

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 SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDED
31st MARCH 2016**

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

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

Robert Philip BULLING (co-opted 1st February 2016)

Edward Oates CAWTHORN

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

Vacant to November 10th 2015

Robert T de P Hunter (from November 10th 2015)

Honorary Treasurer and Trustee

David J Osman

Tweedbank

Fishwick

Berwick-upon-Tweed

TD15 1XQ

Honorary Secretary and Trustee

Edward O Cawthorn

Chain Bridge House

Horncliffe

Berwick-upon-Tweed

TD15 2XT

Acting Honorary Treasurer wef 1st February 2016

Robert P Bulling

The Hollies

West End

Horncliffe

Berwick-upon-Tweed

TD15 2XN

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc

Edinburgh Princes Street Branch



TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

The Trustees present their Report and Financial Statement for the six-month period ended 31st March 2016.

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 registered charity in England and Wales and in Scotland 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 in its infancy and, particularly, 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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 5th 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 Period ended 30th September 2016 update

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.

The Report to the second Annual Meeting in October 2015 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 and Scottish Borders Councils respectively. One year on, the Stage I bid is yet to be submitted, largely as a result of Historic England's requirement for a detailed structural analysis before a formal application is made to them for Listed Building Consent; and before the Stage I bid is made. Completion of the analysis to the satisfaction of Historic England will allow that body to support the Heritage Lottery bid, which should considerably improve the bid's chances of success. Notwithstanding the delays that have occurred, Northumberland County Council remain confident that the repair and restoration works will be completed comfortably in advance of the bicentenary.

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.

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. The Friends' membership register now extends to almost 600 members from throughout the British Isles as well as from Japan and the USA. 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 (BBC Music Day; forthcoming Channel 4 River Tweed programme), local and national newspapers, Country Life magazine. For the third successive year,

the Trust participated in Heritage Open Days on the 10th and 11th September with an information stall on the Northumberland side, attracting almost 100 visitors and a number of new members. Other promotional media include the Trust website at www.unionbridgefriends.co.uk, shortly to be updated, an active facebook page and membership newsletters. Merchandise including Friends' mugs (including a matching English/Scottish pair), pens, greetings cards and prints of the Bridge, keep the Bridge and the project in the public eye.

Several social, sporting and cultural events have been organised. A very successful Charity Dinner and Auction was held in Paxton House on the 7th November; Harris Playfair and Heather Cattenach gave an acclaimed recital in Paxton House on February 26th 2016; and a typically excellent performance by the music department of The Berwickshire High School, promoted on behalf of the Friends by the Hutton and Paxton Community Council, was presented within the school concert hall on February 19th. As a result of these initiatives, an exciting plan is taking shape to bring together young musicians from both sides of the border with the aim of holding music workshops over an 18-month period, culminating in a performance of the "Union Bridge Orchestra" at Paxton House in July 2020, linked to a short tour of the Scottish Borders and North Northumberland and involving young musicians of senior school and student age.

An historic meeting of the Lord-Lieutenants of Berwickshire and Northumberland (Mrs Jeanna Swan and the Duchess of Northumberland) took place on the Bridge on the 25th May, followed by a well-attended Reception in Paxton House.

An inaugural "Two Nations" Bridge 7k run was organised on the 27th July and attracted well over 100 participants; it is hoped to attract sponsorship to hold a similar event in 2017.

The Horncliffe Hookers arts and crafts group knitted a splendid 6' model of the Bridge which was exhibited in the Watch Tower Gallery in Berwick, followed by the Chain Bridge Honey Farm and it is expected to be on show in Paxton House until the end of October.



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 2016**

2015*

	£	£
	Incoming Resources	
1143	Membership Subscriptions (individual)	1080
510	Membership Subscriptions (corporate)	--
3311	Miscellaneous contributions and donations	15682
4964	Total incoming resources	16762
	Resources expended	
	Printing and stationery, postages and miscellaneous items	
719		875
	PR fees	
719		200
	Total resources expended	1075
4245	Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources	15687
4245	Net Movement in Funds for the Year	15687
1313	Total Funds brought forward	5558
5558	Total Funds carried forward	21245

* This column relates to the 12-month period 1st October 2014 – 31st September 2015



Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable accounting standards and with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16th July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective from 1st January 2015) and known as the Charities SORP (FRSSE)

1.2 Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included gross of VAT at the point when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

All donations and grants are recognised in full in the year in which they are received, provided conditions for receipt have been met.

1.3 Legacies

Legacies received are accounted for at the point of receipt. There was one such legacy during the accounting period.

1.4 Investments

The Charity had no investments during the accounting period.

1.5 Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been aggregated under appropriate headings.

2. Debtors

There were no debtors during the accounting period.

3. Bank and Deposits

Barclays Bank Business Account

2016	2015
£21245	£5558

4. Current Liabilities

There are no current liabilities.

5. Donations and Grants

Bridge Collection box

£83 £419

Donations and legacies

£15599 £2892

	2016	2015
6. Fundraising		
Fundraising was by means of membership subscriptions	£1080	£1653

7. Income from Investments

There was no income from investments during the accounting period.

8. Direct Charitable Expenditure

There was no direct charitable expenditure during the accounting period.

9. Governance Costs

No governance costs were incurred during the accountancy period.

10. 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. PR fees of £200 were paid to a private individual who is a member of the charity.