

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 2023**

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

Martha Veronica ANDREWS

Christopher BAGLEE (retired 4th March 2023)

Edward Oates CAWTHORN

Thomas William COCKBURN (retired 3rd July 2023)

Elizabeth EDGERTON (representing the interests of the Parish of Hutton)

John Francis HAMILTON

Rory HAMILTON (resigned 26th June 2023)

Sadie HOLLAND (from 8th November 2023)

Georgina Jean HOME ROBERTSON

John David Nicholas HOME ROBERTSON (retired 4th March 2023)

Robert Thomas de Plumpton HUNTER (retired 6th June 2023)

Carol JONES (from 13th September 2023)

Stephen Kedwyn JONES

Clive SIMPSON (from 4th March 2023)

Ross WOODROW

Chairman and Trustee

Robert T de P Hunter (to 6th June 2023)

Martha Veronica Andrews (from 6th June 2023)

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

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

The Trustees present their Report and Financial Statement for the financial year ended 31st March 2023.

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 a basic Risk Review; they continue to keep under review 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. Most of their Meetings were held remotely by means of zoom or in hybrid fashion in person and with a zoom facility, as was the case with the Annual General Meeting. 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.

December 2023



Review of Progress and Achievements for the Year ended 31st March 2023



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.

Although completion of the Bridge restoration project had been expected during 2022, various factors contributed to a delay in the production of replacement parts and their installation in the reinstatement phase, as a result of which, at the end of the year (March 31st 2023) although the Bridge and the peripheral works were virtually complete, it remained closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic and would not be re-opened until mid-April. Trustees' relations with the two contracting authorities – Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council – and the main contractors – The Spencer Group – continued to be close, co-operative and rewarding throughout the year.

In anticipation of completion of the restoration, and with it, the fulfilment of the Friends' principal objective, the Trustees began to consider the role of the charity "going forward" and the need to re-focus the Friends' activities was discussed in detail at several meetings, the Trustees concluding that the development of a properly structured archive, comprising documents assembled during the restoration work, the extensive photographic records accumulated during the contract through the almost daily presence of Jim Gibson, commissioned by the Friends to make a comprehensive library of images and video, sundry acquisitions and accessions, and the large archive of our late Patron Gordon Miller, accumulated over half a century and donated to the Friends by his Estate, would be their primary concern, alongside a continuing educational outreach, including regular talks to local clubs and societies.

During the year, Trustees welcomed a number of visitors from the American Society of Civil Engineers, co-sponsors of the prestigious International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark (IHCEL) award, promoted by our Patron Prof Roland Paxton, and discussions continued to take place concerning the most appropriate location for the siting of the plaque on completion of the works. On a local level, the Friends donated £100 towards the Horncliffe village platinum jubilee map, which includes references to the village; and were pleased to receive a bequest of £2000 in the Will of the late Dr Michael Lowry of Bridge House.

Trustees expressed concern to Scottish Borders Council about the loss of the ancient track leading from the riverside to Bridge House, and made representations, both directly and through the Scottish Rights of Way Society, for its reinstatement on completion of the works and acknowledgement of its status as a public right of way. Representations were also made concerning the lack of parking provision on the Scottish side of the Bridge and inadequate sightlines on the Bridge approach.

The Bridge will form a critical link in the proposed Tweed Trail, the long-distance footpath from Tweed's Well to the North Sea, an initiative promoted by the Tweed Forum; and the Trustees hope to be involved in proposals for the interpretation of the trail in the area of the Bridge.

November 2023

THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION CHAIN BRIDGE**BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST MARCH 2023**

2022		2023
£		£
1,981	Fixed Assets	1,981
2,310	Stock	2,234
55,678	Debtors	5,036
24,493	Cash: general funds	25,192
1,245	Cash: designated funds	50,795
83,725		82,257
nil	Current Liabilities	nil
83,725	Net Current Assets	83,256
85,706	Total assets less current liabilities	85,238
29,461	Unrestricted general funds	29,443
56,245	Designated funds	55,795

THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION CHAIN BRIDGE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

2022		2023
£		£
15,481	Incoming resources	5,540
320,605	Resources expended (qv §8, §10)	6,009
(305,124)	Net movement in funds	(468)
390,830	Total funds brought forward	85,706
85,706	Total funds carried forward	85,237

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on.....*December 18th 2023*.....

and signed on their behalf by:

Martha Andrews (Chair.....*Martha Andrews*.....)

Edward Cantor
 EDWARD CANTOR (Trustee).....*Edward Cantor*.....

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

As the Charity obtained sponsorship for the refurbishment project, it carried a substantial income requiring it to use accrual accounting methods for the period between 2019 and 2022. With the disbursement of the funds and the reduction of gross income a reversion to the cash accounting methods previously used is now possible. Therefore the FY22/23 brought forward position is stated in accrual terms while the carried forward position is given in cash accounting terms. The notable difference is that, in accrual terms, stock and other assets are treated as current assets while in cash terms they are treated as past expenditure. Income from sales had to be netted against cost of sales and this will no longer be required. Future accounts will be presented in cash terms unless, of course, the relevant legislation changes. Therefore the position being carried forward for FY23/24 is:

Cash: general funds	£25,192
Cash: designated funds	£50,845
	£76,037

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 31st March 2023.

Designated funds are donations held by the Charity in respect of non-statutory elements of the Union Bridge restoration contract 2019-2023 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.

	2023	2022
	£	£
2 Members subscriptions	1,837	2,339

3 Donations	3,150	11,613
4 Other income	554	1,528

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Barclays Bank Business Account	75,100	23,546
Barclays Bank Savings Account	795	2,145

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.

9 Income from Investments

There was no income from investments during the accounting period.

10 Direct Charitable Expenditure

No expenditure was incurred that was not for charitable purposes.

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.