that is artist-led and experimental in its approach. NewBridge staff work alongside an evolving and rotating Programme Committee to shape and deliver an artistic programme with a diverse curatorial voice, which supports the production and presentation of new artwork through exhibitions, commissions, off-site projects, our bookshop and events.

As well as stand-alone projects and exhibitions working with early and mid-career artists, we explore broader themes over long periods which inform both each other and the way we develop our public programme and organisation. These have included: *Hidden Civil War* (2016), which explored austerity and inequality in the wake of the EU referendum; *Deep Adaptation* (2017-2018) which considered how social, political and economic issues could be understood in relation to climate change; and *For Solidarity* (2019 – ongoing) which has mapped and established a network of organisations, communities and individuals who are working toward social and climate justice, and exploring alternatives to the mainstream economic system, producing events, exhibitions and co-created projects.

We work with Co-Investigators - community researchers who gather insights and provide feedback from their diverse range of perspectives on our programme and/or themes and issues we are exploring. Each Co-investigator works with us over a year, and their input directly feeds into the development of our programme.

Community hub & public space:

NewBridge houses a gallery space, artist-led bookshop, library, screening room, event spaces and multiple workshops and project spaces. But our space is more than just a building; it's a public, welcoming place where people can come together to meet, make, learn and socialise. Through these facilities and a regular programme of events and activities including communal meals, social events, creative workshops and the *Shieldfield Youth Programme*, we aim to provide a resource for the creative and local community alike, building a community of artists, members, residents and contributors.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Overview (Cont.)

Artist Development:

NewBridge works with artists at all stages of their careers, providing support through three programmes of creative, personal and professional development. These programmes are needs-led and created *by* artists, *for* artists. *Practice makes Practice* (est. 2015) is for all artists, curators and people interested in the arts; *The Collective Studio* (est. 2017) is an annual 10-month early-career/graduate programme for artists across all creative disciplines at the start of their careers; and *Create/Disrupt* (est. 2021) which creates new pathways for people to develop a creative career and aims to remove systemic barriers that exist in the cultural sector, supporting those who are currently underrepresented.

Studio and workspace:

NewBridge provides affordable and accessible studio and project spaces for artists and creatives in the North East. The shared workspace is a critical and collaborative environment that allows artists to discuss and develop new ideas and projects. We are based at the Shieldfield Centre, a 28,000 square foot building, which, alongside our public spaces, houses over 120 studio members, co-work spaces, member-led workshop facilities, flexible project spaces for making and presenting work.

Strategic Objectives and Public Benefit

The Trustees understand and have discussed the implications of the provisions of the Charities Act 2006, which state that all charities must demonstrate that they are established for public benefit and have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees believe that the charity meets both of the key principles:

Principle 1 — There must be an identifiable benefit, or benefits:

To work towards our Vision, Mission & Values, the following strategic objectives underpin everything we do, demonstrating clear, tangible benefits.

Strategic Objectives

1. Develop artistic talent through artist development programmes, networking, curatorial opportunities and shared learning.
2. Provide opportunities for career development, employment and training within the visual arts sector in the North East of England.
3. Provide space, facilities and resources for artists in the North East of England.
4. Support the production and presentation of ambitious and pioneering new artwork outside traditional institutional frameworks.
5. Provide a welcoming environment and community hub, creating a resource and programme for artists and the local community alike.
6. Increase the number of people who experience, engage and participate in contemporary visual art, while increasing the depth and quality of their experience.
7. Create a positive organisational and working culture

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Strategic Objectives and Public Benefit (Cont.)

Principle 2 — Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public:

Each element of our work provides benefit to one or more clearly identified sections of the public, whether the artistic community or the general public, who can access and enjoy the work produced as a result.

NewBridge's beneficiaries are therefore entirely appropriate to its aims and the wider public benefit from its work.

All of these benefits are clear, evidenced and relate directly to NewBridge's aims. In addition, the Trustees do not consider that any significant detriment or harm flows from NewBridge's work.

Risk Management

The Trustees of the charity regularly review the major governance, operational and financial risks which the charity faces as part of its annual business planning process and confirm that systems have been established to mitigate these risks.

NewBridge Project has a risk management strategy in place which comprises:

- an annual review of the strategic risks the charity may face via the business plan ^[1]_{SEP}
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.
- The review of the risk register at quarterly trustee meetings to employ comprehensive and regular self-evaluation.

The Director and staff team are fully engaged in risk management and take a direct role in managing risks through the following procedure: 1. identifying risks; 2. analysing risks; 3. evaluating/ranking risks; 4. mitigating risks; 5. monitoring/ reviewing risks.

The Director works with staff and trustees to determine type of risk; strategic, compliance, financial, operational or reputational. The risk register is kept updated and an appropriate risk response employed: avoidance, mitigation, acceptance or transferal.

A risk management plan is completed for larger projects with specific/numerous risks. Any risk rated as high/critical is immediately reported to the Board.

The Trustees are satisfied that appropriate financial systems and controls and employment policies and practices are in place.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Risk Management (Cont.)

The Trustees consider the key risks facing the charity at this time and the mitigating actions taken to be as follows:

- Operational / financial: Managing new funding and reporting from North of Tyne Combined Authority - NTCA Skills for Growth Fund requires high-level reporting and financial claims funding which could stretch capacity of team.
 - A separate, detailed risk management plan has been completed for this project which identifies potential risks and resulting management and mitigating actions.
 - We have costed a Reporting/Project Officer into the NTCA bid to lead on evaluation and reporting, including monitoring financial and contractual KPI performance. This will ensure we have the capacity to do all required reporting.
 - A Project Operations group will oversee effective delivery and compliance; Director will then report to NewBridge Board of Trustees.
- Financial: Unexpected escalation of costs, resulting in difficulty to keep to budgets or delivery proposed numbers of activities - We recognise there is likely to continue to be an escalation in costs due to inflation/rising cost of living – this may impact on materials and items procured for programme delivery.
 - We will continue to seek best value for money and communicate between team members to ensure that wherever possible we can still meet our objectives.
 - As an organisation we have always been adept at adapting our programme and model in response to fluctuations in costs and funding
- Financial: Previous high-level reserves depleted by pandemic support and relocation to Shieldfield Centre, leaving us with decrease in reserves which results in less contingency
 - We have a new reserves policy and are working toward having general reserves of £100k which will cover 6 months of running costs, and sufficient reserves to cover any major financial risks.
 - We have almost reached this target due to a large number of accruals for utilities for previous buildings being less than expected when finally billed.
 - We aim to build an additional level of £50k reserves over the next 5 years which will enable us to relocate once our current lease at Shieldfield ends.
- Operational: Staff team has doubled over the last 18 months, and Director manages 8 of 10 staff, which could result in lack of cohesion and less time for support of staff team:
 - We create a good working environment for all staff, with appropriate procedures and policies in place to support wellbeing and development.
 - We will continue to have annual PDRs with all staff and bi-monthly 121s with line managers to ensure staff are supported to develop in their roles within the organisation.
 - We also have weekly team meetings, and monthly programme meetings with the full team so that all staff are informed about all our activity and support one another.
 - We are undergoing a period of organisational review, to look at gaps within our current team, where capacity is stretched and what opportunities we have to support professional development within the organisation, and recruit new staff where needed.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Risk Management (Cont.)

The Trustees also manage the general financial risks arising by ensuring that:

- Prudent budgets have been set for the next financial year
- Quarterly management accounts are provided, showing the performance against budget and any predicted deficit/surplus
- Reserves policy allows for flexibility and sustainability should unexpected costs occur

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Delivery of Objectives 1, 2 & 3 including Key Achievements

The NewBridge Project supports artists to develop their artistic practice and build sustainable careers through a number of artist development programmes aimed at practitioners at different stages of their careers. The strands are:

- **Practice makes Practice (PMP)** – ongoing programme of events and opportunities for early to mid-career artists, encouraging life-long learning
- **The Collective Studio (TCS)** – annual 10-month creative development programme for recent graduates and/or early-career creatives in partnership with Newcastle University
- **Create/Disrupt (C/D)** – new programme for practitioners with no formal degree and/or who face barriers to accessing creative opportunities
- **Programme Committee (PC)** - hands-on professional development experience, providing individuals with the opportunity to gain experience in aspects of research, curation and programme management.

Our 3 unique development strands offer multiple entry points to create accessibility to people from all backgrounds and at all stages of their career. Through a programme of events, opportunities, and online resources, we will provide practical needs-led support and advice in response to the present needs of our members and the wider artistic community.

We have also formed formal partnerships with national and regional organisations to come together to create opportunities and deliver activities to broaden the reach of our respective development programmes and activity, and the networks of those participating.

Practice makes Practice (PMP)

PMP is an ongoing artist development programme of events and opportunities aimed at early to mid-career artists, encouraging life-long learning.

PMP is a major visual arts talent development programme for North East England; it is shaped by its members and the wider creative community to ensure it develops in response to their needs and interests, creating a forum for shared learning, critical conversation, space for networks to cultivate and new opportunities and practices to emerge.

The programme is open to all NewBridge members (Studio and Associate), as well as through attending a one-off event

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

The PMP model is wide-reaching to encourage broad engagement with the programme to support personal, professional and creative development. The model is varied and includes:

- **GO PRO:** advice sessions and practical workshops exploring how to survive as an artist; from grant writing, self-employment, promoting and selling artwork, publication making and more.
- **TALK ABOUT ART:** through crits, discussions, studio visits and one-to-one sessions with artists and cultural professionals, creating a supportive environment for artists to talk about their work and get feedback.
- **WILD CARD:** artistic practice is influenced by a variety of elements; including social, political, technological and scientific – we host discussions with people from many different fields to connect artists with different sectors and current societal concerns – anything goes!
- **PEER-LED:** peer-to-peer sessions led and instigated by NewBridge members, creating a space for shared learning and discussion.
- **SOCIALS:** it's important to have a supportive peer group around you; we host get-togethers, socials and dinners, creating opportunities to meet and talk.
- **FIELD TRIPS:** we arrange visits, exchanges and field trips across cities and regions helping facilitate new networks and develop connections with artists, curators and galleries.
- **OPPORTUNITIES:** dedicated opportunities just for members including residencies, exhibitions, commissions and exchanges.

Between April 2021 – March 2022 we delivered: **25** PMP events, and **5** digital commissions alongside **63** artists. This engaged **98** Studio Members, **53** Associate Members, **63** TCS Members, **10** C/D members & a further **504** active participants and **174** digital audiences.

We commissioned **5 x PMP Online Resources** which were published on our website between April 21 - March 2022. This series of digital commissions explore current contemporary art practice, shared learning, critical conversations, and collaboration, and have reached an audience of **1085** people.

A small selection of *PMP* events in the last 12 months include:

- *Where we find ourselves* - Guided walk from Gateshead to Shieldfield, stopping at 9 sites to discuss conversations Ian has had over lockdown to re-find hope. This was followed by a screening with Star and Shadow cinema.
- *Art Fuddle* with artists Midge Ryall and Ellie Scorch - an online sharing event where people discussed hobbies, esoteric interests, works-in-progress. This was along artists members from organisations in the Kaleidoscope network (NewBridge, Primary, Spike Island, Eastside Projects)
- *Work Party for Cheats* with Rachael Clerke – a workshop where people helped one another finish the stuff and tasks they have been struggling with – from creative projects, to tax returns to t-shirt making.
- *Tax and Self Assessment Workshop* with NewBridge's bookkeeper Niamh Cunningham,
- *Art Crawl with Incursions* – Artist duo *Incursions* led a group on an art walk using CVAN (Contemporary Visual Art Network) Art Map as a guide and starting point.
- *Hyper Banality Fan Club* - An online group who meet monthly to discuss mundanity and the everyday in art. The founder members (Zara Worth, Katrina Cobain, Jill McKnight, Emily Speed, David Steans and Dr Dawn Woolley) are joined by people recruited from across the UK each month.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

We have also supported 3 residencies across the year:

Transitions research residency – Priya Mistry: Priya spent 2 weeks in residence at the recently vacated Gateshead space. The residency coincides with a period of change as NewBridge moves to The Shieldfield Centre and prepares to reopen. As part of this residency she wanted to share and develop ideas during an open-ended, tactile and imaginative workshop using clay, called *The Body is a Vessel*.

The **PMP Residency** provides artists with time and space to develop their practice within the NewBridge community, and programme PMP during their time with us.

- Artist duo **Abel Shah** resumed their residency, initially started through a series of weekly group discussions in March 2020 which explored ideas around collaboration, problems encountered working this way and strategies to open up exchange and dialogue. Unfortunately, these sessions were cut-short due to the covid-19 pandemic but the group continued to develop their discussions online. Abel Shah returned in February – March 2022 for *Exodysis II*, an exhibition and residency where they used the gallery as a space of facilitation, presenting a body of work that developed alongside ongoing dialogues with fellow practitioners and collaborators by thinking about how meaning and relationships are built through language and exploring alternative ways of communicating.

- Artist **gobscure** were selected for the 2022 *Practice makes Practice* residency, which will take place over 4 weeks between April – July. Gobscure has long worked with creative resistances: 'small' spaces where power tips. Their residency will introduce and expand on chokepoints: chokepoints are blockages that disrupt systems. The book *Chokepoints* published by Pluto Press is inspiration for this work.

The first part of their residency has engaged with and focus on staff and outsiders to NewBridge. gobscure is using publicly accessible spaces like the Shieldfield area surrounding NewBridge, the bookshop and the gallery for walking, rolling, strolling, eating together and asking questions.

Free associate membership bursaries: we are committed to ensuring that our artist development programme and support is accessible to artists from a range of backgrounds, supporting everyone to have an opportunity to develop a career in the arts. We offered 10, free annual memberships from October 2021 – October 2022. These bursaries were for artists and makers from low-income households and gave full access to our programme of events and development opportunities.

Feedback from members about NewBridge and *Practice makes Practice*:

"Wouldn't have been able to do most of the things that I've been able to achieve on my own or with others without the help and support of The NewBridge Project, I see it as a tremendous asset to our region and I often hear others from the region and from outside the region agree."

"This would've been impossible without Newbridge - the space, the support, the connections, the opportunities. If it weren't for Newbridge, I doubt I'd be an artist at all"

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

"NB has been integral to the development of my artistic practice... The people that work there are extremely helpful in helping to apply for funding, to advice on professional practice."

The Collective Studio (TCS)

TCS is a 10-month development programme for early-career and/or recent graduate artists and creative practitioners. It provides practitioners with affordable studios & workspace, access to peer-led training and development events, mentoring and a series of professional creative opportunities to develop and challenge practice outside of an institutional framework and generate resilient and imaginative approaches to creative practice.

TCS purposefully takes a flexible approach to its curriculum, providing a range of different opportunities to suit a diverse range of practices, with a regular programme shaped by and for its members. It evolves year on year, shaped by its cohort of members. TCS is run by NewBridge in partnership with Newcastle University & its Institute for Creative Arts Practice.

Between April 2020 – March 2021 we delivered: **10** TCS events, **20** socials, **4** intensive 2-day workshops alongside **28** artists. This has engaged **63** TCS Members across 2 cohorts (programmes run October – August each year).

For each cohort, we offered 2 Associate memberships and 2 hot-desk memberships for those who face barriers associated with race, disability, age, gender identity, sexuality and/or class, and 1 Studio Membership bursary to a disabled emerging artist, making the programme accessible to all.

Much of the activity for the 2020-21 which ended in August 2021 had to take place online due to Covid restrictions. This approach provided a fantastic experience for Associate members not based in the region and is something we hope to build on with future iterations of the programme - ensuring that we provide a blended programme which supports online and in person attendees.

The Collective Studio has now moved to a fantastic new space at the Shieldfield Centre, which has been designed to support collective learning and making, and the new cohort of the Collective Studio began in October 2021.

Feedback on *The Collective Studio*:

"It went well because I felt part of a creative community. Meeting new people, having access to a studio space and mentorship from peers and professionals. Being supported to realise my ideas in terms of initiating activity as well as taking part in others. Softening the blow and preparing me for life outside of uni, how to navigate my practice and to achieve / work out what I'd like out of having a practice."

"Within the last year you have enabled me to come out of my socially awkward self, create artwork I never thought was possible and to put it in an exhibition. And it does not stop there, I applied for a new job and got it, but the remarkable thing is, I was originally hoping the Collective would help me find a job working in the community, AND guess what, this is what I will be doing"

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

Create / Disrupt (C/D)

In February 2021 we launched *Create/Disrupt*, a new programme aimed at those with no creative degree, people who are underrepresented in the sector, and who might face barriers to developing a career in the arts or as an artist.

The programme started with a series of **5 x online workshops** that engaged a group of **25 participants**. The first few of sessions were informal online gatherings, where we could get to know interested participants. We then hosted 2 events in May with practitioners who did not go to university. They discussed their pathway and journey in to becoming arts workers and offered insight, advice, sharing mistakes made and opportunities that helped them enter the cultural sector. Speakers included: **BEN BROOME** – an artist and curator originally from Newcastle (now lives in London). He founded *Drawing a Blank* in 2016, an independent platform supporting artists, photographers and image makers through temporary curated exhibitions and the publishing of limited-edition prints, zines and books. **MICHAEL J FOX** is a photographer whose work is inspired by painting and sculpture, and with abstraction at the heart of his practice. His early career was cultivated in skateboarding and required using mostly analog equipment, these early experimental techniques remain fundamental to his motion projects.

The decision to deliver the first part of the project online was a result of the Covid19 lockdowns, which at the time, had no end date. Whilst hosting events online meant we reached a much broader audience – it was much trickier to build rapport between participants who all had different needs, backgrounds and experience using technology. Once restrictions were lifted, we made the decision to host all events in person.

Weekly Sessions:

We hosted 6 sessions off site at The Journey Café (at the time NewBridge were relocating to a new premise – the Shieldfield Centre) which was the first opportunity for the group to start meeting regularly. The first few weeks were spent collecting group ideas, hopes, fears and aspirations for the programme to ensure it was authentically co-created activity.

The needs of the group vary in terms of personal development but include ambitions of hosting group shows, attracting funding, facilitation and producing work collaboratively. Three common collective interests emerged from all artists enrolled in *Create/Disrupt*; A desire to feel a sense of belonging within a creative community, an element of advocacy in the programme of activity and access to a studio space.

In response to this we programmed a series of workshops, and the group have now worked with five artists and two curators all with diverse practices and varied pathways into the arts. Workshops have involved working with Lesley Guy to explore collaborative making, and we are currently working with artists George Stewart, Niall Greaves and Ciara Lenihan in the NewBridge Print Studio to collectively create a zine and develop screen printing skills.

We have also had events where Create/Disrupt members have come together with other NewBridge and Collective Studio members. This was particularly useful in not only bridging the gap between our development programme and others, but by creating a safe space for dialogues around social hierarchies and differences in experiences for those who have been to university and for those who have not. By opening up these conversations we have created a place for shared learning and skill shares between peers from different backgrounds.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

Create/Disrupt have been on research field trips; One to Newcastle art spaces, where they met with different curators and artists at spaces across the city, and one day trip to Sheffield where they visited DIY art spaces, studios and galleries. They will also be going on a trip to Liverpool later in the year.

Why Create Disrupt and the future beyond the pilot year.

The pilot year has demonstrated the need for *Create/Disrupt* to be a permanent programme and a core part of NewBridge's artist development offer. As such we identified a need to secure funding to ensure that we could continue the programme, and invest in its development and diversification.

We knew through our evaluation of equality & diversity data that there were people across multiple protected characteristics and socio-economic backgrounds who were not participating in our programmes, or applying for jobs or opportunities. *Create/Disrupt* is enabling us to take a step toward removing barriers, providing an alternative pathway toward working in the arts or as a creative freelancer, which will ultimately result in a greater diversity of people entering the cultural workforce, which we hope in the long-run will be reflected in the leadership and work of Northern cultural organisations in the future (this sounds grandiose – we know we can't do this alone – but programmes like this are a step toward making this happen).

We have secured funding from North of Tyne Skills for Growth Fund, to continue *Create/Disrupt* beyond the pilot. This will enable us to continue supporting the existing cohort, as well as reaching more people and providing more support to remove barriers and build alternative pathways into the arts.

The future development of the programme includes:

- **Core cohort:** We will continue working with and expanding the core group of *Create/Disrupt* participants who were formed during the pilot year. This will include events, workshops and opportunities that support them to further develop skills and confidence. In addition to this they will have a large shared studio space at the Shieldfield Centre, which was cited as a top priority for all *Create/Disrupt* members.
- **Young peoples programme:** Fewer than 2% of posts in the arts are held by people under 25, so we will further develop *Create/Disrupt* by creating a new strand of development aimed at people aged 18-25. Through this programme we will create opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to engage with arts and culture, explore their creativity, and pursue a pathway toward working in the arts, but do not want to or are unable to go to university.
- **Outreach – talks and workshops:** We will do a series of workshops and talks in schools, colleges and community groups to promote the programme, and through this we hope of inspiring people in Newcastle to consider a creative career as a real possibility for them, and encourage them to participate in *Create/Disrupt*.
- **Accredited programmes / paid university courses:** Whilst *Create/Disrupt* is about providing alternatives to university, we also recognise that for some it is a financial barrier that stops them pursuing a degree, rather than not wanting to go. As such we will work with Newcastle University to provide free accredited

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

Partnerships for artist development

We have developed **2 key partnership projects** as part of our artist development offer, both of which have diversified and increased what we offer our members and provided new and exciting opportunities for them to connect with creatives outside the region.

- **The Exchange** - A 6-month programme workshops, networking events and activities, with the aim of supporting artists to make connections with others across the country. The project is supporting **60 artists (10 NewBridge members)** and involves **5 partners** - Eastside Projects (Birmingham), CAMP (Plymouth), G39 (Cardiff), Spike Island (Bristol), and Turf Projects (Croydon).
- **Kaleidoscope Network** - 4 partner organisations' respective members have the opportunity to attend events hosted by the other partners. This increases the offer and national networking opportunities for our members and shares our programme with a broader geographical audience. We are working with Primary (Nottingham) Spike Island (Bristol) and Eastside Projects (Birmingham) on this.

Delivery of Strategic Goal 3

Building Move

In July 2021 we moved into a new building, the Shieldfield Centre, relocating from our 2 premises in Newcastle city centre and Gateshead High Street. This has been a long-anticipated step for NewBridge and saw us move alongside 95% of our previous studio members. Between April – June we built studio spaces ready for members to move in as soon as our tenancy started; over the summer we transformed the public spaces and opened to the public in October. Our public spaces include co-work, event, workshop and project spaces, as well as the NewBridge Gallery and NewBridge Books.

The move and refurbishment were mammoth tasks for the whole NewBridge team, who all worked incredibly hard in helping studio holders move, dismantling and returning our old spaces and refurbishing the new one.

Studios and Workspace

We recognise affordable and accessible work and exhibition space is of key importance for artists and creatives to start/continue their practice, develop their careers and make new work.

We are committed to providing space to artists at any stage of their career, working primarily within the field of visual art, with a desire to be part of a diverse and critically engaged community of creative practitioners. Our studios nurture an inclusive, collaborative environment that allows artists to discuss and develop new ideas and projects.

We have developed a tiered approach to workspace to suit the varying needs of artists. We provide individual studios, shared workspace, co-workspace, workshop facilities (darkroom, a woodwork shop, ceramics space and print studio) and flexible project spaces for making and exhibiting. We will continue to develop production spaces and resources for artists by creating practice-specific spaces, allowing us to support more artists.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

From April 2021 – March 2022, we have provided affordable studios and workspace for **108** Studio Members, **10** hot-desk members and **40** Collective Studio members across 3 sites: Carliol House (April-May 21), Gateshead High Street (April-July21), and our new site at the Shieldfield Centre (July 21 onwards).

We have hired out flexible production / exhibiting space 43 regional artists, organisations and community groups since the spaces were ready in September 2021.

Strategic planning and research

Building on our 12-year experience of occupying buildings on a meanwhile-use basis, we are actively participating in strategic regional and national conversations about affordable workspace and the importance of investment in longer-term/permanent sites for artist-led activity and studio provision.

These include:

- ***Meanwhile Space in the North:*** a consortium of organisations across the north of England currently occupying meanwhile space. The group are supported by Arts Council England as a strategic partner and have worked with a researcher to better understand and collate information on the use of meanwhile space, its economic and social benefits, and the need to go from 'pop-up' to 'stay up'.
- ***More than Meanwhile Spaces:*** a research project led by NewBridge in partnership with Newcastle University. This year we started working in partnership with North of Tyne to support their plan for Culture and Creative Zones in Newcastle, North Shields and Berwick. We are acting as a critical friend and hosting a series of events that ensure artists, artist-led spaces and grassroots organisations are an active part of these discussions, and that their needs will be met with the new plans.
- ***Newcastle Culture Compact, Place and Meaning Group:*** Rebecca Huggan, NewBridge Director, is part of this group who are contributing toward a cultural narrative and plan for places and space in Newcastle.

Delivery of Objectives 4 & 6 including Key Achievements

We have delivered Objective 4 & 5 through our exhibition, commission & events programme, supporting regional and national artists at key points in their career to produce and show ambitious new work, engaging audiences and participants in the programme.

Our programme is artist-led and we develop curatorial, production and project management skills of practitioners in the region through working with a Programme Committee of artist members to create a responsive and diverse public programme.

In 2021-22 we delivered **12 new/ongoing exhibitions and projects alongside 25 artists.**

The year was unusual due to ongoing disruption caused by Covid19 - leading to more online/digital projects, and due to the building move our public space and gallery space were closed for a lot of the year.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

Programme highlights from 21-22 include:

Overmorrow

Overmorrow was an ongoing festival running between October 2020 – July 2021, developed and produced by NewBridge and the Programme Committee, it included a series of commissions, talks and events which explore our collective futures with audiences, members and communities. The programme included 3 exhibitions (in person and online), 15 new commissions, working with 19 artists.

The final projects took place between April and June and included:

Staking Claims on the Distance

We commissioned a piece of public furniture to act as a new kind of monument to the present that encourages social interaction and celebrates ideas of collective futures. 3 artists – TOTALLER, Mickey Fenton and Esther Gamsu were selected to propose a design of their idea, and the exhibition of these ideas was been hosted on a bespoke website created by artist and Committee member Eve Cromwell. Esther Gamsu was selected to make the life size version of their design, a series of eroded and broken monuments that act as adaptable public sculptures which can act as a seat, a picnic spot, a place to collaborate, learn and play. These are installed on the balcony at NewBridge in Shieldfield.

A+E Collective: The Dream Turbine

A+E is a group of creatives working in design, film, food and writing, coming together to awaken people's imaginations and investment in a better world. *The Dream Turbine* was an online installation running from Earth Day to early summer 2021 exploring the relationship between sustainability and dreaming, offering a space to collectively share our dreams and have discussions surrounding these broader topics. *The Dream Turbine* hopes to promote alternative, non-extractive ways of thinking, desiring, memorialising and living through various ongoing crises as individuals and collectives.

Slow Breath: Camara Taylor, Rene Francis-McBrearty and Meera Shakti Osborne

An exhibition featuring new work by Camara Taylor, Meera Shakti Osborne and Rene Francis-McBrearty, curated by our Programme Committee member Calum Bayne, with a text written in response by Saoirse Amira Anis.

The exhibition centred around a new film by Camara, *Suspuration*, [noun]—a long deep breath or a sigh. The film is a collage of images, newsreels, bodily gestures, texts and sounds collected over four years. The structure and the score of the film are comprised of the body's audible release of liquid and air; enmeshed utterances and ir/regular vibrations. The film brings false promises made by the United Kingdom to the surface with pieces of news footage and a spoken testimony describing racism in the UK. Amongst this bleakness, moments of beauty shine through, indicating the possibility for reassurance and hope. This film went on to win the Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival New Cinema Award 2021.

The exhibition was preceded by 3 workshops led by Meera Shakti Osborne on rest, pining and loneliness. Participants were sent care packages in advance of the sessions and were invited to spend time with a set of pamphlets created for the workshop (and featured in the exhibition) which guided knowledge and thought, enabling people to discuss their own experiences around the 3 themes.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

Saoirse Amira Anis was invited to respond to the exhibition with a written piece, resulting in the publication *A series of escapes of air* – available via a hard copy from NewBridge, and online as a PDF.

Blazing New Worlds - NewBridge's 11th Birthday

22 October – January 2021

This year NewBridge celebrated its 11th birthday. We marked the occasion with our members and communities, bringing all together for a special series of events and creative discussions. *Blazing New Worlds* explored the current and future roles of artist-led spaces within their communities, our own role in Shieldfield over the next 5 years and beyond, and the physical and political shifts Covid-19 has imposed upon the art world.

Commissions & Residencies for *Blazing New Worlds*:

TO BUILD A HOUSE OUT OF PEOPLE* with *The Hologram

October – November 2021

This was a 6-week residency / project that explored new forms of peer-led social care, at a point when we are 18 months into a global pandemic. As well as a 4-week course for a core group of participants, there were taster workshops, public talks, a discussion around *The Hologram* book, and reading circles.

The Hologram is a viral peer-to-peer health project and an experiment in person-to-person care and cooperation in which three people (a triangle) offer to listen and ask questions to a fourth (the hologram). In time, the triangle becomes a living medical record for the hologram. The Hologram model includes a structured protocol for distributing care virally, to ensure that everyone who gives care is cared for.

The birth of the Hologram coincided with the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, forcing Cassie's work to be online until now. This was the first in-person course, and we will offer the Hologram practice as a way to build a stable social network in Shieldfield that will outlast the current crisis, and to set the social conditions for thriving no matter the personal or public crisis. The call out invites people who have faced social isolation, mental and physical challenges, lack of housing and environmental devastation to join the project.

The Hologram 'community of practice' created during this project still meets every month at The NewBridge Project.

Graeme Hopper: SHIELD/FIELD

SHIELD/FIELD was a new commission developed by local artist Graeme Hopper (Grassi Art) and will feature 25 new works, including collage photography, and two audio pieces that have been recorded around the Shieldfield area. Using their own personal photographs of the area, archive images from the Shieldfield neighbourhood and their own personal collection of materials, Graeme created a work that connects the community through abstract observations whilst highlighting the developing nature of the area and those nearby.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

Slack's Radio Residency

Slack's radio Broadcasted live from Slacks Radio booth in NewBridge's gallery over two residencies in October 2021 and January 2022 to mark *Blazing New Worlds*' opening and closure. There were 36 shows across the two 3-day residencies, which included contributions from NewBridge members, artists, DJs, musicians, local residents, organisations and the youth programme. Over half of the programmes listed below were live, the rest pre-recorded.

We also did an open call for contributions to the *Blazing New Worlds* programme. Through this we commissioned a series of 4 events and 11 mini commissions. A selection of these includes:

Events

- *Let's Talk About it* with Grace Collins and Elina Flyrin: An online creative focus group to collaboratively research how peer support can benefit artists.
- *Sculpting Sight Workshop with Bethany Stead: A clay workshop for visually impaired people exploring accessibility within arts and creative spaces, and how our new world can be improved by sighted and sight impaired individuals to be more inclusive and accessible.*

Mini commissions

- *Sponge* with Millie Carmel Jobson: A magazine created alongside the Youth Programme through a series of workshops.
- *WORK FOR WHAT? WHAT FOR WHOM?* By Joel Chima, reflecting on his time working in a covid test centre, and the systems of care created between him and his co-workers.
- *Accessible Activism: Beyond the Streets* by Kolia Bene: Drawing on the wisdom and insights of the disabled led collective Community Action to Inspire Hope in Gateshead, the artist Kolia Bene created a pamphlet to help transforming the way disabled people plan for and participate in multiple forms of activism.

For Solidarity is an ongoing project, that aims to nurture a growing peer support network of organisations, projects, initiatives and individuals across the North East. It was initiated by NewBridge and the Solidarity Economy Association in 2019, with the aim of strengthening and growing existing networks of solidarity for a more democratic, socially just and ecologically sustainable world that supports all our material and social needs. Through this we collaborate to deliver a wide range of projects, commissions, social events and a digital map.

The programme includes:

- **Strand 1: Meeting each other (and seeing what happens!)**
For Solidarity Socials are informal meet-ups for people in and outside the network, providing an opportunity to meet and learn about grassroots organisations working in the region. We hosted our first in person event since March 2020 in December, where *For Solidarity* network members talked current projects, we showed some short films about organisations in the network and shared some delicious food from Magic Hat Cafe.
- **Strand 2: Working and learning together**
We work with artists and organisations **on workshops and co-created projects** to explore themes of solidarity through learning and creative practice. In March 2022 we began a 6-month project *The NewBridge Dye Garden* – working with artist Katie Pollard to host a series of workshops and plant a dye garden on the balconies of the Shieldfield Centre. A group of planters meet each week to tend to and grow plants, and there are going to be a series of workshops with members, residents and the youth programme where we make and use the dyes.

The NewBridge Project (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

Our *For Solidarity Project Coordinator* also gives a proportion of their time to support other organisations in the network. In 2021-22 she has been working with North East Culture Against Racism.

- **Strand 3: Sharing information and resources**

Through the *For Solidarity Map* we are continuing to collect information from grassroots organisations, informal meetings, neighbourhood projects, local community groups, co-ops, and associations that share the values of the solidarity economy and using it to create a digital map/ directory, and share interviews and videos which shine a light on the work of those in the network.

The Reading Room

A collaboration between NewBridge, Left Bank Leeds, The Left Book Club, The Sustainable Studio and Pluto Press). *The Reading Room* is a new collaborative project where people can read, learn, listen, and share ideas. Through linking up with other spaces across the country, we've created libraries stocked with thought provoking books, where reading groups and opportunities to meet authors are being established, providing resources and activities that hope to catalyse creativity, collaboration and conversation.

The organisations involved share a common goal – to support and empower people within their communities. This project has been initiated in partnership with independent publisher Pluto Press, and the Left Book Club, The Sustainable Studio, Left Bank Leeds and The Other MA, and over time, each local hub will develop to reflect and serve the community within which it sits, making each space responsive and unique.

Our first event was on Tuesday 22 March, where we launched the new book *Tangled in Terror: Uprooting Islamophobia* by Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan who will be in conversation with the author Preti Taneja.

Bookshop

NewBridge Books has opened in our new location in Shieldfield – with a beautiful new look! We worked with architect Jack Mutton and fabricator Joe Shaw to build a new space which also acts as an entry and welcome point to our building.

NewBridge Books provides a resource and outlet for artists, writers and researchers, hosting a regular programme of events related to print culture. The shop offers a selection of diverse, original and hard-to-find art publications, magazines and zines, and provides a platform for independent publishers and artists who self-publish.

We have had two book launches for NewBridge books since opening in October:

- ***Daily Weeding- Kuba Ryniewicz***: Book launch for Kuba Ryniewicz's first photo book, documenting the fantastic and banal daily life Kuba and his friends in Newcastle. The book was conceived as a family photo album.
- ***Plant a forest after we are gone with gobscore/burn and friends***: Book-launch for *plant a forest after we are gone* by gobscore/burn, with live readings, film and audio work on display in the gallery by the artist. There were readings by Sean Burn / Gobscore from their new book, a spoken word piece by writer Eddie Doyle. A sound and video installed in the gallery and cinema room, and food by purplestateofmind, inspired by gobscore's book.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

Delivery of Strategic Goal 5 & 6 including Key Achievements

The NewBridge Project seeks to be a welcoming space where artists, residents and local communities can come together to work, learn, socialise and support each other.

As we move to the Shieldfield Centre we are keen to ensure that the building and its programme provide an important and exciting resource for the artistic and local community alike. The hub will host a regular programme of cultural, education and social activity for the local community aimed at people of all ages and backgrounds.

We believe that our work at the Shieldfield Centre can have a deep and meaningful relationship with the people in the area, and a positive impact on the place they live.

Shieldfield Youth Programme

In collaboration with Dwellbeing Shieldfield (a Community Benefit Society led by residents from Shieldfield) we have developed the *Shieldfield Youth Programme*, a new youth-led programme of activity built around the interests and needs of young people living in the area. It creates space for young people to come together in the place where they live and build new friendships, as well as offering opportunities for them to develop their skills and talents and to explore new ways of thinking and doing things together. It will empower people to become active members of the local community and will be locally rooted, thematically strong and will instil values of solidarity, social and economic justice, creativity and activism.

Created in response to lack of youth provision in the area, it provides a programme of activity that is responsive to young people's ideas, with their vision at its centre. This programme provides a good example of how we listen to what's needed, shape programmes with the people they are for & ensure they are open to all. We hired a qualified part-time Youth Worker in 2021, and have delivered 18 events/workshops, 12 weekly sessions, 27 detached shifts, engaging around 100 young people of whom 40 are regular attendees. In its first-year activity has included: sci-fi film writing/directing with Hot Desque, graffiti workshops, writing & performing comedy with Felt Nowt, theatre workshops with BRASH, zine making, making a radio show, planting, and the now legendary Shieldfield Community Football Cup! They have been on trips to Jump 360m Ouseburn Farm and Tyne Theatre.

We have a full team of 10 volunteers who support the running and development of the youth programme. They are made up of NewBridge and Dwellbeing members, students, local artists and residents as well as placements from Volunteer Matters Passport scheme. They are a diverse group who bring a lot of different interest and skills to the programme. They support the youth worker with detached and regular sessions as well as trips to manage and engage the young people as well as share their skills and knowledge. They are all DBS checked and are currently undergoing NSPCC safeguarding training.

Feedback from parents & teachers at schools has been that children's confidence has increased & that they had taken part in activities they would never have expected.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

Shieldfield Community Programme

Shieldfield Opening Weekend!

The Shieldfield Centre opened to the public on 22nd October, with the launch of a new exhibition, *Blazing New Worlds*, and a programme of meals and workshops over the weekend. We had around 300 people to the opening night launch, and a further 70 people attend over the weekend. There was a communal lunch prepared by local resident Kaltouma, 2 x ceramic workshops led by Juliet at the *Northern Clay Room*, in which participants made 2 bowls – one to take home, and one to leave at NewBridge to be used at future communal meals, and a drop-in print workshop throughout the day in the *NewBridge Print Studio*. The whole day had a really wonderful feeling, with lots of audiences old and new.

Working with schools

Hotspur / Cragside - art ambassadors: Community Coordinator has been meeting with local schools Hotspur and Cragside to build connections. A lot of the young people in the Shieldfield Youth Programme attend Hotspur and we are doing talks and workshops with children and teachers. They will also be visiting our space to see the exhibitions and discuss the possibilities of attending some workshops in the space.

Memory Cafe

The Memory Cafe is a project run in collaboration with The Forum Cafe on Wretham Place in Shieldfield. It's a space for people in the area with Dementia or Cognitive Impairments to chat, listen to music, enjoy an afternoon tea and try something new and creative in a relaxed environment. We meet once a month and have done print making workshops, developing some branding with studio holder George Stewart and have most recently looked through one of our participants (who is a keen photographer) photographs of the area. These sessions are led by the participants interests.

Shieldfield organisations meeting

Our Community Coordinator attends and hosts the Shieldfield Community Organisations meetings, a bi-monthly meet up for organisations and groups in Shieldfield. These are a chance for organisations in the area to update each other on what they've been up too and work on collaborative projects together such as the Shieldfield Christmas Trail. NewBridge's Marketing Coordinator has also been attending meetings and are working with the group to collectively create a local newsletter.

Community Workshops

We are working with each of the workshop spaces (Printmaking, ceramics, darkroom and woodwork) to offer a programme of twice a month rotating free workshops for the public. Some of these might be for community groups we're already working with such as Dwellbeing members, parents of children in our youth programme, caring hands service users etc. and some will be open to the public for booking or drop in.

Community Meals

A programme of community meals take place once a month in the gallery space and are a great way for us to connect with more residents in the area. We always work with organisations like Magic Hat Café – who provide sustainable meals with all ingredients saved from landfill, or work with local Shieldfield residents (there are some fabulous cooks in the area!). This has included a Community Iftar to mark the start of Ramadan, attended by 35 people and cooked by resident Kaltouma.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)

Financial Review

The out-turn for the year is an unrestricted deficit of £(1,800) (2021: surplus £26,269).

The charity's total reserves at 31 March 2022 are £347,824, of which £189,125 are restricted reserves and £158,699 are unrestricted reserves.

The charity's total Unrestricted Reserves at 31 March 2022 are £158,699.

Free reserves, defined as non-designated Unrestricted Reserves, minus the Net Book Value of Unrestricted Tangible Fixed Assets, are £118,698 at 31 March 2022. However, c£22k of these reserves has been committed to activity in 2022/23 and, consequently, available reserves are c£97k.

The Trustees consider the financial performance of the charity to be good and note that our financial planning has enabled us to be resilient and continue to weather the Covid-19 storm, and enable us to relocate to the Shieldfield Centre, and refurbish the building so it was fit for purpose.

Funding and Partnerships

The Board and staff of NewBridge would like to record their thanks to the funders and partners who made our work possible in 2021-22. We received support from Arts Council England National Portfolio, Newcastle University via Newcastle Institute for Creative Arts Practice, Newcastle Culture Investment Fund, SHED, Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries and Community Foundation.

We worked closely with a number of regional partners to deliver projects and joint initiatives, including; 36 Lime Street, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Big River Bakery, Brash Theatre, The Comfrey Project, Connected Voice, Culture Against Racism North East, Dwellbeing Shieldfield, Felt Nowt Comedy, Forum Café Shieldfield, Host Nation, Incursions, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle University, North East CVAN, Recovery College Collective (ReCoCo), Roots and Wings, Sail Creative, Shieldfield Art Works, Shieldfield Forum Café, Shipley Art Gallery, Slugtown, Star and Shadow Cinema, Tara Properties Limited, Workplace Foundation.

We also worked closely with a number of national partners in other regions to deliver projects and joint initiatives, including: AbelShah, AxisWeb, CAMP (Plymouth), Castlefield Arts (Manchester), CCSkills (for Creative Career Week), Eastside Projects (Birmingham), East Street Arts (Leeds), G39 (Cardiff), Good Press (Glasgow), GradJOB (Edinburgh), In Session (Edinburgh), Into the wild (Chisenhale, London), Left Bank (Leeds), Left Book Club (London), Metal (Peterborough), Pluto Press (London), Primary (Nottingham), Skipppco (Leeds), Solidarity Economy Association, Spike Island (Bristol), The Sustainable Studio (Cardiff), The Other MA (Southend), Turf Projects (Croydon).

We have also been part of a network of 150 organisations taking part in the Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries programme, which has provided invaluable cross-organisation support and learning throughout the year.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

PLANS FOR FUTURE YEARS

Funding and Partnerships

We have been working towards become more sustainable and resilient and have worked very hard at securing long-term funding to support our expanded staff team and programme.

We have Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding until March 2023 (extended due to Covid-19) and have applied for funding in the next investment period.

We have secured core funding until March 2025 from Newcastle Culture Investment Fund (NCIF) through the Community Foundation and Newcastle City Council.

We have a partnership agreement with Newcastle University to develop and deliver *The Collective Studio* programme until August 2025 and are working in partnership with them on the NTCA project (see below).

We have secured 3 years of funding from SHED which will support project work and staff capacity until March 2023. We will reapply for this funding in autumn of each year.

We secured funding from Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries to support a one-year fellowship for a Programme Coordinator, who was recruited in February 2021.

We have secured funding from the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Skills for Growth Fund, to support our artist development activity, totalling £534,446 over 3 years from August 2022 – July 2025.

This support has provided our team with a base of core funding from which to operate and develop the organisation.

Building

The 5-year lease for the Shieldfield Centre is our longest lease-term with no break clause to date. However, this does once again bring with it the multiple challenges of occupying space short-term.

We will continue to pursue our ambition to secure a permanent or long-term base, as well as exploring the feasibility of other business/financial models to ensure we can be responsive to different opportunities. We will continue our wide-ranging conversations with different stakeholders to explore future building options beyond this 5-year period, to ensure the future sustainability of the organisation.

Through these conversations we will also consider the legacy of the work we are doing in Shieldfield, and how we can support residents to have a say in what may come after us.

In addition to this we participate in regional and national development meetings around long-term, sustainable and affordable workspace provision for creatives.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2022

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of The NewBridge Project for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Ilana Mitchell
Trustee
Company Registration Number 10582100

31 July 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members on the Unaudited Accounts of The NewBridge Project Limited for the year ended 31 March 2022

I hereby report to the Trustees/Members of The NewBridge Project (Charity Registration Number 1165182) on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 set out on pages 27 to 37.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's Trustees (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

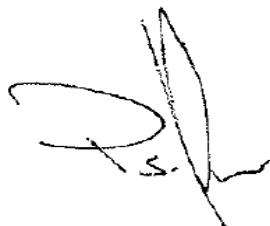
Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000, your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountant in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods or principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Pete O'Hara, FCA, Chartered Accountant
Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
4 Stoneyhurst Road West, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PG

31 July 2022

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income					
Income from Donations & Legacies	3	72,399	252,918	325,317	233,849
Income from Charitable Activities	4	115,583	31,450	147,033	112,034
Total Income		187,982	284,368	472,350	345,883
Expenditure					
Cost of Raising Funds	5	2,903	-	2,903	473
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	6	186,879	179,892	366,771	252,858
Total Expenditure		189,782	179,892	369,674	253,331
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(1,800)	104,476	102,676	92,552
Balance brought forward		160,469	84,649	245,118	152,566
Balance carried forward at 31 March	12	£158,669	£189,125	£347,794	£245,118

The notes on pages 29 to 37 form part of the financial statements.

All the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	8	39,971	8,312
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	7,634	10,107
Cash at Bank & In Hand		368,951	281,895
		<u>376,585</u>	<u>292,002</u>
Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year	10	(68,762)	(55,196)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		<u>307,822</u>	<u>236,806</u>
Total Net Assets	11	<u>£347,794</u>	<u>£245,118</u>
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Reserves	12	158,669	160,469
Restricted Reserves	12	189,125	84,649
		<u>£347,794</u>	<u>£245,118</u>

The notes on pages 29 to 37 form part of the financial statements.

The Trustees are satisfied that for the year ended 31 March 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees also confirm that the Members have not required the charity to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the charity keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

These financial statements were approved and signed by a Member of the Board of Trustees on 31 July 2022.



Ilana Mitchell
Trustee
Company Registration Number 10582100

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Cash Flow Statement

The Directors have taken advantage of the provisions of the Financial Reporting Standard Number 1, which exempts small companies from the need to prepare a cash flow statement.

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Where legacies have been notified to the charity but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.
- Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.
- Other income is accounted for when receivable.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

Irrecoverable VAT

All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Operating Leases

The charity classifies the lease of certain types of equipment as operating leases as the title to the equipment remains with the lessor. Rental charges are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the year of the lease.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on any fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the assets over their remaining useful lives as follows:

Leasehold Property Improvements	- over the period of the lease
IT & Office Equipment	- 33% per annum straight line

A full year's depreciation charge is applied in the year of acquisition and no charge is made in the year of disposal.

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Taxation Status

The NewBridge Project Limited is a Charity registered under the 1960 Charities Act and is accorded exemption from liability to taxation on its income under S505 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

2. Legal Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1. The company law members of the charity are the members of its Board of Trustees.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

3. Income from Grants, Donations & Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £	2021 £
Donations	1,111	-	1,111	-
Grant Income				
Arts Council England – NPO	71,288	-	71,288	71,288
DWP - Kickstarter	-	1,500	1,500	-
Jerwood Foundation - Creative Bursary	-	6,581	6,581	6,581
Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund - Core	-	38,000	38,000	25,000
Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund - Learn & Do	-	-	-	9,980
Pen & Palette Fund	-	-	-	1,000
Sabi Foundation	-	-	-	20,000
Sustainability.Health.Environment. Development.	-	206,837	206,837	100,000
	71,288	252,918	324,206	233,849
	£72,399	£252,918	£325,317	£233,849

Of the 2021 total of £233,849, £71,288 related to Unrestricted Funds and £162,561 to Restricted Funds.

4. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £	2021 £
Associate Membership	2,803	-	2,803	1,948
Bookshop Sales	2,266	-	2,266	727
Collective Studio Membership	5,975	-	5,975	6,357
Museums & Galleries Exhibition Tax Relief	7,595	-	7,595	10,230
Newcastle University	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Studio Membership Fees - Gateshead	3,055	-	3,055	9,546
Studio Membership Fees – Carlol House, Newcastle	12,719	-	12,719	58,188
Studio Membership Fees – Shieldfield, Newcastle	77,586	-	77,586	-
Other Income	3,584	11,450	15,034	5,038
	£115,583	£31,450	£147,033	£112,034

Of the 2021 total of £112,034, £92,034 related to Unrestricted Funds and £20,000 to Restricted Funds.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

5. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Bookshop Costs	2,903	-	2,903	473
	£2,903	£-	£2,903	£473

The 2021 total of £473 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Programme/Project Costs				
Programme Expenditure	-	72,852	72,852	51,869
Salaries & On Costs	52,847	107,040	159,887	108,254
Website Development	1,600	-	1,600	2,598
Travel & Research	2,374	-	2,374	192
	56,821	179,892	236,713	162,913
Support Costs				
Rent, Rates & Water	26,160	-	26,160	24,174
Heat & Light	20,268	-	20,268	22,580
Cleaning & Waste	10,650	-	10,650	9,337
Repairs & Maintenance	14,376	-	14,376	4,097
Depreciation	13,032	-	13,032	5,344
Other Administration & Running Costs	17,954	-	17,954	12,218
	102,440	-	102,440	77,750
Governance Costs				
Independent Examiner's Fees	1,080	-	1,080	1,080
Other Accountancy & Book-keeping Costs	3,082	-	3,082	2,265
Legal & Professional Fees	21,025	-	21,025	1,150
Programme Committee Stipend	2,250	-	2,250	7,700
Trustee Meeting Costs	181	-	181	-
	27,618	-	27,618	12,195
	£186,879	£179,892	£366,771	£252,858

Of the 2021 total of £252,858, £136,580 related to Unrestricted Funds and £116,278 to Restricted Funds.

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

7. Net Income/(Expenditure)

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Independent Examiner's Fees – current year	1,080	1,080
Depreciation of owned Tangible Fixed Assets	13,032	5,344

8. Staff Costs & Trustees' Remuneration

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gross Salary Costs	151,532	103,640
Employer's National Insurance	5,636	2,697
Employer's Pension Contributions	2,719	1,917
	£159,887	£108,254

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year (2021: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the year, calculated as full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Artistic Production and Support	6	4

No remuneration has been paid to any Trustees/Directors in the year (2021: Nil), nor was any reimbursement made to Trustees in respect of their attendance at meetings of the charity (2021: Nil).

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

9. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Workshop, Office & ICT Equipment £	Leasehold Property Improvements £	Total Fixed Assets £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	10,555	9,500	20,055
Additions in year	2,048	44,543	46,591
Disposals	-	(9,500)	(9,500)
At 31 March 2022	12,603	44,543	57,146
Accumulated Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	4,143	7,600	11,743
Charge for year	4,123	8,909	13,032
Disposals	-	(7,600)	(7,600)
At 31 March 2022	8,266	8,909	17,175
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2022	£4,337	£35,634	£39,971
At 1 April 2021	£6,412	£1,900	£8,312

10. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade Debtors	399	7,722
Prepayments	7,235	2,366
Other Debtors	-	19
	£7,634	£10,107

11. Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade Creditors	19,002	1,726
Other Creditors	499	518
Other Creditors – Studio & Key Deposits Held	9,879	8,237
Other Taxes & Social Security Costs	2,470	-
Accruals	36,912	44,715
	£68,762	£55,196

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

12. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	39,971	-	39,971	8,312
Debtors	7,634	-	7,634	10,107
Cash at Bank and In Hand	179,826	189,125	368,951	281,895
Creditors – Amounts Due Within 1 Year	(68,762)	-	(68,762)	(55,196)
	£158,669	£189,125	£347,794	£245,118

13. Analysis of Charitable Funds

	Fund at 1 April 2021	Incoming Resources in Year	Resources Expended in Year	Fund at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds				
Charity General Fund	160,469	187,982	(189,782)	158,669
Restricted Funds				
Dwellbeing Shieldfield – Shieldfield Youth Programme	-	9,951	(9,951)	-
DWP - Kickstarter	-	1,500	-	1,500
Jerwood Foundation - Creative Bursary	-	6,581	(6,581)	-
Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund – Core Programme	2,700	38,000	(35,457)	5,243
Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund - Learn & Do	9,980	-	(9,980)	-
Newcastle University – Collective Studio	11,005	20,000	(21,563)	9,442
Newcastle University – Gallery	-	1,499	(1,499)	-
Seedbed Trust	800	-	(800)	-
Sustainability. Health. Environment. Development.	60,164	206,837	(94,061)	172,940
Total Restricted Funds	84,649	284,368	(179,892)	189,125
Total Funds	£245,118	£472,350	£(369,674)	£347,794

The NewBridge Project
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

13. Analysis of Charitable Funds (Cont.)

Name of Restricted Fund	Description, Nature & Purpose of the Restricted Fund
Dwellbeing Shieldfield – Shieldfield Youth Programme	Towards the cost of a programme for young people in Shieldfield
DWP – Kickstarter	Towards the costs of employing a young person
Jerwood Foundation - Creative Bursary	Towards the cost of participation in the Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries programme
Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund – Core Programme	Towards the Practice Makes Practice programme, and related staff costs
Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund - Learn & Do	Towards the cost of Learn & Do
Newcastle University – Collective Studio	Towards the Collective Studio inc. staff costs
Newcastle University – Gallery	Towards the cost of gallery programming
Seedbed Trust	Towards the Deep Adaptation and Mapping project, inc. freelance / employed staff costs
Sustainability. Health. Environment. Development.	Towards the cost of For Solidarity project, Youth Programme, project work and events in Shieldfield, and associated staff costs

14. Taxation

The company is a registered charity and no provision is considered necessary for taxation.

15. Financial Commitments

No material financial commitments have been made in respect of future financial years.

16. Company Limited by Guarantee

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 and is limited by guarantee, each member having undertaken to contribute such amounts not exceeding £1 as may be required in the event of the company being wound up whilst he or she is still a member or within one year thereafter. There are currently 5 (2021: 7) members of the company.