



New Note Projects

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity number 1161284

Trustee Report and Financial Statements  
Year ending 31 March 2018

New Note Projects  
P.O. Box 5420  
Brighton  
BN50 8HS

The Trustees of New Note Projects present their Annual Report for the period from 1st April 2017 to 31st March, 2018

### **Structure:**

New Note Projects is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Our constitution is a 'Foundation' model whose only voting members are its charity trustees.

New Note Projects was overseen by two trustees during this period:

Chairman - Peter Morris  
Trustee - Dan Blomfield

The day to day operations were overseen by Founder and Chief Exec Molly Mathieson.

New Note Projects aims and objects:

- a) To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.
- b) To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

### **Operations:**

New Note Projects launched 'New Note Orchestra' in 2015. New Note Orchestra is designed specifically for people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. It is also made available to people who have other mental health needs. It is the first recovery orchestra in the world. New Note Orchestra follows three guiding principles:

- 1) Peer to peer support. When people come into recovery they need to find friends and a supportive network away from drugs and alcohol. We have a 'buddy' system, which ensures that new people walking through the door are greeted by one of our regular participants. This makes new people feel welcome, assured and included.
- 2) Composing and playing music together. We support each others musical ideas and tastes. Through this collaborative process our participants gain a huge boost in self-esteem and confidence.
- 3) Performing in front of live audiences. People who have recently come into recovery can suffer from mild depression. The performances are a safe way to release endorphins which increase serotonin levels, making everyone feel elated. They are also really good fun, helping to validate our musicians abilities.

In January 2017 the New Note Strummers was launched. New Note Strummers is a weekly guitar group for people who are in recovery from addiction. This group attracts clients who are particularly vulnerable, including those in the early stages of recovery, street homeless and who have significant mental health issues.

During 2016, founder Molly Mathieson noticed that a large number of clients visiting the orchestra expressed an interest in playing guitar. Many of these guitarists wanted to jam and play popular songs. They ranged in ability but wanted to have a more 'song based' approach to learning music. It became clear that Brighton and Hove needed a safe space where people could strengthen their recovery by learning an entry level instrument in a supportive atmosphere.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when considering the activities to be undertaken. These are detailed in this report.

### **Putting our aims and objectives into practice:**

#### New Note Orchestra operations summary:

During 1st April 2017 to 31st March, 2018, the orchestra;

- created a 30 minute documentary called Solace,
- created two new scores
- performed at eight public concerts.

New Note Orchestra held weekly sessions where the musicians were encouraged to improvise and create their own music. The orchestra met 51 weeks of the year, keeping in regular contact with the members.

52 people engaged with the orchestra during this period. 86% of participants said they 'Strongly Agreed' the orchestra strengthened their recovery. 60% 'Strongly Agreed' that their mental health had improved.

The first score was titled 'Dancing Magpies' and was 20 minutes long. The orchestra performed two concerts in the Brighton Fringe Festival and one at the Carpenters Arms, a homeless drop in center, which cooks a hot meal for 150 people. They also performed their first concert outside of Brighton for the World Drugs Day conference, based at 1 Whitehall PI, Westminster. The conference was a fantastic showcase for the orchestra and an empowering experience for the musicians.

The second score was titled 'Solace'. This was a unique project as it also involved the creation of a 30 minute film directed by Angus Cameron. The film saw orchestra members being interviewed about key moments in their lives, which were interwoven into archive footage sourced from Screen South East. During performances the orchestra provided a live soundtrack.

The orchestra performed Solace at four public concerts. The first was for Cinecity Film Festival. They also performed at the Depot, a Lewes based independent cinema.

Audience feedback for Solace was overwhelmingly positive. Some comments include:

- “Very good. Gave me insights into addiction and life that were helpful even to someone who hasn’t suffered addition. Thank you.
- “Wonderful! Really good to have addiction talked about in public – helps get over the shame. “

71% for the overall audience attended a New Note Orchestra concert for the first time.

76% of audience members were not in recovery.

43% of audience members that the concert changed their perceptions of people who have addiction issues.

In January 2017 New Note Orchestra appointed a new Artistic Director Conall Gleeson. Conall Gleeson is also Deputy Head of the School of Media at the University of Brighton.

The introduction of Conall Gleeson as Artistic Director has fundamentally changed the way that NNO musicians create new scores. Through Conall Gleeson, the musicians have learned a vast array of music making skills and various improvisation techniques. This new method of working has helped the musicians to grow in confidence, experiment and try new things. This has made the NNO musicians feel more confident when performing which is having a positive impact on their lives outside of the orchestra. Conall Gleeson has helped to reshape the identity of NNO from being an amateur music making group into a credible artistic endeavor. Alongside these changes Conall Gleeson made it a priority to invest in good quality instruments. The orchestra purchased a set of hand chimes, which require minimal prior learning (unlike guitars and keyboards) and are performed as a single instrument that requires several persons to fully operate. They are an investment in developing the sonority of the orchestra, but also key in sustaining the ‘drop-in’ approach to our weekly workshops. This investment has strengthened our ‘inclusivity’ policy during our rehearsals.

As a consequence the hand chimes have now become an integral part of our weekly sessions and performances.

## **MUSICDARE:**

During May 2017, New Note Orchestra was an integral part of the European MUSICDARE conference, (Music in Creative Detoxification and rehabilitation). MUSICDARE took place over eight days and was a European large-scale training program on the use of music as a complementary therapeutic intervention during the detoxification and rehabilitation processes of individuals suffering from drug dependence.

Conall Gleeson and New Note Orchestra were instrumental in bringing the conference to Brighton. It saw speakers from across Europe present and share ideas.

New Note Orchestra hosted an Open Mic night where all the European partners could share their musical talents in a celebrated night of sobriety.

Eight New Note Orchestra members attended the conference. In a feedback session, some of our musicians said that as a result of attending the conference they had shifted their recovery behaviors. Also, they interacted and made friendships with people from across Europe.

### **New Note Strummers operations summary:**

New Note Strummers began in January 2017 as a direct result of the number of guitarists coming to the New Note Orchestra. Founder Molly Mathieson could see that there was a need for a safe non-judgemental space where people could play in a group, learn off each other and develop a supportive network. With a National Lottery grant she launched a pilot guitars group between Jan-April 2017. The pilot was successful, Strummers became a regular weekly group for people in recovery from addiction.

The demographic who attend New Note Strummers are people who have addiction issues and often in the early stages of recovery. Over 90% of the group are vulnerably housed. Many have experienced street homelessness. They also present with other issues including a variety of mental health needs.

In recent feedback 75% of the New Note Strummers said that they 'strongly agreed' that attending the group helped to strengthen their recovery from addiction. 63 % said that they 'strongly agreed' attending the group helped to improve their mental health. Some comments include:

- *"It is a weekly tag with my sober cousins that reminds me to keep control of my addiction"*
- *"I no longer live in a constant depression and find it easier to smile."*
- *"I feel more confident and happier since learning guitar."*

During this period the New Note Strummers performed three times;

- As special guests at MIND,
- At an internal party for the guitar manufacturers Fender,
- At an open mic night hosted by the New Note Orchestra for the MUSICDARE conference.

## **New Developments:**

In September 2018 New Note Projects will be piloting an event called 'Guitars Save Lives'. The purpose is to raise funds for the New Note Strummers but to also raise awareness around addiction, homelessness and mental health. The aim is to create a platform where New Note Projects can be advocates for better services, and discussing topics, which directly affect those attending the New Note Strummers group. The longer term plan for Guitars Save Lives is to make it into a yearly national event that attracts high profile media attention.

## **Review of financial position.**

The charity achieved a surplus of £4,366 on unrestricted activities during the year and this has been added to the reserves brought forward of £7,558 totaling £11,068. We have committed to spending some of the reserves on a new research project looking at our impact and outcomes, which will be overseen by the University of Brighton. The research project will cost £3,500. New Note Projects reserves are £8188.

### Reserves Policy.

Our reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds to source the core operating capacity of the charity for three months. This is so that the charity can meet ongoing liabilities, sufficient to ensure that all delivery commitments can be met and to protect the long-term future of the operations.

**NEW NOTE PROJECTS****RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT****YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

	<b><u>UNRESTRICTED</u></b>	<b><u>RESTRICTED</u></b>	<b><u>2018 TOTAL</u></b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
GRANTS AND DONATIONS			
Chalk Trust	-	2,000	2,000
Brighton University	900	-	900
Ian Askew		500	500
Leigh Trust	-	2,500	2,500
Mackintosh Foundation	-	1,500	1,500
Brighton and Hove City Council	-	3,500	3,500
Sussex Community Foundation	-	2,964	2,964
Arts Council	-	14,500	14,500
Jam Tarts	1,300	-	1,300
Other Donations	3,264	-	3,264
OTHER INCOME			
Ticket Sales	2,741	-	2,741
Refund	50	-	50
Miscellaneous	241	-	241
	<b>8,496</b>	<b>27,464</b>	<b>35,960</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Freelance fees	-	27,890	27,890
Hospitality	-	408	408
Training	-	581	581
Venue	-	760	760
Musical instrument - tuner	-	1,825	1,825
Insurance	-	720	720
Participants refreshments	-	1,097	1,097
Marketing	-	242	242
Independent Examination	300	-	300
Office/website/email	2,403	-	2,403
Travel	1,663	667	2,330
	<b>4,366</b>	<b>34,190</b>	<b>38,556</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	<b>4,130</b>	<b>-6,726</b>	<b>-2,596</b>
<b>CASH FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b>7,558</b>	<b>9,690</b>	<b>17,248</b>
<b>CASH FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>11,688</b>	<b>2,964</b>	<b>14,652</b>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES  
ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF NEW NOTE PROJECTS**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of New Note Projects for the year ended 31 March 2018.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 Trust 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 confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

C R Tyler FCA DChA FCIE  
F1 CRT Limited  
Chartered Accountant  
Flat 24, Wellingtonia Court  
Laine Close  
Brighton  
BN1 6TD  
Date:



By Order of the Board:

Signature: Bridget Taylor

Marcus O'Dair

Print Name: BRIDGET TAYLOR

MARCUS O'DAIR

Position: Chair of Trustees

Daniel Blomfield

Date: 24/09/2018

Daniel Blomfield