



**Nailsea Shedders - CIO 1187786**

**Trustees Annual Report**

**Financial year ending 30 September 2024**

## **Trustees**

### **The current appointed trustees are: -**

Andrew Morrison	- Trustee and Secretary
Steve Sayers	- Trustee
Andrew Sparling	- Trustee and Chairman

## **Summary of the purposes of Nailsea Shedders**

In the constitution our charity sets out its purposes as :

- Promoting social inclusion for the public benefit.
- Preventing people, particularly but not exclusively men aged 18 or over, becoming socially excluded.
- Relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded.
- Assisting people to integrate into society through the provision of facilities in which they can meet to undertake creative, physical or recreational activities, learn or pass on skills and knowledge and support each other socially.

## **Our main activities in relation to these purposes for the public benefit**

We have maintained our level of workshop and UKeBox membership at circa 40 people, providing the opportunity for them to work or play shoulder to shoulder for the benefit of the local community

The workshop team has worked on circa 230 items. The public benefit of this is:

- Giving the members a sense of achievement and worth
- Bringing joy into the community where people's valued items are repaired
- Preventing items going to landfill and supporting national and local governments aims on reuse/recycling

The UkeBOX ukulele band has performed in over 30 concerts. The public benefit of this is:

- Performing to members of the public who benefit from access to live music including Memory Cafes, residential and care homes.
- Raising funds for local and national charities and good causes (circa £3500 directly and a further £2500 indirectly)
- Giving the players a sense of achievement and worth

The UKeBox have been fully integrated into our charity offering a feeling of security and inclusiveness to players and organisers alike

We have, and continue to run, a Community Living Room (originally a Warm Hub) in conjunction with North Somerset Council, offering local residents a facility where they can meet and socialise. This has included people who may struggle with the cost of heating their own home or are socially isolated. For example, we have a local disabled person who attends with their carer.

## **Trustees policy on Public Benefit**

As Trustees we maintain the purposes of the charity and the public benefit derived therein as the primary driver for the running and improvement of our charity. We target having a positive impact on our members and the general public with whom we have contact. For 2023/2024 we have had a specific focus on:

- Consolidating our charity's progress, which matured as the year progressed into a focus on Resilience
- Developing links with our community
- Increasing our reach to new members and the general public
- Maintaining trust and transparency amongst ourselves
- Making inclusivity central to the running of our charity.

More detail on the activities, progress and plans against each of these are detailed in the Summary of the main achievements of Nailsea Shedders.

## **Trustees policy on Public Harm**

The Trustees continue to enact a wide range of actions to eliminate or minimise the risk of public harm resulting from our activities. The main actions in 2023/2024 have been:

- In line with our health and safety and Risk policies, being proactive in reviewing, and if necessary assessing, all our activities and locations with view to eliminating or minimising the risk to persons or their property.
- Continuing review and up-date of our policies and procedures relating to, Serious Incidents, Induction, Safeguarding, Safety and Health, Risk Assessment and Complaints.
- Securing, maintaining and improving our base facility (Wraxall Village Club) including a locking-up checklist, installing handrails on concrete steps.
- Providing First Aid Training to three of our members with additional training for two more being sourced.
- Installing a defibrillator for use by our charity, Wraxall Village Club and the local community.
- Continually stressing the importance of caring for one another in our internal communication sessions. If it looks unsafe, stop and rethink.
- Ensuring we have a comprehensive insurance policy.
- Protecting and securing the public's property when it is in our care

## **Summary of the main achievements of Nailsea Shedders**

At the end of our Annual General Meeting the incoming Chairman proposed five key areas for the charity to focus on in the coming year. The activities, progress and plans against each of these workstreams are detailed below.



## **Consolidating our Charity's progress**

As the year progressed, and taking some learning from the Charity Commission, we altered the intent of this workstream to be more future focussed. We will rename this workstream Resilience and will continue with our work on the following: -

- During the 2023/2024 financial year Nailsea Shedders were pleased to welcome UKeBox into our charity but this sudden increase in our membership and scope of activities put into question whether the way we ran the charity would continue to be fit for purpose. We were also challenged with a reduction in the number of trustees. To this end we put in place a temporary committee structure with the aim of proposing and implementing a new way of managing the charity. The result was the introduction of a management team that supports the Trustees by having individuals with the responsibility for running a specific aspect of the charity. This will be incorporated into our Operating Policy.
- We have continued to maintain our membership numbers. Whilst we have had six leavers (not due to any Shedders related issue), we have been successful in attracting six new members. Weekly attendance continues to be strong with a high percentage (in excess of 75%) joining in regularly.
- We have started capturing more of the key elements of how we work together in our policies and procedures and have initiated a more rigorous review process.
- UKeBox have had a particularly busy year with an increase in the demand for performances. On the workshop side we have maintained the increased 2023/2023 level of jobs at circa 230 per year.
- We have formalised the purpose of our financial reserves which is for use on meaningful projects/expenditure to secure our future and as a contingency fund should we lose our current base facility.
- With some reluctance, we have increased our members' monthly donations from £7.50 to £10.00. This was driven by the general increase in the cost of living and also in anticipation of an increase in our monthly rent.
- Our long term goal is to be based in Nailsea and we keep this in mind in all our contact with outside organisations and influencers. In particular, we have explored various opportunities with Nailsea Town Council. In the meantime we continue to work with Wraxall Village Club on how the facilities can be improved to better suit our and their needs.

## **Developing links with our community**

The drive behind this workstream is to find linkages with other people and organisations where we can find mutual benefit from working together. Key activities under this workstream are: -

- One of the Nailsea Shedders Management Team has become a member of the Wraxall Village Club committee and another is in process of becoming a trustee. This gives us a voice and a strong and direct communication channel with our landlord.
- We have increased Nailsea Town Council's awareness of our activities and needs. We have: -

- Presented to the Nailsea Town Council Community Engagement Committee
  - Held a specific meeting with a number of Town Councillors on the topic of a more permanent home in Nailsea and have done work with/for individual town councilors
  - Applied for (and been successful in 2024/25 financial year) grants from Nailsea Town Council and North Somerset Council
  - Started work with the staff of No 65 High Street; an Nailsea Town Council owned and run facility. For example, as a venue for our trustees meeting.
- The Grove, a sports and social club owned and operated by Nailsea Town Council, is the current best opportunity for a more permanent home for our charity. We continue to look for opportunities to use the Grove as a way of keeping us as a partner in their long term plans.

### **Increasing our reach to new members and the general public**

The primary way of increasing our Public Benefit is to increase the number of people we reach out to. To this end we have:

- Accepted more requests for UKeBox performances.
- Started ukulele learning sessions, open to the general public. This has progressed into a general music group where people can bring their own instruments, not just ukuleles.
- Run a Community Living Room and, with a grant from North Somerset Council and plan to do the same in 2024/25.
- Explored, and agreed for 2024/25 financial year, the use of No65 as a repairs drop-off and collection point when manned by one of our members.
- Started planning to diversify our offering to include a series of Arts and Crafts taster courses using No 65 as the venue. Commenced in 2024/25 financial year.

### **Maintaining trust and transparency amongst ourselves**

We are a small charity with a dedicated group of members, many of whom help in its management. Not wanting to overburden ourselves with bureaucratic processes, we rely on good communication and trust amongst ourselves. This can be evidenced by:

- The loss of bookkeeper mid year resulted in us absorbing the activities of the Treasurer back into the membership. Good financial record keeping and regular reporting to the trustees has enabled us to maintain control over our spending.
- General communication has also improved with a monthly newsletter and dedicated communication slots where, in the workshop sessions we share how jobs and other activities are progressing and, in the UKeBox practices, where the Musical Director can highlight key points.
- The trustees meetings are structured around a rolling agenda, however we keep space open should any member wish to raise any specific issues. Whilst the meeting can, on occasions address difficult matters, we distribute the minutes to the entire membership.



## **Making inclusivity central to the running of our charity.**

Finding ourselves with fewer trustees we have had to focus on engaging and including a wider group of members in the running of our charity. Achieving this was also one of lessons learned from attending the UK Men's Sheds Association Shed Fest and AGM, where the lack of wider membership involvement was reported as being the most common cause of Sheds collapsing.

The initial idea was to have a tiered management structure with Trustees and Committee. However, the conclusion of the temporary committee that was formed was that this either created overlaps or gaps between the committee and trustees. The final Trustee and Management Team solution, which includes UKeBox and workshop members has been developed and implemented.

Similarly, in UKeBox, a number of the players are involved in managing bookings, the takings and nomination of the recipient organisations or charities as well as sharing the detailed organisation surrounding gigs.

As a result we have over 25% of the membership involved in managing an aspect of our charity.

As we are running with the minimum number, for the future we are focusing on how to complete our compliment of trustees.

## **Financial Reporting**

The Annual Financial report in the format expected by the Charity Commission is shown in Appendix 1.

The status of the bank accounts is shown below. The trend during the year is part of the Trustee Meeting Minutes.

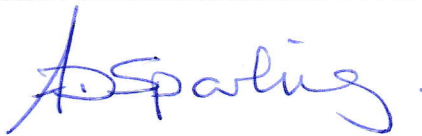
<b>Account</b>	<b>2023/2024 YE</b>	<b>2022/2023 YE</b>
Operational Account	£3770	£1661
UKeBox Account	£2364 <sup>(1)</sup>	£135 <sup>(2)</sup>
Reserves	£5092	£5069
Total	£11226	£6865

### **Notes**

(1) Includes £2106 collected for the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Fund but not onward donated (completed in Oct 2024)

(2) Total used is the monies transferred into the UKeBox account when it was opened on 4 December 2023

Signed on behalf of Nailsea Shedders

Signature(s)	
Full name(s)	ANDREW DONALD SPARLING
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR
Date	20.12.2024

## Appendix 1

### Nailsea Shedders year end accounts 01/10/ 2023 - 30/09/2024

Charity Commission Year End	Breakdown	Totals
<b>Income</b>	Donations General In Total	£120.00
	Jobs In Total	£3,019
	Members Monthly Donations Total	£4,727 <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup>
	Operational Running Costs Total	£44
	UKeBox Gig Collections Total	£3,702 <sup>(3)</sup>
	Workwear Total	£327
<b>Income Total</b>		<b>£11,729</b>
<b>Interest</b>		<b>£74 <sup>(4)</sup></b>
<b>Spending</b>	Equipment Total	-£830
	Jobs Out Total	-£1,309 <sup>(5)</sup>
	Operational Running Costs Total	-£3,742 <sup>(6)</sup> <sup>(7)</sup>
	Workwear Total	-£1,009
<b>Spending Total</b>		<b>-£6,890</b>
<b>Recipient of Grant</b>	Recipient of Grant Total	-£50
	UkeBOX Donations Total	-£1,101
<b>Recipient of Grant Total</b>		<b>-£1,151</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>£3,977 <sup>(8)</sup></b>
<b>Grants Total</b>		<b>£500</b>

#### Notes

(1) Members Monthly Donations increased for £7.50 to £10.00 in July 2024

(2) Includes Gift Aid from 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years

(3) Includes £2106 collected for the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Fund but not onward donated (completed in Oct 2024)

(4) Interest is only accrued on the Reserves Account and the account previously held by UKeBox

(5) Includes Consumables

(6) Does not include the monthly £40.00 being transferred into the Reserves Account to cover annual Insurance.

(7) Includes the Rent and any additional items (eg maintenance/improvement costs) of Wraxall Village Club

(8) Excludes Grants as per Charities Commission annual accounts input format