

**Rainbow Turtle  
Chair's report  
April 2022 – March 2023**

**Introduction**

Welcome to the AGM for the Rainbow Turtle charity. As you know 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 Trading, which is a business and runs the shop in Gauze St which also supports and promotes Fair Trade.

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 2022 to the end of March 2023.

**Trustees and Members**

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

Trustees at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

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

Trustees at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

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

There were no changes in trustees in the past year. I thank all the trustees for their hard work and commitment to Rainbow Turtle.

**Charity Finances**

Rainbow Turtle is fairly stable financially with regular income from members and the Council via Local Partnership funding. The Council has also occasional specific grants for certain events, e.g. our 20th anniversary celebrations. I am pleased to say that the bank balance remains reasonably healthy.

We received donations from schools including St John's Primary which raised £25 from a crispy cake sale.

The finance report is attached and we thank our treasurer, Gillian Henry, for all her work in preparing this. In addition, I would like to thank Angela Cairns for her help in checking the charity accounts.

### **Rainbow Turtle Charity and Education**

Covid still affected our activities, especially with schools. Linda has settled into her role and has been contacting schools and reconnecting with schools and arranging visits. As the year went on the covid restrictions were loosened and this allowed more contact. Trinity High S6 and others received workshops from Linda.

The trustees met regularly, Zoom calls were replaced by face to face meetings again.

We celebrated 20 years of Rainbow Turtle. We had a great ceilidh in September which was financially supported by the Council. We had a celebration with cake in the shop and again were delighted to be supported by councilors past and present. We had a great turnout for the celebration and look forward to the next 20 years. We received a very supportive write-up in the Paisley Daily Express.

Linda and others produced a wonderful history of Rainbow Turtle and this was displayed in the shop and at the ceilidh.

Ryan worked with us under the Kickstarter scheme until his contract ended halfway through the year. He was very helpful in moving the online ethical marketplace forward. He received good work experience to add to his CV and we were delighted to help in this community-based scheme.

We worked with the Gatehouse Coffee Roasters. Nate has been very involved and has fair trade coffee for sale. Gatehouse has attended our meetings and supported our aims.

Linda arranged a T-shirt competition with schools. This went very well and lots of schools took part. The entries made a striking window display at the shop. Again this received a good write-up in the Paisley Daily Express.

Our membership was stable over the year and Colum wrote a regular newsletter/update for the website which was circulated to all members.

We attended the One Ren Many nations event at the University Union hall.

We were advised by Methodist halls about increasing rent for the office space. We realised we could not afford the proposed graded rent increases and started looking for alternative office space. That search continues.

We attended the SFTF annual event in Linlithgow. Linda and Elise attended the BAFTS in Birmingham. We attended the Christmas Fair at UWS.

Colum gave a talk about Fair Trade at Mary Russell school.

Linda ran a very successful Bake-Off in the Methodist Halls as part of Fairtrade Fortnight. We ran a further ceilidh in March to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight. We also ran a successful coffee morning. We did two interviews on Quality radio.

The Rainbow Turtle podcast continues and thanks to Colum for producing the podcast which is getting increasing numbers of listeners.

We have increased our presence on social media, mainly Facebook, X (Twitter) and Instagram. Thank you Pauline for your help with this.

### **Rainbow Turtle Shop**

Elise Kelly, the new shop manager, has settled in very well. The shop has flourished under her stewardship. The new layout and having the shop well stocked have been very successful.

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

The shop has had stronger sales, but margins are tight and we need to keep pushing and promoting the shop to increase sales as much as possible. We continue to look at the best ways of doing this and all suggestions gratefully received.

I would like to thank Colum and Pat McCormack for all his help in preparing the shop accounts.

### **SCIO**

Last year we said we were looking at moving the charity and the shop into a single unit called a SCIO. This process continues to inch forward. Previously we had intended to combine the shop and charity into the SCIO, but we are now looking at just changing the charity to a SCIO and mabe brining the shop in a later date.

### **Summary**

2022/23 has been a year of consolidation following covid. Our new shop manager and a new education officer have settled in well and have embodied Rainbow Turtle's ethos and helped push us forward.. 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 keep promoting Fair Trade in a more equitable, greener world.

Chris Johnstone  
Chair of Trustees  
28 Aug 2023