

# MORECAMBE BAY PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report  
and Financial Statement  
2018-2019



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Cover image of the opening of Horizon Line Chamber. Among the Sunderland Point community and the stonemasons are Andrew Mason, master stonemason (far left), Jan Shorrocks, (crouching) Morecambe Bay Partnership, Ivan Wadeson, (behind Jan) National Lottery Heritage Fund, Chris Drury (centre) with Elena Gifford. Image Robin Zahler.

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**SHIP by Anna Gillespie – Half Moon Bay, Heysham** Image Robin Zahler



In March 2019 we unveiled two permanent art works: Anna Gillespie's SHIP (previous page) and Chris Drury's Horizon Line Chamber.

Both have been embraced by the community as tangible celebrations of our landscape and maritime heritage.

## Welcome from the Chair of Trustees

Thanks to you, and all our supporters, 2018'19 was a momentous year for the Partnership as we delivered our biggest programme yet, encompassing arts, access, culture, heritage, nature and tourism.

Our special thanks go to the many wonderful volunteers who make such an extraordinary contribution, getting involved, getting grubby clearing bracken, or dusty in the archives and giving up their time to keep the Bay's beaches clean.

At the year end, we opened a new chapter exploring the transition from our longstanding relationship with Cumbria County Council to operating as a fully independent Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Exciting times and great opportunities lie ahead. My thanks to all the staff, partners, funders and to you, for playing your part.

Richard Greenwood



Susannah thanking the Sunderland Point community for their support in the Mission Church on the opening day of the Horizon Line Chamber, Chris Drury on the right. Image Robin Zahler



Personal thanks to the army of volunteers who make our work so pleasurable.

## **Comment from the Chief Executive**

We are immensely grateful for your support, and that of our communities, landowners, volunteers and partners. Thanks to you, 2018'19 was full excitement. And with so much activity, this annual report just offers some highlights.

In the broader context, the local authorities began working together as the Lancaster and South Cumbria Economic Region, and plans emerged for an Eden Project in Morecambe.

All of which offers great opportunities for the Bay to revitalise its image on the national stage. Opportunities we embrace.

Yet, we urgently need to do more, to capitalise on these and other new opportunities, to care for our communities, and to care for the very things that make the Bay special.

We rely on your donations. We do hope you will join us sharing your skills, volunteering and donating, it's such a rewarding way to show your love of the Bay.

Susannah Bleakley

## **Morecambe Bay Partnership – Aims and Vision**

### **Our Vision**

is a thriving Bay, rich in landscape, wildlife and culture, which connects and inspires residents and visitors alike.

### **Our Aims are to**

- **Celebrate** the Bay's landscape and history.
- **Conserve** the Bay's nature, culture and heritage.
- **Connect** improve access and quality of life.
- **Collaborate** with key partners and the community.
- **Strengthen** the resilience of our organisation.

### **Registered Charity: 1173489**

Morecambe Bay Partnership registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 20 June 2017 – Registered Charity Number: 1173489.

It had previously operated from November 2001 as an unincorporated organisation - Registered Charity Number: 1089559.

## **Morecambe Bay Partnership – Trustees and Staff**

The charity is governed by a board of trustees.

Work is delivered by a committed and professional team of staff.

### **Trustees**

- Richard Greenwood  
(Chair)
- Kerry Powell (Vice Chair)
- Alan Chester (Treasurer)
- June Ashworth
- Tom Burditt
- Gill Haigh
- Emma Parsons
- Gary Parsons
- Mike Turner.

### **Staff**

- Susannah Bleakley  
(Chief Executive)
- Hannah Barnes
- Michelle Cooper
- Sophie Cringle
- Richard Frank
- Annabelle Kennedy
- Louise Martin
- Penny McMullen
- Jan Shorrock
- Jenny Wain.

### **Morecambe Bay**

is a place like no other – an awe-inspiring place, a kaleidoscope of water and light; sea and sky; sound, texture and colour.

# CELEBRATE



**Chris Drury's Horizon Line Chamber at Sunderland Point.**

Image Robin Zahler

## **Horizon Line Chamber – Chris Drury**

The Horizon Line Chamber by Chris Drury is a meditative stone chamber at Sunderland Point.

Incorporating a lens to throw an image of the horizon onto the inside whitewashed wall, it is effectively a camera obscura that you can sit inside.

Built by master craftsman Andrew Mason from locally sourced reclaimed stone.

Opened in March 2019, it was longlisted for the Aesthetica Art Prize in December 2019.

"... any art in the landscape should respond to the character of the place and this is just perfect.

Sunderland Point is a welcoming place, yet has a special sense of isolation ... the past feels close to hand – just magic."

Ivan



Anna Gillespies's **SHIP** at Half Moon Bay, Heysham.  
Image Keith Stanley.

"I love this.

And yet it's sad...  
and it is happy.

The holes in the  
people - that's their  
homesick feeling  
Mummy, they are  
looking to see if they  
can see their homes  
and their mummies."

Lea age 4,  
talking to her Mum

## **SHIP by Anna Gillespie**

SHIP is an evocative celebration of Morecambe Bay's maritime heritage, the stories of connections across the seas and of those who look out... and wait.

Anna Gillespie's said "I wanted it to represent both looking back to the past, but also looking to the future."

This bronze, corten steel and stone sculpture at Half Moon Bay, Heysham has, in the few months since it was unveiled, become an icon of the area.



Longways | Crosswise dance by Jenny Reeves & Ellen Jeffrey, Silverdale Lots. Image Robin Zahler

## **Longways | Crosswise – About Time Dance**

This promenade dance performance by About Time Dance Company was commissioned by Morecambe Bay Partnership and choreographed by Jenny Reeves and Ellen Jeffrey.

Performed on three consecutive evenings in September 2018, it was staged against the backdrop of the sun setting across Morecambe Bay.

Jenny worked with us exploring the oral history archives and created a piece that captured the essence of the Bay.

Many of the dancers were from the local community and were overjoyed to be working alongside professional dancers on such a special piece.

“Watching the dancers perform against the sunset is a memory I shall hold for the rest of my life.

This piece spoke so eloquently of the strength and fragility of the fishing communities and the Bay.

Simply  
breathtaking.”

Claire

# CONSERVE



**Kirkhead Tower, Kents Bank during conservation works.** Image Susannah Bleakley

The site was put up for sale in **1879**.

The sales advert described it as a 'romantic limestone cliff' with a 'Tower of Summer House on the summit' commanding a panoramic view of unrivalled extent and beauty.

## **Kirkhead Tower – a room with a view**

Kirkhead Tower is a romantic and much-loved, small nineteenth century summer house in a glorious position on a headland above Kents Bank with panoramic views of the Bay. The site has great intrigue and mystery with evidence of it being important into pre-historic times.

Although protected as a Grade II listed building, sadly the Tower was falling onto disrepair and had become a focus for low-level anti-social behaviour. Over the winter of 2018'19 working with the landowners, Holker Estates, and specialist building conservationists, we stabilised the condition of the building so it can continue to be enjoyed into the future.

This small, stone built tower is just one of a number of follies and headland lookouts in need of repair. We are keen to support further historic building conservation to protect other structures in the future.



**Birkrigg Stone Circle and bracken bashing volunteers.** Image Louise Martin

## **Birkrigg Stone Circle - 4,000 Years of History**

Unless action is taken the nationally important historic monuments at Birkrigg will be damaged, and the stories they hold of the past will be lost forever.

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers we have cleared bracken to reveal the outer stone circle and record a number of important features – several, not previously known.

Together with local people we are protecting and managing the nationally important archaeological and ancient grassland sites on Birkrigg Common, near Ulverston for future generations to enjoy.

"We come up here all the time with the dogs, but I never knew there was more stones – the outer ring.

It's a great place to clear your head but I didn't know about the whole fascinating history of the place. Amazing."

Carl



“trailing bubbles of  
music...  
as desolate,  
as beautiful  
as your loved  
places.

Mountainy marshes  
and glistening  
mudflats by the  
stealthy sea.”

(from 'Curlew', by  
Norman MacCaig)

## **The Joy of a Curlew's Call**

Around the Bay, breeding curlews are in catastrophic decline. Many landowners report they have none, when once they were common. These large, long-lived birds have a song so evocative and beautiful that no matter how long ago the memories stretch back, the excitement and joy of hearing a curlew's call still gives us all the same pleasure.

On lowland sites, a huge problem for our curlews is predation of birds on the nest. If nest sites can be identified, then one option is to protect them with a temporary electric fence.

We're working with farmers and the local community. By making links between the community and bird experts, and working with others including Curlew Country South Cumbria we can better understand how best to take conservation action for these wonderful birds.

# CONNECT



Julius Barrett with Susannah opening the new Trampler hire and trails at Roudsea Image Ian Wood

## **Access for All – More to Explore**

12% of the population lack the strength or stamina to walk far – that's over 24,000 local people who cannot enjoy the simple pleasures of a walk outside with family and friends.

In Jan 2019 we opened our first Trampler hire point with two all-terrain mobility scooters. Together with creating three accessible routes this means more people can get outdoors and access the health, well-being and social benefits of the countryside.

There is a huge need to do more, to create more routes and train more volunteers to support hires and users.

"This is the first time in ages that I've been able to get a long route out.

I've missed being out in the woods and wild places so much.

I loved the Trampler. I'd thought it might be hard to drive, but no, it's super easy.

This really makes a difference to me and my family, and now I'm in the photos on days out – smiles all round."

Rosemary



Fishing Hut by Hannah and John Fox. Image Johnny Bean

“How did you fit so much history, culture, creativity in one little hut? And so beautifully presented.”

Moira

“Fishing is a central part of Morecambe Bay’s identity. And after 25 years working the Bay I thought I knew a bit. It is delightful to hear so many new stories of the fisher-folk.”

Andy

## **Fishing Hut – the Stories that Shaped Us**

Fishermen and women catching shrimp, mussels, cockles, and flatties were once a common sight on the vast intertidal sands of the Bay.

From using horses and carts, to tractors and quadbikes, the methods, tools, memories, hardships and joys of fishing the sands were shared and saved through a volunteer-led oral history project.

Fishing Hut was a fun, accessible pop-up gallery that toured the summer as part of our Festival of the Bay. Taking content from the oral history archive, the artists created video animations, printed images, illustrations, and musical soundscapes to celebrate this vital part of the Bay’s heritage.

Fishing Hut brought those memories alive at community events, school visits and special one-off happenings.



**BeachCare heroes at Potts Corner.** Image: Hannah Barnes, Morecambe Bay Partnership 26

2018's record haul of 805 kg from one event came from Pott's Corner, Middleton.

Very well done and thank you.

You are most welcome to join us at a beach clean or microplastic survey – dates on our website: [www.morecambebay.org.uk](http://www.morecambebay.org.uk).

## **BeachCare – Volunteer Action for Cleaner Beaches**

The Blue Planet effect brought lots of new volunteers joining our regular beach cleans, so the local groups grew to an all time high of 16 dedicated BeachCare groups.

4,375kg\* of marine litter were cleaned up in 2018'19 as a result of nearly 2,000 hours of volunteers effort, making our beaches much more beautiful for us, and better for wildlife too.

\*That's the same as 50 wheelie bins full to capacity. There were 643 individual volunteers logged plus 266 additional helpers from schools and corporate volunteer days.

Some of our longstanding volunteers and groups have now been running unbroken for over 16 years. Over this time, our groups have removed 64 tonnes of litter from our shores.

At the year end, we returned to our long-standing concern around micro-plastics and began plans to address this.

# COLLABORATE



Community archaeology volunteers learning survey techniques. Image Johnny Bean

Our volunteers tell us they especially value our way of working – offering high quality training from experts, and delivering part of something bigger.

Our volunteers are as varied as our programmes, but are united by a love for the Bay.

They share this love by volunteering, sharing skills and donating.

## **Volunteering**

At the heart of all our work is the support and commitment of our volunteers and community groups – working together made 2018'19 a year to be proud of.

You continue to share your hopes and ideas for the future of the Bay with us. And thanks to you, and the thousands of hours of volunteering you contribute, together we deliver a huge range of community projects.

Volunteers get involved in so many ways from clearing vegetation and beach cleans to more complex roles where we provide training such as oral history recording, archive research and archaeological surveying.

As well as a sense of purpose, we, and many volunteers like you, value the lasting friendships and social aspects.



Larking about at the end of the multi-school philosophy conference. Image Susannah Bleakley

“Philosophy for Children has significantly developed our pupils thinking, reasoning, speaking and listening skills.

The children look forward to experiencing learning in many settings around the Bay.

And, as teachers, we enjoy and see great value in terms of pupil development from integrating P4C throughout the curriculum.”

Sam Proctor, teacher  
Lindal and Marton Primary

## **Philosophy for Children (P4C)**

Re-connecting young people with the coast and nature of Morecambe Bay was at the heart of this teacher training programme. Through philosophical enquiry, young people develop critical and creative thinking skills at KS2 level and learn to ask searching questions, work collaboratively and engage with sustainability issues.

Over the course of the programme we delivered a range of formal courses and best practice sessions to bring teachers from around the Bay together to share learning. In total 55 teachers from 21 schools completed this training.

Four schools have successfully achieved their Bronze P4C award and a number of the schools were planning to work towards their silver award.



**Settlement attracted 26,000 visitors to the Bay.**

Images Heysham, above, Robin Zahler; Birkrigg, Susannah Bleakley

## **Settlement – Rob Mulholland**

Settlement is a specially commissioned temporary installation of 9 mirrored structures which reflect the sky, the landscape and, as you visit, you glimpse yourself where people have walked for centuries...

During its month's stay, at Heysham Barrows and then Birkrigg Common, it was enjoyed by 26,000 visitors, largely local but also from across the UK.

It created an explosion of public interest, social media sharing and engagement. The piece was featured twice on the BBC's regional evening news. Our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter showed individual posts reaching as many as 17,500 people.

Fine reward for such a major collaborative project, and many thanks to National Trust and SLDC and numerous other partners for supporting this project.

"It's so playful, people are all talking to each other. Everyone, kids and grown ups, love it.

It really makes you think about the past."  
Leroy

"Thank you, we live really nearby, but had never visited here, so glad we came."  
Martin

"Ah, the skies! It shouts about our #bigskybay"  
Sandra

# STRENGTHEN



## **Resilience for a Secure Future**

In 2018'19 we progressed on our journey as a new Charity Incorporated Organisation (Reg No: 1173489) developing our business model to ensure resilience and a secure future.

In April 2018, assets and staff from the unincorporated charity (Reg No. 1089559) were transferred to the Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Supported by the Heritage Fund (resilient heritage programme) we held a series of inspiring change workshops with staff, trustees and stakeholders.

We developed a new vision, business plan, communications plan and fundraising strategy. And began work to secure a more sustainable future through a mix of income bringing in new funding opportunities alongside our mainstay of grants.

New finance systems, database (CRM) and digital asset management systems are being progressed.

# Recording Morecambe Bay

EXPLORE YOUR HERITAGE

MORECAMBE BAY  
PARTNERSHIP

✉ contact us

📧 get our newsletter

🔗 get involved

home

about

places

themes

map

voices

local groups



## EXPLORE THE BAY'S HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE

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Are you interested in the heritage and natural environment of Morecambe Bay? This website contains photographs, archaeological reports, stories, memories, and maps. Find out [more about us](#) or [how you can get involved](#).

“Volunteering with the Partnership to help create the Recording Morecambe Bay website was the highlight of my year.

It is such a rich resource. But don't go near it unless you have a few hours free – you'll get drawn in to listening and exploring the stories.”

Denys

## **Recording Morecambe Bay**

Our new Recording Morecambe Bay heritage website showcases a vast amount of volunteer research, community stories, oral histories, photographs and archaeology surveys and went live this year at [www.recordingmorecambebay.org.uk](http://www.recordingmorecambebay.org.uk).

It provides a terrific legacy for our work, making information from all our heritage programmes easily accessible alongside material from museums and libraries. We are already in discussions with partners to develop new sections.

It was put together with the help of a diligent team of volunteers digitising, scanning and cataloguing data. Thanks to all of them all, the Bay's heritage is free for anyone to discover the secrets of the past.

## The Year in Numbers

- 2 museum exhibitions
  - 2 new Trampers (all-terrain mobility scooters), 3 routes made accessible for all
  - 2 permanent and 3 temporary artworks commissioned and installed
  - 5 publications
  - 16 local beach clean groups
  - 50 teachers trained
  - 100s of exciting learning opportunities created including dance performances
  - 150 individuals regularly volunteering
  - 4,375kg of litter removed (805kg record haul at a single beach clean event)
  - 9,000 visitors to Festival of the Bay events excluding Settlement
  - 26,000 visitors to Settlement
- 
- One BBC Radio 4 *Front Row* programme dedicated to the Horizon Line Chamber – broadcast as 'slow radio' on Boxing Day 2018.



## Financial Statement i) Income and Expenditure

Registered Charity Number: 1173489

Financial Year April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Income	
<b>Unrestricted</b>	
Unrestricted Income	£ 1,936
<b>Restricted</b>	
Halpin Trust	£ 15,000
Other Restricted Income	£ 157,464
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 174,400</b>

Expenditure	
<b>Unrestricted</b>	
Unrestricted Project Costs	£ 22,976
<b>Restricted</b>	
Restricted Project Costs	£ 81,394
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 104,370</b>

The figures shown above are only for the funds held in the charity's bank accounts. Our large grant programmes such as those funded by Heritage Fund and Coastal Communities Funds were managed through Cumbria County Council and held in their accounts.

**Financial Statement ii) Summary**  
**Registered Charity Number: 1173489**

**Financial Year April 2018 to 31 March 2019**

<b>Summary</b>	
Income	£ 174,400
Expenditure	£ 104,370
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>£ 70,030</b>
Brought forward 17'18	£ 1
Transfer from 1089559	£ 135,369
<b>Carry forward 18'19</b>	<b>£ 205,400</b>

The figures shown as 'Transfer from 1089559' were the funds held by the unincorporated charity, registered number 1089559 that were transferred in April 2018 to the new charity, registered number 1173489.

## Financial Statement iii) Notes

Since the formation of Morecambe Bay Partnership in 1996, Cumbria County Council has acted as the lead authority. This longstanding relationship continued until June 2019 (outside this reporting period).

All the largest grant funded programmes, indeed the vast majority of funding was channelled through the Council. This provided security to the Partnership and our funders. As a result of this, the funding for much of our delivery programme does not show in the charity's financial statement.

Most of the charity expenditure incurred during the year was directed to these large externally funded Schemes. Alongside this the Partnership continued to invest reserves into its development.

Regular trustee meetings always include financial reviews.

Particular thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and to Cumbria County Council for their exceptional support over many years.





# THANK YOU

**Anna Gillespie** (centre, receiving a bouquet from Jan Shorrock) **at the opening of SHIP with Chris Drury looking on.** Image Robin Zahler

## **Thank you**

### **Supporters and funders to the Charity:**

Arts Council England, Cumbria County Council, Galbraith Trust, Hadfield Trust, Halpin Trust, Lake District National Park Authority, Lancaster City Council.

### **Funders for major programmes where finance held by Cumbria County Council**

Coastal Communities Fund, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Natural England, South Lakeland District Council, WREN.

### **Our partners and collaborators include:**

**Numerous community groups, and landowners,** Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership, Bay Tourism, Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Tourism, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, **Deco Publique**, Historic England, Lancaster City Council, Lancaster University, Lune Rivers Trust, Marketing Lancashire, **Natural England**, the National Trust, RSPB, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, **South Lakeland District Council**, Sustrans, University of Cumbria.

Our sincere thanks to our donors, funders and supporters for believing in our vision.

Thanks to you we celebrate and conserve the very things that make the Bay special.

Your support gets young people out on beach cleans, protects birds, supports volunteers to research historic sites and brings great art to celebrate the Bay.

**Share your love of the Bay.  
Please donate now. Your gift will**

- Look after heritage, care for nature
- Open up access and
- Bring more great art to the Bay.

Morecambe Bay Partnership  
The Factory, Aynam Road, Kendal, LA9 7DE

01539 734888

[info@morecambebay.org.uk](mailto:info@morecambebay.org.uk)

[www.morecambebay.org.uk](http://www.morecambebay.org.uk)



**Longways | Crosswise - About Time**  
**Dance Company** Image Robin Zahler

**Morecambe Bay Partnership 1173489****Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2019****Approved by independent accountant: Alan Stubbs Feb 2020**

<b>Unrestricted Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Unrestricted Income	1,936	<b>1,936</b>
<b>Restricted Income</b>		
Halpin Trust	15,000	
Other Restricted Income	157,464	<b>172,464</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>174,400</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Unrestricted Project Costs		22,976
Restricted Project Costs		81,394
<b>Total</b>		<b>104,370</b>
<b>Net Total</b>		70,030
Brought forward from 17/18		1
Transfer of Funds from 1089559 Morecambe Bay Partnership		135,369
<b>Carried Forward 19/20</b>		<b>205,400</b>

## Independent examiner's report

Organisation name Charity Registration	Morecambe Bay Partnership 1173489
Address	C/O Jenny Wain Morecambe Bay Partnership The Factory, Aynam Road Kendal LA9 7DE
Account Year	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019

**Respective responsibilities of committee and examiner**

The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**



**Date:**

26<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Name:**

Alan Stubbs FCMA

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

Chartered Management Accountant.

**Address:**

C/o Cumbria CVS Shaddongate Resource Centre, Carlisle. CA2 5TY.

Disclosure    None.

Recommendations    None.