



# FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

## ANNUAL REPORT

For the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

## FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

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# FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

## Office Bearers etc.

Honorary President - Sir Malcolm Colquhoun Bart.

## Honorary Vice-Presidents

William Petrie OBE DL  
Lord John McFall of Alcluith  
George Boyd

## Office Bearers

Mr James Fraser – Chair  
Mr John Urquhart – Vice-Chair  
Mr Tom Wallace -Treasurer

## Executive Council

Dr Joyce Deans CBE  
Mr Iain Stuart  
Ms Sheila Winstone  
Mr William Dalrymple  
Mr Philip Norris (until May 2019)  
Mr Paul Saunders  
Mr Fergus Wood (from May 2019)  
Mr Duncan MacLachlan (from May 2019)

## Office

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Tel. No: 01389 727761  
Email address: [info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](mailto:info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)  
Website: [www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](http://www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)

## Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland, Colquhoun Square, Helensburgh

## Independent Examiner

Elizabeth Bain Cherry Bank, Lochgoilhead, PA24 8AH

Scottish Charities Registration Number: SC015389

**Notice of Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the **thirty-ninth and fortieth Annual General Meetings** of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs are being combined due to Covid 19 restrictions and will be held by zoom conference online on Tuesday **23rd March 2021**, at 4.00pm, for the transacting of the following business:

1. Receive apologies for absence.
2. To approve the minutes of the last AGM.
3. Receive the Chairman's Report.
4. Receive the Treasurer's Report and approve the independently examined Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.
5. To approve no increase in the Annual Membership fees
6. To re-appoint the office bearers and trustees and endorse other nominations.
  - (i) Existing Trustees seeking re-election:
    - James Fraser – Chair
    - Mr John Urquhart –Vice-Chair
    - Mr Tom Wallace - Treasurer
    - Dr Joyce Deans CBE
    - Ms Sheila Winstone
    - Mr William Dalrymple
    - Mr Paul Saunders
    - Mr Fergus Wood
    - Mr Duncan MacLachlan
7. To transact any other competent business

By order of the Executive Council

James Fraser  
Chair

## Wednesday May 15 2019 at 7.30pm at Ross Priory, Gartocharn

**Chair:** J Fraser (JF).

**Committee Present:** J Urquhart (JU); W Dalrymple (WD); T Wallace (TW); J Deans (JD); P Saunders (PS); S Winstone (SW).

**In Attendance:** M Harvey (MH), N Turner (NT), W Nisbet (WN), D MacLachlan (DM), F Mckenzie (FM), D Pretswell (DP), S Fraser (SF), D Thorpe (DT), F Wood (FW), R Anderson (RA), A Duncan (AD), E Campbell (EC), B Shipley (BS), D Campbell (DC), F Campbell (FC), M Haggarty (MHy), J Biddulph (JB), M Cameron (MC), J. D Henderson (JH), C Darlaston (CD), J Bowers (JB), B Hassal (BH), L Cluster (LC), P Lynch (PL), Rt Watson (RW) and J Fordy (JF).

**Apologies:** E Bain (EB), A Sobey (AS), S Miller (SM), V Dance (VD), D McCowan (DM), L Cockill (LC), K Donnolly (KD), S Kerr (SK), P Crowder (PC), N Wells (NW), C Yates (CY), A Galloway (AG), D Warnes (DW), Mr & Mrs J Stirling (JS), J Beveridge (JB), Mr & Mrs K McKenzie (KM), A Cole (AC), A Urquhart (AU) and P Norris (PN).

### 1. Welcome and Awards

JF welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He also expressed thanks to Ross Priory and its staff for their hospitality and assistance in staging the AGM

Three awards were then presented. Mary Haggarty received the Hannah Stirling National Park Award following her tireless work, commitment and outstanding service over 20 years to the community of Arrochar including her involvement on the Arrochar Community Council, Loch Long Jetty Trust and WW1 Heritage.

The Gavin Arneil Volunteer of the Year Award went to Evie Campbell to recognise her impressive volunteering activities, time and effort associated with the Lauder Cowal Connections event she has been heavily involved with including the concert two years ago and also for her support at the Friends special event at the Lauder Monument between last Xmas and New Year.

Receiving the Business Supporter of the Year Award on behalf of Forest Holidays was Laurent Cluster (General Manager for Scotland) and Pauline Lynch (Sustainability & Environmental Officer) representing the Ardgarten and Strathyre estates. The award recognises Forest Holidays ongoing support through the Friends Business Supporters scheme and in particular the recent Make a Difference Day at Loch Lubnaig. LC thanked the Friends for the award and explained more about the Forest Holidays values and connection with their communities. LC informed guests that where their cabins are located Forest Holidays occupy some of the public forest estate and with this in mind ensure that at each location that local community receives benefits. Forest Holidays are unique in that their sites have no boundary fences and therefore welcome their neighbours into their locations to encourage their guests to leave and explore their surroundings.

JF announced that building on the work undertaken in previous years supporting youth initiatives, the Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre in Lochgoilhead has launched a fundraising campaign to modernise the facilities with a replacement accommodation block. To show the Friends support a cheque for £2,500 was presented to David Thorpe, Manager for the Centre. DT gave his thanks on behalf of the Ardroy Trust. JF advised that this would be covered in more detail in his Chair's presentation. JF advised that a further £2,500 will be made to them later this year.

The awards were followed with a photo call.

## **2. Minutes of last AGM**

The minutes of the last AGM were approved with no queries arising. They were proposed by FW and seconded by BD.

## **3. Chairman's Report**

JF spoke to his Chairman's Report on the charity's activity over the last year (tabled) and this was accompanied by a powerpoint presentation highlighting some of the Friends projects and initiatives and a range of current topical issues.

JF started by providing a brief overview of how the charity had worked to further the key aims of protecting and nurturing the special qualities of the National Park, promoting and celebrating the National Park's cultural heritage, and providing support to projects to make the National Park a better place for people and nature.

JF highlighted the past year had included an event in October to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friends inaugural meeting, which involved planting 40 trees in Balloch Castle Country Park with support from local schoolchildren.

On the funding front JF advised that the Friends had been successful securing two grants from the Landfill Trust to assist with the creation of a new park, path link, signage, interpretation and restoration work at the Lauder Memorial in Cowal. This was additionally funded by the successful Friends of OUR park visitor giving scheme. JF advised that the Tom Weir donation posts at Balmaha had been successful and so far had generated a steady income sufficient to cover the costs to maintain the site and its insurance. A further donation post had been installed at Loch Katrine and it is envisaged that this too will generate a steady income to support conservation activities around the Loch.

JF thanked JB, who as the Project Officer for the Friends eco-tourism initiative has been supporting and working with local businesses to make more of the potential of the NP and Clyde Sea Lochs. This included two very successful glamping events and a Sustainable Tourism guide has been developed for local businesses. JF advised this two year post has enjoyed funding support from both the Scottish Enterprise and funds generated from the Friends of Our park visitor giving scheme. JF thanked all the business who have together donated through the OUR park giving scheme an encouraging £14,625. This along with donations received through the business supporters scheme and individual membership subscription has gone on to support a further 25 other projects in the National Park. JF advised on the unsuccessful outcome of a recent funding bid for a pilot eco transport initiative in the Park.

JF advised that more than 100 volunteers had taken part in two Make a Difference Days this year; one along the A82 Loch Lomond to open up the views, and a litter pick in Loch Lubnaig; both events receiving 'in kind' support from local businesses on the day.

The Friends have continued to monitor planning applications in and around the Park and made representations on a number of planning applications over the year including supporting low cost housing in some communities and objecting to a large housing development in Drymen. The Friends submitted further objections for a proposed development on the Wards Estate in close proximity to the Loch Lomond RSPB reserve. The Friends supported the temporary opening of the old A82 link from Balloch to Cameron, and after careful consideration supported the leisure development application on West Riverside in Balloch.

Campaigning and consultation issues covered in the presentation included the National Parks anti-litter campaign, and advised on a positive meeting with NT the NPA's new Litter Manager. JF advised that the Friends is monitoring the impact of the new camping byelaws and has expressed its concern around inadequate arrangements for the increasing numbers of visiting campervans to the Park and the pressures this is having on car parking and toilet provision.

The Friends have continued to promote their activities, with two further copies of Voice magazine produced which have been circulated at venues throughout the National Park. The extensive press coverage enjoyed by the Friends was also highlighted along with its website. JF advised that a new member's discount package was under development and would be ready for circulation to members this summer.

Members were informed of events being staged by the Friends over the coming months – International Children's Celebration Cruises at Loch Katrine – Saturday, June 1; Luss Highland Games – Saturday, July 6th; Callander Summerfest – Saturday, July 13th-28th; Loch Lomond Sunset Cruise – Wednesday, August 14th; Callander Jazz & Blues Festival – Thursday, July 4th-6th; Cowalfest – Friday – Sunday, October 27th-29th and Christmas at Ross Priory on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

In conclusion, JF thanked all Trustees and Friends staff for their efforts over the past 12 months and expressed sincere thanks to members for their continued support.

This was followed by a brief exchange of questions and answers. On behalf of everyone JB thanked JF for his dedication and commitment he has given to the Friends and he also thanked the other Trustees for their work. He finished by stating he felt the charity was not truly recognised for the positive difference that it makes.

#### **4. Treasurers Report for year ending 31 December 2018**

TW spoke briefly to the accounts. TW advised that the Tom Weir donation posts were working well and thanked SF and his team at The Oak Tree Inn for their ongoing maintenance to the site. TW advised that income had been consistent and salary costs were less than usual due to MH being in post for only one day a week. FW queried the independent examiners statement as it was confusing. BH concluded this statement was standard practice and he reassured the meeting that the accounts were all in order.

The accounts were proposed by FW and seconded by RA.

JF expressed thanks to TW for his work as Treasurer; MH for preparing the accounts and to BH for auditing them in his role as the independent auditor.

## **5. Membership fees**

It was unanimously agreed that annual membership fees should remain the same - £20 for individual membership and £28 for family membership. This was proposed by SW and seconded by BD.

## **6. Re-appointment of office bearers**

The Board retired. JF advised that PN from Dunoon had tendered his resignation and thanked him for his time on the Board. The remainder of the Board agreed to stay on and remain in their current office bearer's roles. JF expressed thanks to all Trustees for their work and also invited interest from anyone who wished to become a Trustee of the Friends.

The reappointments were proposed by FB and seconded by SF.

JF advised that following PN's resignation this has created a position for a representative from Cowal. JF advised that DM has been invited to shadow the next Trustees meeting before he considers joining the board.

FW stepped forward as a Trustee to represent the Trossachs. The new appointment was proposed by BD and seconded by TW.

JF will contact DM and FW with meeting dates.

## **7. Awards**

These had already been presented earlier in the evening.

## **8. Any Other competent Business**

FW raised concerns regarding fireworks in the National Park, and their impact on wildlife and livestock and asked what support the Friends could offer to stage a consultation. JF advised he would follow up on this with FW at a later stage.

## **9. Guest Speaker**

The AGM concluded with a very interesting presentation from Nik Turner (NT), who was recently appointed as the National Park Authorities Litter Prevention Manager. NT discussed how the NP is developing its strategic approach to tackling litter in the National Park area focussing on education, infrastructure and enforcement. NT also discussed various exciting projects she is working including The Data Lab Challenge.

The presentation was very well-received by the audience and was followed by an exchange of questions and answers.



## Chairman's Report

### 1. Introduction

2020 was a very unusual year which started well with the finalisation of plans for a wide range of activities including volunteer Make a Difference Days, social events for members, the roll out of the Young Friends programme with West Dunbartonshire schools and youth groups and various heritage and access projects but this came crashing to an abrupt halt in March due to the catastrophic impact of COVID 19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns.

Our activities for much of 2020 changed significantly with all our events and most of our other programmes of activity having to be cancelled. Sadly, we also had to suspend our popular grant awards from the successful Friends of Our park visitor giving scheme as businesses that normally generated income from visitor donations had to close for lengthy periods and struggled with lower levels of trading at other times.

We had to quickly re-adjust our plans to the new circumstances with a major focus on campaigning for the re-opening of car parks and other basic facilities such as toilets and the provision of more temporary toilets to cope with the large influx of visitors during and after the first lockdown. We also played a major role in supporting hard pressed tourism businesses decimated by the impact of COVID 19 and this included coordinating regular meetings with the Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Rural Affairs, which were chaired by Jackie Baillie MSP. These meetings were useful to press the case for financial support for the tourist industry which is the main employer in the National Park and to raise issues relating to the growing visitor management problems at various hotspots in the Park with surges in visitor numbers.

Despite the setbacks arising from the impacts of COVID 19 and the diversion of our limited staff and volunteer resources to supporting tourism businesses and campaigning to improve visitor support services on the ground, we managed to make progress with some projects and initiatives in our role as the only independent conservation and heritage charity covering the National Park. Fuller coverage of our activities appeared in two editions of our Voice magazine published and distributed in April and December and some brief highlights are summarised below.

Our three main aims continued to be as follows:

- to protect and nurture the National Park's special qualities;*
- to promote and celebrate the National Park's rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage; and*
- to provide support for projects to make the National Park a better place for people and nature.*

As in previous years, where appropriate, we worked in partnership with the National Park Authority, the Community Partnership and local businesses, tourism groups such as the Destination National Park, community councils and community development trusts. The frequency of meetings of the Destination National Park Group increased to review issues linked to the COVID 19 restrictions, pressing industry support needs and visitor management challenges. There was also more contact with local community groups to capture visitor management problems and to support the campaign for improvements and re-opening of basic facilities.

We continued to enjoy a good working relationship with the National Park Authority. We appreciated the National Park Authority's 'in kind' support through the provision of office space but due to Covid 19 this was little used with our Support Officer working from home for most of the year when she was not on furlough due to some of our activities being suspended.

We were disappointed that following a review of the Community Partnership, which has enjoyed much success over the years, it was decided to wind this up due to the non-availability of future funding from the National Park Authority and changing priorities with some of the activities being absorbed by the National Park Authority and plans to have some community representation on the Countryside Trust in the future. The disappearance of the Community Partnership to champion and support community interests is a retrograde step and the sterling efforts of the Directors and staff were fully appreciated by us as we enjoyed a close and productive working relationship.

Despite the curtailment of some of our usual activities we managed to progress a limited number of important projects alongside our visitor management campaigning and tourism business advisory support work. We also commented on a significant number of planning applications during the year. Our continuing success has been due to the commitment and hard work of our part-time staff member of staff, Carol Lloyd and our 9 Trustees who have been pro-active to further the aims of the Friends and the National Park.

## **2. Funding**

We were successful with funding bids to support the 40 mile Trossachs Trail refresh and a review of visitor management issues in the Ort of Menteith and Lake of Menteith area in partnership with the local Community Council. Funding was secured from the Love Local grant scheme and the Strathard and Callander Hydro Funds for the Trossachs Trail and shortly after the year end a larger funding bid for the Trossachs Visitor Management Project coordinated by the Sir Walter Scott Steamship Trust, with input from the Friends, received a conditional approval from VisitScotland. A grant of over £8,000 was secured from NatureScot for the Lake of Menteith visitor management initiative and the funding will filter through in the new financial year

The donation posts at the Tom Weir site in Balmaha, the Lauder Monument and Loch Katrine generated low levels of income in 2020 due to the COVID 19 travel restrictions. Disappointingly the three donation posts at Balmaha were broken into which has led to us tightening security and increasing the frequency of emptying the cash boxes at the posts. Online donation arrangements have been strengthened too and in the absence of an income stream, Sandy Fraser at the Oak Tree Inn very kindly absorbed the cost of maintaining the Tom Weir site.

We decided to suspend our business supporters scheme and advertiser invoicing due to the devastating impact of COVID 19 and understandably funds raised through the Friends of OUR park visitor giving scheme, with the help of local businesses, plummeted which meant we curtailed the number of grant awards and forward commitments. Individual annual membership subscriptions and donations were still an important source of income and we managed to retain and subsidise our part-time Support Officer's post with help from the Government's furlough scheme.

Like many other charities our income suffered greatly due to the impact of COVID 19 and our current bank balances and accounts paint a slightly false position as more than half of our funds are ringfenced for forward commitments. We have many challenges in front of us to recover and build on previous and current programmes of activity to support the

five themes identified in our strategy summary which are *Windows on the Park; Celebrating Cultural Heritage; Nature Conservation; Protecting the Park's Special Qualities and Young Friends*

### **3. Summary of Main Priorities and Activities**

#### **(i) Planning**

We continued to monitor planning applications and made supportive comments on a diverse range of proposals. This included several small-scale glamping and camping site developments which were in line with our green and sustainable tourism initiative. We supported the development of the Hunter Global Leadership Centre at Ross Priory after additional measures were taken to protect the water quality of Loch Lomond including the inclusion of a sewage waste connection link back to the village which allows for the existing Ross Priory complex to have a connection too. This project attracted some opposition locally and after it was unanimously approved by the Planning Committee it was challenged but the Reporters Office concluded the Park Authority handled the application properly and there was no need for an Environmental Impact Assessment.

#### **(ii) Litter Management**

We co-sponsored a litter management conference just prior to Covid 19 lockdown which was organised by the Community Partnership and the National Park Authority. This was well attended by community representatives and we had the opportunity to be one of the organisations to give a short talk which included an overview of our 5 point litter action plan and associated campaigning that led to litter issues becoming a high priority for the National Park Authority and the production of a litter strategy. New initiatives on the litter front had to be postponed due to COVID 19 but the growth in visitor pressures highlighted how important it was to invest more in the litter management infrastructure including the provision of more bins that are fit for purpose. With the Park Authority securing a major uplift in funding for 2021/22 it has been possible to recruit some additional staff to help with litter clearance at visitor hotspots which is very welcome.

#### **(iii) Support for Tourism Businesses During the COVID 19 Crisis**

As mentioned earlier with the shutdown of tourism businesses for lengthy periods due to COVID 19 this had a devastating impact on the National Park area and we issued a number of news releases to highlight the plight of businesses and their staff. We also calculated the scale of the economic impact of the closure periods and the Covid 19 related restrictions which ran to many hundreds of millions of pounds and resulted in the loss of thousands of year-round and seasonal jobs. The viability of businesses in this sector was seriously undermined with many owners having to borrow heavily using some of the emergency loan schemes introduced by the UK and Scottish Governments.

We played an important role in providing support and advice to tourism business owners and operators in the National Park and we coordinated the agendas and drafting of Ministerial letters linked to a series of regular meetings with the Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and the Rural Economy that were chaired by Jackie Baillie MSP. We participated in these meetings with several other business owners and the National Park Authority and were able to highlight the survival challenges being faced by tourism businesses in the National Park. Pleasingly, we were able to directly influence some of the financial support schemes and funding bids to support the industry directly and strengthened visitor management efforts. We also had a couple of questions raised at First Minister's question time via Jackie Baillie MSP in the Scottish Parliament which led to small but important

changes in funding criteria for charities operating in the tourism sector and café opening arrangements.

#### ***(iv) Campaigning on Visitor Management Issues***

After the first COVID 19 lockdown at the end of March and the gradual easing of what were confusing travel restrictions campaigning for the re-opening of car parks and toilets and the provision of temporary toilets became an all-consuming campaigning activity for an intense period due to the large influxes of visitors to the area and the associated problems. Many agencies had their hands tied during lockdown, with the notable exception of Police Scotland, and this led to chaos at popular lochside and mountain locations and in towns and villages in some of the hotspot areas. Communities were largely left to fend for themselves at what was a very worrying and uncertain time. We regularly featured in the national media and were often the first port of call for independent comments on the deteriorating situation. We had slots on the main Scottish Radio and TV news and current affairs programme and generated extensive national media coverage. The problems and calls for action were also raised with MSPs and Scottish Government Ministers.

This helped to highlight visitor pressures and associated visitor management problems in the National Park and in particular the toileting, irresponsible parking and excessive littering that was taking place. We also pressed strongly for the roll out of temporary toilets at key locations and fortunately when they were permitted to act the National Park Authority provided temporary toilets at busy sites around Loch Lomond. Sadly, enforcement action linked to a lack of adequate car parking infrastructure led to almost 5,000 fines being issued for roadside parking in hotspot areas, including some where temporary traffic regulation orders simply led to moving cars on to other locations such as Strathard and the Loch Katrine spur road that couldn't cope with the excess traffic.

Lessons have hopefully been learned from last year's unprecedented and unsatisfactory situation which served to demonstrate how inadequate the visitor infrastructure and public transport links are in some parts of the National Park. It is encouraging more resources have been allocated to the National Park for visitor management activities and much needed infrastructure improvements in 2021. It is also encouraging that private and third sector initiatives are being progressed by Luss Estates, the Frasers in Balmaha and the Steamship Trust at Loch Katrine with our support and encouragement.

#### ***(v) The Trossachs Trail and Trossachs Visitor Management Project***

We joined forces with the Sir Walter Scott Steamship Trust to pull together an ambitious £600,000 Trossachs Visitor Management Project which involves refreshing the 40 mile Trossachs Trail and investing in much need visitor infrastructure improvements at Ben A'an car park and the Trossachs and Stronachlachar pier visitor hubs. Other partners are Forestry & Land Scotland the project is being supported by the local communities along the Trail, Stirling Council and the National Park Authority.

The Friends are taking the lead in the Trossachs trail refresh and this includes upgrading signing and information boards as well as producing a new Trossachs Trail website which will be completed in spring 2021.

#### ***(vi) Duck Bay Knoll and Picnic Area***

Our ongoing campaign to secure much needed improvements including public toilets at the busy Duck Bay picnic area at the south-west corner of Loch Lomond gathered

momentum during the year. This campaign was re-activated at a special meeting in August convened by Jackie Bailie MSP in August with senior representatives from the National Park, Argyll & Bute Council, the Friends and the Cawleys who own Duck Bay Hotel. During the site visit those present saw at first-hand the scale of toileting taking place at the edge of the site due to the lack of available public toilets. The site is visited by over 300,000 visitors per year and the situation there is simply unacceptable in this day and age and even more so during a pandemic.

Following this site visit the Friends stepped up efforts to try and secure a solution with the provision of temporary toilets for the main 2021 tourist season and good progress has been made with assembling a funding package and some support in kind to make this happen. In parallel with this the Cawley Group, led by Alan Cawley, has purchased Duck Bay Knoll Viewpoint which has fallen into a state of disrepair. This was a flagship project of the Friends in the 1980s and the late Hannah Stirling, the founder of the Friends worked closely the late Bobby Cawley of Duck Bay Marina to open up the site and create a car park here. The Cawley Group plan to restore the Knoll and return it to an attractive viewpoint that can be enjoyed by the public free of charge.

#### ***(vii) Other Heritage Sites***

The Friends continued to be responsible for the Tom Weir's Rest site in Balmaha and the Lauder Monument site in Cowal. Intensive site maintenance works at the Balmaha site were undertaken by Sandy Fraser and his staff and the site was maintained to a very high standard and was heavily used despite travel restrictions being in place for lengthy parts of the year. The maintenance works were sponsored by Sandy Fraser and the Oak Tree Inn which was appreciated at a time when our income streams were significantly down.

The Lauder Monument site where we provided a new car park a path link, signing and interpretation is less busy but there is now heightened awareness of its existence with a steady flow of visitors. The wilder nature of the site means that minimal ongoing maintenance is required. Our Vice-Chair makes periodic visits to the site and undertakes some small-scale maintenance work when required with his wife Anne.

#### ***(iv) Friends of OUR Park Visitor Giving Scheme***

During 2020 a sum of £4323 was raised in donations from visitors which was understandably substantially less than previous years due to the COVID 19 lockdowns and travel restrictions. The grants scheme was suspended temporarily but some provisional awards were made for future projects including the Trossachs Trail refresh, rhododendron clearance and tree planting schemes.

#### ***(v) Promoting and Celebrating the National Park***

We produced two editions of the popular Voice magazine. The first one was printed just before lockdown which meant a delay in the distribution until the easing of restrictions. The Winter edition print run was greatly reduced and we strengthened our online distribution and reached a larger audience than normal. We tried to keep the publication topical with a mix of news on our activities, key issues and features on walks and the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Park. The magazine continues to fulfil a useful purpose and we received positive feedback from many quarters on the quality and content of Voice.

We also made good use of social media with the weekly posting of the popular nature feature written by Keith Graham who along with Louis Stott provided regular features for

use in the Voice magazines. Sadly, both Keith and Louis passed away over the winter months in quick succession and they will be sorely missed as they had such a great wealth of knowledge and were very talented story tellers. They showcased the natural and cultural heritage qualities of the National Park and had distinguished careers. They will be greatly missed and thankfully a few years ago we managed to mark their outstanding efforts at a special event at Ross Priory when they were both made Honorary Life Members.

### **Staff and Trustees**

I would like to place on record my thanks to Carol Lloyd for all her efforts and hard work supporting the smooth running of the Friends and providing back up support to the volunteer Trustees during what has been a very strange and challenging year.

Sadly, we lost one of our longer serving Trustees, Iain Stuart who passed away peacefully in his sleep. Iain was a keen outdoor man who lived at Tulloch Farm at the south end of Loch Lomond. He cared deeply about the issues which affect the National Park and for many years he made a great contribution to the work of the Friends.

Most of the meetings of Trustees were held online due to the COVID 19 restrictions but we did manage to hold one meeting at Ross Priory in February which provided an opportunity to receive a presentation on the Hunter Foundation Global Leadership Centre plans for the Estate which we supported and eventually received planning consent.

The Board of Trustees have worked closely with partners to ensure the Friends continue to flourish and contribute in a positive way to the future well-being of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park area.

In concluding, I wish to thank my fellow trustees, staff, our new auditor Elizabeth Bain, our members and business supporters and various other partners including the National Park Authority for all their support, commitment and encouragement during the past year. Hopefully, we can get back to some form of normality soon so we can step up our efforts again to make a difference. In the National Park.

James Fraser  
Chair

## Financial Report and Accounts

### Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs SC015389

	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Membership</b>	1,269	3,405
<b>Donations /Appeals</b>	959	618
<b>Misc Donations</b>	61	159
<b>Business supporters</b>	1,000	3,980
<b>Voice Advertising</b>	1,040	5,755
<b>Project Funding:</b>		
West Dunbartonshire Council	-	13,500
OUR Park Business Donations	4,323	13,583
Trossachs Trail Grants	5,500	-
<b>Events</b>		
AGM	-	150
Christmas Event	-	743
Lauder Events	-	5,023
Other events	-	68
Loch Lomond Cruise	-	630
<b>Merchandising</b>	11	333
<b>HMRC</b>	5261	-
<b>Bank interest</b>	38	66
<b>Tom Weir Statue</b>	186	2,239
<b>Love Loch Lomond</b>	-	-
<b><u>Income TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>19,648</u></b>	<b><u>50,254</u></b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Salaries and on-costs</b>	9,845	8616
<b>HMRC</b>	-	-
<b>Travel &amp; Expenses</b>	373	37
<b>Office Costs</b>	1,661	1,121
<b>Voice</b>	5,052	8,144
<b>Projects:</b>		
Friends of OUR park	2,950	8,847
Website Redevelopment	4,746	-
Ecotourism project	-	-
Lauder Project	-	1,237
Tom Weir Rest	3,053	-
<b>Events</b>		
AGM & awards	-	517
Christmas Event	-	535
Loch Lomond Cruise	700	50
Other events	-	170
Two Lochs Tour	-	-
<b>Marketing</b>	-	539
<b>SCVO membership etc</b>	873	753
<b>Merchandise</b>	52	156
<b><u>Expenditure TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>29,361</u></b>	<b><u>30,722</u></b>
<b><u>Income TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>19,648</u></b>	<b><u>50,254</u></b>
<b>Net deficit in year</b>	<b>-9,713</b>	<b>19,532</b>
<b>Cash reconciliation</b>		
Balance brought forward	46,701	27,169
Net deficit for year	-9,713	19,532
Cash in bank	36,988	46,701



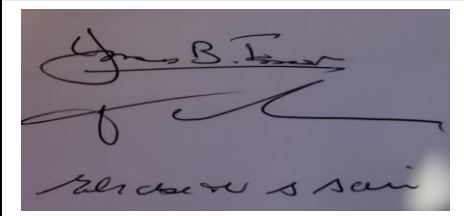
Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs  
Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31st. December, 2020

	31/12/19	31/12/20
Current assets:		
Bank:		
Combined balance at year end	£46,701	£36,988
Capital:	£46,701	£36,988

James B Fraser (Chairman)

Tom Wallace (Treasurer)

E Bain (Independent Examiner)

A rectangular box containing three handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is 'James B Fraser', the middle one is 'Tom Wallace', and the bottom one is 'E Bain'.

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Notes/

Notes to the accounts

Year ended 31 December 2020

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 2020 there was no outstanding capital expenditure approved or committed.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 which are set out in the accompanying documents.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Account (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether certain matters have come to my attention.

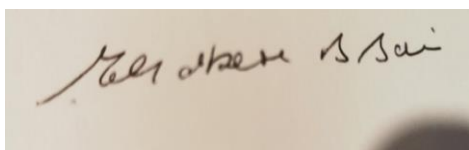
### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the views given by the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
  - b. to prepare accounts with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulationshave not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Elizabeth Bain  
Loch Goil  
12<sup>th</sup> February 2021