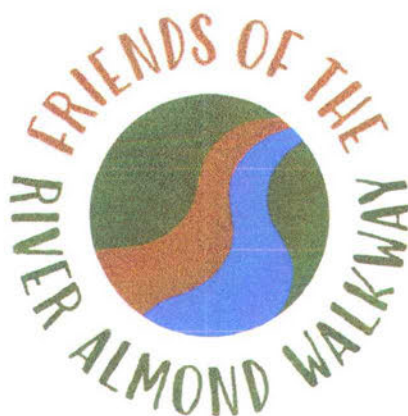


FRIENDS OF THE RIVER ALMOND WALKWAY

Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended

28 February 2025



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

The trustees present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 28 February 2025.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name Friends of the River Almond Walkway (also known as FRAW)

Charity Number SC045077

Contact Address 27 Cammo Grove
Edinburgh
EH4 8EX

Website address <http://www.friendsoftheriveralmondwalkway.org.uk>

Current Trustees



Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

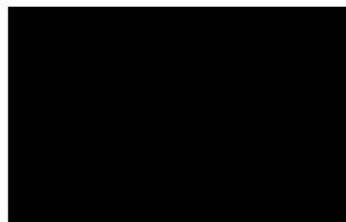
Other Trustees who served during the year

< None >

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland plc
239 St John's Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7XA

Independent Examiner



STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation incorporated on 26 August 2014 and governed by its constitution effective from that date.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the charity. In addition, the Board of Trustees may appoint other trustees at any time, subject to there being a minimum of three and a maximum of fifteen trustees.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

Organisational structure

The organisation consists of members and trustees. Membership is open to any individual who is interested in helping the organisation to achieve its aims. The members are responsible for electing trustees at the organisation's AGM.

The trustees, who meet regularly, are responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The purpose of the organisation is to improve, promote and enhance the heritage and the natural environment of the River Almond Walkway, which it seeks to do by:

- promoting the well-being of the residents of the area and working together as residents regardless of age, ethnic origin, ability, sex, belief or political affiliation recognising the value of our many differences;
- involving local people in improving the area; and
- carrying out both environmental improvement and practical conservation, to encourage and support the local population in environmental practice by working with statutory and non-statutory agencies.

Activities

- We continue to operate work parties, subject to Trustee availability and to carry out smaller scale projects. The objective of these has been
 - to improve access along, and the general condition of, the Walkway
 - to control overgrown areas
 - to improve safety by clearing leaves from paths and steps
 - to remove invasive species to promote the growth of native species.
- Urgent work was carried out by individual committee members
 - using some heavier-duty equipment to clear fallen trees
 - using brush cutting equipment to clear overgrown areas.
- Work was also carried out replacing damaged steps and safety barriers at various locations along the Walkway.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- Contact was maintained with our members via newsletters and email messages. Our membership numbers 208 individuals from 129 households.
- Due to the generosity of our members, our financial situation remained in good health.
- We have continued to maintain contact with the Natural Heritage Service of City of Edinburgh Council, though due to Council re-organisations, resource and budget shortages, responses from them have been slow.
- Liaison and cooperation with other local groups has been maintained and the Cramond Collaborative Group continues to communicate via email and meet face-to-face.
- Membership of, and active participation in, the Edinburgh Green Spaces Forum was maintained.
- Maintenance and improvement to our Community Woodland continued.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

- Working alongside the Natural Heritage Service, plant boxes were installed and maintained in the area around Peggy's Mill, planting a colourful selection of flowers is being maintained.
- Contact was regularly maintained with Councillors and Officials of the City of Edinburgh Council to promote and progress large schemes to improve fish passage down river from Cramond Brig and to investigation solutions for replacing the Salvesen Steps with a disability compliant low-level facility.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

Our principal sources of income continue to be membership fees, donations, associated Gift Aid and grant funding towards specific projects, whereas expenditure is almost entirely in respect of improvement works and projects for the Walkway.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Receipts	2,378	4,865
Payments	1,015	4,100
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1,363	765

Reserves policy

The trustees consider around £1,500 to £2,000 is an appropriate level of reserves to hold to meet the day-to-day running costs of the charity, excluding project costs that are largely grant funded. Reserves at the end of the year were £13,217 (2024: £12,151), which is higher than the target range. Planned additions to the Walkway are expected to cost around £5,000, with a further £1,000 required for website development, which will bring reserves closer to the target range.

FUTURE PLANS

- We are funding the installation of a second bench at Peggy's Mill as a resting point for users of the Walkway.
- Work parties will continue focussing on path maintenance where required, and on further improvements to the Community Woodland and the area around Peggy's Mill.
- We, together with other local organisations, will be keeping in touch with Edinburgh Council and other parties regarding the plans for alterations at Dowies Mill Weir to promote the best outcome. This project is progressing well with a planning application now being submitted.
- We continue to work with Sustrans and Edinburgh Council to investigate the provision of a fully accessible replacement for the Salvesen Steps.
- We are liaising with suppliers and will fund the provision of improved signage along the Walkway to make access for visitors and regular users more straightforward.
- We have been working with third party suppliers on the development of a new website, which is due to be launch in Q2 2025. This will provide:
 - more accurate and current information about the Walkway
 - as information about the history of the Walkway and the River
 - details of the objectives and structure of the Friends Group.

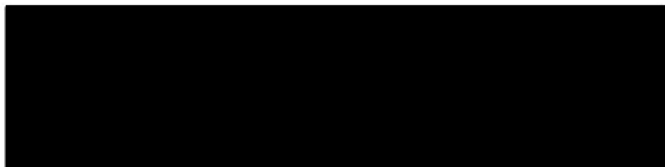
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

- We have identified, and are planning to procure, a storage unit to be located close to the Walkway, for the safe storage of tools and equipment required for our work parties.

APPROVAL

This report, which has been prepared in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, was approved by the trustees on 11 June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Friends of the River Almond Walkway

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 28 February 2025, which are set out on pages 8 to 10.

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) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation (10)(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 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 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 connection with my examination, no matter came 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 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulationshave 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.



27 June 2025

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Receipts		
Donations		
Membership fees	226	212
Other donations	1,519	1,293
Gift aid	633	-
Grants	-	3,360
	<u>2,378</u>	<u>4,865</u>
Payments		
Charitable activities:		
Equipment	-	17
Insurance	275	231
Subscriptions	30	30
Tunnel feasibility study	-	3,360
Walkway projects	259	307
Website	336	53
Governance Costs:		
AGM and members meetings	91	80
Gift for independent examiner	24	22
	<u>1,015</u>	<u>4,100</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	<u>1,363</u>	<u>765</u>

The Notes on page 10 form an integral part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025

	2025	2024
Funds reconciliation	£	£
Balance as at 01 March 2024	11,854	11,089
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	1,363	765
Balance as at 28 February 2025	<u>13,217</u>	<u>11,854</u>
 Bank and cash Balances		
Cash at bank	13,217	11,854
Cash in hand	-	-
	<u>13,217</u>	<u>11,854</u>
 Other Assets		
Gift aid due	-	297
Tools and equipment	1,000	1,000
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,297</u>
 Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The Notes on page 10 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts, which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 were approved by the trustees on 11 June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Chair

Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

1. Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with:

- (a) The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005
- (b) The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

There have been no changes to the basis of preparation or to the previous year's accounts.

2. Fund accounting

- (a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.
- (b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.
- (c) The charity's funds are currently all unrestricted.

3. Taxation

- (a) The charity is not liable to corporation tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.
- (b) The charity is not registered for VAT thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.

4. Transactions with trustees and related parties

- (a) No remuneration was paid to trustees during the year or in the previous year.
- (b) No expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year or in the previous year.
- (c) The charity's insurance policy includes trustee indemnity insurance.
- (d) There were no transactions with related parties during the year or in the previous year.

5. Purpose of Funds

Unrestricted fund	A general fund that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.
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