



CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – 31 MARCH 2024

Our year ending 31 March 2024 saw us move into our fifth year of operations at The Living Rooms – Northallerton (TLR) which we will complete on 5 December this year. However, this has been only our second full year of operations without Covid-19 restrictions.

TLR has continued to serve and support those in most need in Northallerton and the surrounding areas by being a community hub in the centre of town, open to all. We particularly support those with poor wellbeing and mental health and the lonely, isolated and social excluded, by being a place of welcome, care and hospitality – at the core of which is our Renew Wellbeing service where it's 'ok not to be ok.'

We are extremely grateful for the continuing support of the ONE Northallerton Churches and the fruitful partnerships we enjoy with other compatible organisations both statutory and voluntary including Jubilee Debt Advice, Hambleton FoodShare, Hambleton Community Action, North Yorkshire Council, the NHS and many more.

During this year we were open 5 mornings per week for wellbeing sessions, having increased from 4 mornings for much of last year and further increases in opening hours is under review. As a result, we hosted 2,374 individual visits in wellbeing sessions, an increase of almost 50% on the previous year providing evidence of the increased demand. Our amazing team of over 35 volunteers made this possible by contributing some 4,116 hours of their time, an uplift from last year of almost 20%. All of this was organised by our two dedicated part time staff, Jo Swain our Hub Co-ordinator and Chloe Hickford our Renew Wellbeing Co-ordinator.

We truly appreciate and thank all our volunteers, without whose dedication, commitment and heart for TLR we would simply not be able to operate. Our gratitude and thanks also go to Jo and Chloe for their passion and service in managing the day-to-day operations of TLR.

We receive so much appreciation from visitors and one card we recently received just typifies this, it read *'To The Living Rooms, thank you for supporting me and including me in everything. I don't know what I would do without your support.'* Please see the following, recorded recently at TLR: <https://thelivingrooms.org.uk/about/> - 'What our Visitors and Volunteers say', which can be found at the foot of that page.

Our culture at TLR is that every individual counts and is of immense value and although we serve many, we are 'there for the one!'

One of our major events last year was to participate in the Great North Run in Newcastle, in September. What a wonderful success that was despite the torrential rain at the end of the day. It raised the profile of TLR and over £13,000 in funds! A huge thank you to our team of 33 runners and everyone else who participated and organised the event, many of whom were new to TLR.

An important new initiative was launched last year, our new wellbeing programme for young people from 11 -18 years old, called 'Unwind', a name chosen by the youth. This started in November and at present runs one afternoon per week. Since then, 15 sessions have been run with a total of 78 visits, made possible by 188 hours from volunteer hosts. We anticipate this growing during the coming year, working with local youth organisations and schools. This will be a key aim in our development going forward along with the hope of starting a new wellbeing programme for men. Mental health issues with young people are widely known and we believe our offering will play a part in providing support and care.

Our finances improved significantly this year with an income of £66,916 leading to a surplus of £21,369 and as a consequence our year end cash balance increased to £63,078. For full details please see the Financial Report and Accounts. We are very grateful for all grants and funds received, in particular from The North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners and North Yorkshire Council. Also, we are thankful for the valuable donations from local voluntary organisations, local churches and the 'Friend of The Living Rooms' programme.

Changes to our Trustee Board during this period have been that Alan Bush has retired and Rev Ian Ring and Rachel Smith have joined. We sincerely thank Alan for his contribution and look forward to benefitting from our new Trustees. We thank all our Trustees past and present for their time and dedicated service to TLR – which is greatly valued.

Our volunteer treasure Mark Griffiths has also stepped down and we thank Mark for his valuable contribution. We are very pleased that Ian Butler has joined us as our volunteer treasure and has already become a much-valued part of our team at TLR.

The work at TLR is motivated by our faith in God and our desire to serve our community by showing his love in our actions. We remain committed to work hard to maintain the high standards expected by our community and the statutory and voluntary sector organisations with whom we partner.

It continues to be an honour to serve you all and our community in my capacity as Chair of Trustees. On behalf of the Trustees, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all our volunteers, partners and staff.



Steve Cowie
Chair of Trustees
www.thelivingrooms.org.uk

31 March 2024

THE LIVING ROOMS NORTHALLERTON

INCOME and EXPENSE REPORT

Financial Year to date as at 31/03/2024

(Financial Year from 01/04/2023)

Income

Grant - NY PCC	14,863.00	
Grant Allocation Cuppa Connect Stokesley	1,000.00	
Grant Allocation Cuppa Connect Bedale	1,008.25	
Grant Allocation Cuppa Connect Thirsk	1,000.00	
Grant NYCC	9,781.00	
"Friends" Donations - Gift Aid	3,234.00	
"Friends" Donations - Non Gift Aid	0.00	
Donations - Other GASDS (Gift Aid)	1,445.31	Includes £441 from NMC Choir Event June 23
Donations - NON GASDS	3,906.16	£120 - Romanby Ladies Golf, £500 Art Group, £177 NMC Choir
HMRC Gift Aid Refund	862.63	For 2022/23 tax year
Fund raising Other include Get up and Go	1,744.54	Includes £227 from Applegarth event June 23
Fund raising GNR Related	13,732.21	Includes Bregbies T. Sponsorship £499, Enthuse GNR total £10335
Churches	7,000.00	NLBC £250pm, All Saints £3k, Sacred Heart £1k
Partners	0.00	
Sales	0.00	
Room Rentals	6,044.50	
Bank Interest	304.43	
Total Income		65,926.03

Expenses

Refurb/Buildings/Property	(1,062.98)	
Equipment	(645.39)	
Repairs	(401.70)	
Staff costs	(18,114.12)	
Training	(798.00)	includes £300 Manual Handling Training, £300 RY Wellbeing Training
Rent / Rates	(13,450.56)	
Utility Costs	(3,395.42)	
Phone/mobile	(836.40)	
Insurance	(765.09)	
General Exp	(44.04)	
Gifts to others	(600.00)	
Office/Admin exps	(488.88)	
Advertising	0.00	
Volunteer Exps	(552.42)	
Fund Raising Costs	(894.19)	Includes Gazebo Purchase (291.95)
Activity Costs	(672.52)	
Hospitality	(583.23)	
Household	(526.84)	
COVID Cleaning	0.00	
Website / Software	(664.89)	
Bank fee	(60.00)	
Furniture/fittings/carpets	0.00	
Items for sale	0.00	
Petty cash float	0.00	

Total expenses	(44,556.67)
Surplus Income/(Loss)	21,369.36

Includes Unwind Expenditure YTD 6,838

THE LIVING ROOMS

BANK RECONCILIATION to 31/03/2024 (Financial Year from 01/04/2023)

	£
Balance per bank statement as at 31/03/2024	63,062.68
Petty cash balance	15.59
Less Exps not yet debited	
Add deposits not credited	0.00
Reconciled balance of funds as at 31/03/2024	63,078.27
Bank Deposit account as at n/a	0.00
Total funds	63,078.27

Check:			
Bal b/fwd 01/04/2023	Inc/exp report	New bal	Diff
41,708.91	21,369.36	63,078.27	0.00

Examiners Report

I have completed my examination and am satisfied that the records are a true and accurate record. I have not had access to petty cash funds and cannot confirm petty cash balances held. However, I have no concerns and have come across no matters to which attention should be drawn.

Bill Harker

3rd May 2024

[Signature]

IAJ
Butler

Treasurer

3 May 2024