

Registered Charity Number: 1069865



Friends of the Porter Valley

Annual report and unaudited financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Friends of the Porter Valley

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Friends of the Porter Valley
Legal and administrative information

Charity number
1069865

Other names the charity is known by:
FOPV

Executive Committee (Trustees)

		Committee member since	
Ann Le Sage	Chair	before 2000	
Glynis Jones	Secretary	November 2005	
David Young	Treasurer	before 2000	
David Clegg		November 2012	
Les Greenwood		before 2000	
Mike Halliwell		October 2016	
Glyn Mansell		November 2017	
Chris Nicholson		November 2008	
Margaret Marsh		November 2008	resigned 19 December 2021
Flora Owen		before 2000	resigned 2 November 2021
Robert Peck		2 November 2021	
Lyndon Porter		2 November 2021	

Principal Address

25 Endcliffe Rise Road
Sheffield
S11 8RU

Independent Examiner

Sarah Lightfoot, FCA DChA
Employee of:
VAS Community Accountancy
The Circle
33 Rockingham Lane
Sheffield
S1 4FW

**Friends of the Porter Valley
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 August 2021**

The Trustees present this Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Objectives, activities and public benefit

The charity's object is to promote the conservation, protection and restoration, for public benefit, of the natural and physical environment within the Porter Valley, Sheffield.

Our vision is to conserve, protect and restore the ecology, landscape and cultural heritage of the Porter and Mayfield Valleys for the enjoyment of all and the benefit of future generations.

FOPV is the charitable community group which looks after the parks in Sheffield lying along the Porter Brook. We aim to conserve and restore the beautiful features and industrial heritage of this 4 km long linear valley which links the Peak District countryside to the urban areas of S.W. Sheffield.

In setting the objectives and planning the activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance during the Financial year

In summer 2021 Covid restrictions were progressively lifted and activities picked up, but no 2020 Christmas Fair or 2021 Easter duck race. However substantial progress was made throughout the year on our key projects: Forge Dam improvement, Festival of Britain arboretum above Forge Dam, and Bingham Park.

Membership of FoPV: Member numbers were up at 720 in September 2021

Communications Website and other IT developments: We continued to make increasing use of social media, and virtual meetings. Four Newsletters went out electronically and members received additional mid quarter updates about latest developments.

Forge Dam Restoration: An anonymous donation in autumn 2020 was a game changer: the restoration could now be progressed, after having been fundraising since 2014. £263,047 was transferred to the Council in spring 2021 and our Project Officer used this as matched funding in a bid for a DEFRA Green Recovery grant. It was successful – the council have secured an additional £247,700 from the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund directly towards the project and will also contribute at least £68,000 from section 106 funding.

The contractor Sanctus Ltd, an environmental specialist in projects like ours, was appointed by Sheffield City Council in May 2021 and started the necessary work to design the final restoration process. Sanctus started practical works at Forge Dam in October 2021. The restoration includes silt removal, the insertion of a discreet wall to direct the brook over the spillway and address the longstanding problem of silting, and the creation of an attractive open body of water with a variety of depths, a reconfigured island and planting on perimeter banks in order to improve the habitat for wildlife.

The project was originally due to be finished in March 2022 but has been delayed due to the winter storms. FoPV will transfer a final balance to the Council on completion of the work, and any remaining restricted funds will be used to invest in further environmental improvements in the area.

Further information and updates can be found at <https://www.fopv.org.uk/forge-dam>

Shepherd Wheel: The smaller hull and the rear courtyard were reopened in June 2021 as part of the reorganised Sheffield Museums Trust. A happy return to normality and though there were some limitations because of Covid it was altogether a very successful summer.

Bingham Park: Crowdfunding and other innovative fundraising by the Community Group secured major improvements for Bingham Park: a splendid picnic bench appeared by the pay to play tennis courts, and plans for rehabilitation of a further court were laid. Other improvements planned are a netball/basketball court, mini skateboard park, children's scooter and cycle track.

Endcliffe Park: No duck race in 2021 for the second year running. Some gardening done.

Valley Condition and Support for the environment. Bird and butterfly monitoring was planned in summer 2021 with the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. We are very mindful that the wildlife needs to be supported, but sadly incidents of damage to the environment needed action: fly tipping continued to be a problem, brook pollution was reported in Whiteley Woods, and dramatically low water levels in the Wire Mill Dam endangered the fish in August.

Conservation Work: Voluntary work carried on quietly throughout the lockdown, firstly with individuals working alone and then in teams of 6 strictly allocated to tasks and observing Covid precautions. Sightlines down to the dam were created in the 70 year old Festival of Britain Woodland and the original trees were identified and labelled. Footpath repairs, dry stone wall reconstruction and garden bed planting started at Forge Dam lower green. The old boathouse area overlooking the millrace was cleared of a tangle of selfset sycamore and brambles and promises to be a good seating area right by the dam.

Community events: 2020 Christmas sales were largely done by the FoPV web shop and the 2021 calendar was very much a record of 2019/20 Covid lockdown experiences. Ever increasing numbers of people used the valley to walk, cycle, run. To meet the needs of these newcomers we created leaflets about the valley from Endcliffe right up to the Porter Clough.

Walks, Talks: There were only 5 walks. An online booking system was introduced to limit the numbers on the monthly walks when they restarted in June 2021 so that we complied with Covid distancing recommendation.

Volunteers: Volunteers (including trustees) are estimated to have given over 2,800 hours in the year towards conversation work, events and fundraising and other work. (In a year not impacted by lockdown, this would have been closer to 4,800 hours).

Future plans

Once the contractors have completed their work at Forge Dam, habitat improvements will then be our main focus. Bingham Park will see new family and ball game facilities. Future donations will go to new Porter Valley restorations: there is much to do.

Reserves policy

The charity does not currently have a formal reserves policy. General funds at 31 August 2021 were £28,988. The committee considers this balance sufficient as the majority of the charity's expenditure is for specific projects for which restricted funding is raised. General funds allow for meeting any limited costs that might arise from volunteer working parties.

**Friends of the Porter Valley
Trustees' annual report - continued
For the year ended 31 August 2021**

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by its constitution adopted 21 March 1995, and became a registered charity in June 1998.

Friends of the Porter Valley's Executive Committee run the day to day activities of the charity. Each member is responsible for a key area. The committee usually meet monthly.

Subcommittees exist to oversee separate parks/spaces – eg Bingham Park. All activities are carried out by volunteers.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' annual report above on 22 June 22 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Ann Le Sage
Chairperson

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends of the Porter Valley ("the Charity")

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Signed:

Sarah Lightfoot, FCA DChA
Employee of:
VAS Community Accountancy
The Circle
33 Rockingham Lane
Sheffield
S1 4FW

Dated: 23/06/2022

Friends of the Porter Valley
Receipts & payments account
For the year ended 31 August 2021

				Restated - see note 6			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020	
Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Receipts							
Grants	2	-	3,500	3,500	-	2,000	2,000
Membership Subscriptions		5,152	-	5,152	5,461	-	5,461
Donations		1,985	123,693	125,678	1,168	2,884	4,052
Gift aid claimed		4,139	-	4,139	-	-	-
Fundraising and sales		1,202	6,370	7,572	1,340	6,745	8,085
Bank Interest		-	2	2	-	28	28
Total receipts		12,478	133,565	146,043	7,969	11,657	19,626
Payments							
Fundraising and sales costs		2,107	-	2,107	130	1,440	1,570
Forge Dam project		-	263,047	263,047	-	4,141	4,141
Materials for work mornings, events and displays		117	3,494	3,611	771	102	873
Printing and stationery		1,279	-	1,279	371	113	484
Postage and phone		-	-	-	151	200	351
Insurance		550	-	550	-	-	-
Meeting costs		-	-	-	771	43	814
Bank charges		531	-	531	173	-	173
Total payments		4,584	266,541	271,125	2,367	6,039	8,406
Net receipts/(payments)		7,894	(132,976)	(125,082)	5,602	5,618	11,220
Transfers	3	(4,139)	4,139	-	(752)	752	-
Net movement after transfers		3,755	(128,837)	(125,082)	4,850	6,370	11,220
Cash funds brought forward - restated - see note 6		25,233	191,980	217,213	20,383	185,610	205,993
Cash funds carried forward		28,988	63,143	92,131	25,233	191,980	217,213

Friends of the Porter Valley
Statement of assets and liabilities
As at 31 August 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Restated - see note 6		
				Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Cash assets						
Current account	28,988	63,143	92,131	27,786	189,427	217,213
	28,988	63,143	92,131	27,786	189,427	217,213

Assets retained for the charity's own use

Assets retained have not been given a value - these comprise event and maintenance equipment


Debtors

	Fund	2021 £	2020 £
Gift aid	Unrestricted	1,125	4,091
Gift aid	Bingham Park	1,000	-
Legacy	Unrestricted	30,000	-
Grants due re Bingham Park	Bingham Park	4,000	-
		36,125	4,091

Liabilities

		2021 £	2020 £
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	Unrestricted	1,050	-
		1,050	-

Approved by the board of trustees on 22 June 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



 Ann Le Sage
 Chairperson

1 Notes on the preparation of the accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due.

Unrestricted funds comprise of general funds and designated funds. General funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objectives of charity.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Sheffield City Council	-	500	500	-	2,000	2,000
The J G Graves Charitable Trust	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
	-	3,500	3,500	-	2,000	2,000

3 Restricted funds

	Restated Brought Forward £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
Forge Dam restoration	159,982	115,168	(263,047)	4,139	16,242
Shepherd Wheel	19,092	535	(2,894)	-	16,733
Bingham Park	8,320	17,262	-	-	25,582
Forge Dam Playground	4,586	-	-	-	4,586
Tools	-	600	(600)	-	-
	191,980	133,565	(266,541)	4,139	63,143

Details of the main restricted projects can be found in the Trustees' annual report.

Forge Dam restoration

The transfer represents gift aid claimed on membership subscriptions for the past four years, which the trustees have agreed to allocated to this project.

Prior year comparison - restated

	Brought Forward £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
Forge Dam	155,737	8,284	(4,039)	-	159,982
Forge Dam - SCC ward pot	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Shepherd Wheel	18,201	891	-	-	19,092
Bingham Park	7,086	482	-	752	8,320
Forge Dam Playground	4,586	-	-	-	4,586
	185,610	11,657	(6,039)	752	191,980

4 Trustees' remuneration

The trustees were not paid or received any benefits from employment with the charity neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year. No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity.

5 Related party transactions

Trustees pay membership and donations as part of their involvement with the charity. Some Trustees donated towards existing restricted fundraising campaigns during the year, on the same terms as other donors, and without exerting additional influence over the decision making processes by the board.

There were no other related party transactions to report during the financial year.

6 Prior year adjustments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Reported fund balance as at 1 September 2019	20,383	-	20,383
Opening balance adjustment - inclusion of other bank accounts	-	185,610	185,610
Restated fund balance as at 1 September 2019	20,383	185,610	205,993
Reported income per 2020 accounts	10,010	-	10,010
Adjustment of income - inclusion and reanalysis of restricted funds	(2,041)	11,657	9,616
Restated 2020 income	7,969	11,657	19,626
Reported expenditure per 2020 accounts	(3,917)	-	(3,917)
Adjustment of expenditure - inclusion and reanalysis of restricted funds	1,550	(6,039)	(4,489)
Restated 2020 expenditure	(2,367)	(6,039)	(8,406)
Reported transfer per 2020 accounts	(3,500)		
Restated transfer per 2020 accounts	-	(752)	752
Restated fund balance as at 31 August 2020	25,233	191,980	217,213

The previous accounts have only reported the main bank account transactions, which have been identified as general fund expenditure only. The comparative figures have been reworked to show all transactions in the bank and paypal accounts, split out by restricted funds, from 1 September 2019 onwards.