

**The Net North Shields
Registered Charity No. 1151677**

**Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 December 2019**

Legal and Administrative Information

Name: **The Net North Shields**

Charity no: 1151677

Structure: Unincorporated association governed by a constitution.

Trustees: D Hodgson

L Kay

B Tavernor

D Bavaird

C Brown

JC Nolan

S Barlow

R Chapman

S Tempest

D Young

Trustees are elected by the membership at each Annual General Meeting.

Principal Office: 26 Well Ridge Park
Whitley Bay
NE25 9PQ

Bankers: HSBC
North Shields
NE30 1NU

Independent Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT
VODA
Linskill Centre
Linskill Terrace
North Shields
NE30 2AY

The Net North Shields

Trustees' Annual Report

Year Ending 31st December 2019

Performance Objectives – to 31st December 2019

2019 was without a doubt the Old Low Light's most successful year in terms of performance against budget, but also our performance against our charitable objectives. It is always worth reflecting that we are a charity and social enterprise, not a for profit making organisation. Our financial budget exists solely as a tool to help us ensure we achieve our charitable objectives:

1. For the benefit of the public the preservation, restoration, maintenance, repair and improvement of the building called 'The Old Low Light' situated in North Shields, a Grade II listed building.
2. To advance the education of the inhabitants of North Shields and district and the public at large in the local history of the community, the arts, local heritage and the conservation of the local natural environment by the establishment of a museum and/or heritage centre and to provide facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupations in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants.

With regards to objective 1 – for the benefit of the public.

In 2019 The Net opened The Old Low Light for 354 of the 365 days, closing only for Christmas. This is in line with our first charitable objective to keep Old Low Light in use by the community.

Being open is of course only really part of the story. We could open, with an empty building 365 days a year for a mere £12,000. But doing so would fail to achieve our charitable objective to be of benefit to the public. We were open not as an empty shell, but as a community space for all of the other organisations who call Old Low Light home. Flow, FISH, Changing Lives, The Fishermen's Mission Lady's Group, The Association of Retired Fishermen, The Northumberland Pipers, Dolphin Quays Residence Committee, The Old 68th, Liz Yoga and The Newcastle School of Mindfulness all continue to make regular use of our community spaces.

It is almost impossible however to list the number of smaller groups who meet at Old Low Light, from knitting groups to poets, and scribes, foreign language groups, the U3A, Linkskill Walking Group and Tynemouth Dog Walkers (to name but a few) can often be found in the café. There are also innumerable groups of friends and families regular head to the destination café that we operate.

The cumulative effect of this is the Old Low Light welcomed 38139 visitors to its community spaces in 2019. Not including visitors to exhibitions.

The Net expanded its partnership working in 2019 by becoming an active member in North Tyneside Council's Steps to Employment Consortium. We secured an apprenticeship placement for a young adult with a physical disability in partnership with the Percy Hedley Foundation. In partnership with Tynemet we also have begun work placements for young people with additional needs on their catering, art, marketing and IT courses. Providing placements for students throughout the year, not just including term time. Working with Northumbria University we secured funding for cyber security workshops for people over 55. We continue to work with VODA to provide volunteering meaningful and beneficial volunteering opportunities for local people. All of which is of benefit to the public.

The Old Low Light is put to good use by the community, but you can't have 38,000 people using your facilities and not expect there to be a cost. As a result throughout the year we've completed a whole series of maintenance and repair tasks. In truth, as long as we're open, we'll never complete all those tasks. More will pop up as we address others. Maintenance is just something we need to keep on top of. From painting, decorating, fixing leaks, treating wood, fixing broken glass, repairing damaged equipment – there is plenty of work to do.

With regards to objective 2 – heritage, culture, the natural environment, and social welfare.

The heritage, culture, the natural history and social welfare are all very important to Old Low Light and a large part of the reason we are here.

In 2019 we hosted 8 exhibitions put together by volunteers:

1. Steam at Shields: by John Sturme.
2. A Canny Catch: By the fishermen.
3. The Lost world of the Tyneside Shipyard: By Peter Burns and David Young.
4. Tyne Brand: By Old Low Light's research group.
5. 120th Anniversary of the fishermen's Mission: by the fishermen.
6. Michael Smith Fisherman Painter: by Michael Smith.
7. Breaking Chains: By the research group.
8. Peter Dixon and Shaun Flett's – People and Places.

We also hosted smaller pop up exhibitions by local schools, volunteers and community groups such as:

1. Durham University – Kittiwakes : Helen Wilson.
2. Horton from Low Town to the Lowlands: David Young and David Hirst.
3. Shiremoor Primary School – Sea Life Exhibition.
4. John Spence High School – Breaking Chains Display.
5. Quilters Underground Railroad – Breaking Chains Display.
6. North Atlantic Drift: Migrations and Life in the Drop of Water.

You can see from the titles of those exhibitions and pop ups, that they were all chosen to fit with our objectives. Celebrating the heritage, history and the arts of North Shields. Another powerful way in which we have worked towards that goal however is also through our events program.

Between January and December 2019 Old Low Light hosted 78 events. I won't list them all, but will say they fall into the following groups:

1. Heritage talks.
2. Environmental talks.
3. Guided Walks (both heritage and wildlife based).
4. Musical concerts (outdoor performance weekends, classical concerts, and one off gigs by groups).

Each of these different event types allows us to reach a wide variety of people and cover a different topic or aspect of our charitable objectives. They're also an important tool in helping us to achieve a steady flow of visitors and income throughout the year.

Volunteers are obviously the core of Old Low Light's activities, and our volunteer pool expanded steadily in 2019. This was partly facilitated by the introduction of the volunteer co-ordinator position at Old Low Light, which has allowed a more focused and directed approach to recruitment, training, and placement.

People believe in our objectives and want to work together to achieve them. It is that we keep these objectives in mind, and remind people what they are as often as possible. I think without doing so it might be easy to lose sight of them.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Signed:  Chair, on behalf of the Trustees, date: 22 Jan 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the
trustees of

The Net North Shields

On accounts for
the year ended

31 December 2019

Charity no 1151677

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and
examiner**

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- 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 Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

**Independent
examiner's
statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; 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: 19 January 2021

Name:

Mark Thompson MAAT

Address:

VODA
Linskill Centre
Linskill Terrace
North Shields
NE30 2AY

The Net North Shields

Receipts and payments account for the period

1 January to 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 Unrestricted	2019 Restricted	2019 Total	2018 Total
Income					
Donations	(2)	3858		3858	9569
Charitable Activities	(3)	14194		14194	17946
Other Trading Activities	(4)	170806		170806	112364
Investment Income		24		24	17
Total Income		188882	0	188882	139896
Expenditure					
Cost of Trading Activities	(5)	37773		37773	28472
Charitable Activities	(6)	140046		140046	122255
Depreciation	(7)	15992		15992	15068
Total Expenditure		193811	0	193811	165795
Surplus for the period		-4929	0	-4929	-25899
Transfers Between Funds					
Balance at 1 January 2019		31095	986	32081	57980
Balance at 31 December 2019		26166	986	27152	32081

**The Net North Shields
Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2019**

		2019 £	2018 £
Fixed Assets	8	2245	18236
Current Assets			
Debtors		690	1330
Prepayments		237	227
Stock		584	715
Cash at Bank & in Hand		23557	18172
Total Cash Balances		25068	20444
Current Liabilities		161	6599
Net Current Assets		24907	13845
Net Assets at 31 December 2019		27152	32081
Represented By:			
Restricted Funds		986	986
Unrestricted Funds		26166	31095
		27152	32081
Total		27152	32081

The financial statements were approved by the following members of the Management Committee :

Signed  Position TRUSTEE
 Signed  Position TRUSTEE
 Date 22 January 2021

The Net North Shields

Notes to the accounts, 2019

1. Accounting Policies

- a The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006

The Net North Shields meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

- b Grants received are accounted for on a received basis and credited to income.
- c Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Receipts and Payments Account when received.

2. Grants & Donations

Public donations & fundraising	3858
	3858

3. Charitable Activities

Room Hire	14194
	14194

4. Other Trading Activities

Café & Shop Income	84938
Event Income	37226
Sponsorships	30135
Admission and Ticket Sales	13707
Membership	4800
	170806

5. Costs of Trading Activities

Café Supplies	30751
Gift Shop Supplies	253
Event Costs of Sale	3090
Education Costs	
Museum Costs	3679
	37773

6. Costs of Charitable Activities

Staff Costs	103096
Travel & Training Costs	
Premises	27198
Advertising	1119
Insurance Fees	2267
Legal & Professional	1423
Office Costs	4943
	140046

7. Trustees, staff and related party transactions

The organisation employed an average of 7 members of staff during the period of the accounts. No payments were made to trustees.

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	2019	2018
Cost		
At 1st January 2019	79958	74918
Additions		5040
Disposals		
At 31st December 2019	79958	79958
Depreciation		
At 1st January 2019	61721	46654
Additions	15992	15067
Disposals		
At 31st December 2019	77713	61721
Net Book Value		
At 31st December 2019	2245	18237
At 31st December 2018	28264	28264

8. Restricted Funds

	Open Bal	Income	Expend	End Bal
Analysis of Restricted Funds:				
Telling Our Story	986			986
Total	986			986