

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

**Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 December 2018**

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
Queen Alexandra Campus
Hawkeys Lane
North Shields
NE29 9BZ

The Net North Shields

Trustees' Annual Report Year Ending 31st December 2018.

Objectives and Activities

The charities objects and principle activities are:

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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 interest of social welfare with the objective of improving conditions of life of the said inhabitants.

Achievements and performance

Trustees have had due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

In regard to charity objective A

We opened Old Low Light to the public 351 days out of 365 days in 2018. Closing only for essential repair works and Christmas.

In January 2018 we completed a large annual review and identified and prioritised a series of tasks required to be completed to improve and repair the building. This then informed much of our work throughout the year. Throughout 2018 we undertook a programme to redecorate the internal spaces of the building. All three floors of the building were repainted and decorations were refreshed.

In spring 2018 we completed a series of repairs to the outside of the building. Rotted wooden shutters were replaced and repaired. Rusted railings were sanded down and repaired. Decoration was carried out to improve appearance and survivability in the maritime environment.

All of the above actions helped us to ensure that the Old Low Light remained in public use.

In regard to charity objective B

The Old Low Light welcomed nearly 41,328 visitors to the heritage centre in 2018. 10,000 of these were paying visitors who visited the heritage gallery and the remaining 30,000 were free visitors who used the coffee shop and facilities. We believe that ensuring the building is used and visited, helps improve the value the community places on it and in turn ensures it will remain in public use for future generations.

The Net has continued to build a wide group of friends, within the community both near by and further afield. In 2018 we increased the number of members on our friends scheme to 416 from 217 the year before. Trustees and members of staff are members of local partnerships. North Tyneside Council continues to describe The Net as 'an exemplar of council/community co-operation'.

Social welfare was the focus of many of our efforts in 2018, and volunteering in turn was at the heart of those efforts. In that year The Net's number of active volunteers increased from 154 to 221 by the end of 2018 who work on all aspects of the operation. Volunteering is a key way in which we are able to help improve social welfare of the people of North Shields. Volunteering helps us to help people to develop skills and experiences which then help them into employment. An example of this In 2018 we helped 29 people into employment as a direct result of their volunteering with us. That takes the total people we have helped into employment to 79 over 4 years.

The Net works to help improve social welfare, by improving the physical health of the local population. We work to improve health by providing a space for and a timetable of exercise classes. We currently host 5 exercise classes per week. We also have facilities for cyclists and by help keep people active by running guided walks of the local area. A desired side effect of our recruitment of volunteers is, while they are volunteering they are also active. It is easy for volunteers to achieve 5,000 steps at Old Low Light while they are volunteering with us.

We understand that health is not just a physical thing, and as such are part of the local Safe Space scheme. This provides a safe space for people with mental health issues to find sanctuary if they find themselves over come with anxiety while out and about.

The next way we work to improve social welfare is linked to our work with people with physical disabilities. Twenty of our volunteers have, and are happy to declare, disabilities. At Old Low Light we are able to offer 1:1 support from staff and a strong supportive volunteering team to people with a variety of conditions. This means we can make reasonable adjustments to help people gain skills and experience.

The sixth impact we have is linked to our work with the older population of the area. We want to engage with our older population and put their skills and experiences to use improving the community. We do this by recruiting older people as volunteers for roles across the project. Over 100 of our 227 volunteers are over the age of 60. Everything they do involves engaging with people in a social context. Whether they are talking to each other, customers, or visitors, none of our volunteers describe themselves as socially isolated when they are volunteering at Old Low Light. If people can not get down to the centre due to bad weather (for example), we keep them up to date on what is going on by sending newsletters (electronically, and hard copies) so they still feel a part of the community.

Alongside improving social welfare is our objective to help people develop local heritage, history and culture. We want to help increase levels of education. We do this by working with schools, and also by working with the community to create exhibitions for our gallery. This allows us to present the story of North Shields and we are happy that we welcomed over 10,000 paying visitors to our heritage gallery last year – with a totally of nearly 40,000 people using the centre as a whole. All of our stories, histories and exhibitions are themed around North Shields or the lives of people from North Shields. The work our volunteers to do is unparalleled in the area as no one else seeks to preserve and present the history we do.

We understand that education isn't a 9-3 job though just in term time. As a result we work with local groups such as Meadow Well Connected to provide engaging activities for young people from deprived areas outside of the normal term time table. Research by Northumbria University in 2017 demonstrated that our activities for young people outside of term time, improved their performance and behaviour on return to school after the summer break. As a result in 2018 we greatly expanded the summer school programme we ran to provide activities from 1 day a week to 4 days a week, for pupils from 3 local schools.

Through of all this we work to preserve, protect and share the history of the local area. We do our best to achieve these goals through our management of The Old Low Light building. We want The Old Low Light to be a sustainable community asset. We believe as a community asset it has an essential role to play in the maintenance of the social welfare of local inhabitants.

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: 20/10/18

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the
trustees of

The Net North Shields

On accounts for
the year ended

31 December 2018

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: 28 October 2019

Name: Mark Thompson MAAT
Address: VODA
Queen Alexandra Campus
Hawkeys Lane
North Shields
NE29 9BZ

The Net North Shields

Receipts and payments account for the period

1 January to 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 Unrestricted	2018 Restricted	2018 Total	2017 Total
Income					
Donations	(2)	9569		9569	5972
Charitable Activities	(3)	17946		17946	25729
Other Trading Activities	(4)	112364		112364	99675
Investment Income		17		17	8
Total Income		139896	0	139896	131384
Expenditure					
Cost of Trading Activities	(5)	28472		28472	42285
Charitable Activities	(6)	122255		122255	148861
Depreciation	(7)	15068		15068	16687
Total Expenditure		165795	0	165795	207833
Surplus for the period		-25899	0	-25899	-76449
Transfers Between Funds					
Balance at 1 January 2018		56994	986	57980	134429
Balance at 31 December 2018		31095	986	32081	57980

**The Net North Shields
Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2018**

		2018 £	2017 £
Fixed Assets	8	18236	28264
Current Assets			
Debtors		1330	2086
Prepayments		227	
Stock		715	1488
Cash at Bank & in Hand		18172	35506
Total Cash Balances		20444	39080
Current Liabilities		6599	9364
Net Current Assets		13845	29716
Net Assets at 31 December 2018		32081	57980
Represented By:			
Restricted Funds		986	986
Unrestricted Funds		31095	56994
		32081	57980
Total		32081	57980

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

Signed Position *CHAIR*

Signed Position *TREASURER*

Date *20/10/19*

The Net North Shields

Notes to the accounts, 2018

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	9569
	9569

3. Charitable Activities

Room Hire	17946
	17946

4. Other Trading Activities

Café & Shop Income	82544
Event Income	16151
Sponsorships	
Admission and Ticket Sales	9504
Membership	4165
	112364

5. Costs of Trading Activities

Café Supplies	24482
Gift Shop Supplies	1164
Event Costs of Sale	1794
Education Costs	
Museum Costs	1032
	28472

6. Costs of Charitable Activities

Staff Costs	85053
Travel & Training Costs	
Premises	27409
Advertising	1029
Insurance Fees	2241
Legal & Professional	1610
Office Costs	4913
	122255

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

	2018	2017
Cost		
At 1st January 2018	74918	81038
Additions	5040	0
Disposals		
At 31st December 2018	79958	81038
Depreciation		
At 1st January 2018	46654	36087
Additions	15067	16687
Disposals		
At 31st December 2018	61721	52774
Net Book Value		
At 31st December 2018	18237	28264
At 31st December 2017	28264	61974

8. Restricted Funds

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