

THE NORTHERN CERAMIC SOCIETY
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024
CHARITY NO: 287630



CONTENTS

	Page(s)
Annual Report of the Trustees	2 - 5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 – 11
Independent Examiner's Report	12

THE NORTHERN CERAMIC SOCIETY
Annual Report of the Trustees
For the Year Ended 30 September 2024

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's publication "Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102") and "Update Bulletin 1", applicable to reporting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2016".

SECTION 1: REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: **The Northern Ceramic Society** (also known as the NCS)
Registered Charity Number: 287630
Charity's Principal Address: **The Treasurer; 2 Petton Hall, Burlton, Shropshire, SY4 5TH**
Bankers:
 HSBC Bank plc, 5 Great Underback, Stockport, Cheshire, SK1 1LH
 Virgin Money plc, Jubilee House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 4PL
Independent Examiner:
 Peter Rodwell, Solihull, West Midlands
Trustees: See Section 2 below
Financial Year: 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

SECTION 2: STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The Charity is an unincorporated association, governed by the current Rules of The Northern Ceramic Society ('The Rules'), which were revised and adopted unanimously at the Annual General Meeting held on 1 June 2019.

The Trustees of the Charity are its Management Committee, elected or appointed under The Rules, and comprise five elected Officers and six elected ordinary members. In addition, the Editors for the time being of the Society's Journal and Newsletter respectively, who are appointed by the Management Committee, are also ex-officio members of the Management Committee, and thus also Trustees of the Charity.

The following persons served as Trustees throughout the financial year and are the Trustees at the date of this report, having been appointed at a previous Annual General Meeting and reappointed at the Annual General Meeting on 25 May 2024, or co-opted to fill a vacancy.

President	Paul Atterbury	Newsletter Editors	Claire Blakey, Rebecca Wallis
Vice President	Patricia Halfpenny	Website Officer	Patricia Halfpenny
Elected Officers		Publications Officer	Jessica Davies
Chair Rachel Conroy	Gaye Blake Roberts from 25.5.2024	Programme Secretary	Deb Skinner
Treasurer	Brian Allaker	Elected Members	
Secretary Deborah Skinner	Nicola Scott from 25.5.24	Nicola Scott (until 25.5.2024)	Kate Turner
Membership Secretary	Jessica Davies	Gaye Blake Roberts (until 25.5.2024)	Ben Miller
Appointed officers		Rod Jellicoe (until 3.2.2024)	Miranda Goodby
Journal Editor	David Barker	Jill Newsham (from 25.5.2024)	Richard Allman (from 25.5.2024)

The Charity has no employees and its Officers, as and when authorised by the Management Committee, act to administer the charity. In their administrative capacity, they are reimbursed their expenses, as detailed in Note 6 to the Financial Statements. None of the Trustees, nor any people connected with them, receive any remuneration. All trustees are subscribing members of the Society, but none receive any benefits from the Society other than those benefits which are available to all other members.

The Charity is not subject to a statutory audit, (as defined in Section 144 of The Charities Act 2011), and accordingly the Trustees wish to clarify that they interpret the word “Audited” contained in Section 6a of The Rules as meaning “subject to Independent Examination as required by Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and described in CC31 & CC32 - Independent Examination of Charity Accounts”. The trustees have adopted a policy of Accrual Accounting and have documented their Customs and Practices for controlling expenditure.

The Charity’s website is: www.northernceramicsociety.org
The Charity has no formal subcommittees.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of the Charity, as defined in section 2 of The Rules, are:

- 2.1 The objects of the Society shall be the advancement of the education of the public in the study of the manufacture of ceramics and the history of the ceramics industry.
- 2.2 In furtherance of this purpose but not otherwise the Society may-
 - 2.2.1 promote research into such history and manufactures
 - 2.2.2 publish such material relating thereto as the Committee of the Society (‘the Committee’) may deem appropriate
 - 2.2.3 hold lectures, events and exhibitions about ceramics and the history of the ceramics industry, whether alone or in conjunction with other organisations
 - 2.2.4 exchange and disseminate relevant information
 - 2.2.5 finance in whole or part the activity or publication of any other non-commercial organisation involved in ceramic research or display provided that expenditure under this sub-clause shall not exceed in one subscription year 15% of the Society’s last published reserves without the authorisation of the Society in General Meeting.

SECTION 4: ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

Regular Publications

During the reporting period the Society published three Newsletters (numbers 207-209) comprising 48, 56 and 60 pages respectively. The thanks of the Society go to the joint editors Claire Blakey and Rebecca Wallis for their work on these three editions.

Journal 39 was published, comprising 182 pages in 248 x 210mm format, with seven papers. This compares with 154 pages and six papers in Vol. 38 (2023).

Meetings

Attendance at meetings has reduced from post-Covid numbers and averages 35-40 members, with more at collaborative meetings. The October meeting at Keele university looked at aspects of the ceramics trade: in the UK prior to WW1 and the Anglo-American market. A joint meeting was held at Middleport Pottery with the Tiles & Architectural Ceramics Society (TACS) in November, with speakers from both societies. The Liverpool meeting in February was re-located to a nearby hotel from museum premises and former and current museum staff members made presentations. A return to Keele in March saw presentations about Charlotte Rhead and the Bevington family of potters by two new members. The Yorkshire meeting in April was held at Cannon Hall, Barnsley. The meeting was held jointly with TACS and was hosted by the Ceramics Curator and the De Morgan Foundation which is based at Cannon Hall. The AGM in May returned to the V&A Wedgwood Collection, with Mike Ruddy, Assistant Curator and our Chairman, Gaye Blake Roberts as speakers, followed by a ‘show and tell’ of members’ pots. The planned summer visit to Tabley House and Tatton Park, Cheshire was cancelled for a second time due to staff at Tatton favouring a film location contract over a booked, specialist group visit. The September meeting at the Spode Museum presented an opportunity for members to see further buildings and collections developments and to hear a presentation by NCS Vice-President, Pat Halfpenny.

E-News

The NCS continued to stay in touch with members through E-News, sent via email between our regular Newsletter publications. From September 2023 to August 2024, we distributed 18 E-News updates, notices of Zoom lectures, seminar announcements, and more. If any member is not receiving the E-News, they should send their email details to the webmaster at the address below.

Residential Seminars

The Winter Weekend Seminar 2024 was held at a new venue, the Hilton Garden Inn Stoke-on-Trent. It proved to be a popular choice, with the seminar programme including lectures followed by practical handling sessions at the nearby Potteries Museum & Art Gallery. Summer School 2024 took place at our regular venue, Chester University. It was well attended and proved very successful. In addition to excellent presentations in the lecture theatre, we spent half a day at the National Trust's Erddig, which houses one of the largest collections of decorative arts of any National Trust property. We look forward to continuing the tradition of NCS Summer and Winter Seminars.

Website

The NCS website continued to grow, particularly in the members-only section, with new galleries and updated information. Be sure to check back regularly to stay up to date with the latest research. The members' section has expanded not only with additional galleries, but also with updates to existing content. Over the next year, we hope to see even more resources contributed by members for the benefit of fellow members. All these resources are updatable, and we encourage further contributions from members. If any member does not have login credentials to access the members-only section, please contact the webmaster, who will be happy to assist. If you are interested in helping with the website, we would be pleased to hear from you. webmaster@northernceramicsociety.org

Public Benefit

The Trustees believe that this charity meets the public benefit requirement of the Charities Act 2011 in three different ways: (1) its publications are available to the public through the copyright libraries and at the libraries of over 30 institutional members; (2) the Society offers bursaries for its residential events for the benefit of those who are unable to afford to attend; (3) visitors are welcome at all lecture meetings, though for security reasons at most meetings they are required to give advance notice of their intention to attend to the Secretary; however, we are specifically advertising some lecture meetings as open meetings without prior notice of attendance. The Society also actively promotes its relationships with museums that have significant ceramic collections. The Society's Newsletters include a regular feature of 'Museum News' to which all relevant museums are invited to send contributions to publicise their forthcoming programmes. The archive of the Society's late President, Dr Geoffrey Godden, which he gave to the Society, continues to be publicly available at Stoke City Archives subject to their usual arrangements for public access.

Membership

On 30th September 2024, there were 379 memberships including dual and institutional memberships. This is down 45 from 424 in 2023. This figure includes organisations who receive publications but do not pay a subscription, a few members who joined late in the year and whose memberships will roll on to the following year, and paid-up members who had informed us that they would not be renewing in the forthcoming year. 22 new members joined the society, 67 members resigned, died, did not renew, or underpaid their subscription and could not be contacted. 60 of the subscriptions were overseas memberships; a reduction of 10 since the previous year.

Membership breakdown for end September 2024

UK	319
USA & CANADA	45
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND	10
EUROPE	5

SECTION 5: FINANCIAL REVIEW

Year ended 30 September 2024

The attached financial statements show the current state of finances. The Trustees consider the situation to be financially sound.

During the year under review, the ordinary activities of the Society, i.e., meeting costs, administration costs and the production of the Newsletters and Journal, resulted in a deficit of £3,413 compared to a deficit of £622 last year mainly due to a reduction in membership subscriptions and an increase in the Journal and Newsletter production costs. The total income was down by nearly £2,000 on the previous year.

In the year under review, the two seminars together resulted in a surplus of £1,692 and we received a small income from the Godden Copyright Bequest.

The Society recorded an overall deficit of £1,639. The Society's reserve funds stand at £49,521 on 30th September 2024 of which £11,349 is designated as the balance of the Harold Blakey Bequest Fund leaving unrestricted funds of £38,172.

The Statement of the Financial Activities on the next page gives details on the year's income and expenditure.

Reserves Policy

After a significant reduction in the Society's reserves during the last few years, the trustees consider that the current level of reserves is appropriate, prudent, and necessary to be able to respond to appropriate opportunities to fund future projects to promote the Society's charitable objectives, and they are actively looking for such opportunities.

SECTION 6: FUTURE PLANS

The Trustees continue to plan the Society's activities along the pattern which has been successful in recent years, namely, (1) publication of Newsletters and a Journal when appropriate, usually annually, (2) regular lecture meetings and (3) residential seminars, normally two held annually. Within the ongoing challenging financial climate, the Trustees will be looking to review our residential programme and print publications, to ensure that they are both sustainable and retain high quality. We will also consider the benefits and opportunities of working digitally.

On behalf of the Trustees

Gaye Blake Roberts (Chair)

Brian Allaker (Treasurer)

March 2025

**Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 30 September 2024**

		2023-24		2022-23	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary Income	2				
Subscriptions		16,567		18,066	
Gift Aid Tax Reclaimed		2,686		2,516	
Godden Copyright		82		128	
Sundry Donations		493		750	
			19,828		21,460
Investment Income:	3				
Bank Interest			587		219
Income from Charitable Activities:	4				
Publication Sales		569		922	
Residential Events		28,702		12,541	
Meetings and Events		945		231	
			30,216		13,694
Total Incoming Resources:			50,630		35,373
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of Generating Voluntary Income:					
Website Maintenance			889		1,103
Website Enhancement			0		0
Costs of Charitable Activities:	4				
Printed Publications		20,975		18,039	
Residential Events		27,009		12,355	
Meetings and Events		1,923		1,856	
Donations to Museums		0		252	
Office Support Costs		1,134		1,459	
			51,041		33,960
Governance Costs:	5				
Committee Expenses		0		24	
Printing Annual Report		241		246	
Bank Fees		98		117	
			339		387
Total Resources Expended			52,269		35,449
Net Income/Expenditure for the Year			-1,639		-76
Fund Balance Brought Forward			51,160		51,236
Fund Balance Carried Forward			49,521		51,160

Balance Sheet
as of 30 September 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets					
Computer Equipment Cost		4,539		4,539	
less Depreciation		<u>4,539</u>		<u>4,539</u>	
	7		0		0
Current Assets					
Debtors	8	3,048		454	
Cash in Virgin Money Notice Account		0		42,587	
Cash in Virgin Money Deposit Accounts		47,279		4,242	
Cash in Bank & PayPal Current Accounts		<u>20,888</u>		<u>19,289</u>	
		71,215		66,572	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors	9	<u>21,694</u>		<u>15,413</u>	
Net Current Assets			<u>49,521</u>		<u>51,160</u>
Net Assets			<u>49,521</u>		<u>51,160</u>
Represented by:					
Designated Funds	10	11,349		11,349	
Unrestricted Funds		<u>38,172</u>		<u>39,811</u>	
Total Funds			<u>49,521</u>		<u>51,160</u>

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of the Financial Statements

The Financial Statements on pages 6-11 were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Gaye Blake Roberts (Chair)

Brian Allaker (Treasurer)

March 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 September 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards for accrual accounting, and with the Charity Commission's publication "Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102") and "Update Bulletin 1"". There are two exceptions to the SORP in the timing of the reporting of income and expenditure in the Statement of Financial Affairs, namely, (i) subscriptions are reported in the financial year to which they relate, and (ii) deposits and prepayments for residential events are reported in the financial year in which the events take place. The effects of this policy can be seen in the analysis of the relevant balance sheet items in Notes 8 and 9 below.

(b) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer, Video and Audio Equipment : 33⅓% of cost

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

(a) Subscriptions

Members of the Society pay an annual subscription. All subscriptions are received in £ sterling.

(b) Donations

Donations include occasional donations from members of the public, Society members, or other bodies.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

Investment income comprises interest on bank deposit accounts, namely, the Society's two deposit accounts with Virgin Money.

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

(a) Publications

The Society publishes its own educational publications in accordance with the aims of the Society, which are either primarily for distribution free of charge to the Society's registered subscribers, and/or are for sale to the general public. The total cost of production, (including the Editor's costs), and the initial distribution costs of any publication, are charged to the year of production. These costs are treated as **Costs of Charitable Activities**. Any copies of publications that remain undistributed or unsold at the end of a financial year are retained by the Society for sale, or for further free distribution. These copies are valued at zero and are not accounted for as assets. The income from the sale of publications is accounted for as **Income from Charitable Activities** in the year in which they are sold.

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 September 2024**

(b) Residential Events

From time to time, the Society may organise residential events such as a weekend seminar or Summer School. Such events are accounted for as charitable activities as they comprise primary purpose trading. The income from residential events is accounted for as **Income from Charitable Activities**, and the costs of organising such events is accounted for as **Costs of Charitable Activities**.

(c) Meetings and Other Events

The costs of lecture meetings and other educational events run by the Society are accounted for as **Costs of Charitable Activities**. Speakers at these meetings may claim reimbursement of direct expenses, but no fees are paid. The regular scheduled meetings of the Society are free of charge to members and their guests. From time to time, the Society holds one-day events in addition to this regular programme, and extra costs are incurred. Those attending are asked to contribute towards defraying these costs. Such contributions are treated as **Income from Charitable Activities**, under the heading of “special event donations.” Residential events are accounted for separately as described in Note 4 (b) above.

(d) Donations Made

Under Rule 2(v), the Society may make donations to other non-commercial organisations involved in ceramic display or research, subject to financial limits. Such donations are accounted for as **Costs of Charitable Activities**.

(e) 3rd Party Mailings

From time to time, the Society may include in its mailings to members leaflets from 3rd parties promoting publications and events relating to the charitable objectives of the Society. Income received for this service is accounted for as **Income from Charitable Activities**. The costs associated with the handling of these leaflets are accounted for as **Costs of Charitable Activities**.

(f) Support Costs

The Society is managed and run by a voluntary, unpaid committee. Each committee member can be reimbursed for the direct cost of office supplies, printing, postage and telecom usage that are used exclusively to carry out their duties on behalf of the Society. These reimbursements are made against expense claims. Such expenditure, and other stationery bought directly by the Society solely for its charitable activities, is accounted for as **Costs of Charitable Activities**.

(g) Depreciation

The fixed assets owned by the Society are used exclusively for the charitable objectives of the Society, and their depreciation is accounted for as **Costs of Charitable Activities**.

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

Committee Expenses comprise costs of room hire for committee meetings and reimbursed direct costs of attending committee meetings and the AGM, which committee members may claim.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 September 2024

6. REIMBURSEMENT OF TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

During the year, no expenses were reimbursed to Trustees of the Charity. Further explanations of the types of expenses are given elsewhere in these Notes.

Type of Expense	Value £	No.of Trustees Claiming
Travel to committee meeting	0	0

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets comprise computer hardware and software for use by the Editors of the Society's Journal and Newsletter and video and audio equipment for use at meetings. All are depreciated and written off over 3 years. Movements in fixed assets during the year are shown in the following table:

Balance at 30 September 2023	4,539	4,539
Acquisitions	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	4,539	4,539
less Disposals	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Balance at 30 September 2024	<u><u>4,539</u></u>	<u><u>4,539</u></u>

Depreciation

Balance at 30 September 2023	4,539	4,539
Depreciation charged this year	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	4,539	4,539
less Depreciation on Disposals	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Balance at 30 September 2024	<u><u>4,539</u></u>	<u><u>4,539</u></u>
Net Book Value at 30 September 2024	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 September 2024

8. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

Amounts falling due within one year	This year £	Last year £
Debtors – Inland Revenue Gift Aid	2,686	0
Debtors - Accrued Interest (Virgin Money)	213	76
Debtors – Donation – FOB Website Costs	0	220
Prepayments - re. Seminars	149	158
Total	<u>3,048</u>	<u>454</u>

9. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

Amounts falling due within one year.	This year £	Last year £
Trade creditors	15,265	10,253
Deferred income - Subscriptions.	3,519	3,961
Deferred income - Seminar Deposits	2,910	1,198
Total	<u>21,694</u>	<u>15,412</u>

10. HAROLD BLAKEY BEQUEST FUND

	Debit £	Credit £
Transport of Collection	2,400	
Auction Result After Commission		24,852
Further Income from Non-Sale Items		230
Redevelopment of the Society's Website	4,062	
Winter Seminar 2016 Bursaries	505	
Summer Seminar 2019 Bursary	325	
2022 Exhibition Flyer 21/04/21	175	
2022 Exhibition Expenses PMAG	300	
2022 Exhibition Catalogue 20/06/22	5966	
	<u>13,733</u>	<u>25,082</u>
Available Balance		<u>11,349</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Northern Ceramic Society For the Year Ended 30 September 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Northern Ceramic Society ("The Society") for the year ended 30 September 2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Society, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by section 130 of the 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 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.

Peter Rodwell
Solihull
West Midlands

March 2025