



#### **Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT)**

#### Greater Morpeth evelopment Trust

#### 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 the redevelopment of Cresswell Pele tower and the children's De Merley project.

The Report cover picture is from a range of projects GMDT has delivered since its inception which shows the scale and diversity of how we have worked to make Morpeth a better place to live and work.

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**

Carlisle Park Lodge Castle Square Morpeth NE61 1YD

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









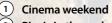












- 2 Picnic in the park
- 3 Carlisle park lodge4 Chimneys Station
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#### **GMDT** structure and team

#### **GMDT** structure

(as at 31st March 2019)

**Board** 

Staff team

**Arts & Culture** 

Community

**Environment** 

Heritage

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 on, like the Morpeth-wide signage and interpretation project and the events portfolio.

#### **GMDT Staff**

#### **GMDT Board**



**David Lodge**Chief Executive Office



**Doug Phillips**Chairman and
Community Director



Hugh Edmundson Environment Interest Group Director



Karen Tweddle Administration Officer



Karen Bower
Vice Chairman and
Community Director



Barbara Martin Community Director



Caroline Clough
Administration Officer



Frank Rescigno
Arts and Culture Interest
Group Director



Mike Willis Community Director



Kim Bibby-Wilson Heritage Interest Group Director

We would like to thank Richard Wearmouth for his contribution as Northumberland County Council participating observer role during 2018/19.

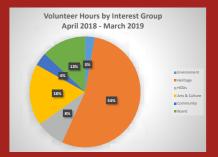
"Along with Network Rail, we have been seeking a tenant to restore and use the magnificent Morpeth Station for over a decade. In recent years we have developed a close relationship with the Greater Morpeth Development Trust, and have been delighted to see them shape a project to use the building, and then get it funded and now delivered. We are aware how frustrating it has been for the Trust, and particularly for David Lodge, to get the work agreed, funded and then started, but the finished job is looking as more than worth the effort and frustrations. We think that the level of restoration has been superb, especially with the re-erection of the chimneys, long missing, and giving Benjamin Green's station design its original sense of balance and grandeur. We are looking forward to the building opening in its new role, and to eventually having the canopy repainted so that the whole station is back in its original North Eastern Railway colour scheme."

Andy Savage, Railway Heritage Trust, Executive Director

## **Interest Groups Reports**



## MORPETH LITTER GROUP 2018 A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



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#### The Arts & Culture group runs the Morpeth Cinema, facilitates appearances by the Northumberland Theatre Company, screens live performances from British theatre and organises the ever popular annual Picnic in the Park

**Arts & Culture Director's Report** 







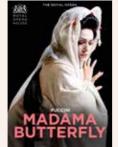
The second Morpeth Movie Weekend was held in February. Screenings were held in the Town Hall and in a small more intimate venue in the Centenary Room in Morpeth Methodist Church. Here the capacity was only 30 but all tickets were sold for the films shown there. We screened a foreign language film, a documentary and an old black and white movie, Payroll,



which was filmed in Newcastle. In the Town Hall Mamma Mia - Here we Go Again and The Greatest Showman were the big hits resulting in the overall weekend being very successful. We are already planning a bigger Movie Weekend in 2020. GMDT also supports special screenings for various community groups such as the Scouts and St. James' Church using our cinema equipment. A big thank you must go to Dave Warman who is now managing the Cinema team and has given it new life leading to increased audience attendance.

NTC continue to work with GMDT to deliver performances which are always well received in Morpeth. This year's offering Heart Spur.

Picnic In the Park. the ever popular annual family event was held in July. Our theme was "1918" and we commemorated the end of World War I and the year some women got the right to vote. In addition to the usual events we had a Suffragette Tea Room with a ballot for the attendees to vote on proposed improvement to the Park. Attendance at the Picnic on a very hot sunny day was in excess of 2,000.



In the 2018/19 season we introduced a new event called Morpeth Theatre Evenings. This was based on several requests for GMDT

to bring opera, Shakespeare and other theatrical programmes to Morpeth. There were two theatre evenings, we showed the digital download of the play The Audience followed by Madama Butterfly from the Royal Opera House. They were both very popular and further theatre evenings are planned for the 2019-20 events calendar.

Frank Rescigno

#### **Heritage Director's Report**

GMDT's current flagship projects at Morpeth Railway Station and Cresswell Pele Tower have a focus on heritage, while the Trust's Heritage Interest Group has an input into April's Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering, September's Heritage Open Days, and the quarterly meetings of the Morpeth Heritage Network. Newer projects being developed are the potential Boys' Brigade building restoration, the KEVI school archive and signage for Buller's Green.





April saw the 51st Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering, with a "Back to the Roots" theme celebrating Northumberland's music, craft, dance, dialect and heritage.

Barbara Martin co-ordinated a large range of events during the national Heritage Open Days from 13th to 16th September, which continued to be extremely popular, with 7 churches,



3 walks, 4 events and one lecture.

The Morpeth Heritage Network exchange news on heritage events and discuss planning and other issues and have recently launched a new heritage website.

GMDT is supporting the application for feasibility funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the Boys' Brigade building in Manchester Street for heritage and youth work purposes.

Ideas for heritage signage at Buller's Green are progressing highlighting the rich heritage of those who lived there over the past 130 years.

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 raising environmental awareness. This year we continued our impact on litter collection in the town, initiated a further improvement to Easter Field/Bluebell Wood, and members of the group also implemented the sparkling new GMDT website.

A total of six litter picks were held in 2018-19 and 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. Each event has attracted upwards of 20 people from a diverse range of community and private organisations.

The major change this year is that Dai Richards our litter picking supremo, is now operating under the title of Keep Britain Tidy Ambassador (One of only fifty in the country), so the litter picks are being run under the KBT banner, with the GMDT role as major partner rather than leaders.

We have produced a comprehensive report of results and recommendations to improve litter management and discussions with the Town and County Councils which has resulted in changes of types of bin in certain places to reflect problem

hotspots and appreciate the ongoing support from MTC and NCC.

A second major initiative of the group was the generation of a new website for the Trust led by Simon Cox and Nic Best with enhancements on project reporting, events and a very welcome addition of an online shop.

We have continued to pursue improvements to Bluebell Wood and Easter Field, and have secured agreement from the County Council to improve the path linking the field to the wood.

We are continuing to explore funding sources to help us to implement further improvements to Bluebell Wood, and to lobby the County Council

to request the designation of a public footpath through Howburn Wood.

**Hugh Edmundson** 



### **Community Director's Report**

Our group of reliable and supportive volunteers continues to enhance the work of GMDT staff and enable to us to achieve much more for the Morpeth community than would otherwise be possible with our limited resources.

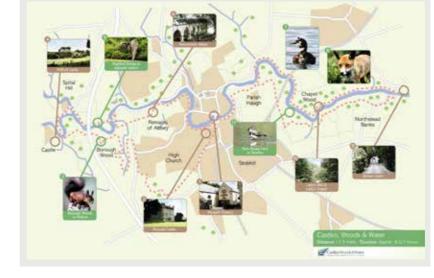
Special thanks need to go to the volunteers who have supported the development of our new website and to the team running the Morpeth Cinema.



Our newsletter for volunteers and members is now issued three times a year providing a brief overview of the latest news, advertises forthcoming local events and volunteering opportunities.



Karen Bower GMDT Vice Chair



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# GMDT making Morpeth a better place to live, work and visit - an independant review by lan Leech Inside Morpeth Editor



Two local landmarks re-energised a decade apart share one thing in common which is that Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT) has been at the fore-front of the partnership teams that give them both a new lease of life hundreds of years after they were originally built.





Ten years ago the work project managed by the Trust, was completed to restore to its former glory the Town Hall which has dominated the centre of Morpeth for three centuries.

The transformational work not only gave the people of Morpeth a modern civic building which is now put to so many different uses but did so whilst preserving all the charm and character designed into the building in 1714 by the legendary architect Sir John Vanburgh perhaps most famously known for his work at the magnificent Blenheim Palace and the stately homes of Castle Howard and Delaval Hall.

Fast forward 10 years and work is nearing completion to transform another stand-out building in Morpeth and that is the local railway station which saw its first trains running into the town during the reign of Queen Victoria. Designed by Benjamin Green who was also responsible for such structures as the Theatre Royal and Grey's Monument in Newcastle, the station was opened in 1846 by the Newcastle and Berwick Railway Company.

Again the partnership team behind the work at the station has been led by Greater Morpeth Development Trust. The work will not only give modern railway travellers a station fit for their needs in the 21st Century, but will provide office space for up to seven small businesses, and - for the first time – a café. At the same time the main station building is being restored in a way that Benjamin Green would surely have approved of to preserve its character including the 11 tall chimneys which have given the station so much of its distinctive look over nigh on 200 years.

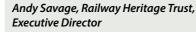








"Along with Network Rail, we have been seeking a tenant to restore and use the magnificent Morpeth Station for over a decade. In recent years we have developed a close relationship with the Greater Morpeth Development Trust, and have been delighted to see them shape a project to use the building, and then get it funded and now delivered. We are aware how frustrating it has been for the Trust, and particularly for David Lodge, to get the work agreed, funded and then started, but the finished job is looking as more than worth the effort and frustrations. We think that the level of restoration has been superb, especially with the reerection of the chimneys, long missing, and giving Benjamin Greens; station design its original sense of balance and grandeur. We are looking forward to the building opening in its new role, and to eventually having the canopy repainted so that the whole station is back in its original North Eastern Railway colour scheme."





Currently the Trust is also working with Cresswell Parish Council through a charitable organisation they have helped to established, to preserve a rare piece of Northumberland's past in the shape of a 14th Century Pele Tower in the coastal village. Funding has been raised to repair the near-derelict structure that was originally built to protect the local community from raids by the infamous gangs of Border Reivers who roamed the lands of Northern England and Southern Scotland for four centuries, and open it is a visitor attraction in 2020.



#### 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."

Today Cresswell is one of a diminishing number of Pele Towers from more than 150 that once existed along the Borderlands and once the work is completed it will remove the Pele Tower from English Heritage's 'At Risk' register and give it a sustainable future.

"I have been fortunate enough to have worked with GMDT on a number of heritage projects in and around Morpeth. Our latest partnership project is the restoration of Cresswell Pele Tower which was built in the 14th century as a defence against the Border Reivers but is now in a poor state of repair and on Historic England's "Heritage at Risk" register. GMDT's support, expertise and experience has been crucial in helping us raise £900,000 to restore the tower and deliver a highly successful community archaeology project. By this time next year the tower will be open to visitors and a significant part of Northumberland's heritage saved for future generations to enjoy".

Barry Mead, Volunteer

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Greater Morpeth Development
Trust is, however, about much
more than just conserving and
enhancing the bricks and mortar
of landmark local buildings. It was
first established to build on the
work of what was known as the
'Castle Woods and Water' initiative
for which the former Castle Morpeth
Borough Council had received £2.6m
funding from the Government
to improve and make the most
of historic buildings, woodlands
and the riverside environment
between Mitford and Bothal.

With that aim in mind GMDT carried out improvements to more than six kilometres of footpaths along the River Wansbeck corridor to make paths and amenity areas accessible to many more walkers of all ages and abilities. One of the main success stories of this programme was the work initiated by the Trust to improve paths and fencing, provide some seating, signage and interpretive panels to help visitors fully appreciate the breathtaking Spring-time displays in the awe-inspiring Bluebell Woods.

From that initial programme of works the Trust branched out into providing a diverse a range of cultural, artistic, heritage, environmental and community-based activities designed to appeal to as many interests as possible.

For example, eight years ago the Trust brought the cinema back to Morpeth with monthly Friday evening screenings of the latest movies and well as classics from the past.



"Bluebell Woods, are very beautiful, I saw them while out on my morning walks, it makes this project all the more worthwhile to see the wood awakening from its long winter slumbers. This spring light enhances everything it touches.

The blackcaps should be singing from the unfolding canopies now, I heard my first one on Monday, the swallows are now with us, and different species arriving every day. Its good to be about.

The late John Caffrey – Local Artist and GMDT Volunteer



"The fascinating history of Morpeth town is well known but the history and natural history is less known and underappreciated. Brian Harle, John Caff rey and I wanted to publicise this aspect of our heritage for several years but we had little success until we teamed up with GMDT. Within a couple of years we have produced signs in key areas like the Borough woods, Whorral Bank, Bothal Mill and Bluebell Woods that tells the stories of the local humar history and wildlife. The GMDT staff made things happen so we look forward to continue to work with them."

The late Professor Alan W Davison



"It has been a pleasure to participate in GMDT projects especially Signage and Interpretation working closely with Professor Alan Davison and other team members to produce quality material – these projects have been GMDT led on behalf of Morpeth and its surrounding environment – and they have made a difference!"

The late John Caffrey - Local Artist and GMDT Volunteer

The initiative has now been expanded to include screenings of some of the very best theatre, ballet and music performances recorded 'live' as they were staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company and at the Royal Ballet and Royal Opera House. For the past two years there has been a film festival delivered over a weekend in February and this is anticipate to continue to grow. The Trust has been able to do that because it secured funding to buy its own equipment needed for the cinema evenings in Morpeth Town Hall.



GMDT is an enthusiastic supporter of productions in Morpeth by the marvellous Northumberland Theatre Company and has also developed a popular series of author's evenings that have brought to the town writers of the calibre of Ann Cleeves whose 'Vera' books are now a hugely popular television series featuring Brenda Blethyn and local raconteur John Grundy.

"Working with GMDT has been a wonderful experience, it is heart-warming to see passionate local people investing so much time and effort in local community projects.

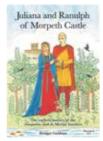
We have developed an incredible working relationship built on trust and respect and the common goal of making Morpeth a wonderful place to both live or visit. All of this would not be possible without the fantastic staff including Frank and Barry who are absolute ambassadors to the Trust."

Sarah Jayne Kennedy Robson, Tourism Officer - Morpeth.

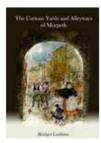
Over the years the Trust has become a publisher in its own right supporting local historian and author Bridget Gubbins to produce a fascinating series of books looking back over centuries of life in Morpeth. The wonderfully talented local wildlife artist the late John Caffrey, was able to publish a delightful series of greetings cards highlighting his own work with the Trust's support and along with his great friend and local historian Alan Davison they also beautifully illustrated some splendid interpretive panels guiding people along woodland and riverside walks pointing out what they could see along the way.













"Over this past year, I have been busy researching and writing up the next story about Morpeth's early history. This is about how the Northumbrian Gospatric family and the Norman de Merlay family united through the marriage between Juliana and Ranulph. Exciting activities are pending, including a full history with a children's version, and an associated dramatic performance. All this time, as these researches are taking place in the background, the GMDT has given me sufficient support to enable development of these ideas. I couldn't do all this work for Morpeth without them!"

Bridget Gubbins - Morpeth Author



Still on that theme, the Trust publishes a series of walking maps which are on sale locally to promote what people can find literally on their own doorsteps around Morpeth and its environmental group is also active in encouraging people of all ages to participate in litter blitzes to support the local council in tidying up areas despoiled by irresponsible dumping. These were initially produced to support the walking festival that the trust organised and highlights key environmental and heritage points of interest.

Every July the Trust organises and manages a great Sunday afternoon out for all the family in Morpeth's Carlisle Park. From modest beginnings 'Picnic in the Park' has now become an event packed with activities for all, that not only draws local people but attracts visitors from far and wide to enjoy a family afternoon out at the start of the school summer holidays. This event is an exemplar of partnership working which continues to grow year on year with over 20 local organisations involved providing a free event for the thousands of people who turn out on the day.

"I have worked alongside the Greater Morpeth Development Trust for around 4 years now primarily on the Picnic In The Park event as the host site. The event is always a pleasure to work on alongside the GMDT staff and their dedication to providing a first class community event is admirable"

Frances Povey, NCC Parks Manager



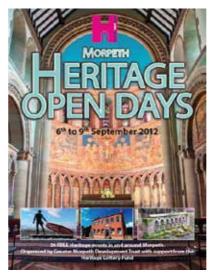








The trust has delivered over the years a diverse range of events including a Music Festival, , Fireworks Displays, Ice Festival, Heritage Walks, Fashion show all of which have hopefully enhanced the enjoyment of living and visiting the town.



Because of its passion for Morpeth's history and heritage which it shares with many local people, the Trust has organised for many years, an annual programme of events and activities as part of Heritage Open Days which are a national celebration of all that's best about England's past.



Six years ago the Trust played a leading part in marking the centenary of the death of suffragette Emily Wilding Davison who died after being struck by King George V's horse Anmer as it rounded Tattenham Corner during the 1913 running of the Ascot Derby by getting funding to put on a year long programme of activities. Her supporters believe to this day that Emily was simply trying to attach a suffragette coloured ribbon to the horse's bridle when she was struck and fatally injured.

Her body was returned to Morpeth for burial at St Mary's Churchyard and the Trust was a key player in the 'Emily Inspires!' team that organised the highlight weekend of events to mark what was a desperately sad occasion in the town 100 years ago, and to remind people of the sacrifice she made in pursuit of a cause she passionately believed in. The weekend focused global attention on Morpeth as the town paid tribute to one of its own who did so much towards winning women the right to vote in Edwardian Britain and was the launchpad for a full year of activities.

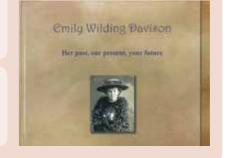


"The book is richly evocative of a wonderful occasion and the people who created it. Its pages gave such pleasure, remembering that weekend celebration, and recalling the excitement."

Carolyn Collette, USA Author

"Thank you very much for the book, as you know I have a particular interest in Emily Wilding Davison"

Claire Balding, TV Personality





A year of inspirational events to mark the centenary of the death of Emily Wilding Davison almost demanded that a permanent record be made not just in digital or DVD file format but in book form that could be treasured by so many people as a lasting reminder of the part they played in an extraordinary year. GMDT responded with a book entitled 'Emily Wilding Davison Her past, our present, your future'. Chief Executive David Lodge devised the format and sourced the printing; freelance writer lan Leech wrote the words; and Caroline Clough designed the imaginative layout.

"Heritage Lottery Fund have said that they are - 'really proud' of what has been achieved through the Emily Inspires! Project which is testament to the absolute quality and appropriateness of what you are all delivering"

Nigel Walsh Service Manager – Culture, Leisure and Tourism, Northumberland County Council

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GMDT embrace the opportunity to work across all sectors but take great pleasure in working with the younger generations as they are the future of Morpeth and this has been demonstrated across a range of projects both culturally and environmental.

"We have worked with GMDT on a number of successful projects over the past 6 years, not only has the team at GMDT been a pleasure to work with, they are also extremely efficient and approachable; no task is overlooked and a strong community ethos is always at the heart of their endeavors. Long may this great asset to the community continue"

The late Sarah Shotton, Cultural Administrator at Collingwood School and Media Arts College

The trust has also been heavily involved in supporting the economy of the town through taking a key role in initiatives such as the dark days of the Flood Recovery, the former Morpeth Town Team, feasibility study on the potential of a theatre/cultural space and supporting the development of the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan, delivering a non-political professional view with an aim of maximising the benefits to the town.

'It's a pleasure working with the Greater Morpeth Development Trust on a number of positive projects in the Town. The Morpeth Town Team is a proactive team of stakeholders who meet on a monthly basis. As a result, the town is being publicised, events are being organised and planned and positive developments are continuing within the town"

Medi Parry, Former Centre Manager, Sandersons Arcade



One of the lesser known projects was the support of the launch of Inside Morpeth during its first year of production which has now seen 10 years of quality editorial and a platform for business and community alike across Morpeth and is unrivalled anywhere in the North East.









Looking to the future the trust is working with both KEVI to develop a project around their archives, the Morpeth Parish CC around the redevelopment of the Boys Brigade building and Phase 2 of Cresswell with the potential development of a Walled Garden adjacent to the Pele Tower. Then there is also the filling of the Station units which will bring the building alive but also provide a sustainable income for the trust going forward.

"I am continually impressed by the contribution that the Development Trust makes to the community life of Morpeth. I'm familiar with its partnership working with the Town Council and within the Town Team - but what really impresses me was quite how many of the clubs, organisations, schools etc. have worked and continue to work with the Trust."

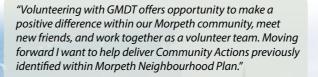
#### **Cllr Nic Best, Morpeth Town Council**

To sum up this snapshot of the work and achievements of Greater Morpeth Development Trust over the past decade – it is fair to say it is a charitable organisation that may be light on staff numbers but despite that has done so much for the town. The Trust is managed by just one full-time employee Chief Executive David Lodge and two part-time administrators Karen Tweddle and Caroline Clough. This small team is supported by a number of associates with a range of specialist skills that are brought into the projects when needed.

The Trust operates through a Board of Director led by their chairman Doug Phillips with each director taking responsibility for different aspects of its work. Over the years its approach to 'getting things done in Morpeth' has been to work in partnership with different organisations such as Northumberland County Council, Morpeth Town Council, Morpeth & District Chamber of Trade, Morpeth District Council, the school network, churches and community groups.

With minimal direct funding it has become crucial that the Trust team has developed a rare expertise in securing funding for the projects it has undertaken with support coming from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the County Council, the Railway Heritage Trust, train operators Northern and Network Rail, Northumberland Strategic Partnership, Home & Communities Association, Architectural Heritage Fund and Advance Northumberland to name a few. Over the years the Trust estimates that it has brought into Morpeth around £12m investment in funding to support the organisation and allow the projects it has been involved in to be delivered.

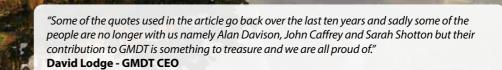
Equally, importantly to its success, however, has been the support Greater Morpeth Development Trust has received from a small army of volunteers who are just as passionate about the town, its past, present and future as GMDT. Without their support the Trust team is so quick to acknowledge that it could not have brought to the town the benefits it has been able to accrue. It's a partnership across so many levels that has been so much that has done so much for the community of Morpeth!



Simon Cox, volunteer

"Recently I decided to volunteer in my local community and chose GMDT because of the variety of opportunities on offer. In the past 12 months I have done everything from helping at the monthly Community Cinema to helping staff a memorabilia event for the Morpeth Railway station project and I am currently co-ordinating the 2016 Heritage Open Day programme. GMDT is a friendly, welcoming organisation and I have made many new friends and feel included in their work."

Val Knowles, volunteer



## **Chair and CEO 2018/19 Update Report**

Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT) has been in existence since 2006 and the diverse range of projects carried out over the past thirteen 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 wherever possible to make Morpeth a quality place to live, visit and work.

The existing staff team is made up of one full time and two 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 2019/20 being the completion of the Morpeth Railway Station Project which will deliver project management income along with a sustainable income from the Enterprise Centre.

We continue to help partners across Morpeth to develop projects such as redevelopment of Boys Brigade and KEVI Archive projects. "The Greater Morpeth Development Trust enriches the town and its wider area. Their hard work can be seen in the events they organise and the work they do to develop historic sites in the town. Over the last year the town enjoyed another successful Picnic in the Park and witnessed improvements at the Rail Station almost reach completion. Other regular activities such as litter picking continued to allow people to get involved with improving the town."

#### **Jack Gebhard, Morpeth Town Council**

2018/19 has been a busy year across all the Interest Groups and GMDT continued to invest heavily into the capital projects portfolio along with the further development of our volunteers.

The Arts & Culture Group continues to deliver and expand 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 through new initiatives like film festival and live streaming.

The Environment Group has worked hard to enhance the Bluebell Woods scheme and continues to identify and deliver future physical improvements projects such as Easter Field.

Engagement of volunteers for cleanup activity has been very successful working with a range of partners. The group also took the lead on the redevelopment of the GMDT website enhancing its functionality and communication.

"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** 

The Heritage Group continues to support annual events such as the Gathering, Heritage Open Days and the Heritage Network.

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 thirteen years in an increasingly challenging environment for the sector.

"Working alongside GMDT is and has been a such a positive experience, With the pragmatic and proactive team being from varied backgrounds all sharing the core values of caring, creating and maintaining a better environment for the local community whilst consulting and involving the community at the same time is fantastic and I believe that value and attitude should be modelled and adopted across all our community's."

Carl Gilbert (STP), Principal Contractor's on Morpeth Station Project

Pullips We

Doug Phillips, Chair David Lodge, CEO

# Northumberland Awards 2018 Bunner-Up Bed Urbon Project CARD Traversment of Morporh Lister Bills









## **Greater Morpeth Development Trust Financial Report 12 months to March 2019**

Statement of Financial activities for year ended 31st March 2019

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2019	2018
	Funds £	Funds £	Total £	Total £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	7,870	32,356	40,226	77,000
Other trading activities	52,153	19,871	72,024	43,665
Total	60,023	52,227	112,250	120,665
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	22,903	100,332	123,235	206,415
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)	37,120	(48,105)	(10,985)	(85,750)
Transfers between funds	(17,848)	17,848	-	-
Net movement in funds	19,272	(30,257)	(10,985)	(85,750)
RECONCILLIATION OF FUNDS	(17,848)	17,848	-	-
Total Funds brought Forward	3,600	30,257	33,857	119,607
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	22,872	- :	22,872	33,857

#### Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets			395,027	2,438
CURRENT ASSETS		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•	
Debtors			16,259	43,058
Cash at bank & in hand			400,627	40,861
			416,886	83,919
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			(12,500)	(52,500)
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Net current assets			404,386	31,419
Net assets			22,872	33,857
Funds				
Restricted income funds			22,872	3600
Unrestricted income funds			-	30,257
Total Funds	:	:	22,872	33,857

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



## It's official - Barry really is a "Local Legend!"





Twelve people across the country have just been named as National Lottery 'Local Legends' for the sterling work they have done over many years for their own communities – and one of them is our very own Barry Mead.

The awards were given out to the winners at a ceremony at London's **BBC Television Centre to** mark the 25th anniversary of the first lottery draw. Barry - who lives at Cresswell – received his award from television personality and former 'Strictly Coming Dancing' winner Ore Oduba in recognition of being someone who has made 'an outstanding contribution to their local area!



The citation added that they may have "enhanced the local culture or quality of life by dedicating their skills, enthusiasm and energy to a diverse range of projects."

Barry who originally hails from Luton and claims to be one of the local football team's biggest supporters, moved to the North East more than 20 years ago to take up a post as curator of Woodhorn Church Museum. Later he moved to Woodhorn Colliery when it opened as Northumberland's only mining museum.

Earlier this year he also received the accolade of being named as the Council for British Archaeology's Community Archaeologist of 2019.

After retiring from Wansbeck Council Barry joined Greater Morpeth Development Trust as heritage officer and now works as a volunteer not only in the Morpeth area but on projects across Northumberland including on Holy Island and at Bamburgh Castle.



Currently he is working through the Cresswell Pele Tower Charitable Trust Organisation which GMDT helped set up with Cresswell Parish Council, to restore and preserve the village's 14th Century Pele Tower that was originally built to protect and defend local people from raids by the notorious gangs of Border Reivers who roamed Northern England and Southern Scotland for more than four hundred years.

The Pele Tower is derelict and because of its dilapidated state has been placed on English Heritage's 'At Risk' register. The plan is to restore and repair the structure so that it cannot only be preserved as a treasure from Northumberland's past but opened to the public next year as a visitor centre.

After receiving his Local Legend award Barry commented: "I am still in a state of shock but also deeply honoured."

For more than 20 years Barry has volunteered at or arranged digs in all weathers, organised and raised money for heritage and community archaeology



projects and given countless talks about his passion for digging into the past. Much of the funding he has helped raise including money to support GMDT projects, has come from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Barry estimates that the total amount of money he has helped raise tops £10 million!

"I have worked my socks off for 45 years in archaeology and heritage but I have loved every minute of it and I still get great enjoyment from helping other people do the same by discovering history on their own doorsteps. To have that acknowledged by this award – well it doesn't get any better than that!"