

The Friends of Friar Gate Bridge

Financial accounts

for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

The Friends of Friar Gate Bridge

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for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

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The Friends of Friar Gate Bridge

Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31.08.24</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31.08.23</u> <u>£</u>
Income		
Membership	190	270
Donations	10	10
Fundraising activities	50	-
	<u>250</u>	<u>280</u>
 Expenses		
Printing, advertising and office	-	105
PayPal fees	6	11
Room hire	-	-
Book purchase	-	41
	<u>6</u>	<u>157</u>
 Surplus for the year	<u>244</u>	<u>123</u>

The Friends of Friar Gate Bridge

Balance Sheet

	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31.08.24</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31.08.23</u> <u>£</u>
Current assets		
Bank account	5,223	5,395
Current liabilities		
Creditors	-	416
Net current assets	<u>5,223</u>	<u>4,979</u>
Represented by		
Accumulated funds		
Opening reserves	4,979	4,856
Surplus for the year	<u>244</u>	<u>123</u>
Closing reserves	<u>5,223</u>	<u>4,979</u>

**The Friends of Friar Gate Bridge
Trustees' Annual Report
For the period 01/09/23 to 31/08/24**

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

Alistair Hodge (removed 16.09.24)

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 – What lies at the end of the road?

At the beginning of this year we met with Wavensmere Homes to discuss their plans to develop the Friar Gate Goods Yard and we learned that they were dealing with the whole site, including the listed commercial buildings. While we were surprised at the proposed removal of the arches, including those very close to the Bridge we understood that viability of this site relied on maximising land usage. Such reliance also meant that vehicular access onto the bridge itself was not possible. Wavensmere had provided pedestrian access via

wide and attractive steps, and, following our comments, they amended their plans to incorporate a ramp to allow disabled access.

The viability report we had from Lathams Heritage Architects in 2018 had identified linking activity on the Bridge to that on the Goods Yard as being a key factor in providing the sustainability required by most funders likely to support the restoration of the Bridge. At this stage last year it was not obvious how any linkage would be achieved.

On a positive note, we had a full and constructive meeting with Councillor Nadine Peatfield, then Deputy Leader of Derby City Council and also the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Tourism; together with two of her officers. We explained our frustration at successive administrations' lack of interest in the Bridge and of action to preserve or develop it. We acknowledged the Council's lack of spare funds and asked only for moral and practical support for our endeavours. We pointed out that the current administration, thanks to the revised election schedule and unlike previous administrations, had four years in which to ensure progress, or be seen as not caring for heritage.

Councillor Peatfield told us of a Council tourism project to celebrate Derby's inventors and agreed to consider Andrew Handyside. We were asked to send relevant information to two Council officers, which we duly did without receiving any response. There was a further exchange of mutual contacts.

At the end of the year, arising from his work with another heritage body, one of our members, Mike Wingfield, turned our attention to developing the Bridge as a tourist attraction and told us how we could obtain a feasibility study.

Education

We continued to meet our educational remit through giving talks to general interest groups and societies at their meetings. Others were arranged for after the end of this reporting year.

Through our trustee Alistair Hodge, representing the University, we were again investigating ways to collaborate with the University's students, but Mr Hodge went very quiet and we found he had left the University without telling us.

Outside interference caused a disruption to our news and information on social media and we are grateful to Jayne Courts-Robinson of Human Interface Productions for persevering and restoring her work on this and our website on our behalf.

Other activities

We sought advice and support from various bodies on presenting to Historic England the case for raising the status of the Bridge from Grade II to II*. We had previously delayed our approach to Historic England to help the Goods Yard developers, since a successful application may have restricted the Goods Yard site's uses and made the planned development unviable.

Financial review

The figures for this period remain straightforward and modest as demonstrated by the accounts. We are actively investigating sources to fund development and are making applications as appropriate.

The Future

While we are pleased to see the serious activity taking place adjacent to Friar Gate Bridge, it is apparent that no other party is committed to the future of the Bridge itself. Therefore, the Friends of Friar Gate Bridge has the key role in ensuring the Bridge's long-term interests are properly served.

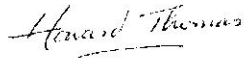
We need extra support from new trustees and volunteers to ensure the Bridge has a future.

From a very early stage the Chair has said he would prefer to serve under someone with more contacts and experience, particularly in heritage. No one has been forthcoming but the Chair's term as a trustee has come to an end under the constitution and he will retire no later than the next AGM,

Declaration

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

Signature:



Full name:

Francis Howard Miles Thomas

Position:

Chair

Date:

30th January 2025