

Acorn Bank Watermill Trust

THE TRADITIONAL CORNMILLERS GUILD

19th Century Working Watermill
Temple Sowerby, CA10 1SP
www.acornbankwatermill.org.uk

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Trustees' Report for the period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025.

Presented by the Chairman and Trustees to members of the Acorn Bank Watermill Trust at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 12 May 2026.

Version Record

Version	Date	Status
V0draft	March 2026	Initial working draft.
V1draft	13 March 2026	First complete draft for BP review
V2draft	23 March 2026	Draft for review by Trustees (on 7 April 2026).
V3draft	15 April 2026	Draft for presentation to members at AGM (on 12 May 2026).
V4final	15 June 2026	Final report incorporating AGM feedback and ratified by Trustees, for submission to Charity Commission.

Approvals

Prepared by:	Role:	Signature:
David Luckhurst	Secretary	

Approved by:	Role:	Signature:
Robert Price	Chairman	

Chairman's Overview

On behalf of the Trustees, I am pleased to present the Annual Report and Accounts of the Acorn Bank Watermill Trust (ABWT) for the year ending 31st December 2025.

Visitors

Visitor numbers continue to be good, with over 7,000 recorded during 2025. As reported last year, the mill is a recognised attraction, complementing and enhancing the visitor experience for the Acorn Bank National Trust (NT) site. It reflects well on the enthusiasm and dedication of our volunteers that this success has been achieved in a short period of time since the formation of the Trust in 2021, against the "headwind" of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Education

Our education group are pressing ahead with projects to increase our value to local schools. One of the main obstacles is the lack of classroom and toilet facilities on the mill site. Overcoming this problem is a significant challenge because of the listed status of the buildings and the environmental sensitivity of the site. Dialogue has started with our landlord and partner NT, and we are hopeful that their experience from other NT sites with similar issues can be harnessed to find a solution.

Mill Operation

In line with our operating plan, the mill was operated during weekends between March and October 2025. The mill has operated satisfactorily and without incident. Towards the end of the season, it was suspected that the lower bearing of the vertical shaft had suffered excessive wear. This was confirmed and the bearing was repaired during the winter maintenance period.

Sales of Flour

Sales of flour remain good. Pricing of our flour is determined mainly by the cost of grain, which we endeavour to purchase as economically as possible whilst also ensuring consistently good quality in line with our traditional corn-milling standards.

Restoration, Conservation and Preservation of the Mill

Work on the restoration of the second waterwheel has continued. The basic structure of the waterwheel itself was completed by the end of 2025 using a combination of newly cast and historic metal shrouds mounted on new oak spokes. Work is ongoing to manufacture the hundred or so boards needed to complete the wheel. We are confident this work will be completed in time for the second wheel to be commissioned in May 2026, as planned.

Volunteers

We have been relatively successful in attracting new volunteers during the year, though there has still been some loss of former members. It seems to be easier to attract volunteers who wish to help with the maintenance and engineering aspects than with mill operation and flour production. Staffing the regular weekend milling sessions, which are our main interaction with the public, has occasionally been challenging but only a very small number of dates were not staffed. The proposed joint volunteer recruitment sessions with National Trust did not happen, largely due to the financial convulsions from which the National Trust has been suffering. The Trustees will continue to focus on recruitment.

Environmental Aspects

The National Trust Riverlands project team successfully completed their work to improve the Crowdundle Beck, from which our water is borrowed. The ABW Trustees supported the planned demolition of the Grade 2* listed weir structure and its replacement with a more natural cascade which benefits aquatic wildlife. The result is that adequate water continues to be routed via the mill and wildlife migration is made easier. The new cascade has withstood the large volume of water flowing in the Beck during winter storms. We are grateful that the value of the industrial heritage demonstrated by the continued operation of the mill was accorded such a high priority in this project.

Chairman's Overview

Safety

I am pleased to report that our operating practices and visitor protocols, supported by risk assessments, have resulted in there being no significant safety incidents during the year.

Finance

We continue to keep ahead of our Business Plan predictions in all respects and over our five years of operation we have established a stable financial base. Having repaid a start-up loan (provided by one of our founding members) ahead of schedule during 2024, the Trust has further consolidated its financial position during 2025. The level of donations continues to be encouraging. We are hugely appreciative of all donations received and aim to direct these resources to continual improvement of our visitor experience.

Priorities for 2026

Our priorities for 2026 are:

- Further increasing the number of volunteers, especially for mill operation, flour bagging and visitor welcome roles, including training of new qualified millers.
- Reaching agreement with NT on an extension to our lease.
- Working with NT to find a solution enabling us to fulfil our educational objective.
- Successful operation of the second wheel.

I acknowledge and thank all members for their dedication, commitment, and hard work throughout 2025. With their continued support and that of our partner, the National Trust, I am confident of continuing successful development in the future.



Robert Price

Chairman

Structure, Governance and Management

Acorn Bank Watermill Trust (ABWT)

Registered Name:	**Acorn Bank Watermill Trust**	
Registered Charity No.:	1193320	
Registered Office:	Banker Lodge, Main Street, Kirkby Thore, Penrith, CA10 1XN	
Officers:	Chair:	Bob Price
	Secretary:	David Robertson
	Treasurer:	Geoff Bailes

The Acorn Bank Watermill Trust (ABWT) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charities Commission on 29th January 2021.

Officers and Trustees

The Officers and Trustees for the 2025 reporting period are shown below.

Officers:	**Chair:**	**Bob Price**
	Secretary:	**David Robertson**
	Treasurer:	**Geoff Bailes**
Trustees:	Bob Price	(first appointed on 29 January 2021 and re-appointed at AGM on 20 May 2025)
	Geoff Bailes	(first appointed on 29 January 2021 and re-appointed at AGM on 20 May 2025)
	Bridget Davey	(first appointed on 19 April 2021 and re-appointed at AGM on 26 March 2024)
	Martin Fagan	(first appointed on 29 January 2021 and re-appointed at AGM on 20 May 2025)
	Roger Frank	(appointed on 29 March 2023)
	Carl Richardson	(first appointed on 29 January 2021 and re-appointed at AGM on 26 March 2024)
	Peter Simpson	(first appointed on 29 January 2021 and re-appointed at AGM on 26 March 2024)
	Julie Owens	(first appointed at AGM on 26 March 2024)

Membership and management structure during 2025 are shown at Annex A.

The ABWT Constitution stipulates that one third of the Trustees (those who have served longest since last appointed or re-appointed) shall retire at each AGM. Accordingly:

1. Roger Frank retires as a Trustee and presents himself for re-appointment.
2. Bridget Davey, Carl Richardson, Peter Simpson and Julie Owens, having served as Trustees for an equal duration since March 2024, have (as allowed for in the Constitution) agreed that Bridget Davey and Peter Simpson shall retire at the AGM on 12 May. Both present themselves for re-appointment at the AGM.

Structure, Governance and Management

Management Structure

Under the ABWT Constitution, overall responsibility for running and looking after the mill rests with the Trustees. The Trustees discharge their responsibilities through:

- Appointment of officers with relevant skills and experience to take responsibility for management of specific activities;
- Formation of a Committee, comprised of the Trustees and appointed officers, which meets as necessary to discuss mill activities, make decisions and approve expenditure;

The work of the ABWT members is coordinated and led by Trustees and officers with relevant skills and experience, particularly:

- A senior miller who has responsibility for ensuring that all milling operations are carried out safely, hygienically and in such a way as to consistently produce flour of the required quality.
- A chief engineer and deputy who have responsibility for ensuring that the mill machinery is safe to operate and for ensuring safe systems of work during restoration and maintenance activities.
- A marketing and sales manager who has responsibility for promoting flour sales and for coordinating the work of volunteers on publicity, visitor experience and education.

Additionally:

- A treasurer is appointed to take responsibility for management of the Trust's finances and for financial reporting to the Charity Commission.
- A secretary is appointed to take responsibility for keeping necessary records and for ensuring that the activities of ABWT are reported as required to the Charity Commission and the NT.

David Robertson has resigned as Secretary, having served in that role since the inception of the ABW Trust in 2021 and for many years as a National Trust Volunteer prior to that. David Luckhurst (member since May 2025) has indicated his willingness to take on the role of Secretary. The appointment of Secretary is included in the business of the AGM.

Membership

Member numbers during 2025 fluctuated in the range 25 to 30. At the end of 2025, there were 29 members, the majority of whom have been actively engaged in voluntary work in support of restoration, operation, maintenance or visitor experience during the year.

The members, including Officers and Trustees, are all unpaid volunteers. They operate the mill at weekends and on bank holidays throughout Acorn Bank NT Estate's open season (March to October). They also carry out restoration and maintenance work on Tuesdays throughout the year.

Under the ABWT Constitution, all members participate in the appointment of Trustees, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. All members are invited to general meetings, which take place at least twice per year, at which the Trustees provide an update on recent activities, finances and priorities for the future. At these meetings, members have the opportunity to contribute ideas and to influence future direction of the Trust.

Volunteers have a wide range of skills and experience including business systems, administration, various aspects of engineering, project management, and health and safety management.

In line with Charity Commission rules, all meetings and decisions are recorded. Records are retained in digital form in a secure Microsoft 365 environment. Members have access to these records subject to appropriate security, including for protection of personal information. In addition, hard copies of meeting minutes have been retained in a Minutes Book held by the Secretary.

ABWT's Objects, Behaviours and Values

ABWT Objects

The objects of the ABWT are:

1. To preserve for the public benefit Acorn Bank Watermill, a Grade II* listed 19th Century watermill, located on the National Trust's Acorn Bank Estate at Temple Sowerby, Penrith, Cumbria as a building of architectural and historical interest.
2. To advance the education of the public by establishing Acorn Bank Watermill as a heritage centre which:
    a. offers the public an opportunity to see a working water powered corn mill and associated machinery that mills wheat and produces merchantable flour thereby demonstrating the art of flour milling and the critically endangered craft of millwrighting using, as far as possible, traditional methods; and
    b. enhances public knowledge and understanding of the watermill's role both in the context of the nation's wider agricultural and industrial heritage and its role in local cultural and social history, including its relationship with gypsum mining in Cumbria.

Behaviours and Values

In support of its charitable objects ABWT is committed to high standards of behaviour and has policy guidance in place covering key aspects of our interactions.

Collaborative working

We work collaboratively and openly with colleagues within ABWT and our partner, the National Trust.

We engage constructively with the local community and relevant public bodies.

We ensure visitors feel welcome by:

- Offering a warm and positive attitude;
- Being polite, friendly, and showing an interest in their views;
- Valuing and respecting people as individuals;
- Sharing knowledge and experience in an engaging and enthusiastic way.

Dignity and Respect

ABWT is committed to treating everyone engaging with the Mill, whether as volunteer or visitor, with dignity & respect.

The Trustees are committed to a culture and environment free from harassment, intimidation, victimisation, and bullying. To that end, we:

a) Expect all volunteers to treat each other and all visitors with respect;
b) Will not tolerate disrespectful acts, whether verbally, by physical contact, or by other unwanted forms of behaviour;
c) Will act promptly against any individual displaying such behaviour.

Safeguarding

The Trustees recognise their responsibility to protect and safeguard children and at-risk adults in any interactions they have with ABWT members or the Mill itself.

The Trustees have appointed a Safeguarding Lead, who can be contacted at info@acornbankwatermill.org.uk in the event that any member or visitor has concerns about the safeguarding approach at ABWT.

Safety and Health

Safety Management System

The safety and health of mill volunteers and visitors is a high priority for the Trustees.

A working mill presents significant hazards which, if not properly managed and monitored, may give rise to risks for the safety and health of anyone working in or visiting the mill.

The Trustees have therefore implemented a Safety Management System (SMS), embodied in a Health and Safety Policy, related procedures and risk assessments covering all activities at the mill. The SMS was reviewed and updated during 2025 and is considered by the Trustees to be fit for purpose for commencing mill activities in 2026. The SMS will be reviewed and updated when the second waterwheel becomes operational (expected early May 2026).

All members, particularly volunteers directly engaged in restoration and operation of the Mill, understand that they must ensure that they are familiar with the SMS and comply with its requirements and procedures. Copies of our H&S documentation are accessible to volunteers at the mill.

Incident Record

Our operating practices and visitor protocols, supported by risk assessments, have continued to protect against safety-related incidents during 2025. Only one incident occurred in the year, when a picnic bench in our visitor area broke because its wooden construction had deteriorated. The visitor using the bench was unharmed. The incident is recorded in the mill accident book. The Trustees arranged immediate inspection and regular future checks of all visitor seating.

Annual Workplace Inspection by NT

As our landlord, NT must carry out an annual Workplace Inspection, the aims of which are to:

a) Provide peer review and independent challenge to the ABW Trustees' arrangements for preventing work related accidents and ill health;
b) Discharge the NT's retained responsibility for health and safety under the ABW lease.

The NT inspection focuses on:

- Checking that preventative and protective control measures are implemented and effective;
- Identifying new hazards;
- Assuring that appropriate arrangements are in place for active monitoring of the safety management system;
- Identifying evidence of legal compliance by the ABW Trust (as tenant);
- Providing evidence of legal compliance by the NT (as landlord).

The 2025 inspection was carried out in February 2025. It followed an established checklist of items, based on the ABW risk assessments, to ensure structure and completeness. The inspection noted the regular checks and monitoring already in place by ABWT and identified a small number of items on which action should be completed before the 2025 visitor season commenced. These action items were closed out as recorded in the inspection report.

Condition Survey

A Condition Survey completed by ABWT and NT in December 2020 is used as a baseline for monitoring and assessing any deterioration of mill buildings. The condition of the mill is monitored regularly as part of the ongoing engineering and maintenance activity. The Condition Survey has been updated in light of regular monitoring and the findings of the NT / ABWT annual inspections. A further update of the condition survey is planned early in 2026.

Review of Activities and Achievements

Production (Bob Price, ABWT Production Manager & Senior Miller)

ABWT is a member of the Traditional Corn Millers Guild (TCMG), a body representing quality in the operation of mills using traditional methods. Each individual approved as a miller by ABWT confirms annually that they are compliant with a Miller Syllabus derived from TCMG standards. In the 2025 milling season the 8 trained and approved millers produced almost 4 tonnes of good quality flour both from an organic blend consisting of English Mulika and imported Turkish wheat, and from the unusual Blacksmith wheat. We also trialled successfully some Cumbrian grown wheat and we plan to mill more of this in the future.

There were no serious production issues during the 2025 production season.

Grain supply and cost continues to be an issue. The price remained at £770 per tonne throughout the season with additional charges for storage, infestation-proofing, and delivery. The English wheat harvest in autumn 2025 has provided suitable grain for the 2026 season at a similar price. We have been able to pre-order 2 tonnes of this and plan to buy some Cumbrian wheat at a more favourable price.

Sales and Marketing (Martin Fagan, ABWT Sales and Marketing Manager)

Sales

Sales of flour and associated items (principally recipe books) were strong during 2025, both at the mill and at our retail outlets. The total sales value was £9,034, a 2.6% increase on the 2024 total, double the percentage increase of the previous year. The increase is driven entirely by volume of flour sold, as price per kg was held constant from 2024.

We are seeing marked repeat business from regular customers at the mill, as the quality of our product becomes more widely known. We have a devoted local following for the Blacksmith flour, for which the grain is UK-grown. There is currently no plan for further increase the amount of Blacksmith grain milled. However, consideration is being given to building on its popularity by making an event of our production of Blacksmith flour, with specific publicity promoting it as “limited edition”.

A similar opportunity may exist with the Cumbria grown Eden Yard grain, with publicity promoting its local origin.

We now have three regular retail outlets, at Kirby Thore PO, Natures Health in Penrith, and the Alston Food Cooperative. Natures Health took more than 100 bags over the course of 2025. Alston has been a strong addition, taking approximately 6 bags every month. Both are picking up a steady client stream, though our main outlets have continued to be through the mill itself and the main NT site reception (Shepherds Hut).

Marketing

The production of recipe books continues to be an excellent way of raising awareness of the mill and promoting flour sales. The recipe books themselves have been a great success, with all of the 2025 print run of 1,500 being sold. An initial run of 1,000 has been printed in readiness for the 2026 season.

A book of “Sayings from the Mill” has been collected, with an initial run of 100 printed in readiness for 2026. If successful, further copies will be printed.

Our offer of 500g sample bags has proved successful. Care is being taken to offer these as “souvenir” items rather than as an alternative to our standard 1.5kg product.

Consideration has been given to the marketing potential of souvenir items such as bags, badges and pencils, similar to items offered in NT shops but with ABW branding. Visitors have occasionally enquired about such items. There is clearly potential to offer a “shopper” bag for sale alongside our flour. However, the economics and potential return need further consideration, both by the Marketing team and Trustees, before any commitment is made.

Review of Activities and Achievements

The Cumberland & Westmorland Herald has continued to be an important route for ABW publicity. As a local, weekly newspaper, the Herald thrives on news items about the Eden Valley area, yet its circulation is surprisingly wide, with many postal subscribers and casual sales to tourists visiting the area. The Herald regularly publishes our press releases and articles on our activities, mostly "as submitted" without editorial changes. Amendments are occasionally proposed by their editorial team, though these are not always "improvements". Where necessary, clarifications have been provided through the ABW Marketing Manager, usually attributed to A. Spokesperson.

A very good working relationship has been developed with the NT Publicity Team, resulting in effective coordination of publicity for events such as National Mills Weekend, Heritage Open Days and Snowdrop Weekends. These efforts have proved very successful in securing high attendances at the events, maximising benefit for both parts of the site.

Engineering (Carl Richardson, ABWT Chief Engineer)

Operations

The mill ran well throughout the 2025 season with no downtime during this period.

We decided to delay investigation of oil leakage from the bottom bearing of the vertical shaft, as it was not affecting operability and prolonged investigation might have caused major disruption to mill operations. We monitored the leak though the milling season, with the intention of fixing the problem as soon as we finished milling at the end of October (see below).

Mill Improvements

Many improvements and small works were made to the mill and its surroundings during the year; the major ones are outline below:

- Peter's Patio: Peter S and Bob S, ably supported by Peter W completed all the work on the terrace by the beck behind the wheelhouse. All the cobbling and fencing was finished, and the area was "officially opened" on 9th September.
- The new spillway channel from the launder was finished and the old timber channel removed from the area.
- The new flour store was completed and put into service in June. This allows us to "repurpose" the former flour storage chest as a grain store, doubling our grain storage capacity to 2 tonnes.
- Tie bars on the existing waterwheel were checked and tightened and a new cover made for the outboard end of the main shaft.
- A problem with leakage (possibly from the leat) onto the path downhill from the viewing platform was investigated. Bob S and Peter W discovered an overgrown drainage channel running by the side of the path; they cleared this and solved the problem.
- As mentioned above, the problem with the vertical shaft lower bearing was investigated in early November. The vertical shaft was lifted so that the bearing assembly could be removed. The assembly consists of an outer housing with an inner bearing block sealed with lead into the outer housing. We noted that the lead sealing between the outer cast iron housing and the bearing block had failed. Having "melted out" the lead and removed the inner part, it was discovered that the outer cast housing was very porous in some places – hence the leaking oil. Roger repaired the outer casting by filling the pores with lead; this solved the problem and the bearing was then reassembled and the vertical shaft set in place.

Second Waterwheel Project

Progress continued with manufacturing and collecting together all the components to assemble the second waterwheel.

- The arms (spokes) were machined to fit the hub and shrouds and trial assembled onto the axle and shrouds.
- The new shrouds required dressing of the end flanges before they could be fitted together.

Review of Activities and Achievements

- New tie bars were manufactured from square bar stock; this involved turning both ends and threading them. Traditional square nuts were also manufactured for the outboard ends of the tie bars. My thanks to John Taylor for use of his farm workshop to achieve this.
- With the fettled shrouds and new tie bars we were able to assemble a "skeleton" water wheel (without buckets and sole boards) by mid-October to check that everything went together correctly – and it did!
- The NT foresters provided the oak planks for the buckets and sole boards; this was delivered to Philip Richardson's wood yard in Newbiggin on Lune to be kiln dried and then planed and cut to size. This process was somewhat delayed, but the wood was dried and ready to be machined by the year end.
- A set of cogs for the new pit wheel was ordered from G&S Specialist Timber in Stainton. The cogs will be made from hornbeam supplied by the National Trust. A separate order was placed with G&S to manufacture a set of replacement cogs for the existing great spur wheel.

Leat

The leat continues to be a concern in that there is major erosion of the banks in the vicinity of the take-off point for the ponds in the woodland. The leat bank is heavily eroded in 4 or 5 places. It is unclear whether the erosion is caused by leaks from the leat itself, or by major flooding events in the Crowdundle causing the leat itself to flood and to overtop its bank in this area. National Trust has been informed (they are responsible for the leat), and we will continue to monitor the problem.

Conclusion

As ever, the primary objective of the engineering team is to keep the mill running; this was achieved despite the potential problem with the leaking bottom bearing.

Beyond that, numerous other larger or smaller works, some of which have been listed here, have been undertaken over the past year to improve the operation of the mill, making it safer and easier for the volunteers to accomplish all the tasks that are necessary to provide a good visitor experience, and to produce flour.

I'd like to give my thanks for the support of all those volunteers who have helped carrying out major and minor works over the past year. We have a strong core team of volunteers who work well and safely together, and who are prepared to take on all challenges.

Visitor Experience

Overview

Visitor numbers in 2025 exceeded 7,000. The count is likely to be an underestimate, as visitors escape being counted at busy times and the location of the counter (in the milling area) means that some visitors may not be recorded, especially during the early season snowdrop weekends.

Anecdotal feedback from visitors is very positive. The great majority appreciate what has been achieved in restoring the mill to its current working condition. A significant proportion are genuinely (and pleasantly) surprised to see the mill in operation, grain being milled, and flour produced. The experience is enhanced by the physical environment of the mill buildings, which contribute to the feeling of "stepping back in time".

Display Area

Visitors enter the mill through a display area and information room, which acts a transition between current and past times. Exhibits span:

- The work undertaken to restore and maintain the mill, with new material recently added on the weir replacement project;
- Aspects of the working lives of past millers, their families, and local communities.

The displays have been developed and improved during 2025. The appearance has been refreshed in readiness for the 2026 season with new exhibition boards and "set dressing" items – marked Hessian sacks, new seat covers and corn dollies. A new PIR Speaker will give a better experience of the "Millers Wife" poem.

A key development planned for 2026 will be a new video, showcasing the work done for the second waterwheel (replacing the video currently showing in the information room).

Education

The absence of a classroom / meeting room and toilets local to the mill have limited ABWT's ability to fulfil its educational objective. Discussions with NT have continued to explore options to address these issues.

In late 2025, plans were made to cooperate with the Eden River Trust and Culgaith Primary School on a film tracing the River Eden from source to sea. Filming is to include the mill and its operation as an important example of the historical uses of the river. Whilst the film is primarily intended for use on the ERT Website, a copy of the video will be retained to show in our information room.

Visitor Welcome Volunteers

Active volunteers at the mill are spread over three broad and often overlapping areas of work: Engineering, Milling and "Visitor Welcome". Total volunteer numbers have held steady, with recruitment off-setting leavers.

Notwithstanding the enthusiasm and commitment of current members, securing a full complement of Miller / Visitor Welcome volunteers for every weekend during the 2025 season was challenging. On a few occasions, concern over having sufficient resources on hand for safety purposes led to a decision not to operate the mill. The Trustees remain focused on expanding the population of qualified millers and attracting volunteers with aptitude and enthusiasm for the visitor welcome role.

A new Volunteer poster, concentrating on our need for Millers and Stewards, has been produced. NT volunteer recruitment sessions, in which ABW had planned to participate, were delayed because of re-organisation and financial constraints within NT. It is planned that the joint recruitment initiative will be revitalised in 2026.

Food Hygiene

Flour Production and Packaging

As has been reported previously, ABWT has since its inception developed a close working relationship with Eden District Council's Environmental Health Officer (EHO) leading to the gradual implementation of strict food hygiene rules. As a result, in June 2022 we were awarded a Food Hygiene Rating of 5 (excellent) and a Category E Food Safety Inspection Rating. The changes in local authority boundaries and names means that responsibility for environmental health and food hygiene now rests with Westmorland and Furness District Council. Because of our Category E rating our next physical inspection is not due until June 2028, but we completed a self-assessment questionnaire from the local authority during 2025 and passed with no issues. There is no indication that food hygiene standards, which are based on national guidelines, will change under the new regime so we are not anticipating any issues.

Food Production

ABWT is also registered with the local authority as a food business establishment with a number of our volunteers registered individually to produce the food at home. This register has been taken over by the new local authority, so ABWT is able to continue offering samples of baked goods using the Mill's flour, which are displayed and served in line with EHO's advice and guidance. The samples are offered for no charge (though visitors are invited to make a small donation) and prove very popular with our visitors, particularly children.

Allergens

In line with Trading Standards requirements, allergen warning notices are displayed in the lower milling room and points of sale along with an allergen chart to complement the recipe cards and booklet. Our bags of flour also carry the appropriate allergen warning. Every volunteer involved in food handling has Level 1 food hygiene certificates and many, including millers and baggers have Level 2 certification.

Risk Assessment

As part of our suite of Mill Risk Assessments, we have a specific Food Hygiene Risk Assessment. There are procedures for handling any issues that should arise with any of our food, particularly the grain and flour itself. Copies of ABWT's food related documentation is always available to volunteers in a document wallet on the notice board in the Upper Milling Room. Electronic copies are posted on ABWT's secure MS365 environment.

Thanks to all those involved for ensuring that our food hygiene rules are followed.

Treasurer's Report

Income

Flour Sales up by a modest amount. Although the cost of grain and storage had increased it had been decided to hold the sale price for the time being.

Donations were up on the previous year. There were no Gift Aid claims during the year but these are expected to resume in the coming year.

Expenditure

One major item included in Fixtures was £966 for the defibrillator.

Expenditure on Equipment includes £289 for a new PAT Tester, £155 for a Circular Saw, £142 for a SumUp machine, and £260 towards a Saddle Quern.

Balance Sheet

The Surplus for the year was £1,548 bringing up our total reserves to £20,564.

During the year the Member's Loan of £5,000 was repaid.

Reserves

In line with most charitable organisations ABWT will retain enough cash in our bank accounts to sustain ABWT for six months in the event of a loss of income and/or to meet any unforeseen expenditure that may occur.

AGM Feedback

The Annual Report and Accounts were to be presented to members at the AGM on 12 May 2026, following approval of the draft by Trustees in April.

There were no significant comments or corrections from members at the AGM.

Appointments of Trustees and Officers are recorded in the minutes of the AGM.

Trustees' Declaration

Following the adoption of the Trustees Report and Annual Accounts by ABWT Members at the AGM on 12 May 2026 the Trustees ratified the decision at the Mill Committee Meeting on 10 June 2026. The secretary was requested to submit the documents and update ABWT details on the Charity Commission register.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



ROBERT PRICE

Chairman of Trustees
ACORN BANK WATERMILL TRUST
June 2026

Annex A: Management Structure and Membership During 2025

Trustees

Name	First appointed	Re-appointed	Management Role(s)
Geoff BAILES	29 January 2021	Reappointed as Treasurer and Trustee 20 May 2025.	Treasurer
Bridget DAVEY	1 April 2022		Customer Experience Manager
Martin FAGAN	29 January 2021	Reappointed as Trustee 20 May 2025.	Sales & Marketing Manager
Roger FRANK	26 March 2023		Deputy Chief Engineer
Julie OWENS	26 March 2024		
Bob PRICE	29 January 2021	Reappointed as Trustee and Chair 20 May 2025.	Chair. Production Manager & Senior Miller
Carl RICHARDSON	29 January 2021		Chief Engineer
Peter SIMPSON	29 January 2021		Maintenance Manager

Non-Trustee Committee Members and Management Role-Holders

Name	Appointed	Management Role(s)
Sarah DAUNCEY	26 March 2024	NT Liaison Manager Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Glenis PRICE	29 January 2021	Volunteer Coordinator
Joanna REES	29 January 2021	Environment and Ecology Manager
Frances RICHARDSON	29 January 2021	Website Manager Education Officer
David ROBERTSON	29 January 2021	Secretary
Martin STORER	29 January 2021	IT Manager
Fiona SHOESMITH	March 2021	Safeguarding Manager (not a Committee member)

Volunteer Members

Name	Member from
Neil HANNAH	January 2021
Robert SCOTT	April 2021
Pat STONEY	May 2021
Ron MAUL	August 2022
Andy REEVE	June 2023
Charlie REEVE	June 2023
Nick PRESTON	March 2024
Peter WRIGHT	March 2024

Name	Member from
Ian STREATFIELD	November 2024
Helen HODGKINSON	April 2025
John GRIFFITHS	April 2025
David LUCKHURST	May 2025
Norris NICHOLSON	November 2025
Andrew POWELL	November 2025
Ray CHARLES	February 2026

Annex B: Adopted Accounts

Acorn Bank Watermill Trust

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025

Income	2025	2024
Sales	9,034	8,802
Donations	4,345	3,656
Gift Aid		820
NT Funding	864	2,907
Building Society Interest	333	316
	£14,576	**£16,501**

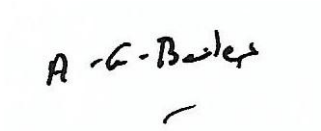
Expenditure	2025	2024
Purchases	5,143	3,333
Fixtures	1,472	1,199
Equipment	1,155	158
Second Wheel Project	864	2,907
Consumables	405	1,629
Rentokil	798	726
Electricity	447	491
Insurance	951	997
Maintenance	1,385	1,302
Sundries	408	362
	£13,028	**£13,104**
Surplus	**£1,548**	**£3,397**

Balance Sheet

Assets	2025	2024
NatWest Current Account	6,318	10,235
Penrith Building Society	17,326	16,994
VAT Debtor	172	473
Gift Aid due		430
Cash Floats	30	30
	£23,846	**£28,162**

Liabilities	2025	2024
Member's Loan		5,000
VAT Creditor		
Advance Payment NT	3,282	4,146
Surplus Funds	20,564	19,016
	£23,846	**£28,162**

Acorn Bank Watermill Trust - Registered Charity No. 1193320



Geoff Bailes

Treasurer