

Charity Number: 1185901



## **Friends of Bram**

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ended

31 March 2025

# **Friends of Bram**

**Year Ended 31 March 2025**

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## **Friends of Bram**

**Year Ended 31 March 2025**

### **Trustees Report**

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The trustees present their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

#### **Legal and Administrative Details**

**Charity name**

Friends of Bram

**Charity Commission Registered Number**

1185901

**Registered Office**

36 The Gill

Ulverston

Cumbria

LA12 7BP

**Trustees**

Carol Elizabeth Budge

Wilma Anne Anderson

Nicola Kell

**Chairman**

Jacqueline Ann Drake

**Secretary**

Jacqueline Ann Drake (acting secretary)

**Treasurer**

Carol Elizabeth Budge

**Friends of Bram  
Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**Trustees Report  
(Continued)**

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The trustees are pleased to present their annual report. This report outlines the activity of the Friends of Bram from April 2024 to March 2025.

**The purposes of the charity are:**

- (1) To provide facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children during and out of school hours and school holidays and to advance education, promote the preservation and protection of good health and relieve the effects of poverty amongst residents of Barrow in Furness and the surrounding area.
- (2) To relieve the needs of children, young people and their families by the provision of services in particular those aimed at promoting good health, relieving poverty and helping people meet their own needs in society.
- (3) To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Barrow in Furness and the surrounding area for the provision of the assistance in the provision of facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

**Activities and achievements**

We continue to signpost both families and individuals to our hugely successful Well Fed programme, we continue to work with Fairshare to enhance the current produce including fresh fruit, meals and fresh meat produce through working in partnership with Fairshare we were offered an opportunity to visit the warehouse on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month where we were able to pick up 15 extra trays of a range of food and produce which we use to support both the nursery and the local community, through this development we have been successful in funding by the Cumberland Building Society which has continued throughout this financial year which has ensured there is no direct cost to ourselves which is also supporting the nursery provision and reducing the food costs for our daily meals. The food delivered on a weekly basis on a Monday which continues to support individuals and families to be able to eat at an excellent cost of £3.00 per bag which support families and individuals to eat for the whole week. We continue to work with local supermarkets receiving excellent donations which support both the Well Fed and Fairshare programme and food parcels for the most vulnerable and isolated which we have continued to support these individuals but on a reduced capacity.

During this period we have continued to work with a range of partner organisation including: Barrow Community Learning Skills and WEA who are now able to deliver a direct service in line with government guidance in a safe, planned and structured environment ensuring both the safety of the students, teaching staff and other users of the building. We have also been working with a number of external organisations including: Families Matter, Furness Multi Cultural Group, Family Action, Family Hubs, Project John, Warrior Down, Health Visiting Team providing essential support and advice to help the local community address any needs that may be affecting them including; physical and mental health, benefits and housing advice as well as signposting to the most appropriate services to meet their individual needs. We have developed a partnership with the Family Hubs providing a range of services to meet the needs of families and children with a specific focus on babies and toddlers including; infant massage, terrific toddlers and baby time sessions which supports the development and understanding of children through their parents.

After an initial conversation with Warrior Down we have developed an excellent partnership with the programme who deliver a service to the local community and provide an office base for their management team, the organisation supports individuals and families who have been affected by substance misuse, through this partnership we have been able to complete a large amount of work on the site adjacent to the woodland area and have put a programme together to ensure the land is finished and completed in the next financial year and open to the local community to access this exciting provision, we plan to have an open day later on in the year to celebrate its completion. Through this partnership we have been able to expand our volunteer base dramatically and to improve our external area within the Bram garden areas.

Friends of Bram continue to work with the local authority in developing the building into becoming one of the four town deal hubs based within the Barrow footprint, we have now been given the approval for our government funding which is due to start in the very near future and we look forward to the continued development of the building to provide services for the local community. We have been allocated 165K of capital funding to complete the development of the town deal hub within our site. We are working with officers from the local authority to develop a plan of work which includes completing the town deal work, the canopy creating an outside classroom and a number of maintenance programmes to upgrade the Bram Longstaffe building, these include: replacement of the fascias within the courtyard area as well as the fascias at the far end of the building adjacent to the Navigators and Voyagers rooms also replacement of all heaters throughout the building and emergency lighting internally and externally. This programme has become increasingly frustrating as the time frame for the work to be started and completed has been put off on numerous occasions, this is mainly due to the local authority wanting Friends of Bram to sign up to a long term lease and the legal team within the local authority having to produce and develop this which both parties are happy to sign, we are hoping this will happen in the coming financial year and the work will then be able to be completed to support our delivery for the local community.

We continue to plan to develop our outside provision adjacent to the garden including: erecting the gates which have now been erected, developing the patio area with seating and a well-being garden with our initial plan of opening the air raid shelter based on the setting, where local school and community will be able to learn some of the history of both the war and how it affected the Barrow Island footprint, we have now secured the wood to erect the raised beds as well as the stone and chippings to develop the paths throughout the area. Unfortunately due to the adverse weather conditions we have had during this year we have been unable to complete the work planned and hope to have completion and secured ready for the Winter of 2025 which will include the patio area, raised beds, paths and opening of the air raid shelter. We continue to work with Travel Active in creating Barrow Island Bikes which is a programme to support children, young people and the local community to understand the concept of repairing their own bikes and delivered two training programmes for local volunteers to support the local community and children into gaining an understanding of how to repair and rebuild their bikes as well as an opportunity to acquire a bike for their personal use which will be either free or at low cost, we have started this programme on site as we now have a unit that the programme can deliver sessions and we plan to expand this service as the land progresses.

Through securing funding from Cumbria Community Foundation we were also able to develop and deliver an Air Fryer programme designed to support individuals and families to both reduce their fuel costs while also improving their diet and reducing waste food. The programme was extremely intergenerational with the youngest attendee being 28 years and the eldest 82 years both male and female, through attending the programme that participants were given the opportunity to share recipes, create wholesome meals while also developing friendships in a relaxed, informal and enjoyable environment. Friends of Bram provided the ingredients, Air Fryers and utensils for the course and once the course is completed the participants were able to take home the Air Fryer and utensils which they will then be able to use in the home environment. Friends of Bram continue to offer to a Warm Spot project during the Winter months providing an opportunity for the local community to access somewhere they could charge their electrical items, enjoy a warm drink, soup, sandwiches, biscuits and cakes as well as the opportunity to develop friendships and discuss any concerns that may be affecting them with either the member of staff or volunteer who delivered the programme.

During this financial year we have delivered a hugely successful holiday programme for children ages 2 years to 11 years as this included our Haf programme during Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays supporting the most vulnerable and isolated 5 years to 11 years old with a particular focus on children receiving free school meals, all our holiday provision is extremely well attended for both the most vulnerable and isolated children as well as paying children from working parents. Each of the Haf programme attendance has been exceptional and we have never been under 100% attendance, during this period we have also been both internally and externally audited by the Haf team which we have come through with flying colours on both occasions and are seen as excellent practice. During this financial year we have developed and delivered a successful youth provision which is delivered by two of our members of staff on a weekly basis and is attended on average sixteen young people from the local area where they have the opportunity to access a range of activities including: games, IT, cooking and baking as well as extending their social networks and gaining new friends, the sessions also provide a cooked tea for all the young people which they really enjoy and have a discussion each week about they will eat the week after.

During this year we have seen our numbers rapidly grow which is linked to word of mouth and social media which has been extremely positive where potential parents are looking for nursery provision for their children. This has led to us having to rethink how we provide our nursery provision and are now in a position of needing four rooms, Little Sailors 0-2 years, Navigators 2-3 years and Voyagers 3-4 years. At this present moment we have approximately 96 children on roll which is over double the figure we started with in 2021, due to our rising numbers we have had to look at staffing levels and employed three extra members of staff on a full time basis and due to the government's plans for both 2 year and 9 month old funded places for working parents we are expecting a rapid rise from April 2024 and September 2024 which we expect to need more staffing to cover the extra provision which will be needed for working parents especially return to work parents. We have currently 3 qualified teachers, an early years specialist and 11 childcare assistants on contract and 2 staff members on casual bank which we have utilised in our holiday programmes especially the Haf programme, this also gives us an opportunity where we have been needing extra staff to cover holidays and sickness throughout term time.

This has been an extremely successful year for both our community work and nursery provision and we have developed an excellent name for our nursery as we are now independent from the local authority and developed an excellent relationship with the local community providing a range of services as well as creating an extremely trusting opportunity to work with local people within our community.

During this financial period we have been successful with a number of grants including: Town Deal which we have received our first revenue payment. We were successful in receiving funding from Sir John Fisher, Cumbria Foundation to support the delivery of a number of projects as well as supporting Bram Longsaffe Community Hub running costs and salaries, this excludes our funded 2,3 and 4 year old children and paid children which supports the running of Brams Little Sailors Nursery provision and staffing.

## Finance

As at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 the bank account funds stand at £224,826.

Approved by the trustees on the 13.01.26 and signed on their behalf by:

C A Budge



W A Anderson



N Kell



## **Independent Examiner's Report To the Trustees of Friends of Bram**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner and basis of report**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this Period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**R F Miller & Co**  
**Chartered Certified Accountants**

Doubletree Court  
10A Cavendish Street, Ulverston  
Cumbria LA12 7AD  
Dated: 12 January 2026

*R F Miller & Co*

## Friends of Bram

### Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	
	2025		2024	
Receipts	£	£	£	£
Funded children income - CCC	332,656		138,862	
Parent fees received	136,642		143,969	
HAF	40,318		22,920	
Funding income - COVID-19	-		-	
Funding income	112,916		76,647	
Recycling	2,291		250	
Premises usage	10,563		6,895	
Interest received	-		16	
Total receipts		635,386		389,557
Payments				
Payments for generating funds				
Covid hub expenses	29,417		22,087	
Salaries and pensions	373,023		268,793	
Training costs	1,947		210	
Rates	-		-	
Insurance	1,155		1,079	
Utility costs	37,626		35,852	
Accountancy	990		900	
Telephone	4,227		2,589	
Travel costs	-		-	
Bank charges	102		221	
Depreciation	3,004		135	
Barclaycard	-		-	
Repairs and renewals	7,232		4,698	
Licences	566		550	
Development	4,045		2,500	
Advertising	5,000		-	
Computer costs	3,499		1,204	
Total payments		471,834		340,818
		-		
Total payments		471,834		340,818
Excess of income over expenditure		163,552		48,739
Balance brought forward from previous year		64,512		15,772
Balance at end of the year		228,065		64,512



**Friends of Bram**

**Balance Sheet**

**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £ 2025	Unrestricted funds to nearest £ 2024
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Fixtures & fittings	12,810	-
Motor Vehicles	4,770	6,360
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	17,580	6,360
<b>Current assets</b>		
Prepayments	703	650
Cash at bank	703	649
Current account	222,176	73,092
Savings account	2,650	43
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>225,529</u>	<u>73,699</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Loans	-	-
Accruals	6,643	-
PAYE	6,670	10,041
Pension	1,731	3,477
Creditors	-	2,029
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>228,065</u>	<u>64,512</u>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>Funds of the charity</b>		
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>		
As at 31 March 2024	64,512	15,772
Add: Net assets (first completion of balance sheet)	-	-
<b>Add</b> Excess of income over expenditure for the year	<u>163,552</u>	<u>48,739</u>
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2025</b>	<u>228,065</u>	<u>64,512</u>

I approve the financial information.

I acknowledge my responsibility for the financial information, including the appropriateness of the accounting basis as set out and for providing R F Miller & Co with all the information and explanations necessary for its completion.

(0)

The financial information was approved on

Signed

*N. Brown*  
*CR Budge*

