

**Rainbow Turtle
Chair's report
April 2025 – March 2026**

Introduction

Welcome to the AGM for the Rainbow Turtle charity. Rainbow Turtle consists of two arms, the charity whose aim is to educate about and promote Fair Trade in Renfrewshire, and the shop, Rainbow Turtle Just Trading, Ltd which is a business and runs the shop in Gauze St which also supports and promotes Fairtrade.

This AGM is for the charity and fulfils part of our requirements as a charity. As such we shall cover what the charities activities and finances but also, for interest and information, there will be short account the shop's progress.

This report covers April 2025 to the end of March 2026

Trustees and Members

The charity is required to have a board of trustees. At present we have seven trustees and we are always looking for more, so if you are interested in becoming a trustee please let us know.

Trustees at 1st April 2025

Colum Scriven (secretary)
Gillian Henry (treasurer)
Steph Mayo
Chris Johnstone (chair)
Ann MacInnes
Marianne Sermanni
Stephen Edenborough

Trustees at 31st March 2025

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Ann MacInnes
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The trustees met six times, face to face in 25/26. I am grateful for all their help, time, and good nature in keeping me on the straight and narrow. Rainbow Turtle could not exist without all their commitment and hard work. Many of the trustees volunteer in the shop, help cover the shop when Elise is on holiday, run stalls and help out in other events we take part in. Thank you.

Rainbow Turtle Charity and Education

The charity employs a very enthusiastic, part-time educational officer. Linda has been very busy, visiting schools, making links with other third sector organisations within and outside Renfrewshire.

Linda ran the very successful Growing Grounds project for a second year with two new primary schools. She sourced new planters from Sight Scotland. The planters were paid for by Cowal Building and Plumbing (previously JKM). She then led three sessions in each school about fairtrade, growing and climate change. She led a stall at the Paisley Food and Drink Festival. We were involved, with other fairtrade groups, in organizing the Paisley for All anti-racism march. Linda delivered workshops and talks in local churches, as well as youth groups run by Renfrewshire council. Linda helped organize some windows in the shop with other local campaigning groups. These included Renfrewshire Integration Network and Renfrewshire Climate Action Network.

We had a further stall at CarFest in County Square. It was a great day and maintained our shop's presence in Paisley town centre. We are members of Paisley First and took part in several of their promotions, including billboards on Maxwellton St. We also had a stall at the Lochwinnoch Fayre.

Our membership was stable over the year. Colum continued to write a monthly newsletter/update for the website which was circulated by email to all members.

We have been supported again by the Methodist Halls who have looked after us spiritually and financially. Thanks to David Jackson for all his understanding and support for Rainbow Turtle.

Colum released more Rainbow Turtle Rebooted podcast episodes during Fairtrade Fortnight. He interviewed a variety of fairtrade activists from all over the world. One interviewee was Philip Abel from Furth in Germany. Furth is twinned with Paisley as we found out at the International Fair Trade Town Conference in Edinburgh.

Colum then attended Furth's Fair Trade Town celebrations and made lots of connections with their Fair Trade participants. They are very big on Fair Trade council procurement and we are looking at strengthening our links and learning from their experiences.

We have continued to increase our presence on social media, mainly Facebook and Instagram. Thanks to Sarah and Linda for providing most of our content, with help from other volunteers.

Rainbow Turtle continues to be active in the resurrected Renfrewshire Fairtrade Steering Group. The group has been working with local councillors and we are very grateful for all the support Renfrewshire Council gives Fair Trade locally and nationally. We are working with Scottish Fairtrade to help shops and importers.

Rainbow Turtle Shop

Elise Kelly, our wonderful shop manager, has continued to build on her successes and the shop continues to flourish under her stewardship. We thank her for her hard work and dedication to the shop and Rainbow Turtle

As always, the volunteers have been magnificent in supporting Rainbow Turtle and being the welcoming face in the shop. Rainbow Turtle is indebted to their time, humour and persistence. Thank you all.

The shop has had stronger sales, but margins are still tight and we need to keep pushing and promoting the shop to increase sales as much as possible. Conditions on the High Street are tough all over and Fair trade shops are more susceptible to financial strains than most shops.

I would like to thank Colum for all his work for the shop. Thanks also to Kenny McTaggart for all his help in preparing and submitting the shop accounts. This was Kenny's second year volunteering with the shop accounts.

Summary

2024/25 has been a year of consolidation with Linda here for the full year and no staff or trustee changes. Rainbow Turtle continues to be a strong, valued presence in Renfrewshire, but financial pressures and building for both the charity and the shop. As always Rainbow Turtle thrives on all the people who give their time to support the charity including the volunteers, trustees and many others across Renfrewshire.

Thank you all for help this past year and we all look forward to working together in the coming years to continue promoting Fair Trade in a more equitable, greener world.

Chris Johnstone
Chair of Trustees
3 Sept 2026