



The Bridge of Don Brigade
Trustees' Annual Report
August 2024 to July 2025

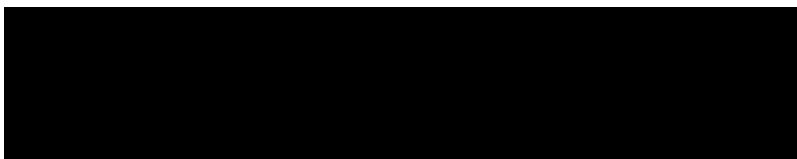
Contact information

Your charity's name: The Bridge of Don Brigade

Scottish Charity Number: SC050686

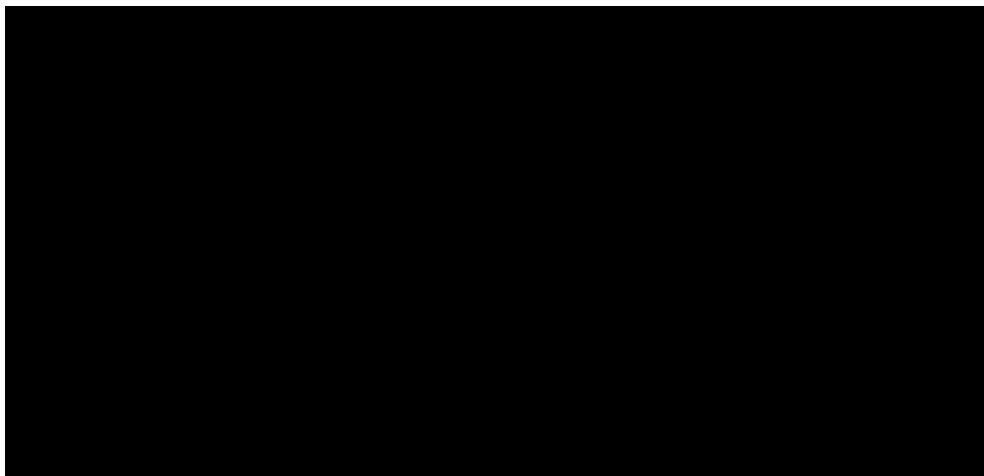
Address: 10 Forvie Way, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen

Postcode: AB22 8TJ



Website: www.bridgeofdon.org.uk

Charity Trustees



Governance

We have a written constitution and are registered with OSCR.

Trustee appointment

 became a Trustee, records updated

Objectives and activities

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among young people and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian way of life.

We are a uniformed co-ed youth organisation focused on promoting a positive disciplined outdoor life and developing each and every member of our organisation regardless of their ability to achieve all they can and to enjoy their time with us, showing improved communication skills, teamwork, physical fitness, new skills being achieved, self-development and confidence as a young person. Children have the choice to participate in activities and have a voice in the type of activities that are led to ensure maximum engagement. We deliver Duke of Edinburgh awards, and John Muir awards and spend time in the Cairngorms National Park on frequent trips and the outdoors in the Bridge of Don area of Aberdeen. We meet weekly and in addition undertake weekend residential camps, promoting nature conservation and STEM programmes.

We are an entirely self-funded charity, and our outdoor trips require specialise equipment and the use of our own minibus. We work to reduce barriers to participation such as socioeconomic status.

We aim to benefit the youth within our organisation, the youth in our community and all within our local catchment area who see how important the work we do is. Our volunteers receive training and improve their own personal skills when working in an intergenerational environment. With over 95 members aged between 5 - 18 years old we reach hundreds of friends and family, wider community groups, and other Youth Groups and demonstrate how the image of young of young people can be different to what some have. All too often young people are seen to be lazy, trouble making, threats, up to no good and not a key part of the local community. Through working with local groups, churches and Aberdeen Council we actively encourage the young people to talk, take part in organised events going some way to change people's views to show how young people can add value to their local community. One example is when the young people attend Aboyne Highland Games to act as programme sellers & gate marshal. Here they interact with people from around the local area, tourist from many countries and young people from many different backgrounds. Within our organisation, we support a number of young people who have varying needs and/or challenges. We understand that all children have had different experiences and upbringings, and we ensure that staff give the children the best experience.

Achievements and performance

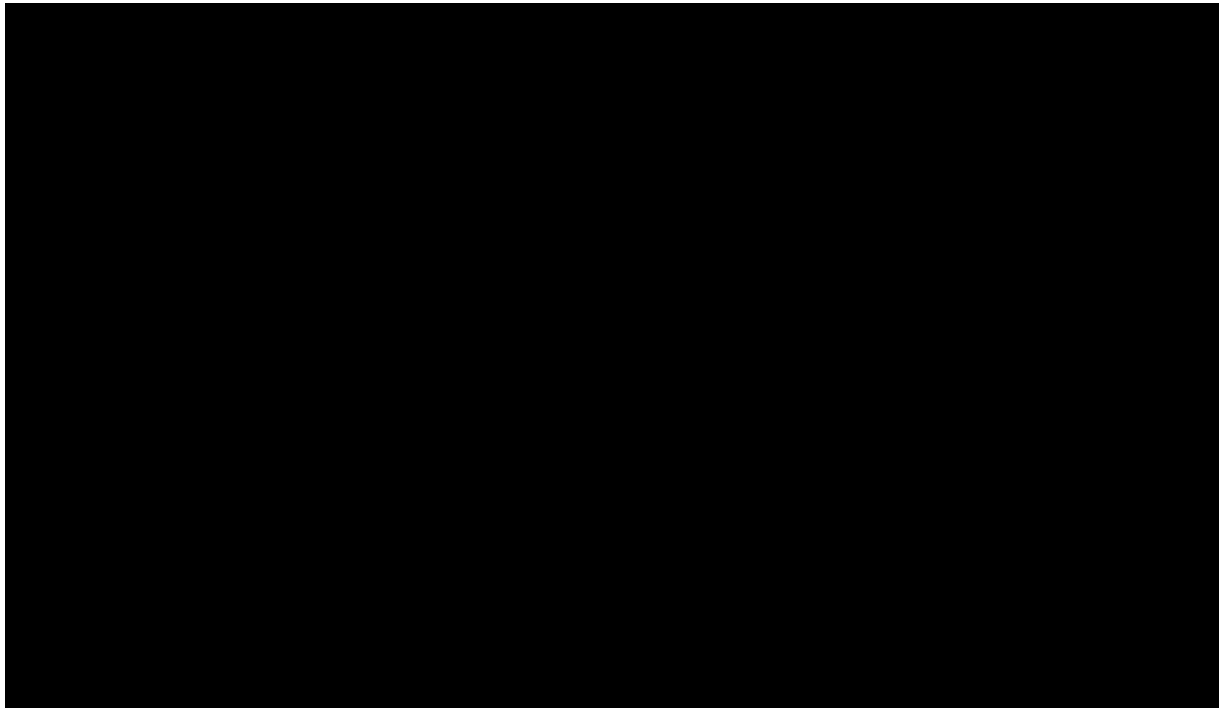
Member numbers of young people have increased slightly over the year.

We have only lost 5 members during this period which is extremely healthy for our organisation in a climate with all uniformed organisations seeing a big downturn in membership and a large number closing their doors. New starts have more than covered this reduction.

We currently have a membership of 95 children and young people

We currently have 16 volunteers. Recruitment of volunteers still remains a challenge as seen across the board with other uniformed organisations. New PVG legislation may also cause issues however this has not been an issue due to the support of Brian Fowler of St Columba's Church.

Annual Camp



At the start of June 2025, 67 members attended a 3-day 2-night residential weekend at Abernethy's Nethy Bridge outdoor centre. This was provided at no cost to any family.

This annual camp is a huge achievement for The Bridge of Don Brigade. So many positive feedback comments from the children and young people. At least 40 have taken part in activities they would not have attempted if not for the weekend. More than 35 families have said they have seen an improvement in the young people's reducing their time indoors and on screens. Many families also commented that they would not have been able to afford to send their children and young people if we were not able to provide the camp for free.

During the period we have held the following activity evenings along with our regular weekly meetings:

- Christmas crafting
- Cinema trip
- Bouncy castle evening
- Play Park visits
- Biscuit decorating
- Pancake making
- Sandwich making
- Basic cooking skills evening
- Take away evening
- Pizza evenings
- Crafting

We have seen a very challenging trend within the older young people's attendance levels with irregular attendance occurring unless there is a specific event or activity, they wish to take part in. This was clearly visible when 45 young people attended the cinema trip just before Christmas, usual attendance numbers were 30 in the weeks prior.

All volunteers continue to be offered online training in various topics related to the work we do each week. Currently 39% have completed 1 or more modules.

Financial review

As an organisation we endeavour to retain a reserve of approximately £7,500 to cover any unexpected expenses. Our operating costs per year are in the region of £6,000 - £7,000 excluding annual camp costs and this income is ring fenced.

Fee donations from all families have shown a healthy increase with more paying by monthly standing order and more paying slightly more than the requested amount.

We have seen a decrease in families asking for discount and delayed payments.

We are constantly indebted to The Bridge of Don Brigade’s volunteers and members families for identifying potential areas or applications for Charitable Donations.

Summary of Charitable Donations (up to June 2025)

Name	
Mugdocks Trust	
Aberdeen Council YAG	
	
Abernethy Bursary Trust	
David & June Gordon Memorial Trust	
Trades Widow Fund	
Allander Trust	

Future plans

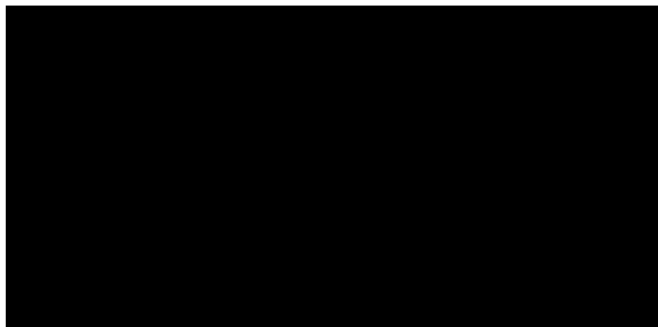
We continue to plan a varied range of activities for the children and young people. We do plan to look at other types of experiences for the children and young people with a committee being formed to discuss future plans.

Additional information

We are always looking for personal recommendations for volunteers to join our organisation. Please can all volunteers actively ask parents, work colleagues, neighbour and friends if they wish to be a volunteer.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Designation

Trustee

Date

28th July 2025

Bridge of Don Brigade

Balance Sheet for the Bridge of Don Brigade as at 31st August

TOTAL INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Income

Registration Donation: Members
Business Donations
Camp Donation
Misc Donation
Insurance Settlement/Refund
Sponsorship Donation
Social Event
Interest
Gift Aid Refund - HMRC

2023/24		2022/23	
£	£	£	£
7,097.00		6,286.59	
19,545.24		11,000.00	
-		-	
93.90		1,043.50	
-		180.00	
-		-	
-		-	
-		-	
5,562.90	32,299.04	5,236.82	23,746.91
461.73		451.73	
2,554.11		7,781.57	
1,513.42		1,727.99	
1,530.00		2,474.15	
-		587.10	
11,732.18		12,856.43	
-		-	
-		250.00	
15.99		1,096.84	
-	17,807.43	-	27,225.81
	14,491.61		(3,478.90)

Profit / (Loss) for Year

Balance Sheet for the Bridge of Don Brigade as at 31st August

	2023/24		2022/23	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Fixed Assets</u>				
<u>Current Assets</u>				
Bank Account	20,859.07	20,859.07	6,367.46	6,367.46
<u>Current Liabilities</u>				
Prepaid Fees 22/23		0.00		0.00
		<u>20,859.07</u>		<u>6,367.46</u>
Income and Expenditure for Year	14,491.61		(3,478.90)	
Retained Profits	6,367.46	20,859.07	9,846.36	6,367.46
		<u>20,859.07</u>		<u>6,367.46</u>

APPENDIX 3

OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

v2

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity name

BRIDGE OF DON BRIGADE

Registered charity number

SC 050 686

On the accounts of the charity for the period

Period start date

Day

Month

Year

01

09

2023

to

Period end date

Day

Month

Year

31

08

24

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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 seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have 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.

Signed**:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

Date:

31/05/25

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

**OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures.

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose

N/A