Cyfeillion Cronfeydd Dŵr Caerdydd

Friends of Cardiff Reservoirs

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 15 July 2025 6.30pm

Taff/Thurgood Rooms, Lisvane and Llanishen Reservoir Visitor Centre, CF14 0SD

PRESENT: 22 voting members 3 non-voting members and 2 Welsh Water staff.

CHAIR: Chris Moore **MINUTES**: Fiona Liddell

1 Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Suzanne Bellew, Margaret Butler, Colin Hicks, Jane Richards, James Ryan (DCWW)

2 Approval of minutes of AGM 16 July 2025

Minutes from the AGM 2025 were approved.

Proposer; Phil Savage; seconder: Anne Mitchell

3 Chair's report: Review of activity 2025-26

The Chair's report was presented and is included in Appendix 1.

4 Finance report and adoption of accounts

The Treasurer's report on income and expenditure for the calendar year 2025 was presented. (See Appendix 2). FoCR has 122 members, of whom 78 have paid their 2026 subscription. To help cover basic costs, it is proposed that subscriptions increase from January 2027: from £5.00 to £7.50 for individuals, and from £10 to £15 for households.

Members were reminded that the legacy funds from RAG are earmarked for projects which widen access to enjoyment of the site and its facilities. Suggestions from members as to suitable projects are always welcome.

Our new charity number as a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) is 1214431.

Richard Norton has reviewed and approved accounts for 2025 and is willing to be our Independent Reviewer again for 2026.

The report, and approval of Richard Norton as Independent Reviewer for 2026 was approved.

Proposer: Anne Mitchell, seconder: Caren Fullerton

5 Election of trustees

As we have become a CIO since the last AGM, all those currently serving on the committee are required to stand for election as trustees of the new organisation.

The following nominees were proposed 'en bloc':

- Kathryn Buck, Julie Lawrence, Fiona Liddell, Chris Moore, Rosalind Reilly

The vote was carried unanimously.

Suzanne Bellew is standing down from the committee and was thanked for her contribution. Phil Savage will continue as a co-opted member (but not a trustee)

7 Any other notified business

There was no notified business

Following the formal business:

Summary of new volunteering roles and activities

Members were reminded of sone of the current opportunities for volunteering (see Appendix 3)

General Q and A, with FoCR and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (see Appendix 4)

'Unveiling' of the Peter Fullerton plaque on the Bird Hide

Appendix 1

Chair's report: review of activity, 2025-26

Reflections on Peter Fullerton

I would first like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Peter Fullerton, our former Chair, who passed away earlier this year. I met Peter in 2023 when I attended my first volunteering activity at the site. We had some glorious weather for the dry-stone walling, and it was a memorable experience. From the outset, I found Peter to be approachable, knowledgeable, passionate about the site, and about the volunteering opportunities that would develop over the coming years. We subsequently worked on several activities together, including woodland management, waxcap surveys and the digital memories project. When I joined as a volunteer, it was to find sociable and meaningful activities, in preparation for my retirement in 2025. I had no intention or foresight to join the committee, lesser still, to become Chair, yet here I find myself, honoured and humbled to have been invited to follow in the footsteps of a genuinely decent human being. I am sure all those that met Peter will have similar experiences and I would encourage everyone to reflect on those memories.

To honour Peter's contribution to the reservoirs site, and with the support of his family (Caren, Huw and Sian have kindly joined us this evening), the 'Friends' and Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water (DC/WW), have installed a commemorative plaque on the bird hide across the way. The plaque will be unveiled by Peter's wife Caren, immediately following this meeting, so we hope those that are able, can join us.

Changes to the committee

At last year's AGM, new members Suzanne, Kath and Chris were elected to the committee. Kath also secured a part time, then full time post as a DCWW Ranger, but continues involvement as an FoCR volunteer as well.

Sadly, Michelle Impanni, DC/WW Volunteering Manager, left for ‘new pastures’ last September. Her role is now fulfilled by Vanessa and Kath who between them provide an effective link with DC/WW.

Also, as previously mentioned, I was honoured to be invited to become Chair.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status.

Many of you will know that over the last 12-months, FoCR officially transitioned to a charity. The main benefits of this are that it permits us to bid for more funding grants, allows us to claim ‘Gift Aid’ on donations and membership incomes, and gives us cheaper banking. CIO status brings a new constitution which adheres to a standard Charity Commission template, and the Committee members are now Trustees. As a CIO, all Trustees are required to resign at the first AGM and to indicate whether they wish to stand down or are willing to be re-elected. Five of the Trustees have indicated their willingness to stand again. If you think being a Trustee is something you would be interested in, feel free to approach any of us informally.

National Lottery bid

Some of you may recall that last year there were plans to submit a bid to the National Lottery Community Fund’s “People and Places” programme. Following some discussion and reflection, the Trustees decided to put this on hold, so we could focus on developing and delivering new offerings to the public, like ‘Walk and Chat’ and other activities that will be mentioned later. This will give us the opportunity to build a portfolio of evidence, that may assist with any future bids for funding.

Digital memories

The project to capture digital memories of the reservoirs was developed in

partnership with Welsh Water, Digital Communities Wales and Peoples Collection Wales. The material collected from our collection days in November 2024 and March 2025 has been published on the PCW website; I would urge everyone to visit the ‘Friends’ section, in particular, which can be found here.

There are some touching and informative memories that are well worth a listen. The undeniable driving force behind the project was Michelle Impanni, so impetus on the project has slowed since her departure from DC/WW. However, we are committed to

build on the wonderful work already done. Fiona and Julie have been collecting in the background, and we plan to hold another collection event in September. Whilst the focus of the project has necessarily been on collecting historical memories (photographs and interviews) of the reservoirs past, we should also recognise that every time we as volunteers participate in a work party or other activity, we are creating memories. We should therefore be minded that photos of the people and activities that take place on the site now and in the future are valuable records worth keeping.

Volunteering

Since the Friends group was set up in 2021, members have contributed 6,238.25 hours of volunteering time. I did consider using a formula to calculate the monetary value of volunteers' hours, and suspect that the amount would be substantial, but thought better of it, as I don't believe any of us volunteer to prove our monetary value.

As well as continuing to support Ranger led conservation activity and Welsh water events, we are expanding the range of activity that volunteers can get involved with.

The Guide in the Hide role is now well established, to encourage passing visitors to observe and learn about the birds on site. An initial 16 volunteers have been trained for this role, thanks to Alan Oliver for his much-valued efforts.

We continue to offer guided walks to external groups – recently hosting Garth Rotary club, ACE (Action Caerau and Ely) Cardiff and the North Cardiff Inclusion Service.

We also held a 4.30 am dawn chorus walk in May, for our own members– the best time to hear birds. The light and the colours of the sky over the reservoirs as the sun began to rise were stunning.

We like to support events organized by 'sister' Friends' groups in Cardiff; and had a presence during this year at Friends of Bute Park event in April (thanks to Julie and Suzanne) and Friends of Nant Fawr fun day in July (thanks to Phil, Suzanne and Fiona).

We also organised our own family fun day for Easter Monday: an easter egg hunt along the story trail, while Rangers coordinated children's activities in the Ranger Cabin.

Community engagement and wellbeing

We have been looking at ways to support health and wellbeing, particularly aiming to reach those who might not otherwise hear about us, and who might particularly benefit from what we can offer.

With this in mind, we have had, for example, exploratory conversations with representatives from Cardiff Social Prescribing team, a Tai Chi Instructor and a community artist.

One development so far has been to start regular Monday morning walk and chat sessions. These offer a chance for people just to turn up and enjoy some company, fresh air and gentle exercise. Eleven volunteers have currently trained; they host sessions on a rota basis.

There is now a Community and Wellbeing page on our website, where information can be found, and updates will be posted as new developments take shape.

Chris Moore

Chair of Trustees, Friends of Cardiff Reservoirs, July 2026

Appendix 2

Financial Report for the year 1/1/2025 to 31/12/2025

The balance brought forward from 2024 was £26,444, consisting of £25,333 RAG fund, £393 Uniform fund and £719 in General Reserve.

Income

During the year FOCR received **subscriptions** of £635, **donations** of £60 and **interest** on our deposit account of £189, giving a **total income** of £884.

Expenditure
Uniforms - £454 was spent on additional uniform for volunteers – the uniform fund is now fully spent and the extra £61 came from general funds.
General - £738 was spent from the general fund as detailed in the Income and Expenditure report. This was for software and website licenses, publicity leaflets, insurance, stationery, DBS checks and the volunteer social event.

On 31st December 2025 the funds stood at £26,198 consisting of £25,333 RAG fund, and £865 in General Reserve.

We have kept **subscriptions** at the same amount for 2026 and thank you to members for paying their subscriptions. From January 2027 I would like to propose an increase in subscriptions to £7.50 for individuals and £15 for a household per annum.

This raise is proposed so that we will have sufficient extra funds to purchase uniforms for new volunteers and replacements for existing volunteers as needed, since the grant we had for uniforms is now fully spent.

Although we do still hold considerable **funds from RAG,** this was given to us on the understanding it would be used for specific projects to encourage people to enjoy the reservoirs who may not otherwise be able to. This year the Walk and Chat project is the first of these. Members' suggestions for other projects are welcome.

As most of you know, we are now a registered charity as of 6 August 2025. Our **charity number** is 1214431.

Next year's accounts will be in the format required by the charity commission as we transfer our assets into the name of the charity. As a registered charity, any subscriptions and donations can be **gift aided,** which generates extra income. We are also now eligible to apply for more grants.

Richard Norton has kindly audited the accounts and signed them off and he is willing to continue in this role next year.

If you have any further questions about the financial report, please email

Treasurer@friendsofcardiffreservoirs.org

FRIENDS OF CARDIFF RESERVOIRS

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

for the period ended 31.12.2025

As at 31 December 2025

	2024 £	2025 £
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Balance at Bank		6,009
Current Account	26,444	6,009
Deposit Account		20,189
Pay-Pal Account		
Unpresented Cheques		
	26,444	**26,198**

REPRESENTED BY :

	2024 £	2025 £
General Reserve Fund	719	865
Restricted Grants		
Welsh water	393	-
RAG	25,333	25,333
TOTAL ASSETS	**26,444**	**26,198**

Signed..... Treasurer

On the basis of the documents presented to me, I confirm that the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet represent a true statement of the financial activity for the year 2025 and the financial position as 31/12/2025

Signed.. Richard Newton Hon Auditor

FRIENDS OF CARDIFF RESERVOIRS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDED 31 December 2025

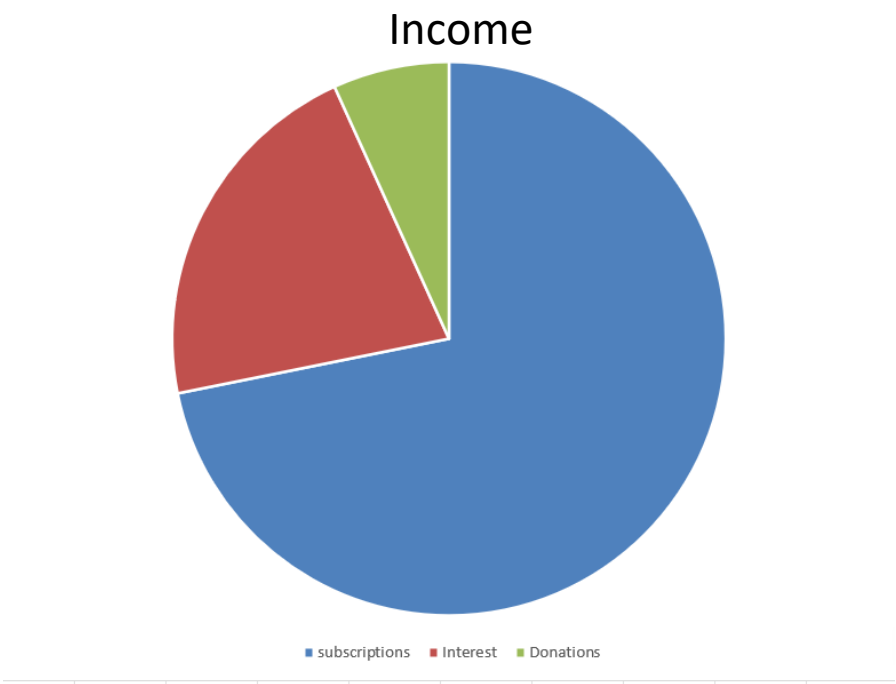
	2024 £	2025 £
INCOME		
Membership Fees	350	635
Donations	70	60
Interest Received		189
	420	**884**
EXPENDITURE		
Administration		
Website	139	336
Sundry Expenditure		
Marketing	26	54
Microsoft office	80	
Venue Hire	65	50
PayPal Fees	8	17
Bank fees		44
DBS fees	31	12
Insurance	126	132
Stationery	19	21
Events	124	12
Uniforms		61
TOTAL	678	738
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED TO RESERVE FUND GENER	**-258**	**146**

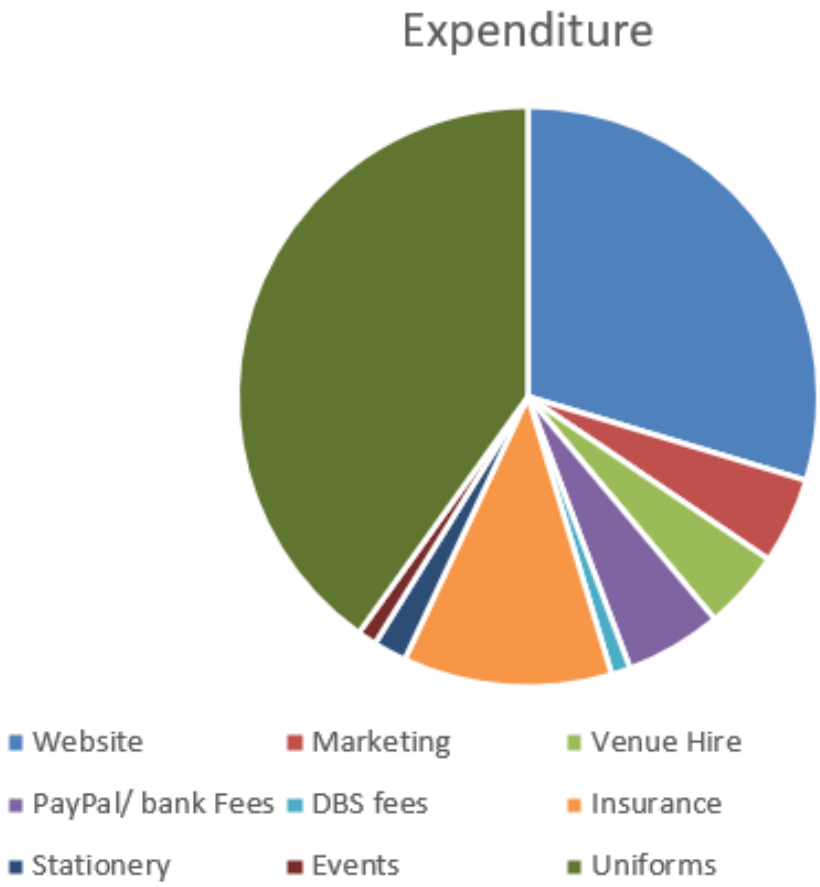
WELSH WATER GRANT

	2024 £	2025 £
Grant received from Welsh Water restricted		
Grant b/fwd	845	393
Expenditure		
Uniforms etc.	452	-393
c/fwd Grants Restricted	**393**	**0**

RAG GRANT

	2024 £	2025 £
Grant received from RAG restricted	29162	
Grant B/fwd		25333
Expenditure		
Wellies in the Woods	3829	0
c/fwd Grants Restricted	**25333**	**25333**





Julie Lawrence

Treasurer. July 2026

Appendix 3

Volunteering opportunities you may be interested in….

- Sharing your memories of the reservoirs, for our **digital memories project***
- Helping to interview, or to edit digital content for the **digital memories project***
- Becoming a **Guide in the Hide**
- Becoming **a Guided Walk leader** for external groups
- Coming along to Monday morning **Walk and Chat** or becoming a host for these sessions
- Writing up **volunteer case stories** for our websites
- Helping us to maintain an active **social media** presence
- Joining one of the pilot sessions for an **Art in Health** project

*The published content for our project can be seen here: Lisvane & Llanishen Reservoirs: Digital Reminiscence Project | Peoples Collection Wales

Appendix 4

General Q and A with FoCR and Welsh Water staff

Q. How do you become a Walk and Chat volunteer?

A. You can express interest in the 'Walk and Chat volunteer' opportunity on the website. The opportunity is set up such that you remain listed as an 'applicant' until your preliminary induction has been completed and your status as a volunteer approved. Then you will be able to sign up on the rota to host sessions, as you wish (and to join a Whats App group where information can be shared and rota swaps managed.

Induction training is informal – coming out with an experienced session leader one Monday morning on a date that suits you, and talking through the role and the support materials available.

Q. Could Walk and Chat happen on other days of the week, since a Monday might not suit everyone?

A. Advice was taken from community professionals when setting up this activity; the strong advice to us was to establish something that occurs on a regular, weekly basis, and for which no booking is required for participants.

It is quite challenging for us to be able to sustain a volunteer rota on a weekly basis, but we had sufficient initial interest to be able to get started. Monday seemed the best day and, for now at least, that is as much as we can commit ourselves to.

Q. Could we have more materials that are suitable for youngsters e.g. a child friendly map?

A. The request was noted.

Q. When do site opening hours change?

A. The site will close at the earlier time of 6pm from 10th September, then at 4 p.m. once the clocks change in October. The site opens at 9 a.m. throughout the year.