

# NEWCASTLE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1180305

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2018-10-15

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 16 Salisbury Gardens  
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**Website** [www.newphilsoc.org.uk](http://www.newphilsoc.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND IN THE FIELD OF PHILOSOPHY

**Activities:** The Newcastle Philosophy Society runs a number of regular events including lectures and conversation groups. The Newcastle Philosophy Society also works in conjunction with other local organisations to run one-off events including lectures and conversation groups. We have finances available for others wishing to pursue the running of such events.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Durham
- Gateshead
- Newcastle Upon Tyne City
- North Tyneside
- Northumberland
- South Tyneside
- Sunderland

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,900	£1,075	-	-
2024-03-31	£0	£360	-	-
2023-03-31	£0	£1,144	-	-
2022-03-31	£1,380	£884	-	-
2021-03-31	£1,500	£1,343	-	-
2020-03-31	£3,408	£2,230	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Clare Moody		2024-07-19
Dr Tony Ward		2025-09-01
Michael Boggon		2024-07-19
Tim De Groot		2024-07-19
William Gerard Barrie		2024-07-19

**NEWCASTLE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1180305

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# Accounts

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## **Annual Report to the Charity Commission for Year Ending 31 March 2025**

Newcastle Philosophy Society (NPS)

Reporting period: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

List of trustees to Jan 2025: Mike Boggon (Treasurer), Gerard Barrie, Tim de Groot, Clare Moody, Leigh Rooney (Secretary), Roy Sturgess, Tony Ward.

Trustees Jan-March 2025: Joel Yoeli (Chair), Jen Thomas (Secretary)

### **Objectives and activities**

The objective of the NPS is “to advance the education of the general public in the North of England in the field of philosophy”, as noted in its Constitution. It does this through running and promoting public philosophy events.

An entirely new board of trustees was elected at an Emergency General Meeting (EGM) on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Following a motion at that meeting it was tasked with acting “primarily to resolve the administrative issues of the Society” (see EGM minutes) inherited from the previous boards of trustees, issues which had prompted the calling of the EGM by members. It was also agreed that an AGM would be called within 6 months.

In addition to identifying and addressing administrative issues, it undertook the ongoing administrative facilitation of NPS activities, including the management and facilitation of NPS events.

### **Achievements and performance**

The board identified a number of administrative issues and implemented responses to these:

- Communication problems. Some members had noted problems in making timely communication with the NPS prior to the EGM. The new board found that the NPS email account had over 1000 unread emails. Whilst most of these emails did not require response, this did include correspondence from members and a complaint that had not been responded to within the required timeframes. The new board read through each of these unread emails, responded to the sender where appropriate, and set up a system to ensure monitoring of the account and the timely response to new emails. This system involves all trustees being granted access to the NPS email account, ensuring that access is not reliant on one particular individual.
- NPS document storage. The previous Chair communicated to the current board that NPS documents were held digitally online at box.com. The current board identified that the Society’s account with box.com had lapsed under the previous board due to inactivity and all data held on the account had been permanently deleted. The previous Chair provided a backup file taken of the

documents uploaded on box.com that had itself been passed to him from the Chair before him. In addition, a file of separate paper documents was passed from the previous Chair to the current board of trustees. The current board are currently engaged in a process of categorising both the digital and paper documents, primarily to identify governance documents pertinent to the functioning of the Society. All digital documentation is now held on the NPS Google Drive account, with access possible to all trustees.

- Access to NPS bank account. The previous board were unable to provide access to the NPS bank account for the new board, following an ongoing problem with lack of access to the account. At the AGM held in 2023 a plan was put in place to secure access to the bank account, but as of the EGM in 2024 access had not been gained. The current board were able to secure access to the account in December 2024.
- Charity Commission reporting. The previous boards of trustees had not submitted mandatory reports to the Charity Commission (trustees' annual report, statement of accounts, and annual return), resulting in reports for the reporting years 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 showing as overdue. The were information via bank access until December 2024. However, following securing bank account access the current board intend to liaise with the Charity Commission to appropriately respond to the overdue reports (recognising that the current board have limited knowledge of activities of the previous board, and that these activities were not those of the current board). There was then a further delay following the election of a new Board in January 2026, with the new Treasurer not gaining access to the bank account until April 2026.
- Membership list. Previous boards maintained the list of NPS members via a Mailchimp account, which was used to periodically check that members wished to continue membership. The current board found that the NPS Mailchimp account (like the box.com account storing NPS documents) had lapsed under the previous board due to inactivity and all data within it deleted. The list of members was not kept in another location, and as such the membership list of the Society was lost. The current board has started a new membership list, storing this within the contacts section of the NPS email account.
- Website. Ownership of the domain name of the NPS website (newphilsoc.org) had lapsed under the previous board and the domain was deleted. The current board have developed a design for a new website and approached a website designer to implement this.
- Funding. The major source of funding for the Society for many years has been The Royal Institute of Philosophy (TRIP). However, the previous board did not

submit an application for funding for 2024/25. TRIP contacted the current board shortly after it was installed, inviting the NPS to make a late application. The current board developed a proposal for funding and submitted this within a short deadline. This was successfully awarded, with funds having now been received for 2024/25.

In addition to the board's remit of responding to administrative challenges left by the former board, the current board of trustees has also been involved in overseeing the management of NPS activities. This has involved:

- Producing an events plan for 2025 which includes speaker-based events on A.N. Whitehead, which took place in February 2025, and was attended by 35 people in addition to the invited speakers, and on Plato which took place after the end of the reporting period on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025
- Maintenance of NPS groups. Several new groups were introduced. Currently there are 4 regular groups: Life's Big Questions, Dramatic Discussions. Plato (reading group), and Echoes of the Ancients (reading group).

Groups and events are advertised via the NPS' account on Meetup.com. As of January 2025 the account has a following of 2,168 on the platform and there were a total of 546 RSVPs across all NPS groups and events advertised within the last year.

#### Financial review

As of 25 March 2025 the NPS held £5356.89 in its bank account. The only sources of income over the reporting period is the Royal Institute of Philosophy (£1,500) and two donations totalling £400 from a member. One of these donations, of £300, was made in February 2025 with a specific request that it be used to compensate the former Treasurer, Michael Boggon, for continuing to carry out the administrative work of the NPS for a period after he resigned as a trustee at end of January. There were regular payments made for Zoom and Meetup subscriptions. The income has exceeded the expenditure over the reporting period, reflecting the lack of access to the bank account other than through historic subscriptions. There are no concerns that outgoings will exceed income in the future. Overall, the Society is financially stable and secure, with capacity to use more funds for philosophy-related activities.

#### Structure, governance and management

The NPS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a board of trustees. Most trustees are appointed at a General Meeting following a vote of members present but a small number can be co-opted by the existing trustees. Trustees are currently (and traditionally) drawn from those involved in the Society's philosophy events, though anyone may stand for election or consideration for co-option. Two officer roles were assigned to the current trustees: Secretary (Leigh Rooney) and Treasurer (Mike Boggon). Administrative tasks were broadly shared across the trustees, including the chairing of

meetings of trustees. The current board of trustees sought to ensure that access to various NPS accounts was made available to all trustees. NPS groups have an assigned group leader responsible for organising the group. Typically group leaders are those who have developed the idea of the group. They may or may not be trustees.

#### Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name: Newcastle Philosophy Society

Charity Number: 1180305

Trustees from 1 April 2024 to 18 January 2025: Mike Boggon (Treasurer), Gerard Barrie, Jane Cooper, Tim de Groot, Adam Hunter, Clare Moody, Leigh Rooney (Secretary), Roy Sturgess, Tony Ward. On 18 Jan 2025, Mike Boggon, Tim de Groot and Tony Ward resigned and Joel Yoeli, Jennifer Thomas and Penelope Tasker were elected in their place.

Exemptions from disclosure: not applicable.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others: not applicable.

Adapted by Clare Moody (Co-secretary) and Tony Ward (Treasurer) from the Annual Report prepared for the 2025 AGM by Leigh Rooney (then Secretary), 18 January 2025.

Signed by Leigh Rooney (Secretary) on behalf of the board of trustees.

# NEWCASTLE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY ACCOUNTS: Y/E 31 MARCH 2

Date	Description	Withdrawal		Deposits
27 MAR 24	BROUGHT FORWARD			
12 APR 24	1211 ZOOM.US 888-7	£	15.59	
13-May-24	1211 ZOOM.US 888-7	£	15.59	
12-Jun-24	1211 ZOOM.US 888-7	£	15.59	
12 JUL 24	1211 ZOOM.US 888-7	£	15.59	
12/08/2024	1211 ZOOM.US 888-7	£	15.59	
12 SEP 25	1211 ZOOM.COM 888-	£	16.79	
25 SEP 25	1211 CCC GBP 159.2	£	4.38	
25 SEP 25	1211 MEETUP ORG SU	£	159.29	
14 OCT 24	1211 ZOOM.US 888-7	£	15.59	
16 OCT 24	THE ROYAL INSTITUT TRIP LPP			£ 1,500.00
12/11/2024	1211 ZOOM.US 888-7	£	15.59	
12 DEC 24	1211 ZOOM.COM 888-	£	15.59	
# 7-Jan-25	Leigh Rooney Printing	£	57.16	
# 13-Jan-25	1211 ZOOM.COM 888-	£	15.59	
# 21-Jan-25	Trinity Centre Ltd Room hire	£	66.00	
6-Feb-25	000000 CREDIT 4569301118880000			£ 300.00
12-Feb-25	1211 ZOOM.COM 888-	£	15.59	
25-Feb-25	Trinity Centre Ltd Room - Whitehead	£	122.50	
28-Feb-25	8844 CCC GBP 5.54	£	0.15	
28-Feb-25	8844 NAME-CHEAP.CO	£	5.54	
3-Mar-25	Mr MJ Boggon Expenses Jan-Mar	£	300.00	
12-Mar-25	1211 ZOOM.COM 888-	£	15.59	
20-Mar-25	ANAND D ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP			£ 100.00
25-Mar-25	1211 CCC GBP 166.7	£	4.58	
25-Mar-25	1211 MEETUP ORG SU	£	166.71	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	£	<b>1,074.59</b>	£ <b>1,900.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>			

Balance	INCOME		EXPENDITURE			
	Donations	RIP grant	Events	Subscription	Printing	Misc.
£ 4,533.23						
£ 4,517.64				£ 15.59		
£ 4,502.05				£ 15.59		
£ 4,486.46				£ 15.59		
£ 4,470.87				£ 15.59		
£ 4,455.28				£ 15.59		
£ 4,225.47				£ 16.79		
				£ 4.38		
£ 4,061.80				£ 159.29		
£ 4,257.48				£ 15.59		
£ 5,757.48		£ 1,500.00				
£ 5,741.89				£ 15.59		
£ 5,726.30				£ 15.59		
£ 5,669.14					£ 57.16	
£ 5,653.55				£ 15.59		
£ 5,587.55			£ 66.00			
£ 5,887.55	£ 300.00					£ 300.00
£ 5,871.96				£ 15.59		
£ 5,749.46			£ 122.50			
						£ 0.15
£ 5,743.77					£ 5.54	
£ 5,443.77						
£ 5,428.18				£ 15.59		
£ 5,528.18	£ 100.00					
						£ 4.58
£ 5,356.89				£ 166.71		
	<b>£ 400.00</b>	<b>£ 1,500.00</b>	<b>£ 188.50</b>	<b>£ 518.66</b>	<b>£ 62.70</b>	<b>£ 304.73</b>
						<b>£ 1,074.59</b>

**NEWCASTLE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1180305

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# Accounts

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## **Trustees' Annual Report 2023-24**

Newcastle Philosophy Society (NPS)

Reporting period: 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

*Please note that this report was produced after the reporting period by a board of trustees who were not involved as trustees during the reporting period. No report was submitted by previous boards of trustees for this reporting period. We have largely drawn upon archived material including email communication, social media advertisement, and minutes of meetings.*

### Objectives and activities

The objective of the NPS is “to advance the education of the general public in the North of England in the field of philosophy”, as noted in its Constitution. It does this through running and promoting public philosophy events.

The following discussion groups were active during at least some part of the reporting period: *Tuesday Night Discussion* (later known as *Dramatic Discussions*) (weekly), *Deep Dive* (bi-monthly), *Film Discussion* (one-off).

In addition, the NPS staged a panel discussion at the Great North Night event (Great North Museum: Hancock, Newcastle upon Tyne), with NPS members as panellists.

### Achievements and performance

In addition to the above groups and panel discussion event, an Annual General Meeting was held in June 2023. At this the NPS Chair noted the “conflicts and difficulties” that had occurred within the Society over previous years, and called for a “peaceful way forward for all”. A plan was made for a mechanism for the election of new trustees, with an Extraordinary General Meeting planned for September 2023. However, this meeting did not occur during the reporting period. Moreover, for the second year running no funding was obtained.

### Financial review

There was no income during the reporting period. Expenditure was £360.48, and accounted for by subscriptions to Zoom and Meetup. The total amount of money in the NPS bank account was £4,893.71 at the start of the reporting period and £4,533.23 at the end of it.

### Structure, governance and management

The NPS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a board of trustees. Trustees are appointed either at a General Meeting following a vote of members present or co-opted by the existing trustees.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name: Newcastle Philosophy Society

Charity Number: 1180305

Persons identified as serving as trustees during the reporting period:  
Donald Forbes, Georgiana Varna, Chandra Vemury.

Exemptions from disclosure: not applicable.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others: not applicable.

Signed by Michael Boggon on behalf of the trustees, 24/02/2025

**NEWCASTLE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1180305

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# Accounts

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## **Trustees' Annual Report 2022-23**

Newcastle Philosophy Society (NPS)

Reporting period: 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

*Please note that this report was produced several years after the reporting period by a board of trustees who were not involved as trustees during the reporting period. No report was submitted by previous boards of trustees for this reporting period. We have largely drawn upon archived material including email communication, social media advertisement, communication with a previous trustee, and minutes of meetings.*

### Objectives and activities

The objective of the NPS is “to advance the education of the general public in the North of England in the field of philosophy”, as noted in its Constitution. It does this through running and promoting public philosophy events.

The following discussion groups were active during at least some part of the reporting period *Wednesday Night Discussion* (later changed to *Tuesday Night Discussion*) (weekly), *Women Philosophers* (monthly), *Deep Dive* (occasional), and *Film Discussion* (one-off).

### Achievements and performance

In addition to the groups listed above, minutes show proposals for the revival of several historic NPS groups: *Philosophy in Film*, *Café Philosophique*, and *Philosophical Explorations*. However, it does not appear that these groups were revived. There does not appear to have been a General Meeting held during this period. No funding was obtained during this reporting period.

### Financial review

No income was obtained during this reporting period. Expenditure was £1,144.03, and consisted of payments for insurance, Zoom subscription, Meetup subscription, and a series of ATM transactions (totalling £600). £258.24 of the ATM transactions was accounted for as reimbursement for a payment for charity insurance taken from the former Chair's bank account. After communication with the former Chair regarding the remaining unaccounted-for ATM transactions, he has offered to provide the difference for the remaining funds and seek reimbursement when he has had the time to obtain appropriate documentation/ receipts for the use of the funds. The total amount of money in the NPS bank account was £6,023.35 at the start of the reporting period and £4,893.71 at the end of it.



### Structure, governance and management

The NPS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a board of trustees. Trustees are appointed either at a General Meeting following a vote of members present or co-opted by the existing trustees.

### Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name: Newcastle Philosophy Society

Charity Number: 1180305

Persons identified as serving as trustees during the reporting period:  
Donald Forbes, Georgiana Varna, Chandra Vemury (Chair).

Exemptions from disclosure: not applicable.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others: not applicable.

Signed by Michael Boggon on behalf of the trustees, 24/02/2025

**NEWCASTLE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1180305

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# Accounts

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## **Trustees' Annual Report 2021-22**

Newcastle Philosophy Society (NPS)

Reporting period: 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

*Please note that this report was produced several years after the reporting period by a board of trustees who were not involved as trustees during the reporting period. No report was submitted by previous boards of trustees for this reporting period. We have largely drawn upon archived material including email communication, social media advertisement, and minutes of meetings.*

### Objectives and activities

The objective of the NPS is “to advance the education of the general public in the North of England in the field of philosophy”, as noted in its Constitution. It does this through running and promoting public philosophy events.

The following discussion groups appear to have been active during at least some part of the reporting period: *Sceptics Reading Group* (monthly), *Women Philosophers* (monthly), and *The Radical Subject* (occasional).

Minutes are present until October 2021, but not thereafter.

### Achievements and performance

In addition to the continuation of several groups, the minutes show that a philosophy festival was planned for March 2022. However, it is not known whether this took place, with a planned festival in September 2021 being pushed back to a planned date of March 2022 because of difficulties in finding sufficient people to organise it.

Numbers of trustees appear to have dwindled over the reporting period, and minutes show a desire to recruit trustees as a priority. The final meeting that minutes are available for (October 2021) consists of a single trustee (the “interim chair”) calling for an Annual General Meeting “to ascertain the feasibility of the NPS”, apparently in relation to the number of trustees. We were unable to obtain a record of any AGM minutes, but emails suggest that an AGM was held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021, and we are also aware that a handover to a new Chair took place approximately during this time period.

### Financial review

The NPS bank account shows that income (£1,380) exceeded expenditure (£883.58) over the period (a surplus of £496.42). Expenditure was on

insurance, Zoom subscription, Meetup subscription, and payments to a company dealing with website-related services. The sole source of income was the Royal Institute of Philosophy. The total amount of money in the NPS bank account was £5,526.93 at the start of the reporting period and £6,023.35 at the end of it.

### Structure, governance and management

The NPS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a board of trustees. Trustees are appointed either at a General Meeting following a vote of members present or co-opted by the existing trustees.

### Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name: Newcastle Philosophy Society

Charity Number: 1180305

Persons identified as serving as trustees during the reporting period:  
Nicole Dumes, John Gilliam, Alan Lynn ('Interim' Chair), Richard Mears,  
George Stoker, Georgiana Varna, Chandra Vemury (Chair).

Exemptions from disclosure: not applicable.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others: not applicable.

Signed by Michael Boggon on behalf of the trustees, 24/02/2025

**NEWCASTLE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1180305

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# Accounts

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## Agenda – NPS Board Meeting

27<sup>th</sup> November 2021

1:30pm – 3:30pm

Online Board Meeting – Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89218306641?pwd=V1BUQTY2cThmNHhMdEFHWUVrbE9qdZ09>

Meeting ID: 892 1830 6641

Passcode: 362820

Meeting ID: ID: 867 8251 3740

Passcode: 369926

**Note: This Meeting will be recorded.**

	Item	Speaker
1	Welcome	AL
2	Minutes of 2020 AGM	AL
3	Chair's Report (including Secretary's Report)	AL
4	Treasurer's Report	ND
5	2021 - 2022 Trusteeships	AL
6	Constitutional amendments / proposed motions	AL
7	Membership questions (15 minutes)	AL / GS / ND
8	AOB	AL
9	Close	AL

## Item 2: Minutes – NPS AGM Meeting

25<sup>th</sup> July 2020

1:30pm – 2:30pm

Venue: Zoom Online Meeting



Newcastle  
Philosophy  
Society

Membership Attendance:

Richard Mears – Chair

Hannes Ingo Torbohm – Secretary

Nicole Dumes – Treasurer

Jack Grassby.

Faith Goodfellow

Amanda McBride.

Alan Lynn

Scrutineers:

Ethan Field.

Josh Kaluba

	Item	Speaker
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>RM</b>
	Chair welcomes Members, explains the new rules for the online AGM and begins meeting.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of 2019 AGM and 2019 EGM.</b>	<b>RM</b>
	Minutes for both AGM and EGM accepted.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Chair's report given.</b>	<b>RM</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Secretary's report given.</b>	<b>HT</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Treasurer's report given</b>	<b>ND</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>2020 / 2021 Trusteeships.</b>	<b>RM</b>
	There were 7 trusteeships voted on at the AGM and we voted on 7 candidates before the meeting, and thus all were capable of being retained. All trustees were retained, meaning the 2020-2021 trustees will be:	<b>RM</b>

Richard Mears

Hannes Ingo Torbohm

Rachael Page

Nathan Allonby

Nicole Dumes

Alan Lynn

Amanda McBride

## **7 Constitutional amendments / proposed motions**

Chair Gives summary of the reforms, motions and the amendment.

New Code of Conduct.

i. Ethan Field:

1. The Pass rate is 50%.
2. There were 10 Votes, (+1 Abstention)
3. Passed with a result of 100%.

New Complaints Procedure.

i. Ethan Field:

1. The Pass rate is 50%.
2. There were 10 Votes, (+1 Abstention)
3. Passed with a result of 100%.

Membership Amendment to 9.1.b.i.:

i. Ethan Field:

1. The Pass rate is 75%.
2. There were 10 Votes, (+1 Abstention)
3. Passed with a result of 80%.

## **8 Membership Question Slot (15 Minutes)**

Questions were sent to the secretary in advance, and the chair and secretary responded to them together. The chair noted that we would follow the rules set out in the AGM pack. Thus members would have slots assigned to them in chronological order, but also spaced alternately – making sure that every voice has the space to be heard equally, but those who have more questions than others remain the right to ask them.

Question sent in from Helen Rodgers:

Sent from email: “How encouraging are NPS groups at getting attendees to become members? Your report says that you have 73 formal members yet 150 regular attendees. Why don't more people become members with voting rights? ”

1. Chair notes that we have always welcomed new members, and have invited as many as possible to join. We are proud that now members feel more welcome than ever to join, and we need to keep working to keep that going.
2. However, we accept that becoming a member is not something that all will find appealing, and thus aim to make sure that people are aware that membership is an option but not a requirement. We welcome and encourage membership, but ensure that attendees can feel on an equal footing in groups and thus only have to become members if they want voting privileges.

Question sent in from Faith Goodfellow:

Sent from Email: “I am in complete agreement that the code of conduct needed to be revised and having read the current version I am in general agreement with its content. However, as a group leader I feel nervous about having sufficient knowledge and understanding of the code to ensure it is upheld in all my meetings. How can group

leaders be supported to feel confident about ensuring the code of conduct is upheld and can a Trustee present the rationale behind it and the content to the Women Philosophers group at some point in the reasonably near future? ”

1. Both the chair and the secretary voiced their availability for questions made themselves available to resolve any issues with the Trustees new documents. The chair thanks group leaders for their efforts, and Secretary notes that there is a plan going forward to make their lives as easy as possible.

2. The secretary notes that these documents aim to be present upon need, and thus if a group does not need them (e.g. no one invokes them and no one breaks the law), they shouldn't change the experience of attendance.

ii. Faith thanked the chair and secretary for their response.

Question sent as a test of the online form, but included upon Chair's request Hannes Torbohm:

From form: "Could you discuss ideas on how members will be invited to discuss the reform of our procedures going forwards? "

1. There is an initial plan for a working group for future reforms. The Secretary notes that he has already sent to the Board this proposal and it will be discussed in future board meetings. The proposal is for a trustee led working group, and open consultation, which aims to bring to the next AGM a more comprehensive set of reforms to improve the function of the charity.

Questions sent in an email from Helen Rodgers:

From email: "Having an active campaign to ensure more people become voting members of the NPS might help you with another problem you appear to have – few people willing to become Board members. There are not enough names on the list of people standing for the Board for this to be a worthwhile voting system ."

1. The Chair and Secretary agreed that it would be nice if more voting occurred, and this has been a consistent move to democratization through time. The chair notes that voting on trustees is now allowed at AGMs something which before a few years ago was not allowed, and for the second year ever we have enough candidates to fill the slots in the constitution. This is a long process, one we have shown improvement on, and one we continue to want to improve on. Democracy in charities is crucial.

From email: "Why do we have to wait until after voting to question those who are standing for the Board ?"

1. In good faith and transparency, we have aimed to make the system as fair as possible. We have followed the advice from the Charity's Commission and the Government in having an AGM in the time of the pandemic. It is of course not ideal, but we have done our best to follow the advice.

2. Jack Grassby notes that this is irregular and should be avoided.

3. The Secretary notes that in any other year this would be done differently, and the Chair re-affirmed the importance of attempting to have in-person General Meetings in future – on the caveat that it is safe.

Helen Rodgers notes that, to quote from her email, “I do not believe a decent Complaints Procedure can be written until people writing it have a much wider grasp of what injustice is and other systems of reaching justice that this procedure essentially ignores. I am particularly concerned with the assumptions made that people on the Board are somehow capable of leading on sorting complaints out. More should be made of the idea of reconciliation.” How do you respond to these thoughts about the new documentation?

1. The new documents are certainly far from perfect but are better than the old documents. We will be working on this going forwards as indicated before.

## **9 AOB + Thanks for 16 years of service for Jack Grassby**

a. The Chair noted that no one had sent in any note of other business, he asked those in attendance if they had any – no one voiced such an addition.

b. The Chair awarded Jack Grassby with a trophy for his time serving as a trustee, and made a comment about how he has shaped this charity more than any other individual.

Jack Grassby indicates that he is not going anywhere and thanks Richard for the formal award. He states that it has been a pleasure. He found the charity at the age of 80 and found a great deal of pleasure in the people he has met and the ideas he has encountered. He surmises that it has been an interesting time.

**10 Close.**

### **Item 3: Chair Report (including Secretary's Report)**

My stepping up

The Newcastle Philosophy Society stands at a crossroads. At this point in the COVID-19 pandemic, society activity remains deliberately reduced. I strongly recommend attending Faith's Women Philosophers group, which is at present the only group running. I am sure our other groups are missed and will be valued when they return.

Currently our membership stands at 88 formal members and 1,670 members on Meetup. Of the groups poised to return, women run three quarters and 35% of our registered members are female.

- \_Philosophical Explorations; Fariba as group leader
- \_Cafe Philosophique; Fariba as group leader
- \_The Rdaical Subject Joshua Kaluba as group leader
- \_Women Philosophers; Faith as group leader

I hope you will join me in wishing good luck to the incoming board of members. I also hope that you do not stop there. The society is rich with knowledge and wonderful people. Reach out to each other and the new board and work together to build anew. Start a group, attend a few, and ask questions about making the society better. The aim of the society is to promote public philosophy. Ask the board questions about that over the coming year; ask them what they are doing to promote it.

It is a short report, it does not contain the usual padding and thanks to COVID-19 there is not a lot of activity to report. How might we work together this year to fill up next years report?

Alan Lynn  
Interim Chair

## **Item 4: Financial Statement - May 2020 to April 27th 2021 - The Newcastle Philosophy Society**

### **Operations:**

All payments are now made electronically through either online banking or by using the debit card held by the Treasurer.

### **Bank account signatories:**

- Nicole Dumes (Treasurer)

### **The NPS operates the following finance:**

Reserves Policy – The board should maintain a prudent level of reserves to enable the NPS to continue as an organisation for a period of time should funding from the Royal Society cease. The level of necessary reserves to be maintained has been set at 90-110% of recurring expenditure.

### **Expenses Policy:**

All expenses should be pre-approved. Specific limits have been set for the reimbursement of Speakers expenses. Claims for expenses should be made using the prescribed form.

### **Finance policy**

All payments made by the NPS should be supported by invoices, receipts or other documentation. All proposals that carry a financial cost must be submitted to the board for approval using the prescribed form so that competing proposals may be objectively assessed. These should be submitted to the board and copied to the Treasurer AT LEAST 14 days before the board meeting for the financial impact to be assessed in advance of the board meeting.

### **Income**

Total income for the year was £1,500. Membership is currently free and therefore there were no 'annual subscription' type membership payments this year. A grant from The Royal Institute of Philosophy of £1,500 was received for the stated period.

### **Expenditure**

Total expenditure for the period was £1615.19. The main expenditure for the period was for IT applications, £1,093.63.

### **Restricted Funding**

There are some restrictions on the use of funds received from the Royal Institute of Philosophy. Further the Board feels that donations taken towards room costs at certain events should only be used for that purpose.

The financial records monitor the use of these funds.

### **Reserves**

Information not available.

### **General**

No remuneration was paid to any trustee.

Information presented is an approximation drawn from financial material for the period of May 2020 to April 27th 2021. The material was originally used for a report to the Royal Institute of Philosophy.

Interim Chair 10/11/2021

**Statement-May 2020 to April  
27th 2021**

Receipts		
Grants		
	Royal Institute of Philosophy	1500
	Other	0
Donations		
	Membership Donations	0
	Cash Donations	0
	Online Donations	0
	Legacies	0
Other receipts		
	Bank interest	0
	Sundry receipts	0
	Unexplained transactions	0
Total Receipts		1500
Payments		
Meetings		
	Room Hire	0
	Refreshment	0
Philosophy Festival Speakers		
	Speakers expenses	0
	Operational Costs	0
Expenses		
	Printing	0
	Publishing	0
	Training	0
	Stationary	0
	IT applications	1093.63
	Sundry Expenses	0
	Miscellaneous	521.56
	Unexplained transactions	0

Continued overleaf

Total Payments	1615.19
Net receipts/(payments)	-115.19
Surplus/(Deficit)	-115.19
Balance on 27.04.20	5,369.49
Balance on 27.04.21	5,254.30

Assets		
	Cash at Bank	5,254.30
	Trustee cash in hand	
	Uncashed cheques	
	Paypal Balance	
Liabilities		
	Outstanding liabilities	0
	Outstanding invoices	0
Total Assets		5,254.30

## **Item 5: 2021 - 2022 Trusteeship Nominations**

### **Gerard Barrie**

I have been a member of the NPS for a number of years and have attended some of the groups regularly. Also, I have served on the NPS board before and have in previous years been involved in charity work.

### **Chandra Vemury**

Since 2014, I have been attending NPS events and on a couple of instances I have even delivered presentations. Despite not having formal education in Philosophy, I consider myself to be an amateur philosopher and I regularly socialise with several NPS members. I have considerable experience of serving on and leading third – sector and membership organisations. I would very much like to support NPS and the expansion of its activities by becoming a Trustee.

### **Peter Wood**

I have worked creatively in care settings with grant funders and regulators to facilitate legally compliant systems that meet the idiosyncratic needs and desires of individuals and organisations. For 6 or so years I was a Trustee of the NPS, and carried out a full organisational risk assessment which generated an action plan with milestones for 1, 2 and 5 years. I was also responsible for overseeing the transition from an Unincorporated Charitable Association to a CIO. I studied Philosophy at University and have maintained an interest in this topic, which has included attending NPS events and participating in them.

## **Item 6: Constitutional amendments / proposed motions**

### **Mailchimp Question 4**

Proposition to readmit Peter Wood into the NPS?

### **Mailchimp Question 5**

Proposed motion (Alan Lynn) of support for new board if constitutionally under strength. This is an acknowledgement that the boards only function is to recruit sufficient members by co-option to fulfil the constitutional requirement for there to be three board members as a minimum. Members interested volunteering to assist the board in this task or those interested in co-option should email: [philosecretary@gmail.com](mailto:philosecretary@gmail.com)