

NORTHSTOWE HUB

England & Wales · Charity number 1203787

Details

Other names FRIENDS OF THE WING (FORMER NAME)

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-06-29

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

Contact

Address The Unity Centre
Pathfinder Way
Northstowe
Cambridge
CB24 1FD

Phone 07462334265

Email info@northstowehub.org

Website northstowehub.org

Activities

Objects: TO FURTHER OR BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF NORTHSTOWE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER THE SAID RESIDENTS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO PROVIDE FACILITIES AND ORGANISE ACTIVITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS. IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE OBJECTS BUT NOT OTHERWISE, THE TRUSTEES SHALL HAVE POWER: TO ESTABLISH OR SECURE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY CENTRE AND TO MAINTAIN OR MANAGE OR CO-OPERATE WITH ANY STATUTORY AUTHORITY IN THE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF SUCH A CENTRE FOR ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY THE CHARITY IN FURTHERANCE OF THE ABOVE OBJECTS.

Activities: Our vision for Northstowe is a town with community activities and facilities at its heart, supported by an active and integrated network of groups and organisations; bringing people of all ages and backgrounds together to address isolation and provide equality of opportunity.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cambridgeshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£13,389	£13,347	-	-
2024-03-31	£9,690	£6,604	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Hektor Kayexas Marden	Chair	2023-02-28
Alba Bravo Gonzalez		2025-09-03
Carolina Sanchez Hernandez		2024-05-14
Graeme Clive Hodgson		2023-02-28
Jawad Mohammad Nawash		2023-02-28

NORTHSTOWE HUB

England & Wales - Charity number 1203787

Accounts



Northstowe Hub Trustees Annual Report

Year Ending 31/03/2025

Charity Number 1203787

Reference and Administration:

Address:

Northstowe Hub, The Cabin, 1 The Green, Pathfinder Way, Northstowe, CB24 1FD

Trustees:

Hektor Marden	Chair	Term ends 31/3/26
Jawad Nawash	Treasurer	Term ends 31/3/26
Kathleen Fountain	Secretary	Term ends 31/3/26
Graeme Hodgson	Safeguarding Lead	Term ends 31/3/27
Carolina Sanchez Hernandez		Term ends 14/5/27
Cristina Freniche-Velazquez		Term ends 14/5/27
Madeleine De Birch-Szedler		Term ends 16/10/27

Bank Account:

Natwest - Account number 25770322 - Sort code 52-10-46

Structure, Governance and Management

Northstowe Hub is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a foundation constitution adopted on 27 June 2024 and registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

Trustee appointment and training

Apart from the founding charity trustees, trustees are appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

A policy for recruitment of trustees has been agreed to ensure wide representation of the Northstowe community and taking regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

On appointment all trustees receive a copy of our governance document and charity commission guidance for trustees. We are members of the Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services (CCVS) and encourage all trustees to take advantage of the training courses and opportunities they offer.

Safeguarding

Northstowe hub takes seriously our responsibility to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm. We have a safeguarding policy in place and named trustee (Graeme Hodgeson) responsible for safeguarding. Our policy is reviewed annually and DBS checks and references are obtained for any trustee, volunteer or employee before working with young people or vulnerable adults. Checks are repeated in line with statutory requirements.

The Cabin Management Board

One of our trustees, along with representatives from South Cambs District Council (SCDC), Northstowe Town Council (NTC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), form the management board for The Cabin (Northstowe Temporary community centre). The board meets approximately bi-monthly and reviews the operation of this temporary facility for Northstowe community use. Bookings and day to day running is currently undertaken by SCDC.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the CIO as set out in our governing document are:

“To further or benefit the residents of Northstowe and the surrounding area, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to provide facilities and organise activities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents. In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power: to establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain or manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above objects.”

Summary of the main activities undertaken this year for the public benefit in relation to these objects:

In planning our activities for the year the trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings. All our activities have been supported by a committed team of volunteers, other local community organisations, local authorities and businesses. Without their valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise we would not have been able to achieve so much – thank you to all who have been involved in some way this year.

Our main activities this year were as follows:

- Coordinating and organising Northstowe’s first Midsummer Festival, an event to bring the whole community together with performances and displays from local groups;
- Support for planning of the permanent community centre and appreciative enquiry within the community regarding needs, and forming part of the Cabin Management Board for the temporary community centre;
- Continuing and expanding the community café project;
- Continuing to manage the community microlibrary;
- Recruiting additional trustees to ensure the long term sustainability of the charity to realise its objectives;
- Starting the Baby Hub new parents support group;
- Assisting with the Community Pantry project to provide free food while reducing waste from local businesses, administered by Sustainable Northstowe;
- Supporting other community events such as the Light Up Northstowe Christmas tree switch on, the Community Beer and Carols event, as well as Community Litter Picks.

Achievement and Performance

Northstowe's First Midsummer Festival The coordination and organization of Northstowe's inaugural Midsummer Festival represented a significant milestone in building community identity and cohesion. This flagship event successfully brought together residents from across the development, creating opportunities for neighbors to meet and connect through shared celebration. The festival showcased the diverse talents within the community, featuring performances and displays from local groups that highlighted the rich array of skills and interests among Northstowe residents. By providing a platform for local

performers and community organisations, the festival not only entertained but also strengthened the social fabric of this growing community, establishing what promises to become a valued annual tradition.

Community Centre Development and Management We continued to fill an important dual role in both shaping Northstowe's future permanent community facilities and managing current provisions. Through active participation in planning discussions for the permanent community centre, we helped to ensure that resident voices and community needs were properly represented in the design and functionality decisions. Simultaneously, our involvement in the Cabin Management Board for the temporary community centre helped to meet immediate community needs. The appreciative enquiry approach adopted for assessing community requirements ensured that planning was genuinely responsive to resident priorities and aspirations, laying solid foundations for facilities that will truly serve the community's long-term interests.

Community Café Project Expansion The continuation and expansion of the community café project reflected our commitment to creating accessible social spaces that combat isolation and build connections. This initiative has provided a community hub where residents can gather informally, fostering the kind of spontaneous interactions that help transform a housing development into a genuine neighborhood. The project's expansion demonstrates its success in meeting community needs and our ability to scale successful initiatives in response to growing demand and community feedback.

Community Microlibrary Management This small but significant initiative provides residents with easy access to books for all age groups, while also encouraging a culture of sharing and community ownership, with our records showing a consistent use throughout the year.

Trustee Recruitment The focused effort to recruit additional trustees represented essential work in ensuring our charity's long-term viability and effectiveness. Recognising that sustainable community organisations require diverse skills, perspectives, and committed leadership, this recruitment drive aimed to strengthen our governance and operational capacity.

Baby Hub New Parents Support Group The launch of the Baby Hub new parents support group addressed a critical need within the growing Northstowe community, providing essential peer support for new families with young children. This initiative recognised that new parents often face isolation and uncertainty, particularly in a developing community where extended family networks may not be readily available. The Baby Hub created opportunities for parents to share experiences, access information, and build supportive relationships that benefit both adults and children, contributing to the overall family-friendliness and social cohesion of the community.

Community Pantry Support Our assistance with the Community Pantry project administered by Sustainable Northstowe has helped to tackle food waste while providing free food access to community members - this partnership like the Midsummer Festival has highlighted that community challenges often require collaborative solutions and that supporting others' initiatives can be as valuable as leading new projects.

Supporting Community Events Our involvement in supporting community events led by other groups, including Light Up Northstowe, Community Beer and Carols, and Community Litter Picks, has helped bring more residents together for different worthwhile purposes. This supportive approach has helped create a busy calendar of community activities while demonstrating our commitment to collaborative community building.

Financial Review

Cash at the bank at 31/3/2025 was £4389.64 in total, with £1014 in a designated fund from the dissolution of Northstowe Social for use towards free and inclusive community events, and £1262 primarily from residual funding and post event donations from the Midsummer Festival 24, to be carried forward for the Midsummer Festival 25. The main financial risk to the charity is failure to obtain future grants and reduced donations. As we currently have no employed staff and minimal assets to maintain we have adopted a reserve policy to maintain £1000 for use in the event of loss of income or to meet any unexpected expenditure e.g. repair costs for the coffee machine.

Our main source of funds have been grants, donations and revenue from charitable activities.

Our main costs have been on consumables for use in the community café, items/equipment for the Cabin and other community activities, and costs associated with the delivery of community events such as room hire, sound staging and events management.

Plans for 2025/26

We are in the process of expanding our community cafe project to include sessions at the new cafe space at Northstowe Secondary College, supporting residents as Northstowe continues to grow. We are also co-leading on the delivery of the second Northstowe Midsummer Festival for the summer of 2025, and will be the lead organisation for delivering Light Up Northstowe for the community in December. We are also looking to continue to expand our volunteer and trustee network to support our ongoing projects. And our trustees are keen to continue conversations with Northstowe Town Council regarding the plans for managing the future community centre and how we can best represent the needs of the community in the delivery of this crucial facility.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charities trustees:

HKMarden

Hektor Marden (Chair)

NORTHSTOWE HUB

England & Wales - Charity number 1203787

Accounts



Northstowe Hub Trustees Annual Report

Year Ending 31/03/2024

Charity Number 1203787

Reference and Administration:

Address:

Northstowe Hub, The Cabin, 1 The Green, Northstowe, CB24 1FD

Trustees:

Matthew Webb		Term ends 31/3/24
Peter Cope	Chair	Term ends 31/3/25
Daniel Greef		Term ends 31/3/26
Jawad Nawash	Vice Chair	Term ends 31/3/26
Hektor Marden	Treasurer	Term ends 31/3/26
Kathleen Fountain	Secretary	Term ends 31/3/26
Gaurav Saxena		Term ends 31/3/27
Graeme Hodgson		Term ends 31/3/27

Bank Account:

Natwest - Account number 25770322 - Sort code 52-10-46

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Summary of the main activities undertaken this year for the public benefit in relation to these objects:

In planning our activities for the year, the trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings. All our activities have been supported by a committed team of volunteers, other local community organisations, local authorities and businesses. Without their valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise we would not have been able to achieve so much in our first year – thank you to all who have been involved in some way this year.

Our main activities this year are as follows:

- Support of planning for the temporary community centre and appreciative enquiry within the community regarding needs
- Forming part of the Cabin Management Board
- Coordinating the Cabin opening event
- Establishing the community café and micro library
- Establishing our website and social media presence
- Coordinating and promoting the Northstowe Winter Festival
- Running a mother language day encouraging the cultural diversity of Northstowe’s residents
- Supporting other community events such as the Christmas tree light switch on, the Community Beer and Carols event, as well as Community Litter Picks

Achievement and Performance

From the start of 2023 our founding trustees, with the help of SCDC’s community development team and BPHA, were involved in conversations with the wider community at community events (such as the monthly market) and on doorsteps assessing the emerging community’s needs from the proposed temporary and future permanent facilities. Findings informed and continue to shape activities being started and developed during the year within the Cabin.

Key themes were accessible space to meet others where new residents could find out about community facilities and activities and enjoy coffee, drinks and snacks. Residents want affordable, accessible groups for a range of interests especially for those with children, including but not limited to holiday activities.

The Management Board was created upon the opening of the Cabin in June 2023. Jawad has been our representative on the board, deputised by Peter in his absence. The board has met monthly during the first 6 months of the Cabin's operation and has considered a range of issues as the facility has come into use by the community.

Thanks to sponsorship from a website developer in the community we were able to establish our website. This continues to be developed for promoting activities in The Cabin and community groups.

We organised an opening event on 30th September 2023 showcasing the wide range of activities and groups using the new facility. This was well attended by around 400 people throughout the afternoon and evening and received much positive feedback. The day concluded in a pub style quiz filling the assembly rooms of the cabin with around 10 teams.

Thanks to funding from the Northstowe Kickstart Fund (administered by SCDC) and Northstowe Foodies, we were able to purchase a commercial grade coffee machine for the Cabin and opened the community café in September. The café is run by a dedicated team of around 14 volunteers currently operating on Wednesdays and Sundays. During opening times the 4 tables within the café space are generally in constant use and we see a steady throughput of people using the space, averaging around 40 people per week. Following overwhelming feedback that set prices rather than donations or pay as you feel was preferred, we have set prices to cover cost of consumables and running of the café, aiming to keep these as low as possible. To maximise accessibility by some of the most vulnerable in our community, during our first 6 months of operation we have distributed 60 free drink vouchers via Pathfinder Schools family worker, BPHA housing officers and our local Romsey Mill Youth worker. This scheme runs alongside our loyalty card scheme (vouchers are pre-filled loyalty cards) reducing any potential stigma associated with their use. We have also been providing free access to the coffee machine to users of the Foodbank on a Wednesday afternoon. We were also delighted to receive a five star rating at our environmental health inspection in October.

The coffee machine and tea making facilities are available for self-service outside of café hours for visitors to the Cabin. This is accessible Tues-Thurs 9:30am - 4pm and on a Sunday 10am - 2pm. A QR code system has been established for users to give donations to cover the cost of maintaining this service.

Kathy Fountain, one of our trustees, has continued to do an excellent job in re-establishing and maintaining the micro library. It is well used, especially by families and children, for example with 60 books borrowed in March 2024. We have received a steady flow of donations to the book collection but are limited by space in the temporary facility. A number of surplus books have been sold to help fund future investment in shelving etc.

During the autumn, we assisted Northstowe Arts by providing photographs and help with framing original art work generated by residents under the guidance of Northstowe Arts for display in the Cabin foyer and corridors. We have also supported the Northstowe Cinema project, with leafleting and volunteering at some sessions.

We took the lead this year in promoting activities associated with the Northstowe Winter festival coordinating a central listing of community events happening though the November-February period. We also provided free refreshments at a number of these events (Christmas tree light switch on, Beer and Carols, Community litter picks).

In February 2024, Graeme ran a Mother Language day event promoting the many languages spoken by residents in Northstowe, celebrating the diverse cultures represented and helping promote cohesion within our new community.

During March 2024 we ran a number of workshops to help design the planting for the currently empty raised beds at the Cabin. An open community workshop was followed by workshops within the Youth Hive run Youth Club to further youth voice. We are currently working with a professional garden designer to create a planting scheme out of these workshops and hope to work with members of the community to plant the beds up later this spring. We are grateful for the support of SCDC community development officer Michelle in this project and for funding from Keepmoat.

Financial Review

Cash at the bank at 31/3/2024 was £1630.95 in unrestricted funds, £1799.04 in a designated fund from the dissolution of Northstowe Social for use towards free and inclusive community events, and £918.26 in a restricted fund from a donation courtesy of Keepmoat homes for the community centre raised beds planting project. The main financial risk to the charity is failure to obtain future grants and reduced donations. As we currently have no employed staff and minimal assets to maintain we have adopted a reserve policy to maintain £1000 for use in the event of loss of income or to meet any unexpected expenditure e.g. repair costs for the coffee machine.

Our main source of funds has been grants, donations and revenue from charitable activities.

Our main costs have been on consumables for use in the community café, items/equipment for the Cabin and other community activities, and costs associated with room hire for community events.

Please see separate full accounts for a more comprehensive breakdown. We are also grateful for Becky Eccleston of Beccles Business Consulting Ltd for independently examining these accounts.

Plans for 2024/25

We hope to continue to see the groups using the cabin grow and thrive over the coming year. Following successful community and youth led design workshops we will be planting up the raised beds at the Cabin later in the spring. We also hope to add additional shelving to improve the micro library. We are working with Northstowe Arts CIC and other community groups to run a Midsummer Festival event for the community in June and will be supporting community Christmas events again. This spring we are launching a weekly baby and parenting peer support group, Baby Hub, run by a volunteer team. In the medium term our trustees are keen to open conversations with SCDC and NTC regarding the plans for managing the future community centre.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed and dated on behalf of Northstowe Hub's trustees:

P Cope

Peter Cope (Chair) 01/12/2024

Northstowe Hub - Receipts and Payments account For the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	2023-24 Total	-
Receipts					
Cafe sales	£ -	£ -	£ 3,832	£ 3,832	
Grants	£ 2,994	£ -	£ -	£ 2,994	
Donations	£ -	£ -	£ 629	£ 629	
Northstowe Social Fund receipt	£ -	£ 2,235	£ -	£ 2,235	
Total Receipts	£ 2,994	£ 2,235	£ 4,461	£ 9,690	
Payments					
Cafe running costs	£ -	£ -	£ 2,600	£ 2,600	
Coffee machine purchase and set-up costs	£ 1,998	£ -	£ -	£ 1,998	
Administration and other projects	£ 78	£ -	£ 1,491	£ 1,569	
Northstowe Social Fund expenditure	-	£ 436		£ 436	
Total Payments	£ 2,076	£ 436	£ 4,092	£ 6,604	
Net of receipts/payments	£ 918	£ 1,799	£ 369	£ 3,086	

Northstowe Hub - Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st March 2024

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	2023-24 Total	-
Assets					
<i>Current Assets</i>					
- Cash	£ 918	£ 1,799	£ 1,631	£ 4,348	
- Total Current Assets	£ 918	£ 1,799	£ 1,631	£ 4,348	
Total Assets	£ 918	£ 1,799	£ 1,631	£ 4,348	
Liabilities and Net Assets					
<i>Current Liabilities</i>					
- Total Liabilities	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	
<i>Net Assets</i>					
- Balance brought forward from Friends of the Wing	£ -	£ -	£ 1,262	£ 1,262	
- Retained income from 2023 to 2024 period	£ 918	£ 1,799	£ 369	£ 3,086	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	£ 918	£ 1,799	£ 1,631	£ 4,348	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Northstowe Hub, registration number 1203787

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the period 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024 which are set out on the following pages.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of your company'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

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 that in any material respect:

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 and 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 (FRS 102)

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.

Signed:



Becky Eccleston

Beccles Business Consulting Ltd
3 School Lane
Swavesey
CB24 4RL