

Registered Charity Number: 1069865



Friends of the Porter Valley

Annual report and unaudited financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2024

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
Les Greenwood		before 2000
Mike Halliwell		October 2016
Glyn Mansell		November 2017
Robert Peck		2 November 2021
David Young		before 2000

Principal Address

25 Endcliffe Rise Road
Sheffield
S11 8RU

Accountants

Seven Hills Accountants Limited
57 Burton Street
Sheffield
S6 2HH

Friends of the Porter Valley
Trustees' annual report
For the year ended 31 August 2024

The Trustees present this Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2024

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 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; 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 Subcommittee 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. A finance policy with associated practical procedures specific to activities is in place.

Activities during the Financial year 2023/2024 to protect the environment for current users and future generations to enjoy

Support for the environment: We adopted an all embracing "Nature Recovery" title for our many and various activities in support of the environment including the work of our Nature Recorders, photographers, new River Rangers (in partnership with the Sheaf and Porter Trust) and conservation volunteers. More heavily trampled sections of Bingham Park / Whiteley Woods were reseeded and planted thanks to bio-diversity grants from local Council wards. The regular conservation work mornings continued, and new volunteers joined. The teams constructed dead hedges, installed post and rope fencing to protect renovated areas, repaired footpaths, cleared blocked drains and created wildflower areas to support wildlife. Trustees met with our leads on Nature Recording and botany to discuss concerns about species loss, climate change, water quality, trespass and damaging behaviours and ways to protect and improve the environment. The 12 monthly walks were again geared to nature, environment and biodiversity. 2 wildlife night cameras with solar panels were purchased and installed in key locations.

Cross city partnerships in support of Nature Recovery: Activities with General Cemetery, Sheaf and Porter, Sheffield Botanical Gardens and Whirlow Park Trusts increased. Trustees took it in turns to represent us at the regular cross city Waterways and Parks group meetings.

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Trustees' annual report - continued
For the year ended 31 August 2024

Member numbers: 820 at 31 August 2024.

Community events: We ran the annual Easter Duck Race again in Endcliffe Park and raised £11,000 for a metal artwork to replace the iconic wooden "TOAD" in Endcliffe Park (see below). There were very successful Christmas activities over November and December 2023

- 2 evening wreathmaking workshops with the public,
- 1 whole day event for the public to buy our handmade Christmas wreaths and crafts,
- 6 pop up sales at Forge Dam and a community afternoon with Christmas music at Forge Dam.

Money raised from wreaths, cards, 2024 Calendars, etc. went towards the Forge Dam Playground. We participated in the Sheffield Heritage Fair in January and Sheffield Tree Fair in May 2024.

Fundraising for restoration and improvement projects (for each of which there is a restricted fund)

Forge Dam Restoration: The leak on the spillway detected in 2022 remains unresolved. The effects which became evident in 2023 have worsened and we are still waiting for Sheffield Council to appoint an expert to assess repair options. We continue to hold reserve funds for the penstock installation and monitor the situation. Members and the public are very concerned. The river flows uncontrolled through the spillway, water spurts through the spillway stone façade, the water level drops during extended dry periods and exposes all the remaining silt and the green training wall.

Forge Dam Playground: Thanks to £1,400 from previous Committee member Flora Owen's funeral collection we paid for a repaint and repair on the main climbing frame and an extended set of new swings with extra accessibility items. Hopes for a total revamp in an extended footprint had to be shelved because of short staffing in the Council dept and slow fundraising. So we improved piecemeal..... some tired but usable equipment had a new lease of life, we increased capacity to meet the demand from younger age groups, and introduced items for disabled children in order to meet the most urgent requests in the 2022 consultation.

Bingham Park: the Community Group (BPCG) installed the Adventure Trail for under 8s in spring 2024, funded by a £10,000 donation from local employer Loadhog received in the previous year. The plan for a mini skate board park shaped up, and a grant from the Sheffield City Council Ecclesall Ward pot secured netting round a revamped tennis court for family play, ball games, cycle training etc. FoPV adopted a subcommittee policy to clarify the respective roles of FoPV and BPCG.

The heritage water mill **Shepherd Wheel** continued to attract over 20,000 visitors a year. Our weekend running was strengthened with new volunteers but our engineering partner the Sheffield Museums Trust cut out Bank Holiday openings because of staff shortages. The Museums Trust remedied issues identified in the review of the 10-year management plan and FoPV used the reserve fund to pay for materials and a special hoist to instal a reconstructed wooden drive drum, to replace exhausted keys and padlocks, and to renovate or replace external Noticeboards. Incidents procedures, Safeguarding training and the Volunteers Handbook were all reviewed and improvements started. The tripartite partnership continues strong but our partner has a skills shortage.

Endcliffe Park: A replacement for the iconic wooden (but disintegrating) "TOAD" Artwork will be installed in 24/25. The wax maquette has been completed ready for the creation of the full-size model which will go to the foundry for casting. Greystones school has worked on words to engrave, and information has been posted on Facebook, Newsletter to members etc. We are grateful to Flora Owen's family for a further donation of £380.

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Trustees' annual report - continued
For the year ended 31 August 2024

Presentations and Talks: 3 Talks were provided at Open Meetings for Members. The Chair lead 2 walks, and gave 4 talks to outside organisations about the Porter Valley and the charity's objectives and activities. 4 Newsletters went to Members and 5 Update emails

Communications, Website and other IT developments: We continued to build up capability in this area. 2023/24 saw a further increase in use of Facebook to communicate with the public and to advertise events. Followers were 3.9 thousand at 31 August 2024. What's App groups worked particularly well for Shepherd Wheel volunteers, the Nature Recorders, photographers, River Rangers and FoPV Trustees.

Volunteer hours across all activities amounted to 6000.

Future plans

We will continue to focus on environmental concerns, (especially given the problem of water quality with silt deposition from the Forge Dam leak and CSO overflows), drive ahead the Bingham Park mini skateboard Park, respond to the worn verges and green space, and instal the Endcliffe Park metal "TOAD" Artwork.

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 2024 were £44,529.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' annual report above on 16 October 2024 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:

.....*Ann Le Sage*.....

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 2024.

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: 17 October 2024

Friends of the Porter Valley
Receipts & payments account
For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Receipts							
Grants	2	-	13,500	13,500	-	4,207	4,207
Membership Subscriptions		5,735	-	5,735	5,698	-	5,698
Donations		590	6,507	7,097	2,145	14,819	16,964
Gift aid claimed		3,681	28,972	32,653	390	372	762
Legacies		2,314	-	2,314	-	-	-
Fundraising and sales		3,884	18,061	21,945	1,665	13,386	15,051
Consultancy support and evaluation report		-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Bank Interest		3,727	-	3,727	844	24	868
Total receipts		19,931	67,040	86,971	10,742	35,808	46,550
Payments							
Fundraising and sales costs		822	1,191	2,013	673	705	1,378
Forge Dam project		-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Forge Dam playground project		-	32,758	32,758	-	669	669
Bingham Park project		-	41,380	41,380	-	-	-
Shepherds wheel costs		-	4,549	4,549	-	-	-
Shepherds wheel school grants		-	600	600	-	500	500
Conservation costs		1,074	3,165	4,239	4,428	2,213	6,641
Printing and stationery		364	-	364	531	-	531
IT costs		857	-	857	220	-	220
Insurance		548	-	548	579	-	579
Travel costs		-	-	-	147	-	147
Meeting costs		518	-	518	588	-	588
Bank charges		542	-	542	383	-	383
Accountancy and Independent examination fees		594	-	594	564	-	564
Total payments		5,319	83,643	88,962	8,113	7,087	15,200
Net receipts/(payments)		14,612	(16,603)	(1,991)	2,629	28,721	31,350
Transfers	3	(563)	563	-	(3,143)	3,143	-
Net movement after transfers		14,049	(16,040)	(1,991)	(514)	31,864	31,350
Cash funds brought forward		30,480	101,714	132,194	30,994	69,850	100,844
Cash funds carried forward		44,529	85,674	130,203	30,480	101,714	132,194

Friends of the Porter Valley
Statement of assets and liabilities
As at 31 August 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Cash assets						
Current account	44,529	85,674	130,203	1,759	130,435	132,194
	<u>44,529</u>	<u>85,674</u>	<u>130,203</u>	<u>1,759</u>	<u>130,435</u>	<u>132,194</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	2024 £	2023 £
Gift aid	Unrestricted	1,286	3,679
Gift aid	Forge Dam playground	230	-
Gift aid	Bingham Park	-	2,954
Gift aid	Forge Dam	-	25,000
		<u>1,516</u>	<u>31,633</u>

Liabilities

		2024 £	2023 £
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	Unrestricted	720	594
		<u>720</u>	<u>594</u>

Approved by the board of trustees on 16 October 2024 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 2024 £	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Sheffield City Council - grants and LAC	-	13,500	13,500	-	4,207	4,207
	<u>-</u>	<u>13,500</u>	<u>13,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,207</u>	<u>4,207</u>

3 Restricted funds

	Brought Forward £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
Forge Dam restoration	28,663	25,797	-	-	54,460
Shepherd Wheel	20,640	2,180	(6,181)	-	16,639
Bingham Park	31,750	9,913	(41,380)	51	334
Forge Dam playground	18,409	16,076	(32,773)	-	1,712
LAC Grant	2,252	1,000	(2,633)	-	619
Endcliffe Park Toad	-	12,074	(676)	512	11,910
	<u>101,714</u>	<u>67,040</u>	<u>(83,643)</u>	<u>563</u>	<u>85,674</u>

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

Bingham Park £563 was transferred from general funds in February 2024 as a general fund contribution towards the remaining cost of the agility trail.
£512 underspend of the SCC grant given towards Bingham Park play equipment has been reallocated to the Endcliffe Park Toad.

Prior year comparison	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>

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 neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year.

5 Related party transactions

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