

GMDT Annual Report April 2017 - March 2018



Restoring Local Heritage

PICNIC
IN THE
PARK
CARLISLE PARK MORPETH



A successful development trust

GMDT structure and team

Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT)



Vision

Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT) will continue to develop Morpeth to be a premier market town in North East England. It works to promote and improve the town and countryside for public benefit, and for the economic and social well-being of people living and working in Morpeth and surrounding areas of Northumberland through the promotion of urban and rural regeneration.

What is GMDT?

GMDT is a community led organisation established out of the Local Strategic Partnership to facilitate the development and delivery of community based projects through partnership working. We have continued to develop through our enthusiastic and knowledgeable team and unwavering support from the Board and volunteers. We are passionate about the work we do and take pride in what has been achieved to date and we are extremely excited by the future opportunities.

One of our special areas of interest is Heritage through the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund providing funding for our living heritage programme, events such as Emily Inspires project and the redevelopment of Morpeth Railway Station. The most recent support is through redevelopment of Cresswell Pele tower and the children's De Merley project.

The Report cover picture is of Cresswell Pele tower and GMDT have supported Cresswell Parish Council in attracting funding over the past two years for the development and delivery of a project to restore and repair the tower so that it can be removed from Historic England's register of 'at risk' ancient monuments but also opened to the public as a sustainable visitor attraction.

GMDT is an independent company limited by guarantee and a registered charitable trust.

Company Registration Number 5676236, Charity Number 1117036, VAT Number 101 6832 50

Contacting GMDT

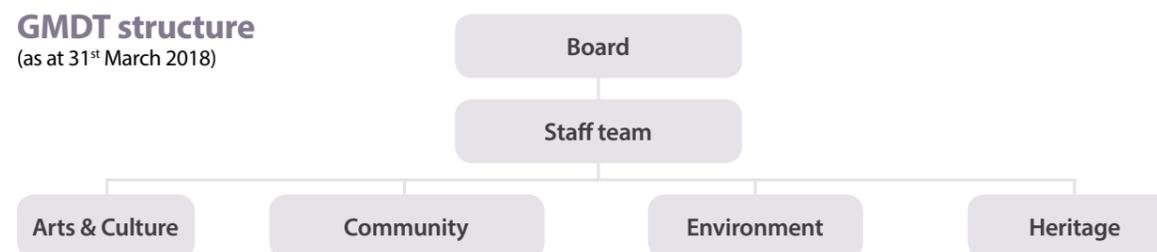
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www.gmdt.net
Tel: 01670 503866
Email: info@gmdt.org



GMDT structure

(as at 31st March 2018)



The interest groups are made up of volunteers who help to develop and deliver regeneration projects and support other groups operating within the area. There are a number of projects that the interest groups work together like the Morpeth-wide signage and interpretation project and the events portfolio.

GMDT Staff



- David Lodge** Chief Executive Officer
- Colin Long** Project Manager
- Karen Tweddle** Administration Officer
- Caroline Clough** Administration Officer

GMDT Board



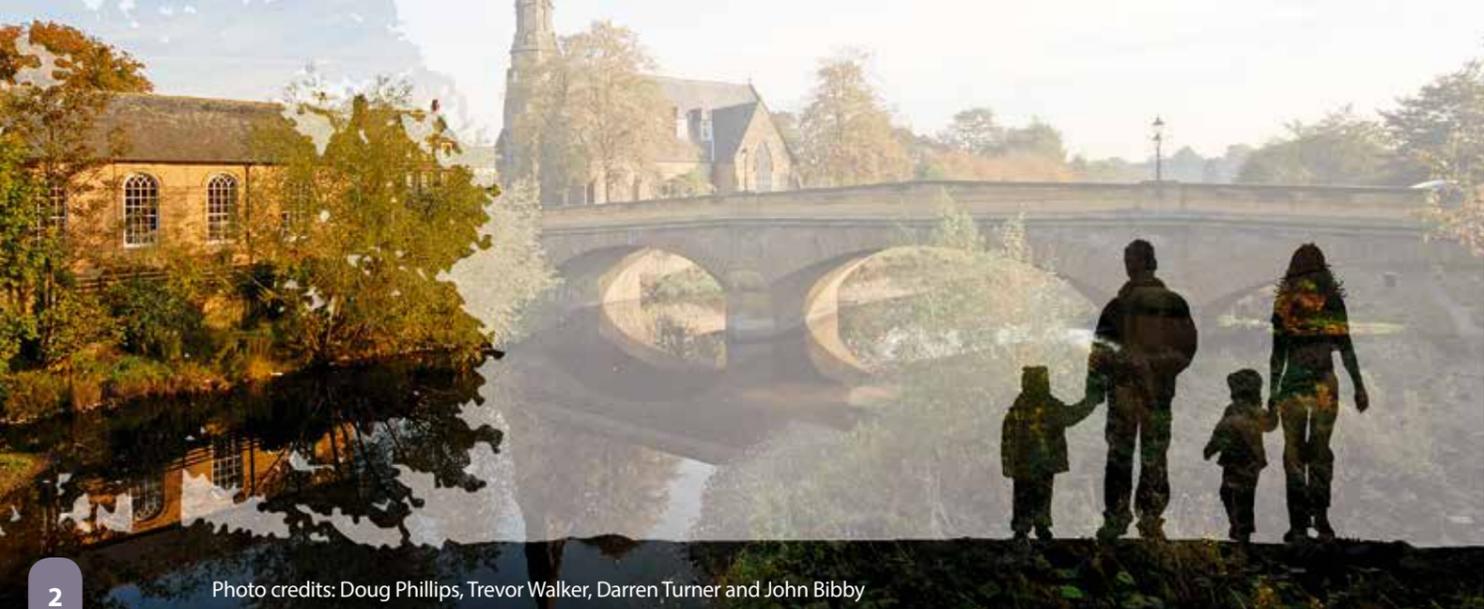
- Doug Phillips** Chairman and Community Director
- Karen Bower** Vice Chairman and Community Director
- Frank Rescigno** Arts and Culture Interest Group Director
- Kim Bibby-Wilson** Heritage Interest Group Director
- Hugh Edmundson** Environment Interest Group Director
- Mike Willis** Community Director
- Barbara Martin** Community Director
- Richard Wearmouth** Northumberland County Council participating observer

We would like to thank David Bawn and Ken Brown for their contribution as Council participating observer roles which ended during 2017/18.

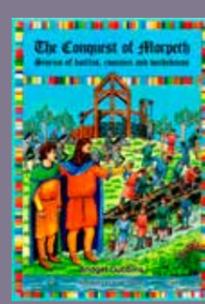
In June 2018 the HLF awarded a grant of £677,000 to the Cresswell Pele Tower project. This award is the result of 4 year's work and is an incredible achievement by the project team. A key member of this team is David Lodge, CEO of GMDT and without his experience and support it is doubtful that we would have achieved this success. I am delighted that GMDT will continue to support the pele tower restoration until project completion in 2019. By this time next year, thanks in no small part to GMDT, the tower will be fully restored and opened as a new visitor attraction for Northumberland

Barry Mead, Volunteer

Ivor Crowther, Head of HLF North East, said: "Years of hard work, passion and support have been put into creating an exciting future for Cresswell Pele Tower and we're delighted to support this vital next step. Thanks to National Lottery players this much-loved yet hidden landmark will be saved and opened to all to discover its heritage."



Interest Groups Reports



Arts & Culture Director's Report

The Arts & Culture group organises four interest areas during the year. They are The Morpeth Cinema, the Northumberland Theatre Company, the annual Morpeth Picnic in The Park and Authors Evenings.

The Morpeth Cinema has been running for seven years and is regularly attracting audiences of 50 people. Dave Warman, who assumed the managing of the monthly cinema team launched the first Morpeth Movie Weekend in February featuring 4 films over the weekend including Dunkirk, Dancer, The Beatles and La La Land. One of the aims of the Morpeth Movie Weekend was to raise the awareness of the public about the Morpeth Cinema and its monthly screenings. It was also intended to widen the audience profile. New and previous customers attended and a younger audience was attracted to La La Land screening. Overall the weekend was very well received and a second event is being planned for next year.

GMDT continue to bring professional theatre to Morpeth through Northumberland Theatre Company who brought three performances in 2017/2018. Offering a diverse range of performances for all ages including a play based on a Charles Dickens book "Barnaby Rudge", the children's play "The Princess and The Goblin" and finally "The Disasters of Johnny Armstrong and Other Daft Stories".



The Author's Evening 2017 was a highlight this year and featured the international author Ann Cleaves where 120 people were treated to a reading by Ann from her latest Vera novel "The Seagull". Ann is in demand around the world due to the huge success of the books and TV series of "Vera" and "Shetland", and GMDT appreciated her supporting this type of event which she would normally not do.

Frank Rescigno

Heritage Director's Report

GMDT has continued in its efforts towards supporting Morpeth's heritage through active involvement with Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering, publication of another book by Bridget Gubbins, Heritage Open Days, supporting the Morpeth Heritage Network and, outside Morpeth, at Cresswell Pele Tower.



At the start of our year the landmark 50th annual festival of local traditions and heritage, the "Golden" Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering, provided a special celebration of Northumberland's music, craft, dance, dialect and heritage. Performers from all five decades took part in sixty indoor and outdoor events, with the community providing an amazing fifty flag and banner bearers for the showcase Saturday morning procession.



One of GMDT's main heritage schemes is the co-ordination of the Heritage Open Days with 37 individual events, including building openings, tours, exhibitions, walks and talks attracting over 1900 visitors.

GMDT series of heritage books by Bridget Gubbins, "The Conquest of Morpeth," was published. Aimed at younger readers, the book was launched at two events at St Robert's First and Chantry/Newminster Middle Schools, at which students presented the culmination of their own historic research and dramatisations.

GMDT again has hosted meetings of the Morpeth Heritage Network, the quarterly forum of relevant organisations which monitor heritage issues.

Kim Bibby-Wilson

Environment Director's Report



Members of the group continue to play a significant role in the town and wider area in terms of networking, developing partnership activities with other groups, and as lobbyists in environmental matters. This year has seen a major step forward in our impact on litter collection in the town. We continue to emphasise that litter is a growing societal problem, which the limited and shrinking resources of Councils cannot cope with. We would also appeal to parents, schools and other children's organisations to provide litter education as standard practice.

To date the GMDT led litter collection work has seen four monthly events, at which an aggregate of over 240 bags of litter have been collected in specifically targeted areas of the town. Hotspots have been identified and reported back to the Town and County Councils. The projects have attracted several community and private organisations including the Justice and Peace Group, the Chamber of Trade, Morpeth Lions, the

Scouts, Rotary, Coca Cola enterprises, the MKM group, local and County Councillors, and other individuals, with equipment help from Jewsons and the County Council. The events have each been attended by 20 people or more, and have been timed to coincide with the Great British Spring Clean, the Daily Mail Great Plastic Pickup, In Bloom inspections, and International Lions Protect Our Planet campaign.

We are continuing to talk to various potential funders to help us to implement a second phase of Bluebell Wood, and have also continued to lobby the County Council to request designation of a public footpath through Howburn Wood. The Environment Interest Group continues to monitor signage, public footpaths and bridleways and permissive paths in the Morpeth area, and to lobby landowners and the County Council when issues arise.

Hugh Edmundson



Community Director's Report

Our group of reliable and hardworking volunteers continue to take on more responsibility enabling us to sustain projects alongside our small staff team.

Our regular quarterly newsletter for volunteers and members provides a brief overview of the latest news, advertises forthcoming local events and volunteering opportunities.

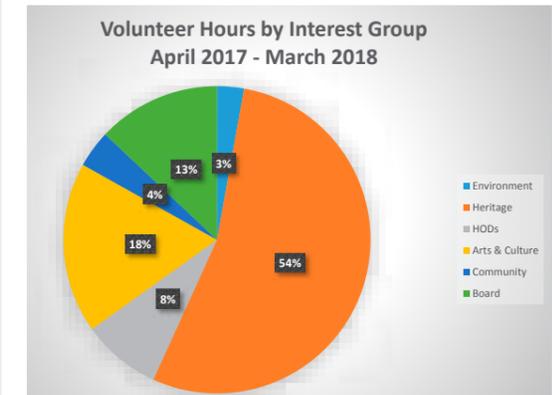


We continue to use 'Mailchimp', a free email tool to communicate with volunteers and members. This enables us to understand to what extent people are engaging with our communications. We also work with Northumberland CVA accessing their advertising for volunteering opportunities and their training courses.

Work to meet the new General Data Protection Regulations was completed in preparation for implementation in May 2018. It resulted in a 'cleansing' of our databases.

We have updated our privacy policy and it can be found on our website <http://www.gmdt.net>

Karen Bower
GMDT Vice Chair



The Annual Picnic in The Park held in July is a great example of partnership working and continues to grow year on year. This is a free family event organised by GMDT with support from NCC, Morpeth Town Council, Morpeth Churches Together, the Coca Cola Smart Water Division in Morpeth and other community organisations. The theme this year was "The DeMerleys: Morpeth First Family" and was inspired by the latest historical novel by local author Bridget Gubbins, "Juliana and Ranulph of Morpeth Castle". The excellent weather assured a record turnout of over 3000 during the afternoon.

Chair and CEO 2017/18 Update Report

Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT) has been in existence since 2006 and the diverse range of projects carried out over the past twelve years could not have happened without the support of our staff, partners, funders and members.

GMDT has continued their objective of developing partnership networks through facilitation to develop initiatives and through the skill base in the team adding value where ever possible to make Morpeth a quality place to live, visit and work.

Events like Picnic in the Park define the difference between a town and a community. We create a community here in Morpeth which welcomes people from all over and the Greater Morpeth Development Trust does a great deal to enable that.

The GMDT does a lot to ensure that we, as a community, come together to recognise what is good for our town. I, for one, appreciate the work of the individuals who make sure the GMDT can continue and I hope they progress long into the future.

Jack Gebhard MTC Mayor

The existing staff team is made up of 1 full time and 3 part time members supported by a range of professional associates to deliver a portfolio of projects in the same quality and through engaging volunteers' support and strong partnership working we work to maintain our level of service and delivery.

There continues to be a strong commitment from GMDT to support the economy of Morpeth with the focus for 2018/19 being the delivery of the Morpeth Railway Station Project.

The current operating environment continues to be challenging and

GMDT, perhaps often behind the scenes so it possibly doesn't receive the recognition it deserves, provides terrific support to our community with a number of projects such as Picnic in The Park, Community Cinema, Litter Picking and much more. The Chamber of Trade is proud to include GMDT as one of our partners in a number of initiatives.

Ken Brown, Chair of Morpeth & District Chamber of Trade

our focus on developing income generation through projects such as the Railway Station and ongoing project management activities, such as Cresswell Pele Tower. We continue to help partners across Morpeth to develop projects such as the redevelopment of Boys Brigade and KEVI Archive projects.

GMDT continues to Chair the Federation of Northumberland Development Trusts (FoNDT) to improve the networking and sustainability of the membership which is currently filling some of the gaps in service provision. 2017/18 has been a busy year for GMDT across all the Interest Groups and continued to invest heavily into the capital projects portfolio along with the further development of our volunteers.

The Arts & Culture Group continues to deliver a full programme through the cinema, NTC performances, world Book night and Picnic in the Park, improving the quality of these events year on year.

The Environment Group have worked hard to engage developers to support the proposed phase 2 Bluebell Woods scheme and continues to identify future physical improvements projects. Engagement of volunteers for clean-up activity has been very successful working with a range of partners whose efforts have been recognised with a Love Northumberland award.

The Heritage Group continues to support annual events such as the Gathering, Heritage Open Days and the Heritage Network, and 2018 saw the last Heritage Publication in her series from Bridget Gubbins.

We would like to thank our partners, funders, fellow Board members, interest group members, associates and staff for their contribution to what has been achieved over the past twelve years in an increasingly challenging environment for the sector.

"The Greater Morpeth Development Trust plays a unique role in the life of the community of Morpeth across so many diverse fronts. In the case of our magazine the support and encouragement given to us in our early days of proved vital and helped us build the platform from which we could develop a publication we hope Morpeth is truly proud of."

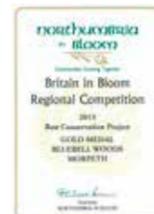
**Ian Leech,
Editor Inside Morpeth**



Doug Phillips, Chair



David Lodge, CEO



Greater Morpeth Development Trust Financial Report 12 months to March 2018

Statement of Financial activities for year ended 31st March 2018

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2018 Total £	2017 Total £
Income Resources				
Incoming resources from generating funds:				
Voluntary Income	4,000	73,000	77,000	67,400
Activities for Generating Income	17,116	26,549	43,665	24,422
Investment Income	-	-	-	37
Other incoming resources	-	-	-	3,135
Total Income Resources	21,116	99,549	120,665	91,859
Resources Expended				
Cost of generating voluntary income	23,259	183,156	206,415	106,631
Net income / (outgoings) resources	-2,143	-83,607	-85,750	-14,772
Total Funds Brought Forward	5,743	113,864	119,607	134,379
Total Funds Carried Forward	3,600	30,257	33,857	119,607

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2018

	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets		2,438		2,868
Current Assets				
Debtors	43,058		32,496	
Cash at bank & in hand	40,861		96,743	
	83,919		129,239	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-52,500		-12,500	
Net current assets		31,419		116,739
Net assets		33,857		119,607
Funds				
Restricted income funds		30,257		113,864
Unrestricted income funds		3,600		5,743
Total Funds		33,857		119,607

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part V11 of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies by Peter Weldon & Co Ltd, 87 Station Road, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 8RS.

Financial Report

The past year has seen continued focus on the core operating costs and emphasis on the generation of sustainable income streams through project management, events and retail activity.

The Trading Company remains dormant but is ready to deliver enterprise activities once these have been tested and developed. The impact of economic decline and local government reform has resulted in there being less opportunities and increased competition for the whole of the third sector.

It is the intention of GMDT to remain sustainable going forward building on previous successes and developing new enterprise opportunities such as the redevelopment of the Railway Station

Bridget calls time on Morpeth Heritage Book Series

GMDT would like to recognise the achievement of one of our volunteers namely prolific Morpeth author Bridget Gubbins who is calling time on a writing career which has chronicled so much of the town's history over the past 1000 years stretching back to the days when the Norman conquerors first arrived on the banks of the River Wansbeck.

Over the past seven years with GMDT acting as publisher and some of the books funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund Bridget has written seven books covering different aspects of the town's illustrious if at times somewhat murky past.

Bridget launched what has become an epic series of books on the history of the town, with the publication of 'The Curious Yards and Alleyways of Morpeth' and she went on to write about the drovers who brought their cattle to market from as far away as the Scottish Highlands in the 19th Century; Newminster Abbey which now although a ruin was once an important northern Cistercian centre; and a grim and foreboding workhouse that was 'home' to so many local people who had fallen on hard times.

Her final three books – one of which was adapted especially for young readers to raise historic awareness have focused on the de Merlay family of Norman barons who arrived in Morpeth after King William's successful conquest of England at the Battle of Hastings. For more than 200 years the dynasty 'ruled' Morpeth and dominated the town's history in a way no other family has done since.

"When I first came to Morpeth I knew so little about the de Merlays other than what I learned from local place names," said Bridget. "Now I know so much more about them and

through my book their story is out there for anyone who wants to find out about it!"

When Bridget decided this was to be her last book she allowed herself two years to research and write it. "Since then it has taken up a great deal of my time and energy because there were hundreds if not thousands of details to get right," she said.

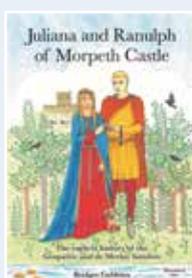
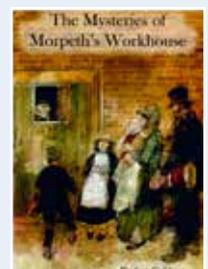
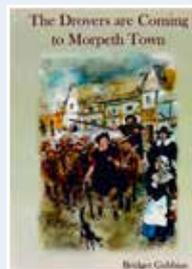
"What I hope my books have done is open up those and other chapters of Morpeth's history perhaps in a way not done before. Much of what is in my books has not been written about before and I have revealed facts about Morpeth's past that were not widely known previously."

Bridget acknowledges that there are many more stories to tell about Morpeth's past. "Morpeth has had its full share of medieval history – a Royal market charter, the kings' wars, child birth at the castle, a hated king, the illegal hunting and killing of deer in the king's forest, a wicked sheriff and a child marriage....it is all there," she said.

"Now I feel I have 'done my bit' for Morpeth and have reached the point where enough is enough and it is time for someone else to pick up the baton and run with it!"

"We have been privileged to be able to encourage and support Bridget to produce a remarkable series of books about Morpeth's history which is as colourful as that of anywhere in England. Together her books will stand the test of time as enduring social records of aspects of life in the town perhaps not widely known or written about in the way Bridget has done."

GMDT CEO David Lodge



All Bridget's books are available for sale at GMDT and local outlets.