

Registered Charity Number: 1069865



Friends of the Porter Valley

Annual report and unaudited financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

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	resigned 29 July 2025
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 2025

The Trustees present this Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2025

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 Southwest 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. conservation work in the green space, 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 2024/2025 to protect the environment for current users and future generations to enjoy

Support for the environment: We drove ahead the "Nature Recovery" focus on the environment with increased numbers of Nature Recorders, River Rangers (in partnership with the Sheaf and Porter Trust) and conservation volunteers. Bio-diversity grants from local Council wards enabled new flower meadow areas to support wildlife and a 30-tree orchard on upper Bingham. The regular conservation work mornings continued, extra ad hoc mornings took place in Endcliffe Park and Wilson's Field and new volunteers joined. The teams continued to construct dead hedges to protect Forge Dam woodland, cleared increased areas of invasive avens, giant horsetail and Himalayan Balsam. Volunteers worked with Council Officers to restore damaged ancient woodland after antisocial behaviour (unauthorised bike trails).

The 12 monthly walks were again largely geared to nature, environment and biodiversity.

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.

Member numbers: Stayed steady and were again 825 at 31 August 2025 with matching gains and losses over the year.

Community events:

- We ran the annual Easter Duck Race again in Endcliffe Park and raised over £12,000 for a public Pétanque terrain on a disused bowling green. Installation is expected in September 2025
- Building upon the successful Christmas activities in 2023 we ran 2 evening wreathmaking workshops with the public, 1 whole day event for the public to buy our handmade Christmas wreaths and crafts, 4 pop up sales at Forge Dam; and supported a community afternoon of Christmas music at Forge Dam organised by Fulwood Church. Handmade Christmas wreaths, cards, and 2025 Calendars, raised around £6,100 for the Endcliffe Park Toad.
- We participated in the Sheffield Heritage Fair in January 2025 focusing on the waterpower history of Shepherd Wheel; and then on 11 May supported the National Mills Celebration of waterpower with music, a history display, sales in the Shepherd Wheel courtyard and a special Waterpower Discovery Walk.
- We participated in the SW LAC ECO Fair in Ecclesall Woods in May 2025 and handled the budget for the event. This was an overall success and will be repeated in 2026.

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

- **Forge Dam Restoration:** Disappointingly the leak on the spillway detected in 2022 remained unresolved. The effects which became evident in 2023 and 2024 have worsened in drought conditions with risks to fish and other water wildlife. The contractor appointed by Sheffield Council attempted a repair in August 2025 but was defeated after 2 days. We have monitored the site throughout and continue to report back to Sheffield Council. Reserve funds rose slightly and remain available for use at Forge Dam. Members and the public remain very concerned and social media has been lively. (The river still 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 river training wall). The public space around the Café was improved with new all gravel surfacing and flower beds created by a combination of Council Parks, the Café owner and FoPV. Round the dam and upstream in open areas and woodland large patches were cleared of invasive Himalayan Balsam, non-native avens by the conservation volunteers.

We are grateful for a legacy of £3,623 from the estate of Peter Warr.

- **Forge Dam Playground:** Piecemeal improvements: The local Cubs cleaned the play equipment of algae and insect dew; annual plants were planted to brighten up the path edge; safety railings above the slide have been repainted by volunteers; an improvement plan for repairs to paths and more plants was agreed with the Council; plans have been submitted to the Council for a new noticeboard; and Trustees formally decided to invest 2026 Duck Race proceeds in this playground.
- **Bingham Park:** The Adventure Trail for under 8s and the additional play court markings have proved their worth: the Park is busy with young families; graffiti and other anti-social behaviour appear to have diminished; and mini skateboard park equipment will be installed in September 2025.
- **Shepherd Wheel:** The tripartite partnership continues strong, but our partners are short of staff and funds. Key engineering staff are in flux at The Sheffield Museums Trust, and FoPV is now covering summer maintenance on the millpond for the Council Parks. There is much to be done here. An extended Volunteers Handbook is at proof reading stage. The follow on 10-year Maintenance Plan needs to be approved and used. New noticeboards were ordered and others restored with reserve funds.

Friends of the Porter Valley
Trustees' annual report - continued
For the year ended 31 August 2025

- **Endcliffe Park:** A replacement for the iconic wooden (but disintegrating) "TOAD" Artwork was installed in December 2024 and has been an instant hit with the public of all ages. FoPV conservation volunteers laboured with Parks staff to rotovate and reseed the grass lawn by the Queen Victoria Monument which had been worn away by runners. A plan was agreed by FoPV and Council to improve this heavily used sports and leisure Park which clearly needs more investment of practical work and money to attain Green Flag recognition. Critical repairs to the collapsing heritage stonework of the Porter river walls and weirs are expected to start in September 2025.

Publicity and External relations: 3 Talks were provided at Open Meetings for Members. The Chair lead 2 walks, gave 5 talks to outside organisations about the Porter Valley and held 3 meetings with other large Friends group Chairs to exchange ideas; 4 Newsletters went to Members. Publicity afforded by The Star, Tribune and Facebook groups was positive overall, though removal of an unofficial bike trail through ancient woodland and the evident Forge Dam deterioration provoked concerns. Trustee Rob Peck created a brilliant smartphone guide to the Porter Valley with an archive of old photos, sculptures, monuments, wildlife: "Porter Valley in Your Pocket".

Communications, Website and other IT developments Facebook Followers were 4.3 thousand on 31 August 2025.

Volunteer hours across all activities amounted to 11,000 showing an increase on last year.

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), and drive ahead the Bingham Park mini skateboard Park and Pétanque installations. We hope that more resources can be found for projects in Endcliffe Park.

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 2025 were £50,764.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' annual report above on 13 October 2025.

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:

Alle 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 2025.

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.

S Lightfoot

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

13 October 2025

Friends of the Porter Valley
Receipts & payments account
For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Receipts							
Grants	2	-	15,835	15,835	-	13,500	13,500
Membership Subscriptions		5,708	-	5,708	5,735	-	5,735
Donations		748	4,246	4,994	590	6,507	7,097
Gift aid claimed		1,469	134	1,603	3,681	28,972	32,653
Legacies		-	3,623	3,623	2,314	-	2,314
Fundraising and sales		3,627	18,480	22,107	3,884	18,061	21,945
Consultancy support and evaluation report		-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Interest		3,224	-	3,224	3,727	-	3,727
Total receipts		14,776	42,318	57,094	19,931	67,040	86,971
Payments							
Fundraising and sales costs		1,381	1,187	2,568	822	1,191	2,013
Endcliffe Park Toad Project		-	21,187	21,187	-	-	-
Forge Dam playground project		-	-	-	-	32,758	32,758
Bingham Park project		-	-	-	-	41,380	41,380
Shepherds wheel costs		-	7,940	7,940	-	4,549	4,549
Shepherds wheel school grants		-	200	200	-	600	600
Conservation and events costs		2,260	4,106	6,366	1,074	3,165	4,239
Printing and stationery		290	-	290	364	-	364
IT costs		341	-	341	857	-	857
Insurance		555	-	555	548	-	548
Meeting costs		357	100	457	518	-	518
Bank charges		550	-	550	542	-	542
Accountancy and Independent examination fees		720	-	720	594	-	594
Total payments		6,454	34,720	41,174	5,319	83,643	88,962
Net receipts/(payments)		8,322	7,598	15,920	14,612	(16,603)	(1,991)
Transfers	3	(2,087)	2,087	-	(563)	563	-
Net movement after transfers		6,235	9,685	15,920	14,049	(16,040)	(1,991)
Cash funds brought forward		44,529	85,674	130,203	30,480	101,714	132,194
Cash funds carried forward		50,764	95,359	146,123	44,529	85,674	130,203

Friends of the Porter Valley
Statement of assets and liabilities
As at 31 August 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Cash assets						
Current account	50,764	95,359	146,123	44,529	85,674	130,203
	<u>50,764</u>	<u>95,359</u>	<u>146,123</u>	<u>44,529</u>	<u>85,674</u>	<u>130,203</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	2025 £	2024 £
Gift aid	Unrestricted	1,121	1,286
Gift aid	Bingham Park	-	230
		<u>1,121</u>	<u>1,516</u>

Liabilities

		2025 £	2024 £
Accountancy and Independent Examination fees	Unrestricted	648	720
		<u>648</u>	<u>720</u>

Approved by the board of trustees on 13 October 2025.

Signed on their behalf by:

Ann Le Sage

Ann Le Sage
Chair

Friends of the Porter Valley
Notes to the accounts
For the year ended 31 August 2025

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 2025 £	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Sheffield City Council - grants and LAC	-	7,335	7,335	-	13,500	13,500
CMS Social Impact Fund Grant	-	500	500	-	-	-
Sheffield Town Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
JG Graves Charitable Trust	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>15,835</u>	<u>15,835</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,500</u>	<u>13,500</u>

3 Restricted funds

	Brought Forward £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
Forge Dam restoration	54,460	3,623	(1,195)	-	56,888
Forge Dam playground	1,712	2,499	-	-	4,211
Shepherd Wheel	16,639	2,318	(8,140)	-	10,817
Bingham Park	334	225	(100)	-	459
Bingham Park mini skatepark/small wheels space	-	8,000	-	-	8,000
Bingham Park Pétanque court	-	14,387	(182)	-	14,205
LAC Grant - Bingham Park Orchard	-	2,290	(2,290)	-	-
Endcliffe Park Toad	11,910	7,231	(21,228)	2,087	-
LAC Grants - from previous years	619	-	(158)	-	461
LAC Grant - ECO fair	-	745	(427)	-	318
LAC Grant - duck race	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
	<u>85,674</u>	<u>42,318</u>	<u>(34,720)</u>	<u>2,087</u>	<u>95,359</u>

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

LAC Grants - from previous years The Toad is now installed and the balance of £2,087 was funded from general funds.

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