

Registered Charity Number: 1069865



Friends of the Porter Valley

Annual report and unaudited financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

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	resigned 1 October 2022
Robert Peck		2 November 2021	
Lyndon Porter		2 November 2021	
Margaret Marsh		November 2008	resigned 19 December 2021
Flora Owen		before 2000	resigned 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 2022**

The Trustees present this Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2022.

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 South West 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. No activities have taken place that do not comply with these objectives.

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 runs the day-to-day activities of the charity. There is a lead Trustee responsible for each key activity (Shepherd Wheel; Forge Dam Playground; Forge Dam rejuvenation project etc). and Trustees contribute to other activities according to their expertise and availability e.g. running community events. The committee meets monthly. Subcommittees exist to manage active parks community groups e.g. Bingham Park. All activities are carried out by unpaid volunteers and there are no paid staff or premises.

The constitution was updated in August 2022, to update governance arrangements, and will be ratified at the November AGM before being submitted to the Charity Commission.

Activities during the Financial year 21/22 to protect the environment and the heritage for current park users and future generations.

Member numbers were up at 770 on 24 August 2022.

Support for the environment. Some sections of the valley, especially the Forge Dam area, have shown the effect of increased public use during and after the Covid shut down, (cycling, walking, running, crowding at the cafes). Heavy vehicles employed on the desilting works at Forge Dam took their toll and a consultation in August 2022 identified priority bridle and footpath work. Membership of other environment and heritage organisations and attendance at their meetings increased and this should strengthen our environmental and nature work eg Sheffield Waterways Strategy meetings, membership of Fit For the Future (National Trust climate and environment initiative), Sheaf and Porter Trust). We considered possible participation in a University project to look at pollution in the Porter Brook. A Nature Recording project with the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust has engaged 67 volunteers, produced over 1000 reports and identified nearly 70 bird species in the valley. Huge numbers of wildlife photographs have been sent to the website and Facebook. Some very good news: the rare native white clawed crayfish, which we had assumed lost, was rediscovered in both the Forge Dam and below its spillway (weir) during preliminary works; and water flow to the downstream Wire Mill Dam was maintained throughout the dry summer so no fish were lost this year.

Conservation Work: Throughout the year Volunteers continued to work in teams of 6 on specific tasks and observed the prevailing Covid precautions. The numbers participating grew. The allocation system devised in 2021 proved its worth. 800 volunteer hours were recorded on garden planting, paths, River Porter flow improvements, drainage repairs, scrub maintenance, algae clearance and further dry stone wall construction.

Community events: The annual Easter Duck Race ran again in Endcliffe Park after 2 years absence so we had to relearn the practice, check the equipment and tighten up on training and Health and Safety. 10 volunteers were trained in Emergency First Aid and safety throw ropes and First Aid kits were acquired. New volunteers replaced experienced older ones who, after Covid and the passing of 3 years were no longer available.

The variety and number of stalls changed but in spite of curtailed activities we raised approximately £8,900 for the Bingham Park family activities. The attendance numbers seemed slightly smaller than before Covid but it was still a wonderful community turnout, with lots of laughter and happy children. There was no Christmas wreath making Fair in December 2021 but instead we raised funds through short and careful pop up sales and the FoPV web shop. We did participate in the Sheffield Heritage Fair in January 2022 and Fulwood Fetes September 2021 and June 2022.

Fundraising for restoration and improvement projects

The 2021 Christmas sales of calendars and cards and wreaths raised money for general improvements around Forge Dam. 2023 Calendars and Christmas cards were launched in August 2022 and funds will go to the Forge Dam Playground Improvements (restricted) fund..

Walks There were 10 nature and heritage walks plus 5 extra ones to inform visitors about the Forge Dam rejuvenation project. including one in September for a group of ladies from an ethnic minority in a city partnership with NHS. An online booking system worked so well it was continued after Covid restrictions were relaxed. The topics included birds, invertebrates, the Forge Dam rejuvenation, fungi, Thomas Boulsover's C18 industrial empire in the valley, wild flowers, bats.

Talks: 4 Talks were commissioned at Open Meetings for Members: the Forge Dam rejuvenation plan; Birds and Humans through history; exploring the lower Porter and the Sheaf rivers; and Natural Flood Management in Sheffield.

Presentations The Chair gave 8 talks to outside organisations about the Porter Valley and the charity's objectives and activities (3 Soroptimists, 3 W I, 1 U3A, 1 Mothers union)

Communications Website and other IT developments: We have steadily built up our capability in this area over 10 years. 2021/22 saw a markedly increased use of social media to advertise events, and the introduction of QR codes for fundraising, ticket sales and the consultation on the Forge Dam Playground. Four Newsletters went out electronically, and were supplemented mid quarter with updates and blogs on specific news especially as the Forge Dam work progressed. The test sales shop and booking systems introduced to cope with Covid restrictions have been retained for permanent use.

Forge Dam Restoration: The contractor Sanctus Ltd, an environmental specialist in projects like this, started preliminary works at Forge Dam in October 2021. Electro fishing saved aquatic wildlife in November. The project was originally due to be finished in March 2022 but was delayed due to storms in the autumn 2021 and winter 2022. Sanctus left in July when all the major renovations had been completed.

**Friends of the Porter Valley
Trustees' annual report - continued
For the year ended 31 August 2022**

The restoration included removal of 5,000 tons of silt, the insertion of a discreet wall to direct the brook over the spillway (weir) with the object of addressing the problem of silting, and the creation of an attractive open body of water with a variety of depths and a reconfigured island. The clean silt was delivered to Beighton (former coal mining area) to cap a waste tip.....green to green achievement. Remaining smaller works done from August onwards were the installation of a penstock control on the millrace above the historic remnants of Boulsover's workshops, repair of a collapsed footpath, and general resurfacing. Monthly Management meetings of Council and FoPV officers monitored and controlled the progress. The whole project is expected to be signed off by the end October 2022. Any remaining restricted funds will be used to invest in further environmental and playground improvements in the area. Final clearing of paths and sight lines, and identification and labelling of specimen trees, were completed at the Festival of Britain heritage woodland above the Forge Dam.

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

Forge Dam Playground Improvements Discussions with Sheffield Council recommenced in August 2022 (delayed for 3 years by the peak of work at Forge Dam and the effects of the earlier Covid lockdown) and were followed by publicity and a user consultation exercise in mid September. Our next project, Forge Dam Playground Improvements was launched in September 2022 with prominent notices, a user consultation, and donations facility by the website, and QR codes. The local WI is also raising funds for this project.

Shepherd Wheel Museum reopened fully in late 2021 as Covid restrictions eased. The water mill continues to attract over 20,000 visitors a year. The Industrial Museum, our original partner, was absorbed into the city-wide Sheffield Museums Trust in 2021 and our weekend running was strengthened with improved joint working and some new volunteers. A review of management and maintenance requirements after 10 years of operating after the restoration will start in December 2022. A happy return to normality resulted in 600 hours voluntary work, training in visitor surveys, introduction of a WhatsApp group to speed up communications, introduction of QR fundraising by the Sheffield Museums and an overhaul of Emergency Safety and other important procedures. A subsidy system for School visits out of donations raised by FoPV started in 2022 in order to strengthen students' and teachers' understanding of Sheffield's unique early industrial heritage.

Bingham Park: The Community Group realised major improvements for Bingham Park: the multi purpose flexible netball/basketball facility was installed and the planning, fundraising and consultation for a mini skateboard park, and children's scooter and cycle track on the remaining courts got underway.

Endcliffe Park: The popular Easter Duck race returned after 2 Covid closures. Some gardening done.

Volunteer hours across all activities amounted to 5,243, an increase on the 2,832 in 2020/2021 which was more affected by Covid. In the Platinum Jubilee Honours 2022 Friends of the Porter Valley were granted the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) in recognition of this work.

Future plans

We plan to focus on environment and habitat improvements in view of climate change, and drive ahead the Forge Dam Playground Improvements. Our subgroup for Bingham Park improvements will fundraise and consult about new family and ball game facilities on the remaining derelict courts. The partnership of FoPV Sheffield Council and the Sheffield Museums Trust starts to review the Shepherd Wheel Museum's performance and future needs in December 2022 and this may lead to changes.

A key change in 2022 has been the planned induction of the Trustee Lyndon Porter to replace the Treasurer David Young from November 2022. No new charity Trustees have been appointed yet but recruitment and role changes will follow.

Friends of the Porter Valley
Trustees' annual report - continued
For the year ended 31 August 2022

Reserves policy

The charity adopted a Reserves policy in July 2022. Trustees considers £5,000 should be more than sufficient to meet foreseeable and essential costs. We have no salary or premises cost.

Unrestricted cash reserves at 31 August 2022 were £30,994.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' annual report above on 24 October 2022 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:


.....
Ann Le Sage
Chair

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 2022.

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').

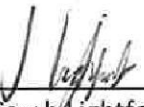
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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: 24 October 2022

Friends of the Porter Valley
Receipts & payments account
For the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Receipts							
Grants	2	-	4,618	4,618	-	3,500	3,500
Membership Subscriptions		5,402	5	5,407	5,152	-	5,152
Donations		1,316	10,216	11,532	1,985	123,693	125,678
Gift aid claimed		-	-	-	4,139	-	4,139
Legacies		30,983	-	30,983	-	-	-
Fundraising and sales		945	9,870	10,815	1,202	6,370	7,572
Bank Interest		3	13	16	-	2	2
Total receipts		38,649	24,722	63,371	12,478	133,565	146,043
Payments							
Fundraising and sales costs		1,579	-	1,579	2,107	-	2,107
Forge Dam project		-	26,000	26,000	-	263,047	263,047
Bingham Park project		649	22,299	22,948	-	-	-
Shepherds wheel costs		500	-	500	-	-	-
Materials for work mornings, events and displays		276	608	884	117	3,494	3,611
Printing and stationery		278	-	278	1,279	-	1,279
IT costs		284	-	284	-	-	-
Insurance		606	-	606	550	-	550
Meeting costs		240	-	240	-	-	-
Bank charges		208	81	289	531	-	531
Accountancy and Independent examination fees		1,050	-	1,050	-	-	-
Total payments		5,670	48,988	54,658	4,584	266,541	271,125
Net receipts/(payments)		32,979	(24,266)	8,713	7,894	(132,976)	(125,082)
Transfers	3	(30,973)	30,973	-	(4,139)	4,139	-
Net movement after transfers		2,006	6,707	8,713	3,755	(128,837)	(125,082)
Cash funds brought forward		28,988	63,143	92,131	25,233	191,980	217,213
Cash funds carried forward		30,994	69,850	100,844	28,988	63,143	92,131

Friends of the Porter Valley
Statement of assets and liabilities
As at 31 August 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Cash assets						
Current account	30,994	69,850	100,844	28,988	63,143	217,213
	<u>30,994</u>	<u>69,850</u>	<u>100,844</u>	<u>28,988</u>	<u>63,143</u>	<u>217,213</u>

Assets retained for the charity's own use

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

Debtors

	Fund	2022 £	2021 £
Gift aid	Unrestricted	2,323	1,125
Gift aid	Bingham Park	2,833	1,000
Legacy	Unrestricted	-	30,000
Grants due re Bingham Park	Bingham Park	-	4,000
		<u>5,156</u>	<u>36,125</u>

Liabilities

		2022 £	2021 £
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	Unrestricted	564	1,050
		<u>564</u>	<u>1,050</u>

Approved by the board of trustees on 24 October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



 Ann Le Sage
 Chair

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 2022	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sheffield City Council	-	618	618	-	500	500
Sheffield Town Trust	-	4,000	4,000	-	-	-
The J G Graves Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
	-	4,618	4,618	-	3,500	3,500

3 Restricted funds

	Brought Forward	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Forge Dam restoration	16,242	7,201	(26,081)	30,983	28,345
Shepherd Wheel	16,733	2,139	-	-	18,872
Bingham Park	25,582	14,744	(22,299)	-	18,027
Forge Dam playground	4,586	20	-	-	4,606
Ward Pot	-	618	(608)	(10)	-
	63,143	24,722	(48,988)	30,973	69,850

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

Forge Dam restoration

The transfer represents the legacy received in the year which the trustees have put towards this project. Any remaining funds will be used on the Forge Dam Playground.

Prior year comparison

	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

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

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