

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
31st MARCH 2022**

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 (ordinary trustee and appointed by Horncliffe Parish Council as their representative from May 2021)

Rory HAMILTON (from December 7th 2021)

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 (retired May 2021)

David A WALKER (retired May 2021)

Ross WOODROW (from December 2021)

Elizabeth EDGERTON was appointed to represent the interests of the Parish of Hutton (Berwickshire) on 23rd March 2022 for a term expiring at the Annual General Meeting 2022/3)

Chairman and Trustee

Robert T de P Hunter

Honorary Treasurer and Trustee

John F Hamilton

1 Woodside Park

Horncliffe

Berwick-upon-Tweed

TD15 2XH

Honorary Secretary and Trustee

Edward O Cawthorn

Chain Bridge House

Horncliffe

Berwick-upon-Tweed

TD15 2XT

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc

Edinburgh Princes Street Branch

Edinburgh

EH2 2AN

Independent Examiner

J H Greenwood & Company

Ava Lodge, Castle Terrace.

Berwick-upon-Tweed

TD15 1NP

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

The Trustees present their Report and Financial Statement for the financial year ended 31st March 2022.

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 4th 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 29th January 2015. The Constitution was amended at the Annual General Meeting in December 2021 to allow the Trustees to invite an appropriate organisation operating in the parishes of Horncliffe or Hutton to nominate a resident of the parish to represent the interests of the community of that parish on the CIO in the event of the inability or failure of the Parish or Community Council, as the case may be, to appoint a representative in that capacity.

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

As the Charity is, as yet, without investments and/or investment income, the financial statement set out on page 5 is basic and 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 4th 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. In compliance with Covid statutory restrictions, and informal guidance after relaxation of the restrictions, all their Meetings - as well as the Annual General Meeting - were held remotely by means of zoom. The Charity's business is conducted in accordance with its 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 conducted by the full trustee body.

November 2022



Review of Progress and Achievements for the Year ended 31st March 2022



Despite the continuing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which required all organisations to review and adjust their *modus operandi*, the Trustees continued to meet on a monthly basis throughout the year under review, albeit virtually by means of zoom, and received regular reports of the progress of the restoration project from their Chairman, Robert Hunter, who attended zoom meetings of the Project Board, comprising representatives of the two principal local authorities and Museums Northumberland as well as the Chairman of the Friends.

The Friends' Constitution of 2015 provided that the two riparian parish-level councils, Horncliffe Parish Council, representing the parish of Horncliffe in Northumberland, and Hutton and Paxton Community Council, representing the parish of Hutton in Berwickshire, should have the right to nominate representatives to serve on the Trustee committee. Cllr Alex McGregor had represented Hutton and Paxton Community Council from the formation of the CIO but resigned as a trustee in February 2021. The Community Council were unable to nominate a successor from within the Council but appointed a member of the parish community who, they made clear, represented only himself. This was unacceptable to the trustees as it was considered that the best interests of the riparian community would not necessarily be served by a personal appointment. When Hutton and Paxton Community Council went into abeyance shortly afterwards, the trustees considered that the most expedient way of avoiding a democratic deficit within the parish of Hutton was to amend the Constitution of the CIO to provide that, in the event that either parish-level council was unable or unwilling to appoint a member of the council or of the community to represent the interests of the community on the CIO, they would have the power to request another organisation active in that community to appoint a member of the community to represent that community's interests. Accordingly, the Hutton and Paxton Community Magazine committee were invited to appoint to the CIO and the trustees were pleased to welcome Dr Elizabeth Edgerton to the trustee committee, to represent the interests of the parish of Hutton until the forthcoming AGM. David Osman, who had been Chairman of the Hutton and Paxton Community Council during this period, retired as a trustee in May 2021.

When David Walker, who had represented Horncliffe Parish Council on the CIO retired from the Council in May 2021, he also retired from the CIO and was succeeded as the Council's representative by John Hamilton who was already a trustee in his own right. During the course of the year, however, John Hamilton resigned from Horncliffe Parish Council but continued to serve as an ordinary trustee. At that time there was no vacancy on the trust body for a Horncliffe-appointed trustee but this will be rectified at the forthcoming AGM.

The Trustees are appreciative of the contributions made by Alex McGregor, David Osman and David Walker during their respective trusteeships.

During the restoration works, the trustees were asked by the ICE Scotland Museum at Heriot-Watt University, with which cordial links are enjoyed, to contribute towards the digital recording of a Rose and Thistle plaque removed from the English tower for restoration (the Scottish plaque could not be removed and was restored *in situ*) with an opportunity to secure a 3D print. A contribution of £500 was made towards the work and the trustees purchased a half-size 3D print of the crest for public display.

The Trustees supported a proposal within the Parish of Hutton, to form a Community Development Trust for the parish, which they considered would be beneficial not only for the Hutton community as a whole but for the Bridge and its environs in particular.

Although the Friends were, and remain, a fully involved member of the Bridge project Board, and played a vital role in securing lottery funding, the trustees have retained the right to raise issues which they

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believe have not received the consideration merited, from the principal authorities; and during the year under review, they have made representations concerning traffic management, signage and parking on the Scottish side of the Bridge, viewing areas on both sides, several other practical matters and the need for the authorities to make proper arrangements for the presentation of the prestigious IHCEL Award promoted by the civil engineering institutions of the United States, Japan and the UK.

The Chairman of the CIO as well as the trustee committee, Robert Hunter, represents the Charity's interests at regular meetings of the Project Board and continues 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.

The Friends' 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, continues to be supplemented for the duration of the restoration work by an electronic fully-illustrated sister publication with detailed information on the progress of the contract. It is intended, once the restoration work is complete, to change the Newsletter production to an electronic publication twice a year, without supplementary issues except where considered necessary.

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. Through the course of the contract, Jim Gibson, a professional photographer of Norham, with the assistance of trustee Martha Andrews, has assembled a comprehensive photographic and film archive of the works, visiting the site several times a week, securing an extraordinarily detailed record of the works, without having access to the contract site itself. It is intended to prepare a virtual photographic gallery record on a re-designed website; and other opportunities to make the images available to the wider public are under consideration. 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 through talks and presentations to local organisations.

The Trustees have enjoyed good working relations with the Bridge contractors, the Spencer Group of Hull and with the officers of the principal authorities and look forward to completion of the restoration work early in 2023.

Membership of the Charity, at the end of March 2022, continued to stand at over 600.

November 2022

Trustees

Robert Hunter (Horncliffe) (Chairman)

Martha Andrews (Chirside) Christopher Baglee (Ponteland) Edward Cawthorn (Union Bridge)

Thomas Cockburn (Horncliffe) Elizabeth Edgerton (Hutton) John Hamilton (Horncliffe) Rory Hamilton (Duns)

Georgina Home Robertson (Paxton) John Home Robertson (Paxton) Stephen Jones (Wenvoe, South Wales)

Ross Woodrow (Tweedhill)

Representative of Horncliffe Parish Council, pending trustee appointment: Carol Jones

Patrons

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

www.unionbridgefriends.com

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THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION CHAIN BRIDGE**BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST MARCH 2022**

2021		2022
£		£
1,911	Fixed Assets	1,981
2,086	Stock	2,310
145,000	Debtors	55,678
29,806	Cash: general funds	24,493
212,137	Cash: designated funds	1,245
389,029		83,725
110	Current Liabilities	nil
388,919	Net Current Assets	83,725
390,830	Total assets less current liabilities	85,706
33,693	Unrestricted general funds	29,461
357,137	Designated funds	56,245

THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION CHAIN BRIDGE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

2021		2022
£		£
3,809	Incoming resources	15,481
8,315	Resources expended (qv \$8, \$10)	320,605
(4,506)	Net movement in funds	(305,124)
395,337	Total funds brought forward	390,830
390,830	Total funds carried forward	85,706

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on..... *November 18th 2022.*

and signed on their behalf by:

Robert T de P Hunter (Chairman)..... *M. P. Hunter*

E. O. Cawthorn
..... (Trustee)..... *E. O. Cawthorn*

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.

I.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 £.

I.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.

I.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.

I.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.



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

31st MARCH 22

Charity no
(if any)

1162687

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:

29/11/22

Name:

GILLIAN O'DEA

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

ICAS

M25118