

# **Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods**

(CIO Number:1169599)

## **Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements**

**for the year ending**

**31st December 2025**

# **outsourc**e

Charity accounts preparation &  
independent examination service

# **Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods**

(CIO Number:1169599)

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# Trustees' Annual Report

From: 01/01/2025

To: 31/12/2025

Charity's full name *Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods*

Registered Charity number **1169599**

## Objectives and activities

### Summary of the purposes of the charity set out in its governing document

1) To promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of the physical and natural environment of the area known as Gledhow Valley Woods in north Leeds ("the Woods") for the benefit of the general public, including in particular by:

- (a) protecting the natural beauty of the Woods,
- (b) maintaining and improving facilities within the Woods, such as paths and seating,
- (c) promoting biodiversity in the Woods,
- (d) increasing public awareness of the Woods and their conservation, protection and enhancement, and reflecting the opinions and concerns of the wider community in relation to the Woods,
- (e) acting to prevent development in the Woods where such development may be considered damaging the Woods, its flora and fauna or its value as a community amenity,
- (f) working with other groups that have an interest in, control over or responsibility for the Woods in furtherance of the objects of FGVW, including relevant public authorities and other local community groups.

2) To engage in any activities which in the reasonable opinion of the Trustees are conducive, ancillary or incidental to any of the above.

### Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts

- a) FGVW have continued to work with the main landowners, Leeds City Council and the Wades Charity to implement the management plan and remove litter and fly tips.
- b) FGVW own a field in the Woods, called Beck Pasture, and we are managing it as a wild flower meadow to improve biodiversity.
- c) FGVW hold monthly action mornings, doing a range of activities from footpath repairs to meadow management.
- d) The FGVW management plan aims to improve biodiversity in the woods. FGVW manage 6 wild flower meadows and work to eradicate/control invasive species.
- e) The 17th century Bath House, though not owned by FGVW, is opened each year on the national Heritage Open weekend in September.
- f) FGVW liaise with the private landowners where necessary.
- g) The Trustees, Steering group and any project teams liaise with various public bodies, including the main landowners the Wades Charity and Leeds City Council. We are in regular contact with council sectors, Parks and Countryside, Forestry, Land Drainage and Flood Risk Management.
- h) FGVW also consults with outside bodies, including Yorkshire Water, the Woodland Trust, The River Stewardship Company, Groundwork UK.
- i) The FGVW also have ongoing community engagement programmes linking with local primary schools, arts organisations, TCV, a local community centre and numerous other community groups.

The trustees consider that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

## Achievements and performance

### **Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.**

The FGVW trustees are pleased to report on a year of progress in 2025. The year marked the completion of a major new wetland project, transforming an area of poor ecological value dominated by an assortment of invasive species into a thriving new wetland and woodland wildflower meadow. The area will continue to improve as it develops over the coming years.

An initial ecological survey and follow-up survey carried out by an ecologist at Sweco, our local business partner, demonstrated that biodiversity at the site has increased by 71.31%.

We are grateful for our funders, WYCA, Leeds City Council, npower, Wades Charity and West Yorkshire Bat Group for making this £85,000 project possible.

In collaboration with West Yorkshire Bat Group (WYBG) and our volunteers we carried out a number of bat surveys during the year. This has confirmed that Gledhow Valley Woods is home to six species of bat, including priority terrestrial mammal species, Noctule, Soprano Pipistrelle and Brown long eared bats. Follow-up surveys are planned to learn more about the bats in the Gledhow Valley and make habitat improvements under the guidance of WYBG to ensure that they continue to thrive.

Our Citizen Science water monitoring project continues to develop and grow. The publishing of our first water quality report during the year- <https://tinyurl.com/bdhwjjww>

highlighted the poor ecological state of Gledhow Beck and Lake as a result of three main sources of pollution: discharges from Combined sewer outfalls (CSOs), misconconnections and road-runoff.

We have established an on-going dialogue with Yorkshire Water, The Environment Agency and Leeds City Council to advocate for improvements to water quality in the Gledhow Valley. It is particularly pleasing to see other local groups developing across North Leeds and City-wide advocating for similar change. We network and work closely with these groups which are supported by Water@Leeds at the University of Leeds.

In July 2025 we held our second annual Green Fair in partnership with CA-Spaces, CAN Plan, CA Arts Festival and Chapel Allerton allotments and gardens association. The event drew a record 7,000 visitors and allowed visitors to enjoy the woods without the noise, pollution and safety concerns usually associated with Gledhow Valley Road. Feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive. The Green Fair allowed us to highlight environmental concerns but also the positive work that the Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods are doing to address these issues.

2025 ended with the charities four long-standing trustees: Martin Calvert, Adrian Coltman, Steve Jones-Blackett and Naomi Watts-Kitto stepping down. We are very pleased that Martin, Adrian and Steve will continue to be actively involved with the Friends with Martin and Adrian continuing to manage all aspects of our monthly action mornings and offer their invaluable advice and support to the new trustee team. Steve will similarly continue to support all aspects of the organisations financial management.

We wish, on behalf of the new trustees and everyone connected to the Friends, to record our grateful thanks for the years of dedicated work that they have given to make Gledhow Valley Woods the amazing place that it is today.

We would also like to thank all our volunteers who throughout the year enable us to undertake our work.

## Financial review

### **Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period**

The majority of the restricted funds remaining are for phase 3 of the lakes wetland project and the footpath repair. A small deficit was made on the general reserves decreasing them slightly to £12,160.

### **Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held**

The purpose of the Reserves Policy for FGVW is to ensure stability of the ongoing operations of the charity. Reserves are intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in expenses, one-time unbudgeted expenses, unanticipated loss in funding or uninsured losses. The reserves may also be used for one-time, non-recurring expenses that will build long-term capacity, such as investment in infrastructure.

Reserves are not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds or eliminate an ongoing budget gap. It is the intention of FGVW for reserves to be used and replenished within a short period of time. The Reserves Policy will be implemented in concert with other governance and financial policies of FGVW and is intended to support the goals and strategies determined by the Trustees.

The target Minimum Operating reserve has been set at £1000, being equal to one years insurance premium and likely legal fees to deal with any transfer of the land asset on winding up. At this stage, the charity does not have set or predictable operating expenses and financial commitments which need to be accounted for in the Operating Reserve.

An additional sum will be held as part of the Operating reserve to account for costs incurred should a major event such as the Fun day be cancelled. This will be calculated as the average costs of the three preceding Fun days.

**Reasons for holding zero reserves**

N/A

**Funds materially in deficit**

None

**Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern**

None

**Structure, governance and management****Description of the charity's trusts****Type of governing document** Constitution**How the charity is constituted** CIO**Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees** Trustees must be drawn from the membership of the CIO**Other names the charity is known by** FGVW**Charity's principal address** 143, Gledhow Valley Road  
Chapel Allerton, Leeds  
LS7 4JU**Names of the trustees who manage the charity**

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
David Miles	Chair		
Hazel Gregory	Treasurer		
Simon Conyers	Secretary		
David Lumb			

**Names and addresses of advisers**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Karen Wood ACMA	Outsource Accounting Services & IE's 2 Galligap Lane Osbalwick, York YO10 3NR
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC UK Bank PLC	PO Box 105 33 Park Row, Leeds LS1 1LD

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature *David Miles*

Full Name David Owen Miles

Position Chair person

Date 04/13/2026

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods**

I report on the accounts of: **Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods**  
for the period ended: **31st December 2025** which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Karen Wood (ACMA)**  
Outsource independent examination  
service  
2 Galligap Lane  
Osbalwick  
York YO10 3NR

12/04/2026

**Date:**

**Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods**  
(CIO Number:1169599)

<b>Receipts &amp; payments accounts for the year ending:</b>	<b>31st December 2025</b>
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	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>2025 Total funds</b>	<b>2024 Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Grants received	-	76,500	76,500	21,587
Donations	235	500	735	800
Events	1,549	-	1,549	111
Merchandise sales	-	-	-	2,008
Member subscriptions	70	-	70	5
Awards	-	-	-	1,000
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b><u>1,854</u></b>	<b><u>77,000</u></b>	<b><u>78,854</u></b>	<b><u>25,511</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Groundwork, trees & grass cutting	2,308	47,946	50,254	43,354
Management fees & surveys	-	4,666	4,666	-
Workshops , events & exhibitions	110	-	110	4,594
Signage & information	-	500	500	-
Bat boxes	-	-	-	2,450
Water test kits & analysis	133	431	564	691
Materials & action mornings	165	-	165	36
Tools & equipment	669	614	1,283	228
Insurance , subs & licence fees	-	-	-	470
Administration costs	424	-	424	50
Donations to other organisations	60	500	560	-
Volunteer expenses	-	-	-	155
Merchandise costs	92	-	92	308
Website, advertising & publicity	-	-	-	269
Independent examination	350	-	350	330
Bank charges	49	-	49	67
<b>Total payments</b>	<b><u>4,360</u></b>	<b><u>54,657</u></b>	<b><u>59,017</u></b>	<b><u>53,002</u></b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(2,506)</b>	<b>22,343</b>	<b>19,837</b>	<b>(27,491)</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b><u>14,666</u></b>	<b><u>1,019</u></b>	<b><u>15,685</u></b>	<b><u>43,176</u></b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b><u>12,160</u></b>	<b><u>23,362</u></b>	<b><u>35,522</u></b>	<b><u>15,685</u></b>

**Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods**  
(CIO Number:1169599)

<b>Statement of assets and liabilities at:</b>	<b>31st December 2025</b>
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	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>2025 Total funds £</b>	<b>2024 Total funds £</b>
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>				
Current bank account	11,397	23,362	34,759	14,683
Petty cash	763	-	763	1,002
	<u><b>12,160</b></u>	<u><b>23,362</b></u>	<u><b>35,522</b></u>	<u><b>15,685</b></u>

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>2025 Total funds £</b>	<b>2024 Total funds £</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Independent examination fee	375	-	375	350
	<u><b>375</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>375</b></u>	<u><b>350</b></u>