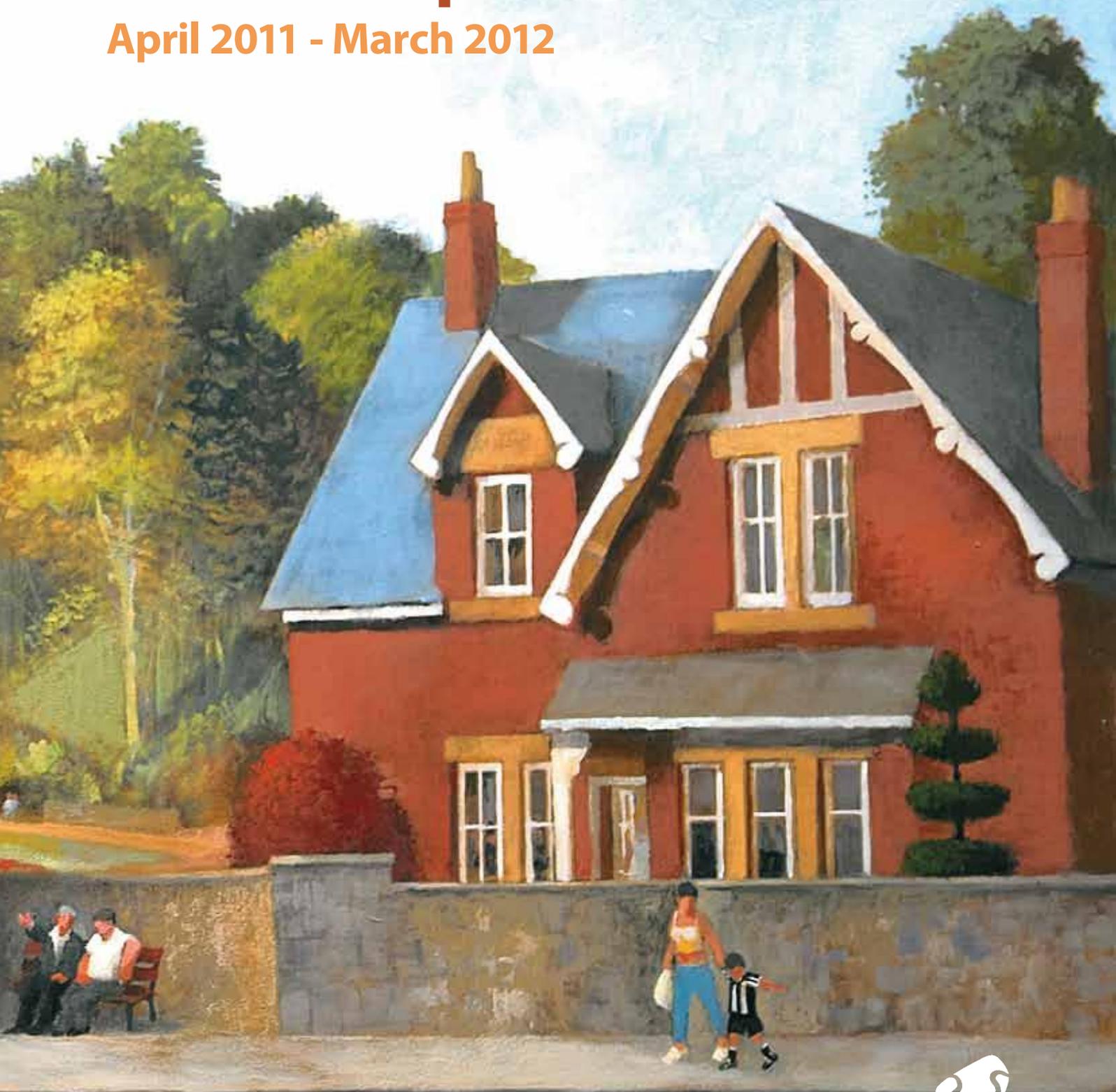


**GMDT**

# Annual Report

April 2011 - March 2012



Castles, Woods & Water.  
Morpeth, Mitford & Bothal. Heritage in the Making.



Greater Morpeth  
Development Trust  
Regeneration of town & countryside



A successful development trust

# GMDT structure and team

## Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT)

### Vision

Greater Morpeth Development Trust (GMDT) will 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 Castles, Woods & Water (CW&W) project to facilitate the development and delivery of community based projects through partnership working. We have continued to develop through our young, enthusiastic and knowledgeable team and unwavering support from the Board. 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.

GMDT is one of 20 Development Trusts operating in Northumberland and is located in Carlisle Park in the centre of the rural market town of Morpeth.

Our ethos is to work in partnership for the benefit of the community, so if you are interested in working with us on a project why not become a member? You can do this by completing an application form on the [www.gmdt.net](http://www.gmdt.net) website. Look out for project updates featured in Inside Morpeth, local and regional press and from our website [www.gmdt.net](http://www.gmdt.net). One of our special areas of interest is Heritage through the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and our work can be seen on [www.morpeth-heritage.co.uk](http://www.morpeth-heritage.co.uk).

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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Castle Square  
Morpeth  
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### GMDT structure

(as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012)



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, such as the Morpeth-wide signage and interpretation project and the events portfolio.

### GMDT staff



- David Lodge Chief Executive Officer
- Emma Cochrane Funding Manager
- Gemma Gadomski Project Manager
- Irene Nicholson Office Manager
- Tamsin Lilley Heritage Officer
- Laura Robinson Admin Assistant

### GMDT Board

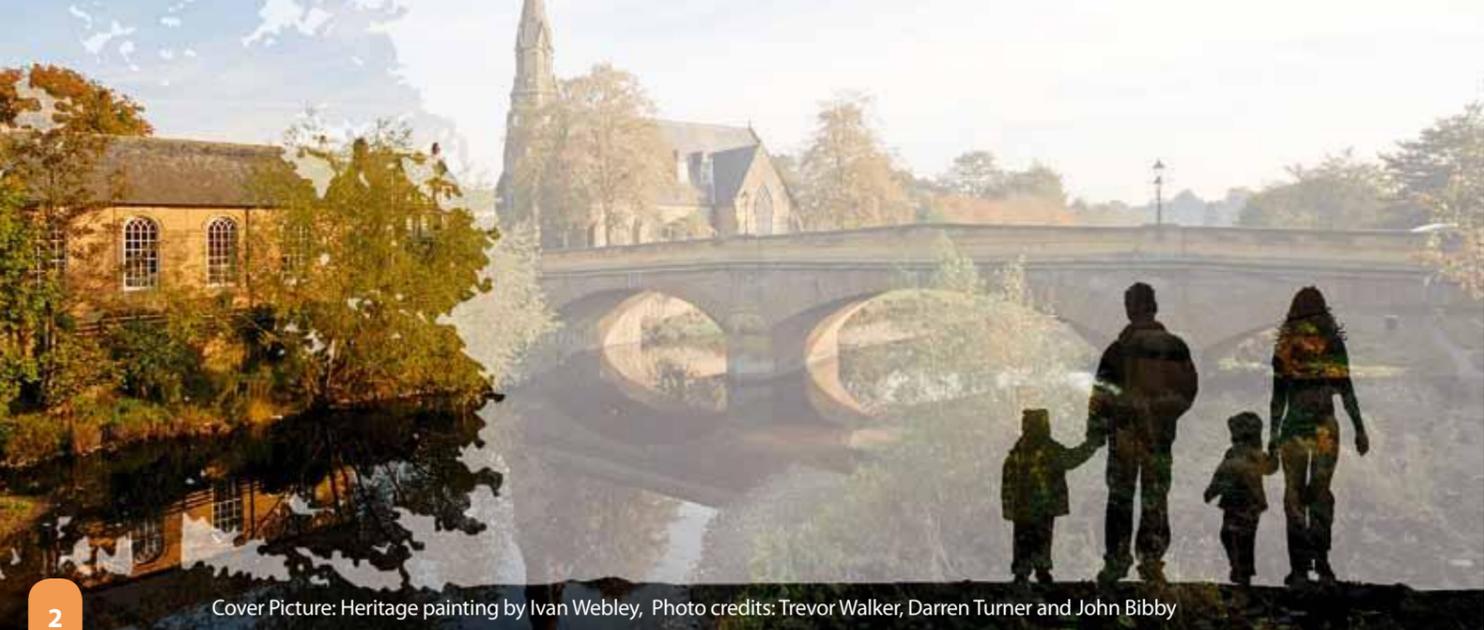


- Doug Phillips Chairman and Community Director
- Nic Best Vice Chairman and Community Director
- Frank Rescignio Director, Arts and Culture Interest Group
- Kim Bibby-Wilson Director, Heritage Interest Group
- Rosemary Matheson Director, Environment Interest Group
- Henry Warne Community Director
- Ron Forster Community Director
- David Towns Northumberland County Council representative
- Derek Thompson Morpeth Town Council representative



- (Left)
- Barry Mead Heritage Officer
  - Liz Young Heritage Support Officer

We would like to thank Colin Harvey whose term on the GMDT Board ended during 2011/2012 and for those members of the staff team who left during restructuring.



Cover Picture: Heritage painting by Ivan Webley, Photo credits: Trevor Walker, Darren Turner and John Bibby

# Interest Groups Reports



## Interest Group Restructure

It was decided at the 2011 AGM that there would be three key interest groups going forward:

Arts & Culture, Environment and Heritage and the other areas like Youth would be covered by our range of projects with the school network and linking into existing providers in the Town like Barnabus Safe & Sound.

Economy and enterprise will be delivered through taking a leading role in the development of an Economic Forum for Morpeth and a more active role in the Morpeth Chamber of Trade. This has increased the level of community cohesion and avoided duplication of effort.

The four Community Directors who specialise in the other operating areas of GMDT – namely Ron Forster covering aspects of Volunteering, Nic Best covering Enterprise opportunities, Henry Warne covering Governance matters and Doug Phillips covering Economy issues.

*“Due to the ongoing pressures on the County Council the economic viability and prosperity of our market town, Morpeth, is very much the responsibility of the community and its organisations. As such, it is gratifying to see that the GMDT plays a proactive role with the Town Council and the Chamber of Trade displaying both vision and leadership whilst protecting our heritage. The business community fully supports the continued efforts of GMDT.”*

**Charles Sellers, Chair -  
Northumberland Business Network**

*“Morpeth and District Chamber of Trade have worked with the GMDT since it came into being. During the past two years we have worked very closely with them and this culminated with the creation of the Economic Forum. The Development Trust has become an integral part of the Chamber and Morpeths economic development.”*

**John Beynon (MDCT Chair)**



## Arts & Culture Director's Report

2011-2012 was a very challenging year with a reduction of staff at GMDT and a decrease in funding opportunities. In spite of these challenges the Arts & Culture interest group had another very busy and successful year.

A&C group worked with a range of community groups putting on performances throughout the year which are marketed through the GMDT website and Inside Morpeth.

We continue to enjoy professional performances from Northumberland Theatre Company (NTC) who performed 'The Old Curiosity Shop' in October and '4Words'. These performances continue to be very popular with the audiences. There is concern that NTC may cease performing due to lack of funding support.

The theme for the 2011 Picnic in the Park was 'Regional Art Heritage'. The Woodhorn Matters supervised the Art project this year. They designed and constructed with the community a proggy mat depicting the William Turner Herb Garden in Morpeth's Carlisle Park which is now hanging in the Morpeth Town Hall Butter Market.

The highlight of the year has to be the reintroduction of the Morpeth Community Cinema in September. This was made possible because of the support of Blyth Valley Arts and Leisure Trust and Doorstep Pictures who have provided valuable technical and financial support. We have also received generous support from the Morpeth Town Council and La Bodega Tapas Restaurant. The cinema has been well received by the community and we have a film programme developed for 2012/13.

Funding of projects is increasingly challenging and it will be important to encourage more engagement with our membership if we wish to not only continue the cultural events we provide to Morpeth and to increase our offering in the area of visual and creative arts. Opportunities around creative writing to young people, literature and poetry are areas we will look to develop.

A large debt of gratitude must be given for the success of the past year as it is due to the excellent support I have received from the active members of the Arts & Culture Group, the support of the GMDT Organisation and especially Laura Robinson who joined the team in September.

**Frank Resigno**



## Heritage Director's Report

The Heritage Interest Group continues to work on a variety of important projects to enhance aspects of the town's heritage and support local organisations. Thanks are due to all staff and volunteers who continue to give so much of their time, knowledge and expertise in these endeavours.

In 2011, the first major Heritage project of the year was the 44<sup>th</sup> Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering. The annual festival of local heritage covered 3 days and with over 60 events under the title "On the Write Lines" celebrated railways, writers and reivers. Local children were involved in maypole dancing and wedding-themed artwork, with a street party atmosphere created on the Market Place and the Royal Wedding shown in the Town Hall exhibition. Over 8000 audience members and 2000 participants were recorded as attending the concerts, parade, displays, competitions, workshops, re-enactments and other activities. Included during the weekend was the launch of Bridget Gubbins' book published by GMDT, "The Curious Yards and Alleyways of Morpeth", a Border Reivers battle re-enactment, archive films and a railway-themed concert involving a new arrangement for three choirs of the "Wild Wannie Line" song performed before Morpeth's railway baron, the Earl of Carlisle, portrayed by our good friend, actor Ray Alexander.

The Morpeth Events for Heritage Open Days in September 2011 were the most successful to date, with over 3,500 visitors and 144 participating volunteers. Included were events celebrating the alleyways of Morpeth and an exhibition on the history of the individual businesses on Newgate Street,

some of which are still displaying the photos and chronologies prepared by Morpeth Antiquarian Society. One project attracting much attention was November Club's Lord Sanger's Circus Heritage Trail which brought heritage and street theatre together as pupils from St Robert's School and a professional actor led members of the public around the streets and yards on the trail of a rampaging escaped elephant.

In November we said a sad goodbye to our indefatigable Heritage Officer, Tamsin Lilley. Her support of the work of GMDT and other organisations had been outstanding and we wish her well in the future. Liz Young and Barry Mead have been appointed and have quickly proved effective and enthusiastic members of staff. They have enabled GMDT to continue to support the usual run of projects and events and lay the ground for plans for future funding applications.

The Collections Steering Group administered by GMDT is a partnership focussing on conserving, displaying, utilising and promoting the collections of not only the Morpeth Antiquarian Society but also other groups and individuals within the town. Cataloguing has continued, buildings have been investigated, display cabinets have been sought and strategies for business planning and exhibitions are being developed.

The commissioning of a replica for the town of the 2010 Admiral Collingwood Bust in Menorca will be completed in 2012 and the Heritage Interest Group has continued to have strong input into other Signage and Interpretation projects, including completed or continuing schemes for signage at St Mary's Church, Bluebell Woods, alleyway and other historic signboards

**Kim Bibby-Wilson**

## Environment Director's Report

Since taking over from Colin Harvey in autumn 2011, there have been a number of useful meetings to get members of the Group around the table to discuss the current projects and understand about other issues relating to the environs of Morpeth.

The group have worked well with support from David Lodge and Liz Young. I thank them both for spending hours of help to keep things going for us, arranging and attending several extra meetings over the last few months. This has included initial work on the Blubell Woods Project to set up a feasibility study of the area that will provide another enhanced recreation space and wildlife habitat for Morpeth. The study will enhance the level of understanding of the site's natural and industrial heritage.

Work with partners such as Ground Works and the Tommys Field Allotment Association (TFAA) following the development of the Community Garden will result, in September 2012, with a party sponsored by Marks and Spencer. This is to celebrate the Community Garden by promoting garden produce and offering advice and helpful tips by local gardeners.

Engagement has been sought with the local Environment Agency Newcastle Office. This relates to the proposed Flood Relief work along the river Wansbeck and how GMDT can add value to the proposals through offering practical help to the Environment Agency whilst their work is taking place in Morpeth.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Walking Festival was a great success. Planning for the 9<sup>th</sup> in September 2012 has been well thought out. I am certain that all the preparation will ensure that the Festival will continue to be a success. It is a great opportunity to provide enjoyment and appreciation of the walking routes in and around Morpeth.

**Rosemary Matheson**

*"I have been in the privileged position to see much that the Trust has achieved in the last year in bringing Morpeth's wonderful heritage to life. Supporting the Gathering, through Heritage Open Days; from Collingwood bust to improved signage. Particularly dear to the heart of the Morpeth Antiquarian Society has been the Trust's valuable role in the Morpeth Heritage Collections' Steering Group. Many people only notice some of these achievements; even fewer appreciate the work required by the dedicated staff as well as volunteers to make things actually happen.*

*I'm sure that I can speak for all our members in thanking the Trust for the way they have engaged with our Society and played an effective – and cheerful – role in helping us meet our Society's aspirations to promote Morpeth's history."*

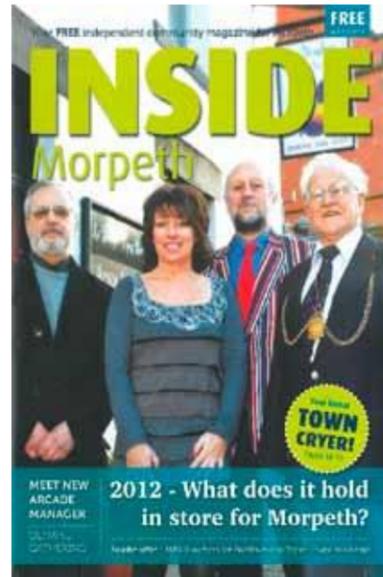
**Chris Hudson, Chairman Morpeth Antiquarian Society**

# Chair and CEO 2011/12 Update Report

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

GMDT more than ever is becoming more involved in bringing partners together through facilitation to develop initiatives and through the skill base in the team add value where ever possible to make Morpeth a quality place to live, visit and work.

In the past 18 months the team at GMDT has been restructured to make it more sustainable in challenging economic times. This has resulted in the team going down from 7 last year to currently 5 team members but the transition has been a seamless operation and our level of service to our partners has not been reduced significantly.



2011/12 has been another strong year for GMDT in terms of project delivery and community engagement. The highlights being the delivery of a range of Arts & Culture and Heritage events, through a programme which has gone from strength to strength and we are proud to support the Gathering and Inside Morpeth community magazine. Thousands of residents and visitors have attended annual events such as Picnic in the Park, Heritage Walking Festival and Heritage Open Days throughout the year.

This last year saw the cinema come back to Morpeth through the efforts of Frank Resigno and his support team, linking up with BVal and Doorstep pictures and with the support of Morpeth Town Council and local business sponsorship from La Bodega. The cinema is a regular feature once a month regularly attracting sell out audiences and benefitting the local economy at the same time.

Through the ongoing support of Heritage Lottery Fund the trust have delivered a strong portfolio of Heritage projects including the new Bridget Gubbins book, "The Drovers are Coming to Morpeth Town".

GMDT is a member of Federation of Northumberland Development Trusts and our CEO is the current Chair working to improve the networking and sustainability of the members.

The Economic Development of Morpeth has increased importance because of reduced support and services from public bodies. GMDT with other key partners in the town has formed an Economic Forum and submitted a bid into the Governments Portas scheme to develop the town further. The town team has recognised future opportunities to improve cohesion across the town and GMDT have a key role in delivering this going forward.

The time for reaction and talking is over and if partners embrace the challenges facing Morpeth the town and its Community will enhance its reputation as a place where great things can and do happen and I would expect that GMDT would be instrumental in the delivery of this.

We would like to thank our partners, fellow Board members, interest group members and staff for their contributions on what has been achieved not only this year but over the past six years.

**Doug Phillips**  
Chair

**David Lodge**  
CEO



The recent Interest Group AGM's have identified another year of ambitious projects which will benefit Morpeth. This will be reliant upon resources being sourced to deliver these. We believe that GMDT is entering a new phase of its development which will not only deliver locally but potentially across a wider area going forward.

The current operating environment continues to be challenging and there is no clear respite in the future so there is a clear drive to generate more income from our Social Enterprise agenda to build upon what has been achieved to date and maintain our presence in Morpeth.

# Greater Morpeth Development Trust Financial Report 12 months to March 2012

## Statement of Financial activities for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2012 Total £	2011 Total £
<b>Income Resources</b>				
Incoming resources from generating funds:				
Voluntary Income	-	100,696	100,696	116,832
Activities for Generating Income	10,900	101,804	112,704	195,759
Investment Income	6,868	-	6,868	593
Other incoming resources	-	-	-	48,182
<b>Total Income Resources</b>	<b>17,768</b>	<b>202,500</b>	<b>220,268</b>	<b>361,366</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Cost of generating funds				
Cost of generating voluntary income	3,373	261,805	265,178	451,152
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>3,373</b>	<b>261,805</b>	<b>265,178</b>	<b>451,152</b>
<b>Net income / (outgoings) resources for the year/</b>				
<b>Net income (expenditure) for the year</b>	<b>14,395</b>	<b>(59,305)</b>	<b>(44,910)</b>	<b>(89,786)</b>
Total Funds Brought Forward	8,590	426,082	434,672	524,458
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	<b>22,985</b>	<b>366,777</b>	<b>389,762</b>	<b>434,672</b>

## Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

	2012		2011	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets		2,192		2,579
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors	3,101		8,818	
Cash at bank & in hand	419,116		452,402	
	422,217		461,220	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	(34,647)		(29,127)	
<b>Net current assets</b>		387,570		432,093
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>389,762</b>		<b>434,672</b>
<b>Funds</b>				
Restricted income funds		366,777		426,082
Unrestricted income funds		22,985		8,590
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>389,762</b>		<b>434,672</b>

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 operating costs with emphasis on the staff costs reduction and the generation of income streams through events and retail activity. The Trading Company remains dormant but is ready to deliver enterprise activities once these have been tested and developed. The need to move away from grant support has been compounded by the global recession and local government reform resulting in less opportunities and increased competition.

It is the intention of GMDT to remain sustainable going forward building on previous success and developing new enterprise opportunities.

*"This is the second time that the GMDT has given me the green light to go ahead and write a local history book, *The Drivers are Coming to Morpeth Town*. The trust has a good knack of leaving me as a writer to get on with the work without interference, but being supportive at the same time. And they agreed again to commission artwork from Victor Ambrus, the famous historical illustrator, which makes a spectacular first impression"*

**Bridget Gubbins (Local Author)**

*"Since our launch three years ago *Inside Morpeth* has enjoyed welcome on-going support from GMDT as the Trust has emerged as a key player in the community life of Morpeth. In turn we have been happy to report on the diversity of the Trust's activities ranging from its close involvement in the economic and social regeneration of the town to its valued support for the arts, heritage, recreation and entertainment within Morpeth."*

**Ian Leech, Editor/Publisher of Inside Morpeth**

*"The King Edward VI School is delighted to have worked closely and successfully with the GMDT once again this year, particularly with regard to working closely with GMDT members on the Heritage Steering Group for the town, and we thank members for supporting the school in many of our numerous community events over the past year."*

**Victoria Najafi, Student Voice, Leadership & Enrichment Co-ordinator  
The King Edward VI School Morpeth**

*"The fascinating history of Morpeth town is well known but the history and natural history of the surrounding woodlands are much less known and under-appreciated. Brian Harle, John Caffrey and I have 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 had produced signs in key areas like the Borough Woods, Whorral Bank and Bothal Mill that tell the stories of local human history and wildlife. The GMDT staff made things happens so we look forward to continuing to work with them. The latest sign is at the foot of the Easter Field and it describes the Bluebell Woods."*

**Professor Alan W Davison**

*"It has been a real pleasure to work with David and his team at GMDT. Obviously we worked together closely during the time after the floods of 2008, but this help and co-operation has been taken to a new level in 2012 by David helping to facilitate and market a great event later this year as part of picnic in the Park. The people that GMDT has connected us to, will enable us to put on a fantastic event for the community - something for everyone, from kayaking on the River Wansbeck, bowls taster session, swimming, football and tennis coaching capped by a BBQ - all provided free."*

**Mike Willis, New Life Church Minister**

