# Remembering the Past, Resourcing the Future CIO
# (Registered Charity 1155014)

## Trustees Report
## and
## Financial Statements
## for the period
## 1st January to 31st December
## 2025

# Remembering The Past, Resourcing The Future

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2025
Charity Number: 1155014

## Reference and administrative details

| Item | Detail |
|---|---|
| Charity name | Remembering The Past, Resourcing The Future |
| Charity number | 1155014 |
| Principal address | Room R11b, The Linskill Centre, Linskill Terrace, North Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE30 2AY |
| How constituted | Charitable Incorporated Organisation |
| Constitution adopted | 16 December 2013 |
| Senior Staff Member | Alexandra Watson (Strategic Lead) |
| Trustees (to confirm for 2025) | David Hodgson (Treasurer), Ron Hillaby, Chris Wray, Guy Moody, Kath Smith (resigned 01/01/25) |
| Bankers | HSBC Bank Plc, 110 Grey Street, Newcastle, Tyne & Wear, NE1 6JG |
| Independent examiner | North Tyneside VODA, Spirit of North Tyneside Wing, Wallsend Customer First Centre, Wallsend, NE28 8JR |

All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration.

# Trustees' Report 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. Included within the Trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law. The reference and administrative information set out above forms part of this report.

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

## Objectives and activities

### Charitable objectives

- Advance the education of the public in Tyne and Wear, in particular but not exclusively by educating school children through the collection and dissemination of the memories, experiences and thoughts of older people, and by establishing and maintaining a community archive that records social history through oral history and reminiscence.
- Promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people, and assisting them to integrate into society.

### Achieving public benefit

The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The focus of our work remains the alleviation of loneliness and of social and digital isolation among older people in North Tyneside. We do this by collecting older people's memories of the cultural, working and social life of the area, and by sharing that content with the wider community.

### Public benefit in action

Our collection records the social history of the North East through the stories of ordinary people. It includes the voices of those who worked in the area's lost industries and trades, alongside accounts of cultural traditions that might otherwise go undocumented. These voices are valued by local, national and international audiences, and they help our communities understand the heritage of the places they live in and the lives of their own relatives.

Our method rests on gaining and keeping the confidence of contributors and on raising their self-esteem by making them aware of the value of what they share. By listening to people's stories and bearing witness to their experiences, our volunteer interviewers engage people from every walk of life. For many of our participants, being invited to share their story with a trained volunteer who is curious and unhurried is a rare experience. A number are managing bereavement, declining health, or the loss of social networks that came with retirement, and the sessions give them something they would not easily find elsewhere. Participants tell us that their sessions leave them feeling more confident, more connected, and more valued.

Our digital team then prepares and shares these recordings, returning copies to contributors and adding them to our web-based community archive at www.rememberingthepast.co.uk. We work in partnership with communities, academics, volunteers, artists and other organisations, and our approach is one of co-curation led by our contributors.

## Achievements and performance in 2025

2025 was one of the busiest and most high-profile years in the charity's history, shaped by two major projects. The first was the final year of our National Lottery Heritage Fund resilience project, which moved us from two years of review and planning into putting our new strategies into practice. The second was North Shields 800, the year-long celebration of the town's anniversary, which gave us a series of opportunities to bring our archive to much larger audiences.

### Remembering The Past, Shaping The Future: Heritage Resilience Project

This National Lottery Heritage Fund project, designed to secure the future of the charity following the retirement of our founder, completed in December 2025. By the year end its main outputs were complete or in final draft:

- A three-year Business Plan.
- An Audience Development Plan, shaped with staff and volunteers.
- A Collections Management Policy, following a review with a working group of volunteers.
- An Evaluation Framework and Environmental Plan.
- A refreshed brand, including a new logo and a website refresh.
- New trustees and volunteers recruited and further campaigns planned.

### North Shields Voices

North Shields Voices, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, was our flagship project for North Shields 800. Over the year we recorded, edited, transcribed and published 40 interviews with North Shields residents. We staffed two week-long exhibitions at the Beacon Shopping Centre in late November and early December, seen by 1,444 people.

With projection artist Jay Davidson, we curated archive memories of the Fish Quay; excerpts were projected onto the Ice Factory building during the grand finale parade on 12 December, watched by thousands. We also made a short film pairing interview audio with archive images, shown in a pop-up cinema at the Beacon over three days in October. Both brought our heritage content to new audiences in a contemporary form.

### North Shields 800: wider involvement

We acted as heritage partner for an artist commission (£500), selecting archive material that was used in a public printmaking workshop for eight people. Using a share of North Shields 800 underspend, we commissioned photographers Hazel Plater and Sasha Mallo Tardiveau to deliver 'North Shields Wrapped!', a contemporary record of the town at the close of the anniversary year. Eighty photographs were added to our archive, and a social media takeover in December drew 27,774 views and 923 interactions over seven days.

### Women in Shipbuilding, 1940s–1980s

This Frederick Milburn Trust project, recording the experiences of women in the Tyne and Wear shipyards from 1945 to the closure of the yards in the 1980s, was completed during the year. We produced a hybrid school resource and mini-exhibition for distribution through the schools' library service, and the funder closed the project, satisfied with the outputs.

### Women in Shipbuilding, First World War

This Historic England partnership was completed early in the year, with a final interview, publication on our website, and the release of the accompanying Historic England film on YouTube.

### New income and partnerships

We continued to diversify our income. North Tyneside Schools Library Service purchased our resource boxes and began discussions about developing further resources from our archive, establishing a new income stream. We received a grant of £1,500 from the RW Mann Trust towards an office technology refresh and earned fees from our heritage partner role in North Shields 800. We also continued to trial the sale of postcards and other merchandise at events.

### Events and outreach

After pausing the talks programme for review, we resumed outreach during the year. We delivered talks to the Probus Club in Whitley Bay (12 participants) and the Trefoil Guild in North Shields (9 participants), and staffed a day-long North Shields Local History Day at North Shields Library on 10 May, which drew around 150 visitors. In the summer we exhibited the Paul Johnstone collection of North Shields photographs at the North Shields Community History Day at The Linskill Centre, which attracted around 1,700 people, and ran a popular postcard engagement activity. We also took part in the I Love North Shields LIVE and People of Linskill community events.

### Engagement and reach

Total recorded direct engagement for 2025 was 3,111, against 759 in 2024, an increase of 309%. This figure is conservative, as it does not include the many people who saw the Ice Factory projection during the parade or the film in the pop-up cinema. Website visitors rose to 23,348, up from 21,903 in 2024. Our social media reach grew sharply during the final quarter as the North Shields 800 work landed, with tens of thousands of views across Facebook and Instagram and steady growth in followers on both platforms.

The Trustees would like to thank all the partners, stakeholders, freelancers, staff, funders, volunteers and audiences who supported the charity through an exceptional year.

## Looking forward to 2026

With the resilience project complete, our focus in 2026 turns to putting the new business, audience and collections plans into practice, and to securing the income that will sustain the organisation now that the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant has ended.

We enter the year with a healthier pipeline of paid work than in recent years. Three fees-for-service projects are confirmed:

| Organisation | Project | Timeframe | Fee |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tyne & Wear Building Preservation Trust | Keelmen's Hospital, Newcastle | Jan–Jun 2026 | £4,900 |
| Seaton Delaval Church | Training, archiving and web hosting | Jan–Apr 2026 | £3,000 |
| Newcastle University | 1926 Strike commemoration | 2026 | £2,900 |

Underpinning all of this is our new three-year strategy, which organises our work around three priorities: developing and growing the community archive, connecting people and communities through talks, events and schools work, and promoting social inclusion among older people. In the work we initiate ourselves, we have decided to focus on areas that are underrepresented in our archive, volunteer base and project work starting in the north-west of the borough, in communities such as Burradon, Camperdown and Killingworth. This part of North Tyneside is underrepresented in heritage work more widely, and starting to record and share its stories is a deliberate step towards an archive that better reflects the whole borough.

The wider picture is more encouraging than it has been. North Shields 800 has raised our profile, which is already leading to new partnerships and project ideas, and a North Shields Town of Culture 2028 bid has been announced, which should create further opportunities for us. The Trustees remain mindful, though, of a difficult national funding environment for the voluntary sector, and of the need to articulate our aims clearly and to evidence the impact of our work to compete for support.

## Financial review

### Financial information

Total income for the year was **£45,597** and total expenditure was **£46,298**. At 31 December 2025 the charity's total reserves stood at **£11,148,** comprising **£1,500** of restricted funds and **£9,648** of unrestricted funds.

Income during the year included the second instalment of the resilience project grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (£21,695), the North Shields Voices grant, a grant from the RW Mann Trust (£1500) towards the technology refresh, fees for services, sales of resource boxes to North Tyneside Schools Library Service, talk fees and merchandise sales, and donations and bank interest.

### Reserves policy

The Trustees are aware of the need to hold sufficient free reserves, that is, unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or otherwise designated, to allow the charity to respond to any unexpected fall in funding or unexpected expenditure. It remains the Trustees' intention to grow and maintain reserves to the equivalent of six months' operational expenditure, currently estimated at approximately £16,000.

The level of free reserves held at 31 December 2025 was **£9,648** which was in line with expectations.

## Structure, governance and management

| Item | Detail |
|---|---|
| How the charity is constituted | Charitable Incorporated Organisation |
| Constitution adopted | 16 December 2013 |
| Trustee selection | Trustees are appointed for a period of three years |
| Trustee meetings | The Trustees met on four occasions during the year to receive reports on activities and finances and to review policy. |

Remembering The Past, Resourcing The Future is a member of North Tyneside VODA, the local voluntary sector development agency, which provides support and guidance on governance and good employment practice, and an associate member of the North East Chamber of Commerce. The charity is also a member of the Oral History Society, the professional body for our memory collection work, which provides training and resources to help us follow good practice in collecting and archiving oral histories. We are also part of the Newcastle University Oral History Collective and our strategic Lead, Alexandra Watson, is an Associate Researcher there. The Collective exchange ideas through discussion groups, at conferences, reading groups, research seminars, and drop-in sessions. Through funding bids, we develop applied oral history across the world.

### Governance developments during the year

We rewrote our Safeguarding Adults Policy to meet current regulatory expectations and best practice. The revised policy aligns with the Care Act 2014, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and current DBS requirements and now includes a named safeguarding lead.

Following a board discussion prompted by the technology refresh, the Trustees agreed to develop a more comprehensive digital policy, consolidating data protection, security protocols and backup arrangements into a single framework. The Trustees also intend to consider, within that review, the appropriate use of artificial intelligence tools to reduce administrative time for a small charity.

### The contribution of volunteers

Remembering The Past exists because of the work of its committed team of volunteers. We are grateful for the many hours they spend collecting and sharing memories, developing local history resources, and managing the day-to-day running of the organisation. Without their time, energy and expertise the charity would not exist. In return, we offer varied and rewarding opportunities to maintain and expand the community archive, an accessible introduction to digital skills through our collection work, and the chance to develop skills in oral history collection, archiving and dissemination that the National Lottery Heritage Fund recognises as professional or skilled. Volunteers also help to shape new projects and the future direction of the charity.

## Risk management

The Trustees review the principal risks facing the charity and the systems in place to manage them. Risk assessment has reinforced the importance of protecting everyone involved at each stage of the memory collection process, and in particular of safeguarding and data protection. A

safeguarding policy and an equal opportunities policy guide all of our work, and our data protection arrangements are reviewed periodically.

The Trustees consider the following to be the most significant risks at present:

- **Staffing.** The charity relies on a single paid member of staff, whose contract expired on 31 December 2025. The Trustees are reviewing future staffing arrangements, including succession planning and building capacity through volunteers and partnerships.
- **Cash flow.** The charity depends on the timely receipt of grant payments. Cash flow is monitored closely and supported by regular contact with funders.
- **Digital resilience and data.** Backup provision and ageing equipment have been addressed through a technology refresh, and a new digital policy will consolidate data protection, security and backup arrangements.
- **Volunteer capacity.** The charity relies heavily on a small group of longstanding volunteers, and the loss of any of them would affect delivery. The Trustees are working to recruit and train new volunteers at a sustainable pace to broaden this base.

## Compliance with prevailing law and regulations

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

## Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

| Signature: Trustee | | Signature: Trustee | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Name: | R Hillaby | Name: | D. Hodgson |
| Date: | October 2026 | Date: | October 2026 |

# North Shields Library Club's
# Remembering the Past, Resourcing the Future Project

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

**Report to the trustees of** — **Remembering the Past, Resourcing the Future CIO**

**On accounts for the year ended** — **31 December 2025** **Charity no 1155014**

**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.

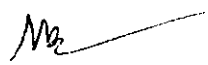
**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

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 41 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: 6 October, 2026**

**Name:** Mark Thompson MAAT

**Address:**
VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Community Hub & Library
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

# Remembering the Past, Resourcing the Future CIO
# (Registered Charity 1155014)

## Statement of Financial Activities
## for the Year to 31st December 2025

| **RECEIPTS** | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Total Funds | *Year to 31-Dec-24* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | - | | | |
| Grants | | | | |
| National Hertiage Fund | | 27023 | **27,023** | |
| Community Foundation | | 1,500 | **1,500** | |
| Milburn Trust | | | **-** | ***1,990*** |
| | | | - | |
| Fees for Service | 16,819 | | **16,819** | ***4,200*** |
| Donations & Sale of Books | 45 | | **45** | ***135*** |
| Bank Interest | 210 | | **210** | ***488*** |
| **Total Receipts** | **£ 17,074** | **£ 28,523** | **£ 45,597** | ***£ 6,813*** |
| **PAYMENTS** | | | | |
| Salaries | 6,045 | 18,000 | **24,045** | ***18,000*** |
| Training/Professional Costs | 7,887 | 1,546 | **9,433** | ***1,239*** |
| Staff & Volunteer Travel Costs | 328 | | **328** | ***46*** |
| Other Volunteer Expenses | - | | **-** | ***294*** |
| Insurance | 576 | | **576** | **575** |
| Internet & Telephones | 805 | | **805** | ***608*** |
| Room Hire | 6,398 | | **6,398** | ***7,112*** |
| Equipment | - | | **-** | - |
| IT Costs | - | | **-** | ***810*** |
| Resource Materials | 2,823 | | **2,823** | ***19*** |
| Marketing | 823 | | **823** | - |
| Subscriptions & Licences | 451 | | **451** | ***555*** |
| Postage and Stationery | 294 | | **294** | ***40*** |
| Lease Renewal | - | | **-** | ***250*** |
| Accountancy Costs | 275 | | **275** | ***250*** |
| Bank Charges | 47 | | **47** | ***63*** |
| **Total Expenses** | **£ 26,752** | **£ 19,546** | **£ 46,298** | ***£ 29,861*** |
| **(Deficit)/Surplus for the Year** | - 9,678 | 8,977 | - **701** | - ***23,048*** |
| **Transfer between funds** | | | | |
| **Funds Brought Forward** | **19,326** | - **7,477** | **11,849** | ***34,897*** |
| **Funds Carried Forward** | **£ 9,648** | **£ 1,500** | **£ 11,148** | ***£ 11,849*** |

# Remembering the Past, Resourcing the Future CIO
# (Registered Charity 1155014)

## BALANCE SHEET
## as at 31 December 2025

| | 31-Dec-25 | 31-Dec-24 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| **Current Assets** | | |
| Cash at Bank | 10,269 | 12,102 |
| Debtors | 7,627 | |
| Prepayments | 572 | |
| **Total Assets** | £ 18,468 | £ 12,102 |
| **Current Liabilities** | | |
| Creditors and Accruals | 7,320 | 253 |
| **Total Expenses** | £ 7,320 | £ 253 |
| **Net Current Assets** | 11,148 | 11,849 |
| **Net Assets at 31 December 2025** | £ 11,148 | £ 11,849 |
| **Represented by:-** | | |
| **Restricted Funds** | 1,500 | - 7,477 |
| **Unrestricted Funds** | 9,648 | 19,326 |
| **Funds Carried Forward** | £ 11,148 | £ 11,849 |

**Signed:-** ..... **RON HILLABY - Trustee**

..... **DAVID HODGSON -Trustee/Treasurer**

**Date** - October 2026

# Remembering the Past, Resourcing the Future CIO
# (Registered Charity 1155014)

## Notes to the Accounts
## Year to 31st December 2025

**1). Basis of Accounts**

These accounts have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis, reflecting prepayments and accruals.

**2). Grants**

Grants were received during the Period as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Restricted Fund : | |
| National Heritage Fund | 27023 |
| R W Mann Trust | 1,500 |
| | **£ 28,523** |

**3). Fee for Service Work**

Work carried out on this basis during the period was as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| North Shields 800 | |
| Incorporating Shared History, Shared Voices, North Shields | |
| Living History, A Community Story & "Gannin Shoppin" in Shields | 16,819 |
| | **£ 16,819** |

**4). Analysis of Funds**

Restricted Funds analyse as follows:-

| | Balance 01-Jan-25 | income | Expended | Transfer to Unrestricted | Balance 31-Dec-25 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| National Heritage Lottery | - 8,627 | 27,023 | 18,396 | | - |
| Milburn Trust | 1,150 | | 1,150 | | - |
| R W Mann Trust | | 1,500 | - | | 1,500 |
| | **-£ 7,477** | **£ 28,523** | **£ 19,546** | **£ -** | **£ 1,500** |