

**The Friends of Friar Gate Bridge
Trustees' Annual Report
For the period 01/09/20 to 31/08/21**

Reference and administration details

Charity Name: The Friends of Friar Gate Bridge

Registered Charity Number: 1163174

Charity Principal Address: 32 Friar Gate, Derby, DE1 1BX

Names of Charity Trustees who manage the charity:

Mandy Coons

David Cross (resigned 31/08/2020)

Dr. Catherine Feely

Malcolm Holden

Howard Thomas Chair

Names and addresses of advisers:

Solicitors Smith Partnership, Celtic House, Derby. DE1 1LS

Website Human Interface Publications, 14 MacKenzie Street,
Derby.

DE22 3DD

Treasurer Vacant position

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document: Constitution

How the charity is constituted: Charitable incorporated
organization

Trustee selection methods: Elected by general meeting

Objective and activities

Summary of objects of the charity

1.1 The objects of the CIO are:

1.1.1 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 Friar Gate Bridge ("the Bridge") in Derby.

1.1.2 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.

Restoration - Progress under wraps

Following our major successes in the first two months of 2020, i.e., in having a senior City Councillor tell our Annual General Meeting that he considered the Bridge to be important to the City and then getting all the major stakeholders around the same table, the following two years have

been very frustrating. Because of Covid, the quarterly meetings, which the stakeholders had agreed to hold after February's round-table meeting, never took place.

We knew after a few months that Clowes Developments/CWC Holdings were progressing, as they had told us they would, with putting together a masterplan for Friar Gate Goods Yard also including the Bridge. However, the City Council asked Clowes not to discuss the matter with the outside world, including us at Friends of Friar Gate Bridge, until they said so.

There were Covid-related lockdowns until March 2021 which continued to hamper many activities: Clowes' progress was slower than they would have wished, but there were signs of activity on the site which we pointed out on social media.

Meanwhile, each of the other main stakeholders had its own battles to fight with the effects of the pandemic. The City Council had several, most of which were well documented. Another stakeholder, The Cathedral School (at the furthest end of the Goods Yard from the Bridge) was preoccupied with preparing to move in, and the University had to grapple with keeping students educated and happy.

While we could have decided to plough our own furrow and work up a bid for funding our own project for the Bridge in isolation, we decided against this. First, as mentioned in Latham's viability report which we commissioned, we would have a much better chance of initial success and of achieving a long-term sustainable solution if we worked in conjunction with one or more of these other parties. Secondly, the main source of funding, Heritage Lottery Fund, was concentrating on keeping afloat those heritage assets dependent on income and affected by the pandemic and, consequently, was avoiding new schemes. Finally, the City Council was giving us no guidance at all on what activity they might welcome or allow on the Bridge so any time, and Friends' money, invested on working up a bid was highly likely to be wasted.

The twelve months from August 2020 to August 2021 was, therefore, incredibly frustrating from the restoration point of view but progress was being made away from the public eye.

Education - severely restricted

We have an educational remit which in the past we have exercised through a schools' STEM project programme, delivered for us by Rolls-Royce personnel, and through talks to general interest groups and societies given by ourselves at their meetings. Covid restrictions in schools and major upheaval at Rolls-Royce made it impossible for their people to deliver our STEM programme while teachers had their work cut out delivering their standard education programme to their pupils. Meetings for interest groups were cancelled throughout the year and, although we delivered the odd presentation by Zoom, weak internet connections spoiled the results, so these were discontinued.

We continued to post news and information on social media, our website and the Derby Telegraph. We are grateful to Jayne Courts-Robinson of Human Interface Productions for her work on these matters on our behalf.

Other activities

We prepared a case for Historic England for raising the status of the Bridge from Grade II to II* but held back from making the application since a successful application may have restricted the site's uses and made the planned restoration project unviable.

Our fourth AGM took place through Zoom on 8th March 2021. Beyond essential business, there was only brief discussion among the small number attending,

Fundraising was, of course, severely restricted. Your Chair had even purchased, at his own expense, some collection boxes for local shops only for Covid to make using cash a rarity.

A further casualty of the Covid-driven Rolls-Royce upheaval was your board of trustees who lost David Cross. David was a very valuable member of our board who left Rolls-Royce and for domestic reasons had to change his priorities. We thank him for his services and wish him and his family success and happiness.

Financial review

The figures for this period remain straightforward and modest as demonstrated by the accounts.

Given our limited ability to meet people it is understandable that our that our membership numbers are not increasing. We are grateful for members' continuing financial support and hope to report soon that the accumulated funds, which we have been careful not to waste, will have been invested in a worthwhile exercise to further the Friend's objectives.

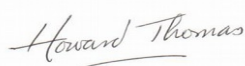
The Future

Despite the continuing restrictions and difficulties of the past two years your trustees are more confident than ever that there will be serious activity around and beneficially involving Friar Gate Bridge. Whatever activities are finally decided by CWC or the City Council, the Friends of Friar Gate Bridge will have a key role to play in ensuring the Bridge's long-term interests are properly served.

We believe we are entering a different phase of activity and would very much welcome new trustees and volunteers to help us in our endeavours.

Declaration

The report has been prepared by the Chair on behalf of the trustees.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Howard Thomas", with a horizontal line underneath.

Signature:

Full name: Francis Howard Miles Thomas
Position: Chair

Date: 27th January 2022

The Friends of Friar Gate Bridge
Financial accounts
for the Year Ended 31st August 2021

The Friends of Friar Gate Bridge

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The Friends of Friar Gate Bridge
Balance Sheet
For the Year Ended 31 August 2021

	31.08.21	Comparative 31.08.20
Current assets		
Bank account	4,608	4,186
PayPal account	141	170
	<u>4,749</u>	4,356
Current liabilities		
Creditors	146	-
Net current assets	<u>4,603</u>	<u>4,356</u>
Represented by		
Accumulated funds	-	-
Opening reserves	4,356	3,379
Surplus / (Deficit) for the period	247	977
	<u>4,603</u>	<u>4,356</u>

The Friends of Friar Gate Bridge
Income and expenditure account
For the Year Ended 31 August 2021

	For the year ended 31.08.21 £	For the year ended 31.08.20 £
Income		
Grant received	-	-
Membership	340	400
Donations	-	140
Fundraising activities	70	447
	<u>410</u>	<u>987</u>
Expenses		
Consultancy	-	-
Printing, advertising and office	47	-
PayPal fees	17	10
Insurance	99	-
Website	-	-
	<u>163</u>	<u>10</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the period	<u>247</u>	<u>977</u>