

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales No 1162687
Registered as a Charity in Scotland No. SC04620



THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION CHAIN BRIDGE
in the parishes of Horncliffe (England) and Hutton (Scotland)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH 2017**

R P Bulling, Honorary Treasurer
E O Cawthorn, Honorary Secretary

The Friends of the Union Chain Bridge is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation constituted under the
Charities Act 2011

TRUST INFORMATION



Registered Address

Chain Bridge House, Horncliffe, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 2XT

Registered Charity Numbers

1162687 (England and Wales) SC046208 (Scotland)

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the period are listed below:

Martha Veronica ANDREWS (retired and re-appointed Oct 26th 2016)
Robert Philip BULLING (retired and re-appointed Oct 26th 2016)
Edward Oates CAWTHORN (retired and re-appointed (retired and re-appointed Oct 26th 2016)
Thomas William COCKBURN (Appointed by Horncliffe Parish Council)
Georgina Jean HOME ROBERTSON
John David Nicholas HOME ROBERTSON
Robert Thomas de Plumpton HUNTER
Alexander James McGREGOR (Appointed by Hutton and Paxton Community Council)
David John OSMAN

Chairman and Trustee

Robert T de P Hunter

Honorary Treasurer and Trustee

Robert P Bulling
The Hollies
West End
Horncliffe
Berwick-upon-Tweed
TD15 2XN

Honorary Secretary and Trustee

Edward O Cawthorn
Chain Bridge House
Horncliffe
Berwick-upon-Tweed
TD15 2XT

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
Edinburgh Princes Street Branch

Independent Examiner

Gillian O'Dea
Greenwood & Co
Berwick-upon-Tweed



TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

The Trustees present their Report and Financial Statement for the financial year ended 31st March 2017.

The provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (March 2005) amended 2008, is used in preparing this Annual Report and Financial Statement, so far as it is applicable to the Trust's circumstances.

Constitution

The Friends of the Union Chain Bridge is a charity registered in England and Wales and in Scotland and constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) under a Constitution dated the 4th May 2015. The conversion of the charitable trust into a CIO was approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of the charity held in the Village Hall, Paxton on the 29th January 2015.

The Objects of the Charitable Trust

The objects of the Trust are:

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 the Union Chain Bridge ("the Bridge") in the parishes of Horncliffe, Northumberland, England and Hutton, Berwickshire, Scotland and of the natural environment in which the Bridge is situated.
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.

All the activities of the Trust to date have been in full accordance with the objects of the Charity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

-) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
-) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
-) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
-) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
-) prepare the financial statements on the ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

It will be appreciated that, as the charity is, as yet, without investments and/or investment income, the financial statement set out on page 5 is basic and that the majority of the methods and principles set out in the SORP are as yet inapplicable to the charity's accounts.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 (England and Wales) and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and Regulations 2008 made under those Acts and the provisions of the trust deed/constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Investment Policy

The Trust Deed allows the Trustees to invest funds in any investment they think fit, in their absolute discretion. To date, they have not exercised their power to invest funds.

Risk Review

In September 2015, the Trustees undertook an initial Risk Review; they intend to conduct a basic and detailed review of the major risks to which the Trust is, or is likely to be exposed and of the systems and checks to mitigate such risks arising from financial management. Investments, contracts etc, Trust property and the loss of services of Trust officers either temporarily or permanently. The Trustees intend that such reviews will be conducted on a regular basis.

Public Benefit

By considering the operation, achievements and performance and the finances of the Trust, the Trustees are satisfied that public benefit has been provided in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the guidance provided by the Charity Commissioners and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Meetings

The Trustees meet in accordance with a meeting calendar; they currently meet on a monthly cycle but additional meetings are arranged as required. Their business is conducted in accordance with the Constitution dated the 4th May 2015. There is no formal committee structure but *ad hoc* committees and working groups are appointed from time to time to deal with specific aspects of business delegated to them. The vast majority of business, however, is dealt with by the full Trust body.

Review of Progress and Achievements for the Year ended 31st March 2017

The Union Chain Bridge repair and restoration project is the joint responsibility of the local authorities on each side of the Bridge – Northumberland County Council (who act as lead authority) and Scottish Borders Council. They are working in close co-operation with the national government heritage conservation agencies – Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland – towards completion of the works in advance of the Bridge's bicentenary in July 2020, although because of continuing delays in the submission of funding bids to the Heritage Lottery Fund, it seems increasingly unlikely that this target will be met.

The Report to the third Annual Meeting in October 2016, as did that to the second Annual Meeting a year previously, anticipated the early submission of Stage I of a two-stage application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to meet the substantial shortfall in contract costs, after allowing for committed financial allocations of £500,000 and £550,000 from Northumberland County (NCC) and Scottish Borders Councils respectively. The Stage I bid is yet to be submitted, some six months after the reporting year end, partly because of Historic England's requirement for a detailed structural analysis before a formal application is made to them for Listed Building Consent; and partly because of a change in NCC's bid team.

One of the principal reasons for the formation of the Friends body was NCC's desire to have in place a local community heritage group to assist it in its application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for grant funding towards those parts of the project which would qualify for assistance from that body. The Friends continue to expand their membership, which now totals well over 600 – mainly drawn from local communities on both sides of the Bridge but there is a significant membership elsewhere in England, Scotland and Wales as well as in Japan, the USA, Norway and Australia.

It is a principal function of the Friends to promote and publicise the Bridge's unique engineering, architectural and historic heritage not only locally but also further afield. To continue to maintain the profile of the Bridge and the restoration project, while awaiting progress with the HLF bid, the Trustees, Friends and supporters have arranged publicity through various media, including television and radio, local and national newspapers and periodicals and talks and presentations to local organisations. For the fourth successive year, the Trust participated in Heritage Open Days on the 9th and 10th September with an information stall on the Northumberland side, attracting well over 200 visitors and enlisting new members. Other promotional media include the Trust website at www.unionbridgefriends.co.uk, an active facebook page, a new Instagram page managed by and aimed largely at younger people, a revised visitor leaflet distributed to information centres and holiday establishments; and a membership newsletter, *A View from the Bridge* which circulates quarterly and sometimes more frequently. Merchandise comprising Friends' mugs (including a matching English/Scottish pair), pens, greetings cards and prints of the Bridge, continue to keep the Bridge and the project in the public eye at publicity events, open days and craft fairs.

Several social, sporting and cultural events have been organised. A very successful Helicopter day was organised in May when well over 100 people enjoyed flights over the Bridge and along the course of the River Tweed from Berwick to Norham; it attracted considerable publicity for the Friends and the Bridge as well as raising funds. The second *Two Nations* 7km run from Paxton House to Loanend in England, with a family fun run, attracted well over 100 entrants from local running clubs and holiday visitors from elsewhere, many of whom saw the Bridge for the first time while running across it.

The Horncliffe Hookers arts and crafts group's knitted 6' model of the Bridge, mentioned in the last Annual Report, continues to be displayed around the area and to raise the profile of the Bridge wherever it appears.

The Friends were pleased to be invited to set up a "customs toll" for the prestigious *Flying Scotsman* veteran and vintage car rally which passed over the Bridge in April 2016; and on a daily basis scores of cyclists continue to pass over – and very often stop to admire and photograph – the Bridge as they follow the Sustrans Coast and Castles, routes 1 and 68 and the North Sea Cycle route. The Friends and Sustrans are now mutually affiliated.



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2017**

2016*

	£	£
Incoming Resources		
1080 Membership Subscriptions (individual)	2520	
-- Membership Subscriptions (corporate)	--	
15682 Miscellaneous contributions and donations	4108	
16762 Total incoming resources		6628
Resources expended		
1075 Total resources expended		2688
15687 Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		3940
15687 Net Movement in Funds for the Year		4040
5558 Total Funds brought forward		21245
21245 Total Funds carried forward		25283

* This column relates to the 6-month period 1st October 2015 – 31st March 2016



Notes to the Accounts

I Accounting policies

Charity information

The Friends of the Union Chain Bridge, a charity registered in both England and Wales and Scotland, was established on 4th May 2015, to promote for the benefit of the public the historical and architectural heritage of the Union Chain Bridge and to develop public interest in the architecture, history and heritage of the Bridge.

1.1 Accounting convention

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” (“FRS 102”), “Accounting and Reporting by Charities” the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015. The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objects unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The Charity held no such restricted funds on the financial year to 31st March 2017.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require

deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation. Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

2 Donations and legacies

	2017	2016*
Donations and gifts	£4108	£15682*

3 Fundraising

Fundraising was by means of membership subscriptions	£2520	£1080*
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4 Investments

The Charity holds no investments and there was no investment activity during the year.

5 Employees

There were no employees of the Charity during the year.

6 Bank and Deposits

	2017	2016
Barclays Bank Business Account	£25283	£21245*

7 Current Creditors and Debtors

There are no current creditors or debtors.

8 Income from Investments

There was no income from investments during the accounting period.

9 Direct Charitable Expenditure

There was no direct charitable expenditure during the accounting period.

10 Governance Costs

No governance costs were incurred during the accountancy period.

11 Trustees' remuneration and Expenses

No trustee received any expenses during the accountancy period (2015: £nil) other than reimbursement for postages and printing costs incurred in the administration of the charity.

No remuneration directly or indirectly out of funds of the charity was paid or payable for the year to any trustee or to any person or persons known to be

connected with them. An ex-gratia payment of £100 was made to the Membership Secretary who is a member of the charity but not a Trustee.

I2 Trust Expenditure

The relatively low levels of expenditure in relation to income in the three years since the formation of the Trust are accounted for by the delays (referred to in the Annual Report above) in submitting a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for grant assistance towards the proposed restoration scheme, as a result of which the Trustees still await direction from the principal authorities with regard to peripheral projects in which it is expected that the Trust will be actively, and financially, involved.

Note: * The 2016 figures relate to the six-month period ending 31st March 2016.