

FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

ANNUAL REPORT

For the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

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FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

Office Bearers etc.

Honorary Vice-Presidents

Sir Malcolm Colquhoun Bart.
Gavin Arneil
William Petrie OBE DL
Lord ///

Office Bearers

Dr. Hannah Stirling MBE – President
George Boyd – Vice President & interim Treasurer
Mr James Fraser – Chairman

Executive Council

Dr Joyce Deans CBE
Mr Jock Scott-Park
Mr Iain Stuart
Ms Carron Tobin
Mr John Urquhart
Mr William Dalrymple
Mr Philip Norris

Office

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Tel. No: 01436 677733
Email address: info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk
Website: www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland, Colquhoun Square, Helensburgh

Independent Examiner

W.M. Hassall, 121 West Clyde Street, Helensburgh, G84 8ET.

Scottish Charities Registration Number: SC015389

FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the thirty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs will be held at The Loch Lomond Arms Hotel, Luss on Tuesday 21st May 2013, at 7.30pm, for the transacting of the following business:

1. Receive apologies for absence.
2. Receive the Chairman's Report.
3. Receive the Treasurer's Report and approve the Independently Examined Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012.
4. To re-appoint the office bearers and trustees and endorse other nominations.
5. To agree the membership fees for new members 2013/14 and existing members 2014/15.
6. To agree the membership fees for new members 2013/14 and existing members 2014/15.
7. To authorise Trustees to sell or lease the Friends offices in Helensburgh linked to opening a new office in the National Park.
10. To transact any other competent business

By order of the Executive Council

James Fraser
Chair

Chairman's Report

It has been a busy and successful year for the Friends as we have worked hard to make a real difference through efforts to protect, promote and provide for the special place covered by the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Key to our success has been the commitment and enthusiasm of our staff and trustees, the support from our growing membership through volunteering, financial contributions and support in kind from our strengthening base of business supporters and public sector partners. We have continued to adopt a positive and pro-active approach to championing the protection and promotion of the area while progressing a series of practical initiatives such as Our park, Young Friends, Windows on the Park and a series of access, heritage and conservation projects in close collaboration with others.

We continued to enjoy a good working relationship with the senior staff of the National Park Authority and we publicly went on record to support the success of the pilot camping and drinking byelaws on East Loch Lomond side that were introduced last year. We have also been represented on the important Loch Lomond Byelaws Stakeholders Group by our Director that was tasked with reviewing the current byelaws for the loch and coming forward with options for improving the management of some of the islands suffering from visitor pressure and irresponsible actions by a growing minority. We were pleased to receive some funding support from the Park Authority for several projects.

We responded to a series of important consultations on topics such as the first Park Local Plan and the draft Park Plan. We attended the public inquiry hearings on housing issues and had some success in preventing further ribbon development in Callander and securing a tightening up of the policies relating to wind farm developments within the Park. Similarly, we were pleased that the Park Authority and the Minister took on board some of our suggestions for strengthening the Park Plan covering the next 5 years with specific actions now featuring relating to doing more to celebrate and support the rich cultural heritage within the Park; encouraging a move away from the current 'silo' approach to visitor information services by various agencies to a more collaborative effort; and the introduction of annual meetings with more 'teeth' chaired by the Minister to review the progress made by the various public sector agencies in helping deliver the actions detailed in the Plan.

On the planning front we commented on a number of more significant planning applications including the revised but much improved plans for the gold mine at Cononish. While we still had a number of reservations about this particular development it was finally granted planning permission with 60 planning conditions and much improved landscaping and financial bond and planning gain measures in place. Wind farm proposals on the fringes of the Park, but with the potential to have a major detrimental impact on the special scenic qualities of Loch Lomond, were closely monitored and on behalf of the Stop Loch Lomond Wind Turbines Group I chaired a public meeting on the role of wind energy that was attended by a staggering 160 people in January.

We were fortunate in securing financial support from Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Natural Heritage, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority and Leader (Argyll & the Islands and Forth Valley & Lomond) to expand the pilot visitor voluntary donation scheme Our park that now involves over 80 local businesses in generating income for conservation and access projects.

The funding generated through businesses and in kind support (estimated value £19,000) combined with the income generated from our first golf charity event last June kindly organised on our behalf by David Mouldsdale and his team at Optical Express at the Carrick with sponsorship support from Cameron House and generous prizes from many local businesses, enabled us to support a series of local access, conservation and education projects.

The 'seed corn' funding provided from Our park and the golf charity event ensured projects with a value of £150,000 to £200,000 were able to proceed. Projects that benefited from funding support included the successful Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre rescue bid; the Three Lochs Way long distance footpath; the Rob Roy Way long distance footpath; Bracklinn Bridge footpaths; Maid of the Loch Educational Resource Pack; Arrochar & Tarbet Heritage Group displays; Cowal Red Squirrel initiative; tree planting and volunteer activities. A series of very successful volunteering events were also organised by Alice Blazy Winning, our Project Officer and they included litter clean ups at Arrochar, Loch Lubnaig and Loch Earn as well as a heavily supported flagship 'Make a Difference to Loch Lomond Day' in October with Love Loch Lomond that included a range of conservation tasks.

On the promotional front we stepped up our activities by having a series of 'Meet the Friends' stands at Highland Games in Luss, Bearsden and Callander. We also had a joint stand with the Love Loch Lomond Group at the two day Food Festival event in September at Loch Lomond Shores. Our 'Meet the Friends' stand and associated banners, were very generously sponsored by our President Dr Hannah Stirling MBE. This programme is being expanded in 2012 with the addition of the Drymen Show. The annual Christmas event hosted by Dr Joyce Deans at Ross Priory was also a great success with a good turnout of members and friends. Voice, the Friends bi annual magazine, has continued to be strengthened and improved and this has been made possible with the support of our advertisers, contributors and sponsors and it is encouraging we have been able to widen distribution with a 5,000 print run while sustaining a 28 page production. We also issued a series of news releases and letters on a range of topics during the year including the park plan, the camping byelaws, our new DVD film and Our park which achieved good coverage in the local and national media.

Two other major promotional projects progressed during the year were the production of a stunning DVD capturing the special magic of the National Park and preliminary work on a new Friends website. The DVD was produced with sponsorship support from Optical Express and the advance purchase of bulk supplies by the Park Authority which means any other sales generate much needed funds for the Friends. Since the launch of the DVD in December steady sales have been achieved and over 30 outlets in the Park are selling copies. The website redevelopment is being funded with sponsorship support from Optical Express, Dr Hannah Stirling and the Park Authority and it aims to celebrate the cultural and natural heritage of the Park more effectively as well as strengthening the profile of the Friends activities and providing more opportunities for individuals and companies to contribute to work of the Friends. The new website is due to go live this summer.

Notwithstanding the success of our fundraising activities and the delivery of a wide range of initiatives we thought it would be prudent to undertake a strategic review of our activities and staffing as our core balances were reducing. This also coincided with the emergence of the new 5 year Park Plan and the 'fait accompli' plans announced by the Park Authority to set up a Countryside Trust with no consultation with the Friends to avoid overlap and duplication or to explore ways of working on this jointly given our conservation brief and activities. As part of this review we concluded our core raison d'être of being the only truly independent conservation charity championing the protection, promotion and provision for the area covered by the National Park was still valid and relevant, but we should perhaps in the medium term, when the new Countryside Trust gathers momentum, draw back from access projects and give more attention to celebrating and promoting the cultural heritage of the Park as this was a clearly identified gap in the draft Park Plan that needed more attention. We also concluded with diminishing resources and the recent rejection of our LEADER funding bid we were unable to sustain the current staffing levels and plans have been regrettably drawn up to reduce staffing levels more in line with resources likely to be available in the future.

Our part-time Director, Simon Lewis who has been with us for just under 3 years is now working on a consultancy basis and the current contract is due to expire at the end of June. We will be moving to recruit a good all round part-time administrator and the full-time Our park Development Officer post currently filled by Alice Blazy Winning who is on maternity leave will revert to a part-time position. During the year we were grateful to Susan Cameron who stepped in on a part-time basis to help out with membership and other issues but this paid role was terminated in January as part of our more prudent approach to managing our finances. Jenny Wills, our part-time Our Park Support Officer has also left to take up a full-time position with West Dunbartonshire Council. I wish to place on record my thanks to all the staff and Simon in particular for all their efforts and hard work on behalf of the Friends during what has been a very busy but uncertain time.

There has only been one change to our Board of Trustees with John Urquhart, who is passionate and knowledgeable about Loch Lomond and access issues, joining our group of experienced and committed Board members last summer. The Trustees have worked closely with our staff to ensure the Friends continue to flourish and contribute in a positive way to the well being of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs area during what has become a more challenging period for charity bodies generally in the current financial climate.

We look forward to continuing to make a positive contribution as a strong and the only truly independent conservation and heritage voice for the Loch Lomond & Trossachs area. In concluding, I wish to thank my fellow trustees, staff, our members and business supporters and various public sector partners, and in particular the National Park Authority team, for all their support, commitment and encouragement during the past year.

James Fraser
Chairman

Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs

Statement of Accounts for the Year to 31st. December, 2012

| | INCOME | | 2011 | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|--------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Membership | | 2041 | | 2638 |
| Donations | | 1117 | | 2598 |
| Business doantions | | 2100 | | 8183 |
| Charities/Trusts | | 766 | | - |
| Business supporters | | 4450 | | 3815 |
| Voice: | | | | |
| Advertising | 3168 | | 4093 | |
| Additional print runs | - | | - | |
| | | 3168 | | 4093 |
| Project funding: | | | | |
| National Park Authority | 12000 | | 38163 | |
| Scottish Enterprise | 5000 | | | |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | 4664 | | | |
| OUR PARK donations | 6533 | | 6000 | |
| Stirling Council - Leader | 6527 | | | |
| Argyll & Bute Council - Leader | 3877 | | | |
| HLF (Celebrating Park People) | 10000 | | | |
| Other project donations | 6461 | | 6564 | |
| | | 55062 | | 50727 |
| Events: | | | | |
| AGM | 470 | | 459 | |
| Golf | 7050 | | 5500 | |
| Caledonian challenge | 1100 | | 2200 | |
| Christmas event | 1028 | | 488 | |
| Other | 65 | | - | |
| | | 9713 | | 8647 |
| Merchandising - profit | | 989 | | 258 |
| Bank interest | | 31 | | 19 |
| Insurance refund | | 519 | | - |
| Tax refund | | | | 431 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 79956 | | 81409 |
| Less: Expenditure (overleaf) | | 79897 | | 97987 |
| Surplus (2011 Deficit) | | 59 | | -16578 |

Friends of Loch Lomond & the Trossachs

Statement of Accounts for the Year to 31st. December, 2012

EXPENDITURE

| | | | 2011 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|
| Salaries & associated costs, Friends | 4059 | | 23629 |
| Salaries, Our Park | 23332 | | 38326 |
| Consultancy | 13318 | | - |
| Travel | 430 | | 964 |
| Office costs: | | | |
| Heat & Light | 274 | | |
| Telecoms | 564 | | |
| Water | 300 | | |
| Postage | 11 | | |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 791 | | |
| Sundries | 345 | 4928 | |
| Office - LL&TNP | | 7200 | |
| | 2285 | | 12128 |
| Voice: | | | |
| Production | 8421 | | |
| Distribution, etc | 540 | | |
| | 8961 | | 8308 |
| Projects: | | | |
| Young Park | 1166 | | |
| 3 - Lochs Way | 5000 | | |
| Celebrating Park People | - | | |
| Web redevelopment | 10748 | | |
| Charities | - | | |
| Trossachs S & R | 3700 | | |
| Miscellaneous projects | 3695 | | |
| | 24309 | | 8467 |
| Events: | | | |
| AGM | - | 279 | |
| Golf | 60 | 1479 | |
| Christmas event | 718 | | |
| Other events | 967 | 408 | |
| | 1745 | | 2166 |
| Marketing | 571 | | 1499 |
| Insurances | 879 | | - |
| Merchadising | | | |
| Bank interest paid | 8 | | - |
| Donations | | | 2500 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | <u>79897</u> | | <u>97987</u> |

Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs

Cash Flow Reconciliation 2012

| | £ | £ | 31/12/11 | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|----------|--------|
| | | | £ | £ |
| Bank balance brought forward | | 26313 | | 41586 |
| Surplus in year (2011 - deficit) | | | | |
| Income for year | 79956 | | | |
| Expenditure for year | 79897 | | | |
| | | 59 | | -16578 |
| | | 26372 | | 25008 |
| Less increase in debtors | -1432 | | -10 | |
| Less decrease in creditors | -1135 | | | |
| Add increase in creditors-2011 | | | 1315 | |
| | | -2567 | | 1305 |
| Bank balance carried forward | | 23805 | | 26313 |

Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31st. December, 2012

| | £ | 31/12/11 | |
|--|-------|----------|-------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Current assets: | | | |
| Bank: | | | |
| Combined balance at year end | 23805 | | 26313 |
| Accrued Income | 1442 | | 10 |
| Current Assets | 25247 | | 26323 |
| Current liabilities: | | | |
| Accrued expenses | 180 | | 1315 |
| Net current assets | 25067 | | 25008 |
| Fixed asset: property at West Princes Street, Helensburgh | 25000 | | 25000 |
| Capital: | 50067 | | 50008 |

James B Fraser (Chairman)

George F. Boyd (Treasurer)

WM Hassall (Independent Examiner)

16th May 2013

Notes/

Notes to the accounts

Year ended 31 December 2011

Nature and purpose of funds

The aims of Friends of Loch Lomond & the Trossachs "the charity" are:

- To cherish, protect and enhance the natural beauty, amenity and character of Loch Lomond, its islands and the surrounding countryside.
- To protect and encourage the preservation, conservation and improvement of features of public amenity or historic interest within the above area.
- To promote and encourage an energetic and consistent implementation of good planning policies appropriate to the above area and consistent with these objects.
- To stimulate public interest in these objects by means of publications, meetings, exhibitions, appeals and other forms of publicity.
- To co-operate with other bodies to promote the foregoing objects.

Executive Council

None of the trustees received any remuneration in the year.

There were no transactions with trustees and connected persons in the year.

Other information

At 31 December 2011 there was no outstanding capital expenditure approved or committed.
All the Charities funds are unrestricted