

Registered Charity Number: 1069865



Friends of the Porter Valley

Annual report and unaudited financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2023

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	
Lyndon Porter	Treasurer	2 November 2021	
David Clegg		November 2012	resigned 28 June 2023
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	
David Young		before 2000	

Principal Address

25 Endcliffe Rise Road
Sheffield
S11 8RU

Independent Examiner (and accountants)

Sarah Lightfoot, FCA DChA
Seven Hills Accountants Limited
57 Burton Street
Sheffield
S6 2HH

**Friends of the Porter Valley
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 August 2023**

The Trustees present this Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2023.

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. The constitution was updated in August 2022, and submitted to the Charity Commission.

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; Bingham Park etc), and Trustees contribute to other activities according to their expertise and availability e.g. running community events. The committee meets monthly. A Subcommittees exists to manage the active and successful Bingham Park Community Group. All activities are carried out by unpaid volunteers and there are no paid staff or premises.

Activities during the Financial year 22/23 to protect the environment and the heritage for current park users and future generations to enjoy.

Forge Dam Restoration:

Our main project concluded in July 2022 but the outcome has been marred by an unexpected and unwanted side effect which only became evident in 22/23: the original C18th sluice at the base of the spillway was opened up during the latter stage of the desilting and the Porter Brook now flows through uncontrolled. The Sheffield CityCouncil are trying to resolve the problem which has attracted much concern among members and visitors alike. The levels in the dam drop substantially in dry weather exposing silt banks and the green training wall constructed to channel the Porter flow. On the bright side: water now reaches the next dam downstream reliably. We are watching the situation carefully and putting pressure on the Council where we can appropriately and are mindful of the need not to interfere or sour good relationships.

Member numbers: 811 at 31 August 2023: up on the previous year, perhaps because more people notice our activities and engage with the FoPV Facebook.

Support for the environment. Heavily trampled sections of the valley, especially at Forge Dam and in the Bingham Park / Whiteley Woods areas, were reseeded and an ongoing programme of re-seeding and plug planting started thanks to grants from Sheffield City Council for materials. The regular conservation work continued with additional work mornings manned by new volunteers. The Forge Dam desilting project was concluded and the priority work to the Forge Dam bridle path and footpaths was completed in spring 2023. Wear and tear by cyclists, runners, pedestrians, dogs continues to be a concern. The monthly walks and quarterly talks were all geared to nature, environmental and bio-diversity topics. Partnerships with other environment and heritage organisations increased (eg. with the Sheaf and Porter Trust to run a volunteer River Rangers programme to check for pollution in the Porter Brook). Liaison with other environmental, heritage, Parks and Waterways groups increased.

The Nature Recording project with the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust continued to engage many volunteers and has extended to cover extra locations. Informally it has inspired a number of keen amateur photographers to capture shots of wildlife in the valley for WhatsApp and Facebook. It was a good year for bird and dragonfly numbers! Because of the uncontrolled water flow out of Forge Dam, levels at the downstream Wire Mill Dam were maintained throughout yet another dry summer so no fish were lost this year.

Conservation Work: 768 volunteer hours were recorded on practical clearance in the woodlands and on paths, gullies and drains. Lively accounts of this work were issued each time this year for the volunteers, a blog on the website, and Facebook. This has proved to be very popular reading and has produced lots of comments and suggestions throughout the year. It may be the reason why so many new members have joined.

Community events: We ran the annual Easter Duck Race again in Endcliffe Park and raised £7,000 for the Forge Dam Playground improvement project. There was again no Christmas Fair in December 2022 and instead we continued very successfully to raise funds through the FoPV web shop. We participated in the Sheffield Heritage Fair in January and Sheffield Tree Fair in May 2023.

Fundraising for restoration and improvement projects

The Forge Dam Playground improvement project began to take shape in late 2022. The 2023 Calendars and Christmas cards were launched to raise funds. Consultation about the Forge Dam Playground through our website and public notices attracted over 170 replies. Funds raised have already been invested in some modest improvements: new accessible equipment (swing and Communications Board) have attracted positive comments from the public. Donations included £1,000 from Hendersons Relish, £50 from a grandfather, and many smaller donations via QR code to the website and from the local Fulwood WI. Funds from bereavements were gratefully received and went towards Forge Dam improvements (Mr Coleman and Mrs Murray)

Walks There were 12 monthly Nature and heritage walks which were full to capacity. We are adding additional botany walks next year to respond to demand. There were 3 walks lead for outside organisations.

Members' Talks: 3 Talks were provided at Open Meetings for Members, and at the November 2022 AGM we held a ceremony for the Lord Lieutenant to present FoPV the **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**. We ended the Calendar year on a high!

Presentations The Chair gave 3 talks to outside organisations about the Porter Valley and the charity's objectives and activities (1 International Soroptimists; 1 Mothers union; one WI).

Communications, Website and other IT developments: We continued to build up capability in this area. 2022/23 saw a further increase in use of social media to communicate with internal teams, inform the public and to advertise events. What's App groups worked particularly well for Shepherd Wheel volunteers, the Nature Recorders and photographers, and FoPV Trustees.

Friends of the Porter Valley
Trustees' annual report - continued
For the year ended 31 August 2023

Shepherd Wheel Museum The C18th mill continued to attract over 20,000 visitors a year. Our weekend running was strengthened with new volunteers but our engineering partner faced staff turnover because of retirements. The 10 year review by the Sheffield Museums Trust's engineering department identified the need for some maintenance and repair work and a new 10 year plan. FoPV procedures for handling cash donations were introduced and they appear on each month's cash record sheet now. Safeguarding and visitor procedures are being reviewed. The tripartite partnership continues strong.

Bingham Park: The Community Group have planned improvements and raised funds. The second court will shortly see more facilities and the basketball and netball facilities are installed now on the first court. Work is ongoing on the skateboard idea, an Adventure Trail for under 8s on the top green, and further community consultation. FoPV are drafting a sub committee policy to clarify responsibilities.

Endcliffe Park: In 2024 the Mi Amigo memorial to the 10 Americans lost in a plane crash in 1944 will be very much on show and there are improvements planned.

Volunteer hours across all activities amounted to 4,654.

Future plans

We will continue to focus on environment and habitat improvements, drive ahead the Bingham and Forge Dam Playground Improvements and respond to the increasing demand for more nature themed walks and repairs to worn infrastructure, verges and open green space. We look forward to resolution of the problematic and unforeseen leak at the Forge Dam spillway.

Reserves policy

The charity adopted a Reserves policy in July 2022. Trustees find £5,000 more than sufficient to meet foreseeable and essential costs. We have no salary or premises costs and the finances are stable.

Unrestricted cash reserves at 31 August 2023 were £30,480.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' annual report above on 9 October 2023 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 2023.

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: *S Lightfoot*
Sarah Lightfoot, FCA DChA
Seven Hills Accountants Limited
57 Burton Street
Sheffield
S6 2HH

Dated: 5 October 2023

Friends of the Porter Valley
Receipts & payments account
For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Receipts							
Grants	2	-	4,207	4,207	-	4,618	4,618
Membership Subscriptions		5,698	-	5,698	5,402	5	5,407
Donations		2,145	14,819	16,964	1,316	10,216	11,532
Gift aid claimed		390	372	762	-	-	-
Legacies		-	-	-	30,983	-	30,983
Fundraising and sales		1,665	13,386	15,051	945	9,870	10,815
Consultancy support and evaluation report		-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
Bank Interest		844	24	868	3	13	16
Total receipts		10,742	35,808	46,550	38,649	24,722	63,371
Payments							
Fundraising and sales costs		673	705	1,378	1,579	-	1,579
Forge Dam project		-	3,000	3,000	-	26,000	26,000
Forge Dam playground project		-	669	669	-	-	-
Bingham Park project		-	-	-	649	22,299	22,948
Shepherds wheel school grants		-	500	500	500	-	500
Conservation costs		3,816	1,955	5,771	-	-	-
Materials for work mornings, events and displays		612	258	870	276	608	884
Printing and stationery		531	-	531	278	-	278
IT costs		220	-	220	284	-	284
Insurance		579	-	579	606	-	606
Travel costs		147	-	147	-	-	-
Meeting costs		588	-	588	240	-	240
Bank charges		383	-	383	208	81	289
Accountancy and Independent examination fees		564	-	564	1,050	-	1,050
Total payments		8,113	7,087	15,200	5,670	48,988	54,658
Net receipts/(payments)		2,629	28,721	31,350	32,979	(24,266)	8,713
Transfers	3	(3,143)	3,143	-	(30,973)	30,973	-
Net movement after transfers		(514)	31,864	31,350	2,006	6,707	8,713
Cash funds brought forward		30,994	69,850	100,844	28,988	63,143	92,131
Cash funds carried forward		30,480	101,714	132,194	30,994	69,850	100,844

Friends of the Porter Valley
Statement of assets and liabilities
As at 31 August 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Cash assets						
Current account	30,480	101,714	132,194	30,994	69,850	100,844
	<u>30,480</u>	<u>101,714</u>	<u>132,194</u>	<u>30,994</u>	<u>69,850</u>	<u>100,844</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	2023 £	2022 £
Gift aid	Unrestricted	3,679	2,323
Gift aid	Bingham Park	2,954	2,833
Gift aid	Forge Dam	25,000	-
		<u>31,633</u>	<u>5,156</u>

Liabilities

		2023 £	2022 £
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	Unrestricted	594	564
		<u>594</u>	<u>564</u>

Approved by the board of trustees on 9 October 2023 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 2023 £	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Sheffield City Council - ward pot	-	4,207	4,207	-	618	618
Sheffield Town Trust	-	-	-	-	4,000	4,000
The J G Graves Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,207</u>	<u>4,207</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,618</u>	<u>4,618</u>

3 Restricted funds

	Brought Forward £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
Forge Dam restoration	28,345	3,318	(3,000)	-	28,663
Shepherd Wheel	18,872	2,268	(500)	-	20,640
Bingham Park	18,027	10,838	(258)	3,143	31,750
Forge Dam playground	4,606	15,177	(1,374)	-	18,409
LAC Grant	-	4,207	(1,955)	-	2,252
	<u>69,850</u>	<u>35,808</u>	<u>(7,087)</u>	<u>3,143</u>	<u>101,714</u>

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

Bingham Park

The transfer of £3,143 from general funds is to help fund the 2nd basketball court.

Forge Dam restoration

In the financial year to 31 August 2022, £30,983 legacy received was transferred to the restoration 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	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)	-
	<u>63,143</u>	<u>24,722</u>	<u>(48,988)</u>	<u>30,973</u>	<u>69,850</u>

4 Trustees' remuneration

The trustees were not paid or received any benefits from employment with the charity. No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity.

Two trustees went to Buckingham Palace to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, for which the charity paid £147 travel costs. No other trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year.

5 Related party transactions

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