

**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 2024**

**The NewBridge  
Project**

**The NewBridge Project**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
***For the year ended 31 March 2024***

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 2024.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	The NewBridge Project
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	1173849
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	10582100
<b>Registered Office</b>	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	Resigned 2 August 2023
Julia Heslop	
Eve McCracken	
Dr Paul Richter	

<b>Company Secretary</b>	Rebecca Huggan
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<b>Bankers</b>	The Co-operative Bank, Norfolk House, 84-86 Grey Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6BZ
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<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Mr P O'Hara FCA, Chartered Accountant, 26 La Sagesse, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AF
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**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 five 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 (maternity leave 15 April – 19 January 2024)  
Director (maternity cover) - Frances Stacey from 1 April 2023  
Programme Director – Dawn Bothwell (left November 2023)  
Studio & People Manager – Ruby Glover  
Operations & Reporting Manager - Sarah Stamp  
Artist Development Programmer – Daniel Russell  
Create / Disrupt Project Manager – Izzy Finch  
For Solidarity Project Manager – Hannah Kirkham  
Community Producer – Elaine Robertson  
Youth Worker – Precious Oluleye (left Feb 2024)  
Marketing Coordinator – Kitty McKay  
Bookshop & Reading Room Coordinator - Maya Wallis  
Bookkeeper – Niamh Cunningham

**The Contribution of Volunteers**

The charity makes use of volunteers to support its activities.

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Trustees**

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 last reviewed our reserves policy in April 2021.

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 aimed to build an additional, unrestricted designated reserve of £50,000 to support the charity to relocate at the end of our current lease (June 2026) if required. We have now reached this target. The target level of Unrestricted Reserves is therefore £150,000.

The charity's total Unrestricted Reserves at 31 March 2024 are £251,661. Free reserves, defined as non-designated Unrestricted Reserves, minus the Net Book Value of Unrestricted Tangible Fixed Assets, are £231,783 at 31 March 2024. However, c£25k of these reserves has been committed to activity in 2024/25 and, consequently, available reserves are c£206k, which provides a modest additional level of contingency.

**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 2024*

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Overview**

The NewBridge Project is an artist-led community established in 2010 that has evolved significantly over the past 13 years, growing in scale and ambition in response to needs of artists and local communities. We aim to reflect the diversity of contemporary art practice, be responsive to our environment, build solidarity, and place community-centred, experimental, collaborative and socially conscious programming at the heart of all our work.

Our programme consists of:

### **Commissions, exhibitions, and projects**

Our artistic programme is artist-led and experimental in its approach, supporting the production and presentation of new artwork through exhibitions, commissions, off-site projects, our bookshop and events.

We do this through stand-alone projects and exhibitions working with early and mid-career artists that provide opportunities for them to be ambitious and experiment with new ideas. We also explore broader themes over long periods; these both inform each other and the way we develop our public programme and organisation.

NewBridge works with a Programme Committee to shape and deliver a programme that reflects many voices, interests and practices, and enables new narratives, methodologies and approaches to emerge. We also work with Co-Investigators - community researchers who gather insights and provide feedback from their diverse range of perspectives.

### **Community hub & public space**

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. NewBridge houses a gallery space, artist-led bookshop, library, screening room, multiple workshops and project spaces. Through these facilities and a regular programme, including communal meals, 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.

### **Artist Development**

We have four strands of artist development, which together provide support for artists at all stages of their careers and from all backgrounds to develop new creative and professional skills.

### **Studios & Workspace**

NewBridge provides affordable and accessible studio and project spaces for artists and creatives in the North East. It is a critical and collaborative community that facilitates artists to discuss and develop new ideas and projects. Our current building, the Shieldfield Centre, is home to around 110 artists. The space houses studios, co-work spaces, member-led workshops, flexible project spaces.

We are proactive in listening and learning from everyone we work with so that we can ensure we are producing programmes and facilities that are relevant, timely and responsive to the interest and needs of the people we work with and place we work in.

### **Shieldfield Youth Programme**

The Shieldfield Youth Programme (SYP), established 2021, is an ongoing programme of activity developed by NewBridge in partnership with Dwellbeing Shieldfield and in collaboration with young people living in Shieldfield.

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Overview (Cont.)**

SYP creates a space for young people to come together in the place where they live, build new friendships, and offers opportunities to develop skills and talents and to explore new ways of thinking and doing things together. It aims to empower people to become active members of the local community and to instill values of solidarity, social and economic justice, creativity and activism.

**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. **Developing Artists** Develop artistic talent and provide opportunities for career development through artist development programmes, networking, curatorial opportunities, training and shared learning within the visual arts sector in the north east of England.
2. **Providing space** Provide space, facilities and resources for artists in the north east of England.
3. **Supporting and presenting new art work** Support the production and presentation of ambitious and pioneering new artwork in the gallery and off-site
4. **Creating a welcoming space** Provide a welcoming environment and community hub, creating a resource and programme for artists and the local community alike.
5. **Engaging audiences and communities** Create positive, in depth and quality experiences for audiences, participants and collaborators, and increase the number of people who experience and engage with visual art.
6. **Creating a good organisational and working culture** Create a positive working and organisational culture across our organisation and for those that we work with through active listening and reflection so we can develop responsively, meaningfully and with integrity.

**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 or local 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.

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Risk Management**

The Board of Trustees steer the effective governance of The NewBridge Project. They ensure the organisation is operating within its agreed aims, objectives, and values and that it is achieving its overall ambitions and vision, effectively, efficiently, safely, and legally. They review the organisational risk register quarterly at each trustee meeting to manage and mitigate risk and operate comprehensive 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 are immediately reported to the Board.

The Director and staff team report back to the Board regarding the adequacy of risk management measures so that the Board has confidence that senior management can support them.

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

**Financial:** Continued escalation of running costs, resulting in difficulty to keep to budgets or delivery proposed numbers of activities.

- Energy costs are now flattening/reducing comparatively with previous years, and the increase in studio fees that took place in 2023 meets the increases over the past 2 years.
- We have increased salaries, and reviewed and increased our artist fees and these amounts are included in our budget. Additionally, we have high level reserves and have built up a fighting/sinking fund over our first 3 years in the Shieldfield Centre which will support us to meet any unexpected costs.

**Financial:** High levels of current funding due to reduce/end in the next 12 – 18 months, demonstrating a risk to the long-term sustainability of programme delivery and staff salaries. Successful fundraising over the past 3 years has enabled us to expand our programmes and staff teams across operations, artist development, communities and youth programming. However, some of our regular and core funding is ending or reducing in the next 18 months.

- Apply to current funders for renewed funding where applicable
- Apply to new funds including Garfield Weston Foundation, Newcastle Youth Fund, National Lottery, and ACE Place Partnership - ensuring a mix of project and core funding.
- Recruiting a new Development & Reporting Manager with fundraising expertise to support implementation of fundraising strategy.

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Risk Management (Cont.)**

**Operational:** Loss of building with lease coming to an end in June 2026 (2 years) with no viable alternative secured.

- We have had positive conversations with the Council about extending/renewing the lease beyond this point and are hopeful that we will not need to leave the building in June 2026.
- We are working with Newcastle University on a Social Impact Report which looks at the impact of our work in Shieldfield, and Ortus Economic Research to evaluate our artist development work – collectively this will support us to make a case to stay, and evidence the value of our work.
- Additionally, we are working with the Council to look at alternative premises in the city centre (as part of the 'Newcastle Creative Cluster') should it be needed.

**Operational:** Recent changes in staff team could result in lack of cohesion for staff team.

- Director and Director (maternity cover) undertook an organisational review in March, establishing a new line management structure, which will best support us to support people professionally and pastorally.
- We continue to work with Limelite HR to support the team and provide training for line managers.
- A refreshed schedule of 121s, PDRs, and regular team meetings, support us to focus on individual needs and progress, and collective work.

**Operational:** Large number of young people (100+) on the 'books' for Shieldfield Youth Programme could result in higher and different requirements for safeguarding that we cannot meet.

- Working with partners Dwellbeing Shieldfield we have reviewed the delivery of the Youth Programme, taking in to account the large number of participants, and our knowledge to date of the safeguarding requirements, and have recruited for a new youth team who will oversee the management of safeguarding, including training a new DSO.
- We have two trustees who are responsible for safeguarding (Eve McCracken and Ilana Mitchell), who work with the Director (DSO), Youth Team, and Communities Producer (DSO) to oversee safeguarding, reporting, record keeping and policy development.

**Strategic/Financial:** Our partnership with Newcastle University & TCS comes to an end in 2025. This is an incredibly strong partnership, but the University's ability to support the programme financially may change so we are beginning to explore ways in which we will work together on this collaboration in the future.

- The relationship is managed by the Director and Dean of Culture and Creative at the University, and we have a number of formal meetings to support ongoing partnership. This includes a monthly Project Operations Group Meeting and a quarterly Steering Group Meeting (both as part of NTCA project) – the focus of the next meeting will be to discuss future plans, opportunities and options.

**Strategic:** Succession planning for Board of Trustees, with key roles (including Chair) coming to the end of their term in 2026. Steps to mitigate this risk that we will take throughout the year

- We will conduct a skills audit Summer 2024, to look at current skills of the Board, as well as looking at what we will lose when 3 trustees reach end of term.
- Call out for new Trustees to be launched Autumn 2024
- We will look at a plan to stagger resignations and onboarding so there will not be too much change all at once and ensure the charity remains well governed and supported throughout.



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**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 Strategic Objective 1: Developing Artists**

NewBridge supports artists to develop their artistic practice and build sustainable careers through several artist development programmes. The strands are: **Practice makes Practice (PMP)**; **The Collective Studio (TCS)**; **Create/Disrupt (C/D)**; **Programme Committee (PC)**

Our 4 strands offer multiple entry points to create accessibility to people from all backgrounds and at all stages of their career.

We have formal partnerships with national and regional organisations to create opportunities and deliver activities to broaden the reach of our respective development programmes and activity.

**Practice Makes Practice (PMP)**

**PMP** focuses on developing artistic talent and equips artists with necessary skills to manage their practice. It is developed in response to the needs and interests of members and the local creative community, ensuring that it provides relevant learning opportunities to support a wide range of practices, interests, career stages and backgrounds.

Its tiered membership pricing enhances accessibility and 10 memberships per year are offered free to artists and makers from low-income households and other under-represented groups.

Between April 2023 – March 2024 we delivered: **107 PMP** events and one-to-ones, with **131 artists**. This engaged **875** active participants and **179** digital/online audience members.

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

- **4 MotherOther Community Sessions**: for artists/art workers who are also caregivers
- **ReEmergence** (part of MotherOther) explored strategies for artists at the start of their caregiving journey, who are attempting to balance work and caring responsibilities
- **Meet and Mend** led by member Jenny Alderson
- **Neighbourhood Watch** led by Aaron Dawson Riley and Lib Hodes, an opportunity to show digital moving-image works eg computer animation, documentary, abstract video
- **Peer review** led by Rachael Eden bi-monthly relaxed community-led crit session.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

**Kaleidoscope Network** Our collaboration with Primary (Nottingham) Spike Island (Bristol) and Eastside Projects (Birmingham) continues to broaden our artist development. 11 events per year open to participating organisations' members. A selection of Kaleidoscope events attended by our members included:

- Tax and Self Assessment with Neisa Reid (Primary)
- Creative Access Adjustments with Jamila Prowse (Spike Island)
- Building Project Budgets with Catherine Fowles (Eastside Projects)

**Practice Makes Practice x MOTHEROTHER**

The PMP Residency 2023 was part of our partnership with the MotherOther project initiated by NewBridge member Sue Loughlin. MotherOther is an inclusive and supportive collective for artists who are also caregivers – parents, guardians and carers.

The residency was for any artist with a significant caring role impacting their ability to develop their practice or navigate current art infrastructure due to lack of support. NewBridge worked with the chosen artist to respond to their particular caring responsibilities. The budget included tailored wraparound support and childcare. We received over 60 applications.

Lizzie Klotz was the artist in residence Aug – Nov 2023. Supporting Lizzie and her baby was a longtime collaborator, and friend, who cared for both mum and baby for a portion of time each day. and acted as a sounding board in the development of Lizzie's work.

Sue Loughlin reflected recently: *"NewBridge has enabled me to achieve the beginnings of an entirely new chapter in my practice and work-life. Without their support and that of Dan Russell, I would not have been able to achieve the MotherOther project, which in turn is cascading support to other artists across the region...I have become capable of sustaining a career within the arts, which would not have been possible without it."*

**Additional artist development opportunities**

**20** emerging arts workers have been working alongside NewBridge staff to deliver our coffee mornings, socials and community events, and supporting with installation of exhibitions.

This **hands-on work experience** for early-career freelancers grew out of a clear need for practical work experience, to build skills and networks, and give them that vital first role on their CV.

**The Collective Studio (TCS)**

TCS supports early-career and recent graduate artists and creative practitioners. Subsidised studio space plus a series of tailored events and workshops support personal and creative development, confidence building, and address knowledge and skills gaps.

The programme is run in partnership by NewBridge and Newcastle University, and aims to attract, develop and keep the brightest creative talent in the North East.

TCS has an educational philosophy that advocates for learner-chosen activities. This supports the difficult transition from University/College to studio-based practice, gallery, and workplace.

# **The NewBridge Project**

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### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

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#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

The 11-month programme builds rapport and helps people to make friends, share and learn from one another's practices. Past TCS members gain experience devising and delivering activity for current TCS. External facilitators share diverse expertise, and there is opportunity to network with similar programmes around the country.

Between April 2023 – March 2024 we supported **2 cohorts** of TCS with **71 members** in total. In this time, we have produced **17 events**, alongside **23 artists/facilitators**.

##### **The Collective Studio 2022-23**

The 22-23 TCS ended in August 2023, there were 31 collective studio members in the cohort which began in October (a mix of studio, hot desk and associate members).

A selection events between April - August 2023:

- **Wikimesh Hybrid:** session to teach TCS members how to use Wikimesh, an online community-built space by and for UK artists, developed by Sophie Chapman at Chisenhale Gallery and Into the Wild (an early career artist development programme).
- **Print workshop with the Print Studio and Overlay Press .**
- **Running artist-led spaces:** 3 past TCS members shared their experiences of setting up, running and programming local and national artist-led spaces and studios.

##### **The Collective Studio October 2023-August 2024**

**40 artists** began TCS in October 2023: 18 studio, 10 hot-desk and 12 associate members. We continue to support recent Newcastle University graduates with 50% of shared and hot-desk places.

The application process gave clear instructions about what we wanted to see in an application, a big list of FAQs, tips on writing a biography, and ideas for what makes an application stand out. 2 hybrid open days provided opportunity to visit and chat to NewBridge staff and past/current TCS members.

Activity to date has included:

- A two-day introductory intensive
- Artist Vicki Doyle led a session on 'Voice and Listening', designed to allow shyer or quieter members of the cohort to think of ways their ideas and suggestions can be heard.
- Get to know each other workshop led by Adam Wilson-Holmes.
- Past member Lucas Priest plus two Embassy Gallery committee colleagues hosted a shared meal, discussion on artist-led initiatives, and led some 'art-world' based games and activities.

Activity since January focussed on the cohort exploring their own work and sharing with each other:

- February: 2-day session led by Cody Sowerby and Alice Highet (past members) explored sustainability through reuse
- March: Mike Jeffries led a mapping and re-mapping workshop of our neighbourhood, city and points of importance.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

**Create/Disrupt (C/D)**

C/D is for aspiring artists and art workers who have not completed an under-graduate degree. It aims to break down socio-economic barriers to pursuing a creative career, and NTCA funding is enabling it to grow into an accessible, long-term programme of support, with multiple entry points, that promotes diversity and inclusion, and provides access to training, opportunities and networks.

Our 2023 programme ran until December 2023. To close their year, the cohort decided to host an exhibition. In its lead up they worked with art technicians and art handlers to learn about diverse careers in the arts as well as practicalities of hosting and installing an exhibition. The exhibition took place on 3rd December and **42** people attended. Some members have taken on studios and renewed their NewBridge membership, others have kept touch and continue to make art together.

Two case studies about participants on the 2023/24 C/D programme:

- Yulia is a Ukrainian Refugee and photographer who resettled here in 2022. She had not previously had any public shows or paid art work but since taking part in C/D she has completed two artist residencies, 4 group shows and regular paid work as a freelance artist.
- Ellen is non-binary artist, photographer, illustrator and musician. Ellen was interested in Izzy's personal journey and decision to do a Masters without a previous undergrad degree. Izzy supported them to apply to a music therapy masters which they are now doing fulltime.

Feedback about the 2023/24 programme:

*"Being on Create/Disrupt has changed my life and focused my aspirations and personal and professional aims. I'm going to take on a studio once this programme ends and I feel really lucky to have found the NewBridge community at this stage of my life ...Thankyou!" - Peaches*

*"This has been something out of my comfort zone and at times I have felt awkward but Izzy makes it such a welcoming space and I am really proud of everything we did this year together." – Jamie*

*"The whole programme has been amazing but meeting other artists and doing our show at NewBridge were highlights for me... I loved having a space that was mine to work from and make art and not have to worry about it taking up space in my house that I share with other people. Materials can be so expensive, and I have loved being able to make anything I want while I am on Create/Disrupt."*

*"Meeting so many established artists and hearing them talk about their practice in such a vulnerable way has been so valuable and has definitely informed how I approach being an artist now." – Nancy*

**Create/Disrupt 2024**

The C/D 2024 programme started in February with an informal meal and social. The group shared hopes and aspirations for the year. Izzy mapped the group's interests with appropriate artists to deliver workshops and talks each week: eg access riders and visiting Shieldfield Art Works for *Close But No Varz*, exploring how pressure of being a working class artist can turn passion into obsession.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

The group are moving into their shared studio at the beginning of April.

*C/D member said "I personally feel I do not have access to certain networks, or often get closed out of spaces/conversations, due to not "fitting the mould" and opportunities are not as readily available to me, in comparison to more financially or academically privileged people. However, these peers will continue to coexist within the same community, gatekeeping - often without intention. There needs to be more action in order to initiate impactful and meaningful change, without exploitation of working class people (like myself) and I'm keen to explore how that is possible in a kind, safe and supportive environment - that I feel NewBridge and more specifically Create/Disrupt can help nurture".*

**Programme Committee**

**Programme Committee 2022–24** – see exhibitions below

**Programme Committee 2024-25**

An open call for the 2024-25 Programme Committee launched in November 2023. 63 artists applied and were of very high quality, demonstrating demand. 6 were selected following a rigorous process..

This year's cohort have interests spanning from music, performance, comedy, publishing, DJ-ing, and curating to queerness, solidarity, coding, community organising and librarianship: Holly Argent, Ellie Armon Azoulay, Dan Goodman, Kaan K, Shelly Knotts, and Seymour Mace.

Together they will produce a season of public programming from September 2024 to March 2025.

In February 2024 we hosted an introductory weekend workshop with the 6 new members, hosted by Programme Director Frances Stacey, Director Rebecca Huggan and invited artists Lady Kitt, Incursions, Overlay Press and Food&Solidarity.

In March 2024 we hosted the committee in Glasgow for a go-and-see field trip over three days, culminating in a session where each committee member shared their proposals with each other, beginning to identify ways to support one another, connect and build a programme collaboratively.

**MFA bursary in partnership with Newcastle University** – we launched two bursaries for students taking the 2024 – 2026 Master of Fine Arts course starting September 2024. The bursaries cover full tuition fees for the two-year MA, as well as a stipend toward living costs of £8000 per year.

The bursaries are aimed at prospective students living in the North of Tyne area (Newcastle, the Borough of North Tyneside and Northumberland) who have faced barriers to accessing higher or postgraduate education. They are intended to create pathways into study for people who have experienced financial hardship or other barriers, and/or have not previously participated in higher education but have a creative practice.

This builds on NewBridge and Newcastle Universities shared commitment to making a career in the arts more accessible to more people, providing opportunities to those underrepresented.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

**Delivery of Strategic Goal 2: Providing Space**

Affordable, accessible work and exhibition space is of key importance for artists and creatives to start/continue their practice, develop their careers and realise new work.

We work in consultation with our studio members, ensuring their voices are represented across our work, which we do through hosting member meetings through the year.

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 are committed to embedding accessibility and diversity, both through ensuring physical accessibility, and through active programmes that ensure individuals from protected characteristic groups are able to join and use our facilities. This includes bursaries and free studios as part of TCS and C/D, and community events in our member-led workshop facilities.

**Studios and hot desk space**

We provide affordable workspace to artists at any career stage, working primarily within visual arts, with a desire to be part of a diverse and critically engaged community of creative practitioners.

All members benefit from full access to *PMP*, and discounted access to project and making spaces.

We provide: individual and shared studios, priced according to size; subsidised space for TCS members, and free space for those on C/D. Our affordable hot-desk membership provides low-cost, 24-hour access for those who need a space to work, but not a dedicated studio.

From April 2023 – March 2024, we have provided affordable studios and workspace for **87** Studio Members, **9** hot-desk members, **73** TCS members, **21** C/D members.

**Project and hireable space**

Flexible project, exhibition and workshop spaces offer opportunities to exhibit and make work in a supportive space. We also provide bookable meeting space for artists, creative professionals, charities and community groups who are not members. This year we have had **16 external hires**, and **192 hires by studio members**.

**Workshops**

Our practice-specific workshops include a wood workshop, darkroom, print studio and ceramics studio. They are led independently by members who receive discounted space in exchange for opening their workshops to NewBridge members, creatives and local community.

**Socials and events**

We host regular socials and events for our members, creating opportunities for community building.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

**Delivery of Objectives 3: Projects, Exhibitions and Events**

We aim to deliver an artistic programme that is truly artist-led and experimental in its approach. The programme is based around collaboration; responsive to our social, political, civic and environmental context; reflective of the diversity of contemporary artistic practice.

We prioritise commissioning new work by innovative and ambitious emerging and early-career artists at key points in their development. Alongside this, we also work with regional, national and international mid-career artists to enhance our support for emerging practices or explore critical themes and organisational development.

In 2023-24 we delivered **13 new (and some ongoing) exhibitions and projects**. Highlights include:

**Exhibitions**

**Beverley Bennet: Simon Says Dadda** explores father/daughter relationships among Black and Asian women and non-binary individuals. Comprising a newly commissioned 3-channel installation, the exhibition highlights the deep impact that structural inequalities have within wider society.

Attended by **498 visitors**, with very positive feedback on the work, experience, and quality of installation:

*"A beautiful and thoughtful piece of work; wonderfully presented. A warm welcome and a cup of tea from staff in the grounding space before entering the exhibition. Both the triptych and single screen film beautifully presented. Work is brilliant and thoughtful - second time I have come to see the show."*

*"Thanks for making this work – sad, intense, emotional, important to voice these feelings and create a space for others."*

*"Totally unexpected today – I was passing by and popped in. I am so glad I did. What a beautiful, powerful, important work. Thank you".*

**(Re)Grounding with D6: Culture in Transit**

An exhibition co-produced by D6 and Kyiv-based IZOLYATSIA with artists Alexandra Clod and Karolina Uskakovych, responding to the climate crisis by exploring the shared industrial past of the UK and Ukraine and its impact today. It attracted **350 visitors** and feedback includes:

*"I felt so connected to both women growing tomatoes and to that sense of connection with the earth".*

*"A really moving exhibition... thanks for sharing a glimpse of your lives together and apart".*

**Bordered Belonging**

Exhibition by 2022-2024 Programme Committee member Bhavani Esapathi. As an immigrant, disabled woman of colour much of Bhavani's work is impacted by her lived experiences. Project Manager Izzy Finch worked with Bhavani to respond to the themes of her research around disability, bordering, access and healthcare. The exhibition included work by Leah Clements, Jamila Prowse, Jamie Hale and a loan from the National Disability Collection and Archive. It attracted **387 visitors** in its 6-week run.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

Feedback from artist Jamila Prowse: *"I appreciate you being so responsive and helpful throughout this process, you've been so brilliant to work with! The install looks so gorgeous, I'm so impressed with how you've put the show together!"*

Feedback from a visitor, Mymona: *"I have found this show to be really emotional and powerful because you just don't see this stuff talked about in galleries. I looked after my sister who has chronic pain for years and I just wish I had access to something like this or the words to describe the things we were both feeling at that time. Thank you for making such an important show happen."*

**Projects**

**TopSoil** is a collective of queer gardeners who meet weekly since April 2023 to grow their own food, as well as deepening knowledge around sustainability, queer ecology, natural dyes and gardening which they see as a radical act of resistance. **60+** people involved with a **core group of 20** people.

They have an allotment nearby in Heaton. During the Winter, they met regularly e.g. for reading groups and pickle making sessions. They are working collectively to make a publication reflecting on the past year's activity together. Feedback:

*"It is a very welcoming and positive place and is excellently supported and planned by Izzy in an encouraging democratic, inclusive and purposeful way ... The group is diverse has a good age range and very importantly is a safe space... People seem to naturally come together to carry out tasks and focus on the projects we have been developing whilst sharing knowledge and experience and listening to each other. It feels like a unique project that is very important to those who attend, some of whom travel a long way to get to the project"- Gordon*

One participant, Jemima, wrote a powerful article in Shado manazine about the groups collective work and sense of belonging the programme has created:

*"We see gardening as an act that pushes against capitalism. We take things slowly, rest, look after each other and try to create a space that imagines a better way of living – the opposite of the fast-paced and intensely productive and extractive lives the capitalist system idealises."*

**For Solidarity** (2019-) nurtures a growing peer support network and aims to make visible grassroots initiatives that are helping people to meet their material and social needs in ways that don't harm people or the planet, who are part of a Solidarity Economy. Key projects in 2023-24 year:

- **Solidarity Screenings** – three days of films programmed by Other Cinemas as a fundraiser in the wake of the escalation of violence and devastation in Palestine and the Middle East.
- **Garden visits** - series of community garden visits in the North East, in collaboration with Shieldfield Art Works and Dwellbeing Shieldfield to find out more about each project.
- **Housing and Community Action Workshops** - inspired by Ed Webb-Ingall's A Bedroom for Everyone, devised in collaboration with local community organisers Elgan John (Food and Solidarity) and Safiah Fardin.



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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

**The Reading Room** is a 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, opportunities for reading groups and to meet authors, resources and activities that hope to catalyse creativity, collaboration, and conversation. Recent events include:

- December: offsite visit to Visual AIDS: A Day With(out) Art film screening followed by a workshop with Fiona Anderson
- February - online letter writing workshop with artist Kasra Jalilipour inspired by the book *Radical Intimacy* and an author talk with Nat Raha (contributor in *Transgender Marxism*).

**NewBridge Books** offers a selection of diverse, original and hard-to-find art publications, magazines and zines, and a platform for independent publishers and artists who self-publish. Regularly hosts events including *Binder*, a monthly gathering for makers and readers of artist's books, photobooks, zines, and visual printed matter.

**Delivery of Strategic Goal 4: Community Space and Programme**

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

Since we moved to the Shieldfield Centre in 2021, we have built a responsive programme from the ground up that ensures the building and its programme provide an important and exciting resource for the artistic and local community alike.

Our lively programme adopts a truly place-based approach, working collaboratively with Shieldfield residents to inform our programme and empowering local people to make & experience art. We believe we can have a positive impact on the place they live.

A regular events programme includes workshops with artists, communal meals and socials including a weekly coffee morning and wellbeing hub.

*"It almost feels like a second home, really... it's a place of work, but it's also a kind of place you can feel relaxed in"* (Stephen, NewBridge-based artist).

*"This is my second home. I love coming here, it lifts my spirits immediately"* (Feedback form, regular visitor)

In 2023-24 we have delivered **157 events and regular sessions**, for **2,325 participants**, working with **29 artists and 20 regular facilitators** to deliver the programme. It has included:

**Shieldfield Youth Programme (SYP)**

We host SYP in partnership with Dwellbeing and in collaboration with young people living in Shieldfield. It currently engages 90+ young people a week, in an area with no previous youth provision. SYP is youth-led, our weekly activity is responsive to young people's ideas, with their vision at its centre.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

Older youth group members' leadership skills have grown, and they have led their own creative sessions, supported younger members, and hosted talent shows/events. SYP not only supports young people, but reaches the wider community, reducing isolation and building community in the whole locality.

*"The Youth Programme is a place to come home. It boosts my confidence, is a place to meet new people and be happy" (Anonymous, Youth Programme member)*

*"When I was in school, I'd usually tell myself I wasn't really good at art...but NewBridge helped me to build my confidence, to think I'm good at stuff" (Lena, young person)*

**Shieldfield Youth Voice with Kema Kay**

The 'Shieldfield Youth Voice' project explored the relationship between music and social action. The project group from the SYP met regularly with Newbridge-based musician and rapper Kema Kay to learn song writing, rhythm, musicality, production, and how to share their stories in a fun and relatable way. The sessions also became a space to address the issues that held meaning for the young people involved. They wrote and recorded three raps which were performed with Kema at a Talent Show at Star & Shadow Cinema.

Kema's background, similar to that of the young people in SYP, and the opportunity to see a difficult task through to completion, were noted as being particularly important factors.

*"Knowing that Kema's came from like, what, the background we've come from. So I think that, that's different for wer as well. He's came from, like he can relate to it. It's not just like he's came from nowhere and doesn't have a clue about anything"*

Kema said: *"it's shown them that they can achieve something and have an idea in their head and actually put it into this world and finish it and see the result of it, which can then teach them to go off to do other things and be like, 'Oh remember I done this really difficult thing and I created this, now I face this task, I can probably complete that"*.

There was also a clear sense that the young people involved felt valued, more confident in speaking out and understanding they have the power to impact what happens in their local community.

*"We want to feel like what we do is important, that it's not just for NewBridge and Dwellbeing but the whole community"*

**Working with schools**

Our Communities Producer worked with Art Ambassadors at Cragside and Hotspur primary schools in Newcastle to put on 2 pop-up exhibitions. Both were developed through workshops with the school children where they developed ideas, designed, and made posters and artwork for the shows. We hosted visits and tours with **10 groups** from the schools at NewBridge :**80 children** took part and **461 people** visited the exhibitions.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

**Memory Cafe**

An ongoing project in collaboration with The Forum Café, Shieldfield, benefitting Shieldfield residents who live with dementia and the people who support them. Through providing an activity with an artist, it encourages engagement, creativity and self-expression, helping to build confidence. It is hosted by staff and volunteers from NewBridge and the Forum Café. **12 events** this year for **15+ regular participants**, many of whom now regularly attend other events at NewBridge.

**Community Chefs Residency**

Building on our regular community meals, in these 6-month residencies we worked with a different local cook or chef to embed professional and creative development through a co-produced project or event, alongside a series of community meals, recipe sharing sessions and workshops.

**Kaltouma Hassaballah**

Pilot residency collaboratively shaped by Kaltouma, a prominent leader in the Shieldfield community. Kaltouma hosted sessions as part of Coffee Mornings, Forum Café, SYP and Saturday Socials, sharing Sudanese coffee, sweet treats and food, creating a welcoming space to gather and connect.

Her residency included a session with the Print Studio and the creation of an outdoor Dukhan—a traditional Sudanese scented smoke bath that brings women together for pleasure, health and restoration. Culminated in a 3-day celebration event *Kandake: Sudanese Sisters* in April 2024.

**Hana Azahed**

Shieldfield-based chef and artist Hana Azahed undertook our 2nd residency. Hana specialises in Libyan cuisine and is interested in sharing cultures from her home, Ghadamas, a Unesco World Heritage Site. Hana has been sharing traditional drawing techniques, typically used for ceramic decoration and working with Stephen Brown in our Ceramics Studio on a range of ceramics.

**Socials**

We provide regular opportunities for community building, hosting spaces and activities which invite people to come together in our space and socialise. In 2023-24 we hosted a weekly Monday coffee morning, and a Saturday Social – originally part of Newcastle City Council's Winter Wellbeing Hub scheme. Socials are attended by 8-25 people weekly.

**Delivery of Strategic Goal 5: Audience Engagement**

We have always placed audiences and participants at the forefront of our work, and we will continue to deliver a responsive, diverse, and varied programme that aims to attract people to our activities.

In the last few years our audiences, participants and collaborators have diversified and grown, and our programmes have adapted and changed responsively. In particular, our move to the Shieldfield Centre has seen a significant shift in our priorities and who we engage with our work.

As one artist reflected: *"NewBridge is a fantastic example of how the arts can embrace everyone. They strive to embed best practice, share their knowledge, and use their experience to improve opportunities, connectivity and access for all within their community."*

As highlighted, all our above programmes engage a wide variety of audiences in different ways. Our key priorities in 23-24 were:

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

**Increase the depth and quality of people's experience of contemporary art:**

We have delivered talks, events and workshops and offered different ways to engage with our work. We have built upon existing partnerships to diversify and increase audiences including the Kaleidoscope Network, MotherOther and For Solidarity Network.

**Increase the number of people who experience and engage with contemporary art:**

We have increased the number of people who engage with our work, in particular exceeding our own ambitions with local residents in Shieldfield, and have built a strong audience of local people, through events, targeted marketing, and responsive programming based on their interests.

**Ensure that our space and programme is as accessible as possible**

We have improved accessibility in our building with new signage and video walk-throughs on our website. We have audited communication online and in print for accessibility, and now offer large format texts, translated text where possible, and image captioning.

We have introduced a visual story for some exhibitions, with information and pictures that help prepare people for their visit to the building and the specific exhibition.

We regularly reflect on who takes part and embed accessibility in our planning approach, ensuring opportunities are suitable for people with different experiences, backgrounds and needs. We continue to offer bursary places and free memberships, creating space for people to try new things, and for many voices to shape our programmes.

**Build our profile and reputation at a regional, national, and international level**

Our programme is truly artist-led and experimental, valuing collaboration and co-production with other arts organisations, charities, groups of artists. Through partnership and long-term collaboration, we have worked to build our national profile as an organisation that commissions and exhibits outstanding artworks with a unique approach to supporting artists and local communities.

NewBridge seeks to create a positive working and organisational culture across our organisation and through all areas of our activity. We strive to be a learning organisation that regularly reflects on the way we work, and how we can develop this responsively, meaningfully and with integrity, and make urgent and considered change when required.

We want NewBridge to be a good place to work for our staff and volunteers, and for that positivity to be reflected in our building and the work we programme, alongside robust organisational procedures that support people pastorally and professionally so they can do their jobs well.. Our strong team bring their own skills, creativity, experiences and perspectives to work. We create space for open and honest conversation, so that the whole team are able to support each other's work and are able to think critically and collectively about our organisation, programme and what we want to do better in the future.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

Through our programme we often explore complex issues. It is important to us that these values and explorations are not 'surface level;' we want them to resonate through the whole organisation. On the flipside, we spend a lot of time as a team talking about issues and things that really matter to us and how we work - we are aware that these conversations or resulting policies aren't always shared publicly. We are committed to shifting this balance, making more transparent and public our 'behind the scenes' work, and better embedding the learning from our public programmes across our values and policies.

**Projects**

Across a number of projects, we will work with artists and organisation to support the ongoing development of a positive working and organisational culture, supporting learning and advocacy across the organisation.

**- GROUNDWORK**

Groundwork is a new, long-term co-learning project with Arts Catalyst (Sheffield), Primary (Nottingham) and The Showroom (London) exploring how arts and cultural organisations can better resource and strengthen the communities and places that they work within.

**- MOTHEROTHER x Practice Makes Practice**

Our collaboration with MOTHEROTHER creates space to listen and learn from the experiences of those who are carers working in the arts. This will support us to embed change within our own organisation, as well as advocating for wider change across the sector.

**Home rearing**

A long-term residency with Newcastle-based artist Lady Kitt and their two children Finn and Ada are asking (and answering) the question: is it permissible, useful or desirable, for arts organisations to embody habits, codes, approaches or structures of home into public programming, space & relationships?

Through creative activities and chats Kitt is collaborating with NewBridge communities (including staff) to use socially engaged approaches in the development and embedding of our environmental policy and our braver spaces policy.

**Operations/Structure**

Some key actions and learning being implemented in 2023-24 year include:

• **Limelite HR & Learning**

We started working with Limelite HR in February 2023 and have found their support in the last 18 months completely invaluable. They provide us with bespoke advice, templates and guidance for policies and contracts, as well as training across different areas of HR.

• **Staff team**

Following some staff changes, Director Rebecca and Interim Director Fran had an away day looking at organisational development and have outlined a new line management structure and identified some key capacity gaps for recruitment.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

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

**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 2023-24. We received support from Arts Council England National Portfolio, Newcastle University, Newcastle Culture Investment Fund, SHED, Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries, Jerwood Artists Foundation, #iwill fund, Ouseburn Ward Funding, North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Skills for Growth Fund, SHED and Community Foundation.

We worked closely with a number of regional partners to deliver projects and joint initiatives, including; Artist Network North East, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Big River Bakery, Caring Hands, The Comfrey Project, Connected Voice, Cragside School, Culture Against Racism North East, Dwellbeing Shieldfield, Forum Café Shieldfield, Hotspur School, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle University, SAW, Shieldfield Forum Café, Slugtown, Star & Shadow Cinema.

We also worked closely with a number of national partners to deliver projects and joint initiatives, including: CAMP (Plymouth), Castlefield Arts (Manchester), CCSkills, Eastside Projects (Birmingham), Good Press (Glasgow), Into the wild (Chisenhale, London), Left Bank (Leeds), Left Book Club (London), Lux (London), Metal (Peterborough), Pluto Press (London), Primary (Nottingham), Solidarity Economy Association, Spike Island (Bristol), Turf Projects (Croydon).

**Financial Review**

The out-turn for the year is an unrestricted surplus of £74,925 (2023: surplus £18,067).

The charity's total reserves at 31 March 2024 are £371,437, of which £119,776 are restricted reserves and £251,661 are unrestricted funds.

The charity's total Unrestricted Reserves at 31 March 2024 are £251,661. Free reserves, defined as non-designated Unrestricted Reserves, minus the Net Book Value of Unrestricted Tangible Fixed Assets, are £231,783 at 31 March 2024.

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*For the year ended 31 March 2024*

**PLANS FOR FUTURE YEARS**

**Funding and Partnerships**

We have been working to become more sustainable and resilient, including securing long-term funding to support our expanded staff team and programme.

We have secured Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation funding for April 2023 - March 2026 and core funding until March 2025 from Newcastle Culture Investment Fund through the Community Foundation and Newcastle City Council.

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

We have a partnership agreement with Newcastle University to develop and deliver TCS until August 2025 and are working in partnership with them on the NTCA project.

We have secured 1 year of funding from SHED which will support project work and staff capacity until March 2025.

We have secured funding from Jerwood Arts Developing Artists programme for £40,655 over 18 months to deliver a new artist development programme, *Co-Act*.

We are currently developing a robust fundraising plan, which aims to apply to some larger funds in the 24-25 year including Big Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, and Garfield Weston Foundation.

**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 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.

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**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**

**9 September 2024**



# **Independent Examiner's Report to the Members on the Unaudited Accounts of The NewBridge Project Limited for the year ended 31 March 2024**

I hereby report to the Trustees/Members of The NewBridge Project (Charity Registration Number 1165182) on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 26 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.

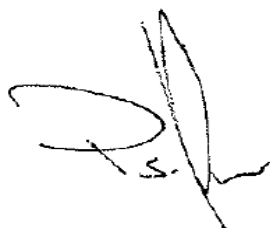
## **Independent Examiner's Statement**

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**  
26 La Sagesse, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AF

**9 September 2024**

**The NewBridge Project**  
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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income</b>					
Income from Investments	2	508	-	508	-
Income from Grants, Donations & Legacies	3	72,895	344,734	417,629	178,798
Income from Charitable Activities	4	176,861	30,000	206,861	185,642
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>250,864</b>	<b>374,734</b>	<b>624,998</b>	<b>364,440</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Cost of Raising Funds	5	1,341	-	1,341	1,716
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	6	173,998	362,430	536,428	426,310
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>175,339</b>	<b>362,430</b>	<b>537,769</b>	<b>428,026</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>74,925</b>	<b>12,304</b>	<b>87,229</b>	<b>(63,586)</b>
Balance brought forward		176,736	107,472	284,208	347,794
<b>Balance carried forward at 31 March</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>£251,661</b>	<b>£119,776</b>	<b>£371,437</b>	<b>£284,208</b>

The notes on pages 28 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**  
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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	8	22,173	28,338
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	9	118,644	76,802
Cash at Bank & In Hand		336,579	291,071
		<u>455,223</u>	<u>367,873</u>
<b>Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year</b>	10	(105,959)	(112,003)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		<u>349,264</u>	<u>255,870</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	11	<u><b>£371,437</b></u>	<u><b>£284,208</b></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
Unrestricted Reserves	12	251,661	176,736
Restricted Reserves	12	119,776	107,472
		<u><b>£371,437</b></u>	<u><b>£284,208</b></u>

The notes on pages 28 to 37 form part of the financial statements.

The Trustees are satisfied that for the year ended 31 March 2024 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 9 September 2024**



**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 2024**

**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 2024**

**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 2024**

**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.

**The NewBridge Project**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**2. Income from Investments**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank Interest Receivable	508	-	508	-
	<b>£508</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£508</b>	<b>£-</b>

**3. Income from Grants, Donations & Legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>1,269</b>
<b>Grant Income</b>				
Arts Council England – NPO	71,288	-	71,288	71,288
#I Will Fund via the Community Foundation				9,820
100 People	-	300	300	-
Dwellbeing Shieldfield	-	7,500	7,500	1,348
DWP - Kickstarter	-	-	-	6,266
Jerwood Arts Developing Artists Fund	-	40,655	40,655	-
Jerwood Foundation - Creative Bursary	-	-	-	1,453
Newcastle City Council – Ouseburn Ward	-	-	-	2,615
Newcastle CC – Winter Wellbeing Fund	-	1,250	1,250	5,252
Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund - Core	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
North of Tyne Combined Authority	-	145,029	145,029	59,487
Sustainability.Health.Environment. Development.	-	130,000	130,000	-
	<b>71,288</b>	<b>344,734</b>	<b>416,022</b>	<b>177,529</b>
	<b>£72,895</b>	<b>£344,734</b>	<b>£417,629</b>	<b>£178,798</b>

Of the 2023 total of £178,798, £72,557 related to Unrestricted Funds and £106,241 to Restricted Funds.

**The NewBridge Project**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**4. Income from Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Associate Membership	3,773	-	3,773	3,370
Bookshop Sales	2,681	-	2,681	2,517
Collective Studio Membership	6,851	-	6,851	7,745
Museums & Galleries Exhibition Tax Relief	20,443	-	20,443	14,480
Newcastle University	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
Studio Membership Fees - Gateshead	68	-	68	-
Studio Membership Fees – Shieldfield, Newcastle	116,527	-	116,527	107,469
Other Income	26,518	-	26,518	20,061
	<b>£176,861</b>	<b>£30,000</b>	<b>£206,861</b>	<b>£185,642</b>

Of the 2023 total of £185,642, £155,642 related to Unrestricted Funds and £30,000 to Restricted Funds.

**5. Expenditure on Raising Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bookshop Costs	1,341	-	1,341	696
Fundraising Consultancy Fees	-	-	-	1,020
	<b>£1,341</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£1,341</b>	<b>£1,716</b>

The 2023 total of £1,716 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.



**The NewBridge Project**  
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**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
<b>Programme/Project Costs</b>				
Programme Expenditure	-	109,559	109,559	70,176
Programme Committee Stipend	9,830	-	9,830	5,763
Salaries & On Costs	12,040	244,631	256,671	191,290
Website Development	-	-	-	500
Travel & Research	5,044	-	5,044	4,995
	<b>26,914</b>	<b>354,190</b>	<b>381,104</b>	<b>272,724</b>
<b>Support Costs</b>				
Rent, Rates & Water	41,663	-	41,663	43,303
Heat & Light	49,931	-	49,931	37,964
Cleaning & Waste	15,634	-	15,634	11,470
Repairs & Maintenance	2,756	-	2,756	17,908
Depreciation	10,586	1,417	12,003	13,027
Other Administration & Running Costs	21,104	6,823	27,927	20,911
	<b>141,674</b>	<b>8,240</b>	<b>149,914</b>	<b>144,583</b>
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Independent Examiner's Fees	1,080	-	1,080	1,080
Other Accountancy & Book-keeping Costs	4,175	-	4,175	4,022
Legal & Professional Fees	48	-	48	3,720
Trustee Meeting Costs	107	-	107	181
	<b>5,410</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,410</b>	<b>9,003</b>
	<b>£173,998</b>	<b>£362,430</b>	<b>£536,428</b>	<b>£426,310</b>

Of the 2023 total of £426,310, £208,416 related to Unrestricted Funds and £217,894 to Restricted Funds.

**7. Net Income/(Expenditure)**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Independent Examiner's Fees – current year	1,080	1,080
Independent Examiner – other services	360	360
Depreciation of owned Tangible Fixed Assets	12,003	13,027

**The NewBridge Project**  
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**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**8. Staff Costs & Trustees' Remuneration**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross Salary Costs	239,721	179,400
Employer's National Insurance	12,322	8,368
Employer's Pension Contributions	4,628	3,522
	<b>£256,671</b>	<b>£191,290</b>

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Artistic Production and Support	9	7

No remuneration has been paid to any Trustees/Directors in the year (2023: Nil).

£37 expenses were reimbursed to 1 Trustee in respect of their attendance at meetings of the charity (2023: Nil).

**9. Tangible Fixed Assets**

	<b>Workshop, Office &amp; ICT Equipment £</b>	<b>Leasehold Property Improvements £</b>	<b>Total Fixed Assets £</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2023	13,997	44,543	58,540
Additions in year	5,838	-	5,838
Disposals	(235)	-	(235)
At 31 March 2024	19,600	44,543	64,143
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	12,385	17,817	30,202
Charge for year	3,094	8,909	12,003
Disposals	(235)	-	(235)
At 31 March 2024	15,244	26,726	41,970
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 31 March 2024	<b>£4,356</b>	<b>£17,817</b>	<b>£22,173</b>
At 1 April 2023	£1,612	£26,726	£28,338

**The NewBridge Project**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**10. Debtors**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade Debtors	3,185	2,026
Prepayments	16,779	15,289
Accrued Income	98,680	59,487
	<b>£118,644</b>	<b>£76,802</b>

**11. Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade Creditors	15,611	26,718
Other Creditors	834	823
Other Creditors – Studio & Key Deposits Held	10,015	10,817
Other Taxes & Social Security Costs	7,633	3,712
Income Received In Advance	750	-
Accruals	71,116	69,933
	<b>£105,959</b>	<b>£112,003</b>

**12. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed Assets	19,878	2,295	22,173	28,338
Debtors	20,472	98,172	118,644	76,802
Cash at Bank and In Hand	317,720	19,309	336,579	291,071
Creditors – Amounts Due Within 1 Year	(105,959)	-	(105,959)	(112,003)
	<b>£251,661</b>	<b>£119,776</b>	<b>£371,437</b>	<b>£284,208</b>

**The NewBridge Project**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**13. Analysis of Charitable Funds**

	<b>Fund at 1 April 2023</b>	<b>Incoming Resources in Year</b>	<b>Resources Expended in Year</b>	<b>Fund at 31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
Charity General Fund	<b>176,736</b>	<b>250,864</b>	<b>(175,339)</b>	<b>251,661</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
#I Will Fund via the Community Foundation	9,820	-	(9,820)	-
100 People – Youth Programme	-	300	(300)	-
Dwellbeing Shieldfield – Shieldfield Youth Programme	-	7,500	(7,500)	-
Jerwood Foundation - Creative Bursary		40,655	-	40,655
Newcastle CC – Winter Wellbeing Fund		1,250	(1,250)	-
Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund – Core Programme	3,460	20,000	(17,499)	5,961
Newcastle University – Collective Studio	24,436	30,000	(29,797)	24,639
North of Tyne Combined Authority Sustainability. Health. Environment. Development.	-	145,029	(142,734)	2,295
	69,756	130,000	(153,530)	46,226
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>107,472</b>	<b>374,734</b>	<b>(362,430)</b>	<b>119,776</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£284,208</b>	<b>£624,998</b>	<b>£(537,769)</b>	<b>£371,437</b>

<b>Name of Restricted Fund</b>	<b>Description, Nature &amp; Purpose of the Restricted Fund</b>
#I Will Fund via the Community Foundation	Towards the cost of the delivery of Shieldfield Youth Voice, a new programme for young people on our youth programme over the age of 10
100 People	Towards the cost of a youth programme
Dwellbeing Shieldfield – Shieldfield Youth Programme	Towards the cost of a programme for young people in Shieldfield
Jerwood Foundation - Creative Bursary	Towards the cost of participation in the Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries programme
Newcastle City Council – Winter Wellbeing Fund	Towards the cost of a Winter Wellbeing Hub

**The NewBridge Project**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**13. Analysis of Charitable Funds (Cont.)**

<b>Name of Restricted Fund</b>	<b>Description, Nature &amp; Purpose of the Restricted Fund</b>
Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund – Core Programme	Towards the Practice Makes Practice programme, and related staff costs
Newcastle University – Collective Studio	Towards The Collective Studio inc. staff costs
North of Tyne Combined Authority	Towards the cost of Collaborate: Skills and talent development pathways for creative practitioners
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.

The company law members of the charity are the members of its Board of Trustees.

There are currently 5 (2023: 6) members of the company.