



RSPCA Darlington
& District Branch
Registered Charity No. 232264

RSPCA Darlington and District Branch

Trustees' Annual Report

For the Year Ending 31st December 2020

Reference and Administrative details:

Registered Charity Number: 232264

Trustees:

- S. Alcorn-Davenport – Website/Facebook Co-ordinator/Admin Volunteer Speaker, Regional Representative
- J. Evans – Resigned - Nov 2020
- A. Gillborn – Treasurer
- K. Hunton – Admin
- R. King - Admin
- S.M. McLaren – Animal Welfare Co-ordinator, Fosterer, Home Visitor
- S. McTrusty – Resigned – 02.06.21
- L. Moore – Secretary/Admin, Events/Fundraiser co-ordinator, Volunteer Speaker, Fosterer
- C. Mullen – Cat Hub Treasurer
- M. Nicholson - Fundraiser
- J. Shields – Chairperson – retired 09.06.21

Branch Partnership Manager S.Mason (BPM)

Principle Address: RSPCA Darlington & District Branch
PO Box 200, Richmond
North Yorkshire, DL10 9DN

Tel: 079723 68602 (Branch answering machine)
RSPCA Emergency helpline: 0300 1234 999

Web: www.rspca-darlington.org.uk
Email: admin@rspca-darlington.org.uk

Independent Examiners: Momentum Taxation & Accountancy Ltd
Harelands Courtyard Offices
Moor Road
Melsonby, Richmond,
North Yorkshire, DL10 5NY

Bankers: Lloyds Bank (General & Clinic & Cat Hub accounts)
PO Box 1000, Andover, BX10 1LT

National Savings Investments Bank (Reserve account)
Glasgow G58 1SB



The Branch Trustees hereby present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020

Structure, Governance and Management

The Darlington & District Branch is constituted as an unincorporated association, which operates as an autonomous branch of the National RSPCA subject to its rules for branches. The Branch operates within a national network of organisations that pursue the same objectives as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). The network comprises independent branches operating within a defined geographical area for the purposes of fundraising and the provision of animal care and treatment. A regional structure also exists on a national basis, which provides a team of specialist Inspectors and co-ordinates policies and objectives of the branches. National, regional and branches meet regularly in pursuit of their common aims.

Trustees are elected from eligible Members, at the AGM and are briefed on their responsibilities and specific roles which they may be taking on. Meetings are held at 6 weekly intervals usually, to agree the day to day running of the Branch. The Trustees are responsible for the detection and prevention of fraud and other irregular activities. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity. They actively review operational, financial and business risks and confirm they have systems to mitigate any potential risks such as:

- Loss of reputation through fraud or error
- Loss of income through fraud or error
- Insufficient funds to cover the costs of animal welfare activities

Recruitment of Trustees:

A standard procedure is followed in recruiting Trustees. Nomination papers are sent to every member of the Branch area, with a date for their return. The candidates must have 2 signed members of the Branch as nominees. At the AGM there must be 7 members elected by ballot papers for the Branch to be recognised as a committee and at least 7 members should be present at the AGM.

Reserves Policy

The policy of the Branch is to maintain 12 – 18 months unrestricted expenditure. As the Charity relies on donations and legacies, which can fluctuate year to year, it is felt prudent to maintain these reserves at this level so to continue the animal welfare work carried out by the Branch.



Objectives and Activities

The main object of the Branch is to promote the work of the National RSPCA Society in promoting kindness and suppressing cruelty to animals by all lawful means, within our Branch area and in accordance with the policies of the Society.

The Trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of the Branch objectives and activities for the year to ensure they remain focussed on the Charity's aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. The Trustees have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission which can be illustrated as follows:

- The Branch works closely with the National Society and generates its own funds to help and care for animals which need assistance within our local area.
- Subsidised veterinary treatment is provided via the Branch voucher scheme to enable animals to attend a veterinary consultation or have their animal neutered, when they are owned by Members of the Public who receive benefits. The Branch also financially supports, abused, abandoned and neglected local animals so they can receive veterinary treatment when rescued by our Inspectorate. During 2020 Branch Veterinary treatments amounted to £12,101.76p which is less than 2018 and 2019, due to the pandemic and the Cat Hub financial support amounted to £10,000,00p.
- Responsible pet ownership is promoted by the Branch, by subsidising neutering and micro-chipping of animals, for low-income earners, which helps to lessen unwanted puppies and kittens and helps lost/stolen dogs to be returned to their owners.
- As promoted and supported by the RSPCA, the Branch has recently ventured into Volunteer Speaking with groups such as Brownies, Scouts and other children's and young people's groups, as well as those of adults, when their leaders request a talk on animal welfare. We had several talks booked to attend this year but all those arranged for after February, were cancelled due to Covid 19 lockdowns and restrictions.
- When possible, the Branch supports the local Inspectors by fostering, dogs and cats/kittens. The animals are cared for by our foster carers then, neutered, micro-chipped, vaccinated and given flea and worm treatments, in readiness for adoption when potential adopters come along. The Branch carries out home visit checks to ensure the animal is adopted into an environment where the animal and the adopter are suitably matched. Our Home Visitors also carry out home visits in our area as well as for other Branches and Animal centres, situated in other areas of the country but this was put on hold during 2020 due to the pandemic restrictions.



- RSPCA Darlington & District Branch provide volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work which involves; trusteeship, fundraising, helping at events, fostering animals, volunteer speaking, social media and online fundraising. Those activities benefit local people by providing voluntary work, which is compassionate and rewarding, in helping the Branch and our local needy animals. Due to Covid 19 this year, all the fundraising activities were put on hold with the exception of the Tesco collections in January.

However, we did manage to recruit 2 Trustees online. One to help with Admin and one to help with Accounts. We also recruited 2 more volunteers to help with fundraising once restrictions are lifted. Our new Trustee accountant then became our Treasurer for the Cat Hub as we are now the Employing Branch for the Hub and deal with their admin and finances. Having a Treasurer for the Branch and one for the Cat Hub keeps the work separated.

- Usually, the Branch raises funds to enable it to carry out its work and raise the profile of the RSPCA, the Branch and the Cat Hub but unfortunately due to Covid 19 less money was raised during 2020. Veterinary surgeries were restricted to emergency treatments only in the spring and summer and these were still in place to some extent when restrictions were lifted a little in the autumn before we had lockdown again during the winter. Our Trustees did what they could from home to keep the Branch functioning and members of the public made some donations online or by cheque
- It has been a difficult year for the National Society and the Inspectorate because of Covid 19 and animal movement was restricted too so making re-homing more difficult for the animals. Our Inspectorate needed to adopt a different way of working as the animals were still being referred through to them.

Our local Inspectorate figures throughout 2020

COLLECTIONS	1748
ENQUIRIES	3520
ABANDONMENTS	629
TRANSFERS	656
PHONE CALLS	1600
RESCUES	424



- Tesco superstore, in Catterick Garrison collected animal foods in store and their customers were very generous in donating 343 kg of animal food over the year. Regular donations made directly into the Branch bank account by Members of the Public amounted to £1,852.50p, for which we are most grateful.
- The Branch needed to find other ways of raising funds and engaging members of the public in our work and we achieved this to some extent by fundraising online and promoting the Branch, the Cat Hub and National RSPCA on social media platforms.



Time given by our Trustees was accrued across the year by

- Attending Trustee meetings, Cat Hub meetings and Regional meetings, online.
- Selling some books online, which usually we sell at events.
- Fostering the kittens and dogs we had in our care at the time.
- Social media and website work, advertising volunteer posts, promoting our Branch and what we do in a normal year. Promoting good animal husbandry. Promoting the Cat Hub and any cats/kittens which might be ready for adoption.
- Taking reports and questions from the public about animals not being cared for properly, which we passed on to our National Control Centre to attend to.
- Taking phone calls/emails from members of the public requesting financial help towards a Veterinary consultation or towards having their animal neutered.
- Animal food deliveries to our Inspectorate, so they could help the animals which they were called to.
- Admin which covers many duties, such as phone calls, letters and emails, to and from the general public and veterinary establishments, as well as RSPCA offices and our National Control Centre. Keeping accounts up to date, checking volunteer applications forms and obtaining references, keeping necessary official paperwork up to date to comply with RSPCA and Branch policies and Charity Commission guidance.

Many thanks go to Sheila, Anita, Celia, Stacy, Ruth, Joan and Linda who helped with admin, finances, social media and fostering.



Fostering

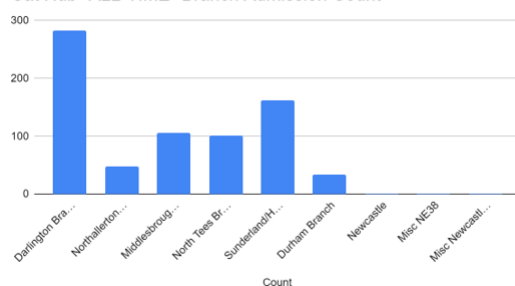
During 2020 we cared for 1 dog and 6 kittens all of whom were adopted when restrictions were lifted.



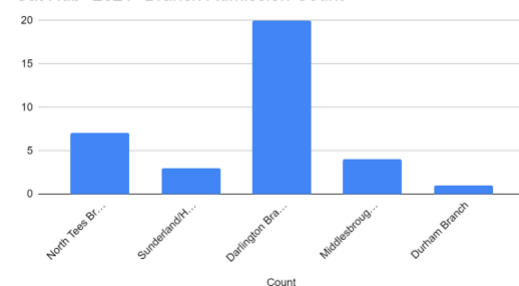
RSPCA Cat Rehoming Hub

The pandemic added pressure to the way in which our Inspectors were able to work but cats and kittens were still being rescued and Darlington Branch area had the biggest intake of our 5 local Branches which support the Cat Hub financially.

Cat Hub "ALL-TIME" Branch Admission Count



Cat Hub "2021" Branch Admission Count





2020 Branch Animal Welfare

Neutering	Welfare	Microchipping	Home Visits	Rehoming	Animals helped
184	98	50	38	76	446

Future Plans

- Education – be able to give talks again to promote good animal welfare practices
- Promotions – to raise the profile of the Branch, Cat Hub and RSPCA National Society
- Fostering – to give more animals an alternative caring place to stay whilst in RSPCA care
- Events/Fundraising – advertise for an Events Organiser to enable us to hold events again, to raise more funds to help local animals and our Inspectorate
- Continue to support the good work of the Cat Hub Re-homing centre

Financial Review:

Total income for the year 2020 - £ 31,820p - (2019 - £34,479.38p)

Total expenditure for the year 2020 - £36,626p - (2019 - £32,071.00p)

Included in the income is the RSPCA “Door to Door” collection figure for 2020 of £25,173.00p – (2019 - £19,021.00p). The Branch holds NS & IB income bonds in reserve, to the value of £40,000.00p. This interest rate will drop next year so we are looking for an account which will pay better interest rates.

Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities

The law in England and Wales require, the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which gives a true and fair record of the affairs of the Charity, the incoming resources and application of resources for that period. In preparing these financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and consistently apply them
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether application accounting standards have been followed
- disclose and explain the financial statements
- prepare the financial statement on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation
- copies of the Branch accounts are available upon request from the Branch Secretary



**RSPCA Darlington
& District Branch**
Registered Charity No. 232264

Thank you

The Trustees would like to thank John Main our previous Branch Support Specialist for all the valuable advice and guidance he gave over many years, as well as all the work he carried out on behalf of the Branch and the Cat Hub. We wish him well and are sorry to see him go.

We welcome our new Branch Partnership Manager Sarah Mason and look forward to the new 2021 – 2030 RSPCA Strategy which will be introduced in 2021.

Thanks as always, go to Mark Gent our Chief Inspector and his busy team and the Veterinary Surgeries who work alongside us within our Branch area, for the benefit of animal welfare.

Thanks go to all our Trustees and volunteers who have assisted the Branch in one way or another throughout this difficult year 2020 and all the members of the public who have supported us financially as well as with animal foods collections.

We would like to give our thanks to the shops which have collection boxes on their counters (although most of them have been closed throughout this year). Without public and business support, our Branch and the RSPCA generally, would not be able to carry out all the animal welfare and promotional/educational work which they do.

Thanks also go to Joanne Evans, Joan Shields and Sara McTrusty for the work they have done as Branch Trustees over the years. Joan and Sara will continue to volunteer for the Branch from time to time and we wish them all well.

Volunteer Enquiries

Please contact us at:

Email: admin@rspca-darlington.org.uk

Facebook: RSPCA Darlington & District Branch

Thank you on behalf of the Trustees of RSPCA Darlington & District Branch

Linda Moore

Branch Secretary

DARLINGTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH - R.S.P.C.A.
REGISTERED CHARITY NO:- 232264

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Momentum Taxation & Accountancy Limited
Harelands Courtyard Offices
Moor Road
Melsonby
Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL10 5NY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
DARLINGTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH - R.S.P.C.A.

I report to the trustees on my examination for the year ended 31st December 2020 which are set out in pages 3 to 4

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 ('the Act').

It is my responsibility to :

- * examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- * to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance as required with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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

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DARLINGTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH - R.S.P.C.A.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	General £	Clinic £	Cat Hub £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
<u>ASSETS</u>					
Investments National Savings Bank Income Bonds	40000			40000	60000
Cash at Bank	38822	4253	1063	44138	29574
Sundry Creditors	-120			-120	-750
	78702	4253	1063	84018	88824

REPRESENTED BY :

Accumulated Surplus brought forward	88824	96399
Add : Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	-4806	-7575
	84018	88824

Revenue Policy Statement 2020

The Branch plan is to hold in reserve a 12-18 month expenditure figure of £40,000, currently deposited with National Savings and Investment, to ensure the Branch stays in credit.

Chairman

K. J. Shields

Treasurer

IA gail

DARLINGTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH - R.S.P.C.A.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	General £	Clinic £	Cat Hub £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
<u>INCOME</u>					
Collection Boxes	161			161	427
Donations General	2432	59	1450	3940	1665
Door Grant	25173			25173	19021
Subscriptions	655			655	118
Events	333			333	1535
Miscellaneous Income (including gift aid tax)					126
Investment Income	563			563	664
Adoption	995			995	940
	30312	59	1450	31820	24496
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>					
Headquarters Purchases	123			123	688
Vet's Charges		9734		9734	13274
Committee Meetings-Room Hire	62			62	286
Insurance	525			525	525
Audit & Accountancy	120			120	120
Great Ayton		717		717	721
Felledge		1020		1020	154
Boarding	10000			10000	15000
Office costs	845			845	1075
Volunteer expenses					230
Door to Door	13480			13480	
	25155	11471		36626	32071
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR				-4806	-7575

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