

Slow The Flow

Charity number **1191174**

Annual Report and Financial Statements For the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

Slow The Flow

Annual Report and Financial Statements **For the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021**

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Trustees' report for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial period and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Bede Mullen	Chair	
Adrian Horton	Secretary	Resigned 30/08/2022
Stephen John Garrod	Treasurer	
Stuart Bradshaw		Resigned 30/09/2022
Robin Gray		
Katie Kimber		
Marie Therese Degnan		Resigned 30/08/2022
Amanda McDermott		
Warren Goodall		Resigned 31/05/2021
Roseanne Marie Sweeney		Appointed 09/09/2021
Paul Garry Williams		Appointed 17/06/2021
Andrew Colin Wright		Appointed 17/06/2021

Charity Number

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1191174, on 07/09/2020.

Principal address

Hebden Lodge
Lee Mill Road
Hebden Bridge
West Yorkshire
HX7 7AE

Bankers

Reliance Bank Ltd
Faith House
23-24 Lovat Street
London
EC3R 8EB

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Trustees' report (continued) for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted Jan 2020.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are the founding trustees of the charity or are otherwise appointed by the trustees.

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

Slow The Flow is a charity working to advance the education of the public in Natural Flood Management, Sustainable Drainage Systems and other renewable methods of managing the environment, including the exploration of alternative practices which safeguard the natural environment and its resources in a manner which best fits the specifics of a local geography.

The charity's main activities

The educational objective of the organisation is achieved by presenting information on the Slow The Flow website from a mixture of specialist technical professionals and NFM practitioners including: case studies carried out with volunteers; "how to" guides for implementation at their own properties or land or that provided by others; workshops, lectures and seminars from the technical professionals and those leading or being involved in volunteer projects; and the hands-on volunteer activities - giving members of the public the opportunity to try first hand a range of flood management techniques on land offered by consenting landowners before doing the same on their own property or by similarly seeking cooperation for projects on land owned by others.

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Trustees' report (continued) for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

The organisation implements pilot projects in so far as this is necessary in a science which is emerging and requires an evidence base to demonstrate its efficacy. Its main project to date is work carried out by volunteers on land owned by The National Trust who is not a beneficiary but a consenting and cooperative landowner whose motivation is to help the organisation educate communities about Natural Flood Management and do its bit on land over which it has control. This project sets out to provide proof of concept including the feasibility of volunteer-based actions to implement Natural Flood Management in a local scenario – notably to the benefit of the entire downstream community – while recognising that this implementation by itself is a small part of a wider solution only achievable by educating others in the mechanics and arguments for Natural Flood Management.

Other implementations entail projects based on a similar scalability model where the organisation produces results and promotes the learned physical and social science to encourage others to repeat and expand the work so that it is scaled up to a level that is of benefit to the extended community.

These projects include: identifying Natural Flood Management opportunities; suggesting designs for small-scale woodland and terrain interventions; communications that encourage involvement of volunteers and landowners; facilitating discussions between participating parties; and building understanding between community participants and local and national government agencies.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular in relation to advancing the education of the public in Natural Flood Management, Sustainable Drainage Systems and other renewable methods of managing the environment.

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Trustees' report (continued) for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

Achievements and performance

Slow The Flow is grateful to everyone who has supported our work over the course of this period. Even with Covid-19 still in our midst, we have been very busy as we continue to develop new schemes, partnerships, ideas, projects and initiatives to reduce flood risk here in the Calder Valley.

It is also fair to say that the work our volunteers and volunteer Trustees do, inspires other communities and groups around the UK, to use natural processes to combat their own flood risk. These relationships are vitally important because collectively, they all contribute to **Natural Flood Management (NFM)** and **Sustainable Drainage Solutions (SuDS)** which are now being recognised and used to reduce flood risk in our cities, towns, villages, and rural communities.

One of our highlights during 2021 was the appointment of 3 brand new amazing Trustees who we appointed to bolster and support the work we do. We have two Trustees (Andrew and Paul) with an educational brief who are working on materials for schools and educators and a Trustee (Roseanne) solely dedicated to fundraising to support the work of Slow The Flow. We are delighted to have them onboard and after only a few short months they have all made a significant impact on our work.

Here are some of the other highlights for 2021:

January

Flood sirens sound again as the Calder Valley braces itself for Storm Christoph. The Environment Agency issues 11 flood warnings for the area and warns communities to put flood plans into action. When the torrential rainfall moves on, flood damage is limited but the psychological impact of the threat of another major flooding event is widely felt.

February

We set up an **annual bursary** to support MA students researching natural flood management in partnership with the University of Leeds and Environment Agency. The bursary is named after Penny Eastwood, aka **Dongria Kondh**, our wonderful friend and founder of **Treesponsibility** who sadly passed away later in the year. This was a fitting memorial to one of the most influential people we have known, and we are delighted to commit to supporting this bursary for the next few years.

March

Do volunteers have a role in natural flood management? 'Of course, we do!' is our message to FloodExpo21, a major annual gathering of flood experts. To be effective, NFM strategies must be widely deployed across communities. Later, we publish a **report** based on our pioneering interactive 'opportunity mapping' study, which shows that NFM and SuDS have the potential to attenuate almost 2 million cubic metres of water across Calderdale.

April

Tracey Brabin, the successful candidate in the first Mayoral elections in West Yorkshire, pays a visit to Hardcastle Craggs to hear about our work, demonstrating the increasing strategic importance of flood resilience regionally.

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Trustees' report (continued) for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

May

New Mayor of Todmorden Councillor Pat Taylor chooses us as her Charity of the Year. We are delighted as it gives us an opportunity to spread our reach and message beyond Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd where we have been focused to date.

June

Volunteering resumes at Hardcastle Crag after a 16 month break due to Covid. We are bashing balsam, an **invasive non-native species**, which takes over riverbanks and woodlands reducing biodiversity and increasing flooding risk. More good news – Slow the Flow is awarded the Queens Award for Volunteer Services – the MBE of volunteering – a tribute to the hundreds of local people who have volunteered with us since we were set up in 2016.

July

A wonderful permanent exhibition of our work, featuring the film '**Slowing The Flow Together**', opens in Gibson Mill in Hardcastle Crag, thanks to the support of the National Trust.

August

Leaky dam building at Hardcastle Crag resumes at last, with Halifax MP Holly Lynch joining the first volunteer group. So far, we have built over 750 leaky dams on the hillsides above Hebden Bridge during colourful, intergenerational weekend events, which boost not just climate resilience, but mental health too!

September

It's challenge event time! Jonnie Cunningham, head of operations at flood company, Watertight, completes a gruelling sponsored 9-day cycle from Lands End to John O' Groats, while local councillor Josh Fenton Glynn runs not one, but two marathons, to raise money for us, St Augustine's and the Community Foundation For Calderdale.

Together they have contributed an amazing £6K in donations to support our work.

October

As world leaders gather in Glasgow for Cop26, we launch a media campaign calling on communities to play their part tackling climate change – a story picked up by local, regional, and national media. "People living and working in the Calder Valley know from direct experience how vital it is that world leaders make real progress tackling climate change," says our chair Bede Mullen. **"But communities must take action too"**.

November

We participate in a public meeting on NFM in Todmorden town hall organised by the Mayor of Todmorden. Amongst other groups present at the event, which is well attended, are Calderdale Council, the Environment Agency, and Todmorden Flood Group. **Our blog** then features excellent guest posts on mitigating flood risk from two of the speakers: Jane from the Calder Rivers Trust on **soil health**, and Christina from Treesponsibility on **trees**.

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Trustees' report (continued) for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

December

The board of trustees met for the final time in 2021 making exciting plans for 2022 and beyond and looking forward to working with supporters and public, private and community partners to promote NFM and fight back against climate change.

We launched an exciting new piece of citizen science at Hardcastle Craggs NT, where we have installed **fixed point photography posts** – and encouraged submission of photos of leaky dams from the public.

In addition throughout this reporting period we regularly:

- Engaged with statutory bodies and influencers through e.g. The Source / Calder Catchment Partnership / NFM Ops Group / CMBC Flood Newsletter / Climate Committee
- provided talks to organisations such as the WI, Rotary, and Parish Councils.
- Mentored other community groups across the country as they start similar initiatives
- Commented on planning applications / the local plan / climate change action plan

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Trustees' report (continued) for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

Financial review

The net receipts for the year were £14500 comprising £1740 net payments from unrestricted funds and £16240 net receipts in restricted funds.

Reserves policy

The charity's free cash reserves at the year end were £11166.

It is the charity's policy to maintain a reserve to provide working capital in the region of £8,000 to fund its general activities in the year ahead comprising expenditure anticipated as follows:

Insurance	370
Website	400
Educational Media	2000
General Publicity Print	1000
Room Hire	480
Travel	250
Equipment Renewal	500
Working Capital on Projects	2000
Fundraising Costs	1000

Restrictions on activities as a result of the Covid pandemic have reduced the charity's ability to spend funds as otherwise might have been planned leaving a higher than sought free cash reserve.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed: ... 

Date: ... 31/10/2022

Name ... Stephen Garrod (Trustee)

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Receipts and payments account

for the Financial Period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

	Financial Period Unrestricted Funds	Financial Period Restricted Funds	Financial Period Total Funds
Receipts			
Donations	6778	-	6778
Grants	-	16240	16240
Total Receipts	6778	16240	23018
Payments			
Bank Charges	45	-	45
Bursaries	2000	-	2000
Fundraising costs	96	-	96
General Publicity	398	-	398
Governance Costs	958	-	958
Grants Made to Others	3225	-	3225
Insurance	365	-	365
Measuring Equipment	186	-	186
Meeting Room Hire	430	-	430
Miscellaneous	82	-	82
Website	493	-	493
Trustee Expenses	46	-	46
Office and Admin Costs	195	-	195
Total Payments	8519	-	8519
Net (payments)/receipts	(1740)	16240	14500
Fund Balances Brought Forward	12906	-	12906
Fund Balances Carried Forward	11166	16240	27406

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Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 31 December 2021

All cash funds were held at the charity's bank.

Assets retained for the charity's own use

Smart Turners (2)	Husqvarna Technical Forest Helmet
Log Carries (2)	Pavement Sign
Peavy Cant Hooks 3.5 ft (2)	Stein Top Saw Multi Tool
Timber Tongs (4)	Husqvarna 545 15" Chainsaw
Lifting Hooks (4)	Husqvarna Chainsaw Box
Seagate BUP Slim 1 TB Red	Bolle Tracker
Gloves (15 pairs)	Laptop for GDPR
Telescopic Staffs 5m, 5 Section (2)	NatureSpy Solar Camera
Branded Shirts (20)	Boots (1 pair)
Branded High Viz Vets (15)	Drone Mavic Mini Fly More Combo
Tsurugi 300mm Fine Tooth Saws (3)	
Sandvik Bow Saws 21" Type 51 (6)	
Time Lapse Cameras (8)	

Liabilities None

Approval of the accounts

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on

Date: 31/10/2022

Signed:  (Trustee)

Name Stephen Garrod

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Notes to the accounts

for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year. No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

2 Trustee Expenses (excluding reimbursement for purchases made on behalf of the charity)

Expenses were paid to the following trustees to reimburse them for the cost (£23 each) of DBS application:

Robin Gray
Katie Kimber

3 Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

4 Disclosures Relevant to The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012

- a) There were no guarantees given by Slow The Flow where any potential liability under the guarantee was outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities.
- b) There was no debt outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities which was owed by the CIO and which was secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the CIO.

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Notes to the accounts continued
for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

5 Grants and Donations

	Financial Period Unrestricted Funds	Financial Period Restricted Funds	Financial Period Total Funds
Community Foundation For Calderdale	-	14740	14740
Flood Control (NI) FCNI J Cunningham	4661	-	4661
The Marcus E Tillotson Charitable Trust	-	1500	1500
Heptonstall Parish Council	1000	-	1000
Donations via LocalGiving	566	-	566
Donations at public events	436	-	436
Hebden Bridge WI	50	-	50
CSA Prize	50	-	50
Individual donation by cheque	15	-	15
Total Grants and Donations	6778	16240	23018

6 Restricted Funds

	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance c/f
Community Foundation For Calderdale	-	14740	-	14740
The Marcus E Tillotson Charitable Trust	-	1500	-	1500

Fund Name	Purpose of Restriction
Community Foundation For Calderdale	Education in schools
The Marcus E Tillotson Charitable Trust	Tree Planting and Enclosure for public wood