

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales No 1162687  
Registered as a Charity in Scotland No. SC046208



**THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION CHAIN BRIDGE**  
in the parishes of Horncliffe (England) and Hutton (Scotland)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2021**

**J F Hamilton, Honorary Treasurer**  
**E O Cawthorn, Honorary Secretary**

The Friends of the Union Chain Bridge is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation constituted under the  
Charities Act 2011

## **TRUST INFORMATION**

### **Registered Address**

Chain Bridge House, Horncliffe, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 2XT

### **Registered Charity Numbers**

1162687 (England and Wales) SC046208 (Scotland)

### **Trustees**

The Trustees who served during the period are listed below:

Martha Veronica ANDREWS  
Christopher BAGLEE  
Edward Oates CAWTHORN  
Thomas William COCKBURN  
John Francis HAMILTON  
Georgina Jean HOME ROBERTSON  
John David Nicholas HOME ROBERTSON  
Robert Thomas de Plumpton HUNTER  
Stephen Kenwyn JONES  
Alexander James McGREGOR (Resigned February 2021)  
David John OSMAN\*  
David A WALKER (Appointed by Horncliffe Parish Council)\*

\*retired since March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021

### **Chairman and Trustee**

Robert T de P Hunter

### **Honorary Treasurer and Trustee**

John F Hamilton  
1 Woodside Park  
Horncliffe  
Berwick-upon-Tweed  
TD15 2XH

### **Bankers**

Barclays Bank plc  
Edinburgh Princes Street Branch

### **Honorary Secretary and Trustee**

Edward O Cawthorn  
Chain Bridge House  
Horncliffe  
Berwick-upon-Tweed  
TD15 2XT

### **Independent Examiner**

J H Greenwood & Company  
Ava Lodge, Castle Terrace.  
Berwick-upon-Tweed  
TD15 1NP

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2021**

The Trustees present their Report and Financial Statement for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (March 2005) amended 2008, is used in preparing this Annual Report and Financial Statement, so far as it is applicable to the Trust's circumstances.

### **Constitution**

The Friends of the Union Chain Bridge is a Charity registered in England and Wales and in Scotland and constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) under a Constitution dated the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The conversion of the charitable trust into a CIO was approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of the Charity held in the Village Hall, Paxton on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

### **The Objects of the Charitable Trust**

The objects of the Trust are:

1. To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical, natural and man-made environment by promoting the historical and architectural heritage of the Union Chain Bridge ("the Bridge") in the parishes of Horncliffe, Northumberland, England and Hutton, Berwickshire, Scotland and of the natural environment in which the Bridge is situated.
2. To advance the education of the public, in particular in relation to the history and architecture of the heritage of the Bridge by developing public interest in the architecture, history and heritage of the Bridge by means of publications, public lectures and exhibitions and co-operation with schools and other educational establishments and other bodies and societies.

All the activities of the Trust to date have been in full accordance with the objects of the Charity.

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation



It will be appreciated that, as the Charity is, as yet, without investments and/or investment income, the financial statement set out on page 5 is basic and that the majority of the methods and principles set out in the SORP are as yet inapplicable to the Charity's accounts.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 (England and Wales) and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and Regulations 2008 made under those Acts and the provisions of the Charity's Constitution dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 2015. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Investment Policy**

The Constitution allows the Trustees to invest funds in any investment they think fit, in their absolute discretion. To date, they have not exercised their power to invest funds.

### **Risk Review**

In September 2015, the Trustees undertook an initial Risk Review; they intend to conduct a basic and detailed review of the major risks to which the Trust is, or is likely to be exposed and of the systems and checks to mitigate such risks arising from financial management. Investments, contracts etc, Trust property and the loss of services of Trust officers either temporarily or permanently. The Trustees have adopted a Business Continuity Plan to ensure the proper continuance of financial and secretarial services in this event.

### **Public Benefit**

By considering the operation, achievements and performance and the finances of the Charity, the Trustees are satisfied that public benefit has been provided in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the guidance provided by the Charity Commissioners and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

### **Meetings**

The Trustees meet in accordance with a meeting calendar; they met during the year under review on a monthly cycle with additional meetings arranged as required. Their business is conducted in accordance with the Charity's Constitution. There is no formal committee structure but *ad hoc* committees and working groups are appointed from time to time to deal with specific aspects of business delegated to them. The vast majority of business, however, is dealt with by the full trustee body.



### **Review of Progress and Achievements for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

This Report should have been of a year of celebration to mark the Bicentenary of the world's oldest vehicular suspension bridge. Such, however, was the stultifying effect of the Covid-19 pandemic that those celebrations which took place were severely restricted and the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020 passed with only a modest celebration at the Bridge when, at exactly midday – 200 years to the minute after it had been declared open by William Molle WS, the Chairman of the North Durham and Berwick Turnpike Trustees – our Chairman, Robert Hunter, proposed a toast to Union Bridge and Capt Sir Samuel Brown, its designer, engineer and builder, reciprocated by a modest and socially-distanced informal gathering of some twenty Friends and passers-by.

Three major events had been meticulously planned for that weekend. Our Patron, Dr Professor Roland Paxton of Heriot Watt University, had assembled a panel of distinguished engineers, scientists and historians from the UK, USA, Japan and Norway to make presentations at a symposium to be held in Horncliffe on the 26<sup>th</sup> July; and, on behalf of the civil engineering governing bodies of the UK, USA and Japan, to present a prestigious plaque recognising the Bridge as an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. On the bicentenary evening the Friends had sponsored the closing concert of the Music at Paxton festival, with a programme of Scottish and European orchestral music in favour at the beginning of the nineteenth century; and the day would have concluded suitably with a celebration ceilidh in a marquee in the grounds of Paxton House, overlooking the Bridge. The Covid-19 restrictions in force at that time dictated the abandonment of all three events.

The loss of the Symposium was ameliorated to an extent by the publication of a fully-illustrated commemorative book, edited by Professor Paxton and including synoptic essays of the talks which would have taken place. *Spanning the Centuries* was distributed to all Friends in membership on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and was widely circulated beyond the Charity. It was universally well-received. The first print of 750 copies was soon exhausted and it was necessary to commission a second updated impression of 300 copies, with a newly-designed cover, in September 2020. We are most grateful to Professor Paxton for his monumental contribution in both organising the ill-fated symposium and editing the commemorative volume. We benefit greatly from the expertise and involvement of our Patrons.

The contract for the restoration of the Bridge, the improvement of its immediate surroundings and enhanced interpretation of its heritage was let in mid-2020 to The Spencer Group of Hull with whom the Friends, as well as the local communities on both sides of the River, soon established most cordial relations. Work, within Covid-19 limitations, commenced on site on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 the Bridge was largely dismantled.



Our Chairman, Robert Hunter, represents the Charity's interests at regular meetings of the Project Board, which also comprises representatives of Northumberland County Council, Scottish Borders Council, Museums Northumberland, The Spencer Group and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. As the community interest members of the Board, we are pains to ensure that the views and interests of the local communities – with particular reference to traffic management, car parking and visitor amenities – are properly articulated.

Our quarterly print Newsletter, *A View from the Bridge*, which covers not only matters directly concerned with the Bridge, its heritage and restoration, but also items of wider interest concerned with the Bridge and the area in which it is situated, has been supplemented for the duration of the restoration work by a monthly electronic fully-illustrated sister publication with detailed information on the progress of the contract.

In addition to their role as a community-based supporter of the two local authorities in their project to restore the Bridge to a full state of repair to guarantee its continuing existence for a further 120 years, it is a principal function of the Friends to promote and publicise the Bridge's unique engineering, architectural and historic heritage both locally and further afield, nationally and internationally. To continue to maintain the profile of the Bridge and the restoration project, the Trustees, Friends and supporters have secured publicity through various media, including television and radio, local and national press and periodicals and talks and presentations to local organisations.

We were saddened by the decision of Hutton and Paxton Community Council, in March 2021, to withdraw representation from the Charity on the grounds that they considered that their input was complete. We are pleased that Horncliffe Parish Council continue to be fully represented and are taking steps to amend the Constitution to ensure that the communities of Fishwick, Hutton and Paxton as well as Horncliffe continue to have a direct voice on the governing body of the Charity. We also actively seek expressions of interest from persons locally, and further afield, willing to act as Trustees.

Our Honorary Secretary, Edward Cawthorn, was honoured to receive, on behalf of the Friends, the annual Tweed Forum River Champion Award for promoting the interests of the Bridge and its restoration.

Membership of the Charity, at the end of March, continued to stand at over 600.

October 2021

#### Trustees

Robert Hunter (Horncliffe) (Chairman)  
 Martha Andrews (Chirside) Christopher Baglee (Ponteland) Edward Cawthorn (Union Bridge)  
 Thomas Cockburn (Horncliffe) John Hamilton (Horncliffe) Georgina Home Robertson (Paxton)  
 John Home Robertson (Paxton) Stephen Jones (Wenvoe, South Wales)

#### Patrons

Dr Professor Roland Paxton (Edinburgh) Brian Whittle (Middleton Tyas)

[www.unionbridgefriends.com](http://www.unionbridgefriends.com)

The Friends of the Union Chain Bridge is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation constituted under the Charities Act 2011

**THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION CHAIN BRIDGE****BALANCE SHEET AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**

<b><u>2020</u></b>		<b><u>2021</u></b>
<b><u>£</u></b>		<b><u>£</u></b>
	<b><u>FIXED ASSETS</u></b>	
		<b>1,911</b>
	<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>	
<b>1,315</b>	Stock	<b>2,085</b>
<b>306,356</b>	Debtors	<b>145,000</b>
<b>35,761</b>	Cash at Bank and in Hand	<b>29,806</b>
<b><u>50,000</u></b>	Cash at Bank and in Hand	<b><u>212,137</u></b>
<b>393,432</b>		<b>389,028</b>
<b>6</b>	<b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>	<b>110</b>
<b>395,337</b>	<b><u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>	<b>388,918</b>
<b>395,337</b>	<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>	<b>390,829</b>
	Represented by:-	
	<b><u>INCOME FUNDS</u></b>	
<b>38,200</b>	Unrestricted General Fund	
<b><u>357,137</u></b>	Designated Funds	
<b>395,337</b>		

THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION CHAIN BRIDGE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

<u>2020</u>		<u>2021</u>
<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>
	<u>Incoming Resources</u>	
360,879		3,809
	<u>Resources Expended</u>	
4,250	Total resources expended	8,315
356,629	Net Incoming /(Outgoing) Resources	(4,506)
356,629	Net Movement in Funds for the Year	(4,506)
38,708	Total funds brought forward	395,337
395,337	Total funds carried forward	390,829

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on.....*13th October 2021*

and signed on their behalf by:

Robert T de P Hunter (Chairman).....*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*.....(Trustee).....*E O. CANTHORN*



## Notes to the Accounts

### I Accounting policies

#### Charity information

The Friends of the Union Chain Bridge, a Charity registered in both England and Wales and Scotland, was established on 4th May 2015, to promote for the benefit of the public the historical and architectural heritage of the Union Chain Bridge and to develop public interest in the architecture, history and heritage of the Bridge.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The Accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in the UK and Re These accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102"), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019. The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

#### 1.2 Change of Accounting Policy

The total income for the Friends has exceeded the limits for which receipt and payment accounting is permitted. Accordingly, accrual accounting is now being applied.

#### 1.3 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees continue to adopt the "going concern" basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

#### 1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objects unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The Charity held no such restricted funds in the financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

Designated funds are donations held by the Charity in respect of non-statutory elements of the Union Bridge restoration contract 2019-2022 and are designated for transfer to Northumberland County Council in that connection.

### 1.5 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation. Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

	2021	2020
2 Membership subscriptions	£1,396	£2,322
3 Donations	£979	£354,153
4 Other income	£2,205	£4,404
5 Investments		
The Charity holds no investments and there was no investment activity during the year.		
6 Employees		
There were no employees of the Charity during the year.		
7 Bank and Deposits		
Barclays Bank Business Account	£149,933	£35,761
Barclays Bank Savings Account	£92,000	£50,000

### 8 Current Creditors and Debtors

Debtors are the amounts owed to the Charity. They are measured on the basis of their recoverable amount.

Creditors are the amounts owed by the Charity. They are measured at the amount the Charity expects to have to pay to settle the debt.  
There are no current creditors or debtors.

**9 Income from Investments**

There was no income from investments during the accounting period.

**10 Direct Charitable Expenditure**

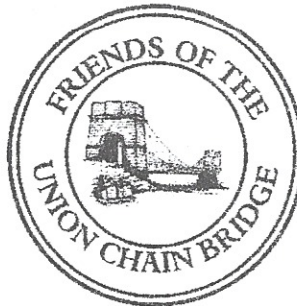
There was no direct charitable expenditure during the accounting period.

**11 Governance Costs**

No governance costs were incurred during the accountancy period.

**12 Trustees' remuneration and Expenses**

No trustee received any expenses during the accountancy period other than reimbursement for postages and printing costs incurred in the administration of the Charity. No remuneration directly or indirectly out of funds of the Charity was paid or payable for the year to any trustee or to any person or persons known to be connected with them. An ex-gratia payment of £100 was made to the Membership Secretary who is a member of the Charity but not a Trustee.







CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name

THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION CHAIN BRIDGE

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 MARCH 21

Charity no  
(if any)

1162687  
SC046208

Set out on pages

1 - 9.

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above  
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to  
undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of  
applicable listed body]]. *Delete [ ] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have  
come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that  
disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material  
respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130  
of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements  
concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities  
(Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement  
that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter  
considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: 

Date: 1/11/21

Name: GILLIAN O'DEA.

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

ICAS

(if any):

Address:

J H GREENWOOD & COMPANY  
1A LODE CASTLE TERRACE  
BERKLEY UPON TREED TD 15 1NP

## Section B

### Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

