Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	01	2025	**To**	31	12	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	FRIENDS OF THE ULLSWATER WAY
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1185056
Charity's principal address	5 GRASSTHWAITE HOWE
	GLENRIDDING
	Postcode **CA11 0PY**

Names of the charity 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)
1	Gordon Lightburn	Chair		
2	Joseph Ball	Treasurer	Commenced: 29th Feb 24	
3	Miles MacInnes			
4	Timothy Clarke			
5	Anne Clarke			
6	Jane Firth			
7	Patricia Palmer			
8	Jade Cookson		Nominated on 13th March	
9	Colin Hindle			
10	Carla Pont			
11	Jane Wood		Nominated on 7th May	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	CONSTITUTION
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	ELECTED BY OTHER TRUSTEES

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

1. Advancing education of the cultural history, art and heritage of the Ullswater Valley.
2. Providing or assisting in the provision of facilities and incentives for all to walk and explore the Ullswater Valley.
3. Advancing the establishment of community heritage centres in the Ullswater Valley.
4. Promoting activities that inspire the use of natural and cultural heritage as inspiration in artistic work.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Activities undertaken have been consistent with our objectives.
2025 brought to fruition much of the planning and preparatory work undertaken in 2024.

The WORDSWORTH WAY FOOTPATH. Formally launched with great fanfare on the 7th April (to coincide with William Wordsworth's 255th birthday), this is a new branded footpath linking the Ullswater Way Footpath at Glenridding, to Ambleside, via Grasmere.
The path celebrates and acknowledges the contribution to English Literature of the romantic poet William Wordsworth. FOUW worked with the local parishes, Wordsworth Grasmere, the University of Cumbria and the Lake District National Park. In addition to branding and signage, an excellent walking guide book was written by Jade Cookson (who we have since welcomed as a new FOUW Trustee). Publication was funded by FOUW with distribution arrangements being established with local booksellers.
FOUW has financially supported the implementation of the Wordsworth Way with spending of over £7.5K. However it is expected that more than half of this amount will be recouped with the ongoing sales of the Wordsworth Way Guide Book.

The ULLSWATER WAY HERITAGE TRAIL. The foundation of our activities, several artistic installations have suffered from theft. In 2025 the Thomas Clark Memorial was replaced. The Dorothy Gate received a rejuvenating facelift and in 2026 we aim to replace the missing Herdwick Stone and the Wainwright Memorial Plaque (requiring a new location in close proximity to the Patterdale Post Office).
Feasibility work was undertaken in respect of creating a safe walkway at the location of Stybarrow Crag – a potential accident blackspot. This involved the commissioning of detailed engineering drawings as a prelude to initiate what will likely be a significant project - Thank you to Tim Farron MP for his support in generating awareness with local council and highway institutions of the need for this safe walkway.

The EAMONT WAY. The muddy patch on Mill Moor was resolved by drainage and hardening over the surface – with thanks to LDNPA. Signage was replaced in several locations. FOUW continues to support annual maintenance to the tune of £730. The Eamont Way continues to be popular with local residents and visitors alike.

CITIZEN SCIENCE ECOLOGY OF ULLSWATER Project.
With the aid of a £2,950 grant from the Freshwater Community Grant Fund, FOUW has been able to initiate what we expect will be a long term project, where a key outcome will be to establish a baseline understanding of Ullswater's ecology; and identify positive ways of improving water quality - where appropriate and feasible.
Working with the Freshwater Biological Association and other local organisations, principally, the Ullswater Association, Environment Agency, Eden River Trust, Outward Bound Trust, Patterdale Hall, Dalemain, Another Way, Field Studies Centre, and Ullswater Catchment Management CIC.
FOUW firstly conducted a survey to establish local consensus and then initiated a training programme with volunteers to provide the necessary skills for a Lakefly (invertebrates) study project, together with environmental water sampling. The results of which will be shared with the local community and wider environmental authorities.
As an extension to this project at the end of 2025 FOUW put together a proposal with two local secondary schools : QEGS and UCC and the Field Studies Council Blencathra to pioneer in 2026 a project to engage 60 secondary students in an ecological monitoring programme on

Ullswater. It was submitted to a number of potential donors in December 2025 and is expected to start in June 2026.

The Continuation of the MATTERDALE HABITAT SURVEY.
Members of the Matterdale HABITAT SURVEY AND NATURE GROUP were invited to attend courses organised by the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre (CBDC) who had received funding for a project entitled Improving Eco skills in Cumbria. There was a good representation on the Introduction to UKHAB course for habitat surveying, and the grasses, rushes and sedges identification courses. Following this we had a field practice day to consolidate skills. Other than this field work included completing the survey of farm land at Thackthwaite. The digitisation process has continued with Carla Pont working on an interactive map to highlight habitat types. This has over the past three years been an innovative project with 'in the field' surveys being conducted for the first time since the 1980's.
Other events; A verge survey weekend was organised to survey various sections of hedgerow and verges around Matterdale and the results were sent to the CBDC.
It is hoped that in 2026, FOUW will co-operate with CBDC to undertake a Cumbria Wild Watch Day focused on the Ullswater Way, taking place on the Lowther estate and the Goldrill Beck re-wriggling project managed by the Eden Rivers Trust.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: continued through 2025/26 with a total of 18 interviews being completed, 12 of which are now with the Carlisle Archive and 6 in progress. The project has met with great enthusiasm from those who have participated and has been a very worthwhile and informative experience for both interviewers and interviewees. A meet up was held in September at the Royal Hotel in Dockray, and those who had participated up until then were invited. This was well attended and enjoyed by all, and gave an opportunity for people to share their stories and experience of the project. It is hoped that the project will continue into the coming year, and we can be very proud to have spearheaded such an engaging endeavour within the local community which will enable local residents to preserve their personal histories.

The UNDERSTANDING ULLSWATER talks programme has become the mainstay of regular connection to the local and wider community, alternating venues within the Valley and externally on Zoom. Under the stewardship of Tim Clarke who curates the programme, 2025 was as diverse as ever, with subjects ranging from conservation, history, the Lake District National Park and Friends of the Lake District future visions, as well as focussed activities including RAF low flying exercises (which proved our most successful talk to date). Talks raised over £2,400, facilitating donations of £1,099 to local charities.
All of our talks are recorded and made available to view, both live - on Zoom; and uploaded to our www.ullswaterheritage.org website. FOUW invested £2,183 in upgrading our video and audio equipment to enhance the quality of these recordings. The full 2025 talks programme is listed at Annex 2.

In addition to the Talks, two community visits to local sites were made. The first to visit the Beaver reintroduction project taking place near Lowther.

FOUW WEBSITE /The ULLSWATER HERITAGE KNOWLEDGE BANK.
A foundation stone of FOUW, work has begun on a brand new website that will inform, educate and engage our many stakeholders, supporters and community well into the future. Led by new Trustee Carla Pont, with a talented 'in house' team, it will retain all the vital features that make it

popular, whilst easing navigation, information outreach and involvement of our work and activities. The new website will be launched in 2026.

SOCIAL MEDIA. Jane Firth and Anne Clarke have engaged with social media platforms to promote the work undertaken by FOUW and to draw attention to the plethora of heritage and cultural information available on the website.

The VIRTUAL ART GALLERY – Launched in 2023, a novel concept that unites the availability of the Ullswaterheritage.com with location markers on the Ullswater Way footpath that facilitates the virtual access of 'Old Masters' landscape paintings from the very spot where these paintings were created. Maintenance work is ongoing to extend the gallery into future years.

SITU SUPPORT: Sustainable Integrated Transport for Ullswater is a community led scheme which aims to reduce vehicle congestion throughout the Ullswater Valley. FOUW has donated £609 in support of 'The Ullswater Hopper Bus and we expect to provide significantly more support, principally financial, in 2026/7.

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT: We have warmly welcomed 4 new Trustees to FOUW - Jade Cookson, Colin Hindle, Carla Pont and Jane Wood. All talented individuals and each already collaborating and making significant contribution toward our charitable objects – providing valuable human resource toward taking the organisation forward to meet our future challenges.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Most of the work of the charity is done by volunteers. FOUW has no paid staff nor staffing commitments.

In addition to the trustees, over 200 individuals and organisations within the valley have written material for our Ullswater Heritage Knowledge Bank. Local volunteers also assisted in the Habitat and Ecology Surveys, maintenance of the Virtual Art Gallery, QR codes and in the development of forthcoming initiatives and projects.

On 7th August 2025 FOUW published the Wordsworth Way Guide. Its author was Jade Cookson who had worked on the guide from the start of 2024 until its publication. In appreciation for her exemplary work the Trustees nominated her a Trustee on 13th March 2025 .

Aware that the Charities Act 2011 lays down specific rules governing the conditions under which any Trustee can receive payments for services rendered to the charity , the Trustees consulted a lawyer and convened a special meeting on 7th May. Article 185(2) of the Act sets out 4 conditions, A to D, that must be met if remuneration is to be allowed.

At the meeting, the Chair presented each condition, one by one. The Trustees unanimously agreed that all 4 conditions had been met and mandated the Chair to draw up an agreement between FOUW and Jade Cookson which:

- authorised her to receive a royalty for the work she had done on the Guide

- that it was fixed at 10 % of the sales price of the guide - £0.75 per copy
- that a payment of the royalty will be made every quarter according to the number of guides sold
- that every year the Trustees will make a summary report on the royalties paid
- and that the agreement should be reviewed each year .

The date of the agreement was signed by both parties on 05/06/2025

Section D Achievements and performance

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Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

2025 was a particularly active year for FOUW:

Completion and launch of 'The Wordsworth Way', formally opened on the 7th April 2025 following detailed, preparation, planning and branding of this new heritage footpath.

Restoration and repair of the Ullswater Way Heritage Trail and Virtual Art Gallery.

Ongoing maintenance and improvement of the Eamont Way.

The establishment of a Ullswater lake wide ecology study, to include insect species (Lakefly) and water quality monitoring.

The UNDERSTANDING ULLSWATER talks programme gives FOUW a monthly forum presenting interesting topics to our many supporters. It has been successful also in projecting the profile of the organisation to a wider audience as well as raising funds through donations. The mailing list now extends to over 850 people.

Upgrading the camera and audio recording equipment used for the Understanding Ullswater Talks programme.

An oral history recording project in Matterdale -a resource for tomorrow's historical and cultural researchers.

Direct support to SITU (Sustainable Integrated Transport for Ullswater) for the continuation of the 'Ullswater Hopper Bus' – which facilitates people access whilst reducing car usage in the valley.

Directing the feasibility study to create a pedestrian walkway to take walkers off the narrow highway at Stybarrow Crag (on the Ullswater Way).

To end 2025, FOUW remains a highly regarded and respected organisation, that mobilises it's unique objectives to serve the wellbeing of our local and wider community. New Trustee recruitment combined with a secure financial base, prudent governance, a willing cohort of dedicated volunteers and wide base of supporters, builds on already strong foundations for community led actions into the future.

FOUW looks forward in 2026 to celebrating the 10th Anniversary of its founding.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	FOUW retains substantial funds in excess of £24,000. However, the trustees believe that when considering future expenditure, the holding of a minimum reserve of £250 is sufficient, as there are no contractual financial obligations on the organisation beyond specific expenditure agreed by the trustees from funds already in hand. In the event of funds becoming completely depleted the charity would be wound up.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	N/A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The Charity's principal sources of funds are:

1. Donations from the general public, mostly received at the Talks. In 2024, £643 was received in net total.
2. Grants from Trusts and Funds, not public bodies.

   In 2025 FOUW received a grant funding of £1,457 from the Freshwater Community Grant Fund.

There are ongoing discussion about how best to spend the funds within the charity's objectives.

Expenditure is always in keeping with the four objectives of the Charity.

2025 significant expenditures:

£7,541 Wordsworth Way creation and launch.

£2,200 Ullswater Ecology Project

£2,183 Audio/visual equipment upgrade.

£730 Eamont Way Maintenance

£609 SITU (Ullswater Hopper Bus)

The donations from the talks are added up; and after deducting the costs of the evening, 50% of these funds are donated to a charity of the speaker's choice - £1,099 in total was donated.

Other expenditure during the year, using general funds, was on the continuation of the Ullswater Heritage Knowledge Bank website, subscriptions and insurance.

Section F Other optional information

Annex 1: Financial Report
Annex 2: Understanding Ullswater Talks Programme

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	*G Lightburn*	
Full name(s)	Gordon Lightburn	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	

Date	

FRIENDS OF THE ULLSWATER WAY ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 2025

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2025	
INCOME:	
GRANTS (RESTRICTED)	1,457
TALKS	2,382
WORDWORTH WAY GUIDE SALES	2,464
OTHER DONATIONS	25
BANK INTEREST RECEIVED	465
TOTAL INCOME	**6,793**
EXPENDITURE:	
PROJECTS:	
EAMONT WAY	730
WORDSWORTH WAY	7,541
STREAMING KIT UPGRADES	2,183
SITU PLEDGE	609
ULLSWATER TESTING	2,200
ORAL HISTORY	31.69
UNRESTRICTED:	
HALL HIRE	205
EVENT EXPENSES	-
SUBSCRIPTIONS	150
PRINTING	40
WEBSITE	140
INSURANCE /LEGAL	99
FINANCE COSTS	-
DONATIONS TO OTHER CAUSES (TALKS)	1,099
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**15,028**
EXCESS (DEFICIT) IN YEAR	**(8,235)**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025	
CURRENT ASSETS	
CURRENT ACCOUNT	998
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	23,348
STOCK OF REFRESHMENTS AT DEC 25	28
WW GUIDE STOCK	1,445.00
TOTAL ASSETS	**25,819**
FINANCED BY:	
FUNDS B/F PREVIOUS YEAR	32,609
INCOME - EXPENDITURE 2025	(8,235)

EARMARKED FUNDS	
EAMONT WAY - BUDGET	1,500
2025 EXPENDITURE	
Signs	-
Leaflets	-
Strimming	730
TOTAL	**730**
BAL C/F	770
ORAL HISTORIES - BUDGET	300
2025 Expenditure	**32**
BAL C/F	268
SITU PLEDGE	
Provsion agreed up to:	2,500
Actual Contribution required:	**609**
BAL C/F	1,891
WEBSITE REDEVELOPMENT - BUDGET	1,000
2025 Expenditure	**-**
BAL C/F	1,000
ULLSWATER FRESHWATER ECOLOGY PROJECT	
Budget (Grant Restricted)	2,950
2025 Expenditure	**2,200**
BAL C/F	750.42

JOSEPH BALL
Treasurer