



FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

ANNUAL REPORT

For the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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
Ms Sheila Winstone
Mr William Dalrymple
Mr Paul Saunders
Mr Fergus Wood
Mr Duncan MacLachlan
Ms Elizabeth Bain (from April 2021)

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Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland, Colquhoun Square, Helensburgh

Independent Examiner

Jean Murray, Loch Goil

Scottish Charities Registration Number: SC015389

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the **forty first Annual General Meeting** of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs will be held at Ross Priory, Gartocharn on **Tuesday 14th May, at 7.15pm**, 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 2021.
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 (last term)
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
Ms Elizabeth Bain
 - (ii) Other Nominations
7. To transact any other competent business

By order of the Executive Council

James Fraser
Chair

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at 4pm via Zoom

Chair: J Fraser (JF).

Committee Present: J Urquhart (JU), T Wallace (TW), J Deans (JD), P Saunders (PS), S Winstone (SW), D MacLachlan (DM), F Wood

In Attendance: C Lloyd (CL), W Nisbet (WN), E Bain (EB), C Darlastan (CD), A Urquhart (AU), S Noble (SN), A Forsyth (AF), A Etchells (AE), J Smith (JS)

Apologies: B Dalrymple (BD)

1. Welcome

JF welcomed those present to the Annual General meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He acknowledged that it was unfortunate that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were having to meet by Zoom rather than face-to-face at Ross Priory as would normally happen, and that due to the online format, it would be a shorter AGM than normal. As a result of the pandemic Friends were unable to host an AGM in 2020 to review 2019 and therefore the meeting would cover both 2020 and 2019. Apologies were acknowledged from BD

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were approved with no queries arising. They were proposed by PS and seconded by SW

3. Treasurer Report for 31st December 2019 and 31st December 2020

Both sets of accounts were included in the Annual Reports provided in advance of the AGM. TW advised that Covid 19 had had a significant impact on finances in the last twelve months and therefore what was presented were two very different sets of accounts. There has been a significant impact to income from Visitor Giving Schemes and that Business Supporter Membership fees had been suspended as businesses across the Park had themselves struggled to stay afloat. The one staff member has been furloughed and the majority of salary costs had been repaid under the furlough scheme. JF thanked EB for taking over as Independent Examiner and providing an independent audit of both sets of accounts.

SN queried the sum on the 2020 accounts against HMRC and TW confirmed this relates to the furlough payments for staff salary.

JF added that there were forward commitments of £13,500 in relation to the Young Friends project as well as an amount for the Trossachs Trail project including £5k grant from the Scotland Loves Local grant scheme and that taking away restricted funds, leaves around £15k in the accounts.

The 2019 accounts were proposed by SN and seconded by AF.

The 2020 accounts were proposed by DM and seconded by AF

4. Annual Membership Fees

JF suggested there should be no increase in Friends membership subscription for 2021. This was proposed by SW and seconded by JD.

5. Re-appointment of the office bearers.

JF thanked the Trustees for their hard work and confirmed that he as Chair, and all trustees were willing to stand again.

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

Their re-election was endorsed by SN and seconded by EB. JKF invited anyone else present at the AGM to get in touch after the meeting if they were interested in joining the Executive Committee.

6. Chair's Report

JF shared a slide presentation with an overview of projects and progress over 2019 and 2020, pointing out that there were fewer projects in 2020 and adding that he was looking forward to making progress again when restrictions are eased.

JF updated attendees on the sad loss of four loyal Friends supporters, Keith Graham, Louis Stott, Iain Stuart and Stuart Ballantyne, all of whom had provided many years of help and support.

JF shared Friends updated strategic priorities and an overview of the key objectives and projects.

A summary of the events from 2019 was shared including the Lauder Monument Celebration and images from the Make A Difference volunteer days, of which more are planned in 2021.

Referring to the litter related slides, JF advised that fly-tipping and littering had increased on a significant scale in the last year and had become even more of a priority focus for Friends. The A82 north is just one area where action is needed and providing bins in laybys on this stretch would make a difference. Friends are pitching for funding to trial a litter bin scheme.

There has been heavy campaigning for extra toilets at key locations as part of Visitor Management fundamentals. As a result of a surge in visitor numbers last year, there was a need for extra temporary toilets and due to extensive campaigning, we did

persuade the Park Authority to provide portaloos at a number of locations around Loch Lomond. Duck Bay badly needs toilets and continues to be a priority issue for the Friends. JF has met with Jackie Baillie MSP and senior NPA and Council officials at Duck Bay to discuss the problem of toileting in the woods and behind walls. In the absence of a public sector initiative the proposal is for the Friends to take the lead and be responsible for running the toilets and there is now a funding package in place now to do that. Another pressure point is at Arrochar where action is required.

Traffic is another major visitor management issue following lockdown last year with lots of drivers parking on road verges due car parks being regularly full. Four car parks are being extended this year, supported by Friends and being delivered by the Steamship Company and Forestry & Land Scotland. Disappointingly, 5,000 parking fines were issued in the last year for parking at the roadside and a number of new measures restricting car parking on road verges have been introduced by Councils this year.

The Chair's report also included a sample of national and local newspaper articles where Friends have campaigned on visitor management in relation to litter, toilets and car parking during the last year.

JF provided an overview of the Trossachs Visitor Management Project and explained that The Steamship Company won £375k to improve visitor infrastructure at Loch Katrine and Ben A'an including the Trossachs Trail refresh which has been adopted by the Friends. The Trossachs Trail refresh project includes the upgrade of over 40 signs utilising funds from different sources. A map and panel has been designed which will encourage exploration of the Trossachs by foot, boat and bike. The plan for the Steamship Company is to increase the number of toilets at Trossachs Pier, increase parking and create a scenic lookout and watchtower. There are also plans to double the spaces at Ben A'an car park, with the Friends and Steamship working together and also with funds from Forestry and Land Scotland. As part of the Trossachs Trail refresh project, a Trossachs Trail website is now live.

Additional projects will include the Duck Bay knoll. Alan Cawley of Duck Bay Hotel has purchased the knoll, removing rhododendrons and opening the viewpoint. Temporary toilets are planned, part funded by Friends, Argyll and Bute Council and the National Park Authority. The aim is to have permanent toilets in the future as they are very much needed however in the meantime a temporary solution is required due to the massive volume of visitors to the site.

Conservation features in Friends priorities and for 2021. This will include red squirrel initiatives and more rhododendron removal around the loch. It's hoped that landfill tax funding will be available to support this work.

Temporary toilets are also needed at Arrochar to help reduce lochside waste. Included in the Chair's report were a selection of images of 'eyesore' sites in Arrochar and Tarbet. There has been a working group set up to create a plan focusing on improving key properties. Some hotels have gone into liquidation and there is a need to look at the future of this key strategic location. There are five different projects in plan to refresh these locations. DM added that the Arrochar and Tarbet community are very grateful for Friends intervention and for the efforts of James and John to bring

businesses and stakeholders together, to unlock some of the issues that the Community Council, MPs, MSPs have so far been unable to.

Recreation Access is another key objective and this will include opportunities for young people to experience a variety of activities and learning outdoors. The presentation included an image of the foundations of a pod at the Callander Youth Project (CYP). Friends funded a new shed for the project to free up space for glamping pods, including one adapted for the severely disabled. Income from the pods will help put CYP on a financially stable footing, allowing them to continue their great work with young people. Recreation access also includes work on the 'Skyline Walk' – part of the View/Vista project, an alternative to the Three Lochs Way. A bid for funding will go in shortly. Thanks to JU and DM for their work on this.

Photos of the Rest and Be Thankful showed images of the landslips there alongside an image of a viaduct in New Zealand, as an example of what could be done. Friends are taking part in the consultation and there is a commitment from the Government to deliver a solution within five years. Friends comments have been submitted.

The Chair report closed with a sunset image of Lake of Menteith. NatureScot funding was recently secured to conduct a survey to inform a light touch action plan for the location on the fringes of The Park and Friends are supporting the Community Council on this.

JU added a vote of thanks to JF for the astounding amount that has been achieved as a small charity, much of which is down to JF who works incredibly hard.

SN asked for Friends view of the parking charge proposals at Duck Bay. JF advised that in principle Friends will be objectors. If parking charges were linked to visitor management facilities, it would be more palatable. If charges are implemented, Friends will be encouraging the Council to earmark some of the funds for investment in visitor management. WN advised that the National Park Authority (NPA) had been granted additional funds for the next five years for infrastructure projects and the NPA are already looking at how they utilise that budget to get best value from it. This should better enable them to plan and be proactive. An extra £500k in this financial year has been set aside specifically for Covid related issues. There will be four new environmental officers and litter will be a significant priority for them. This will include 'hit squads' with access to bigger vehicles to deal with fly tipping. Additional seasonal rangers are also being recruited.

JF said that at recent Community Visitor Management sessions there was frustration at the perceived top down approach and there were pleas for a more bottom up approach to planning. FW added that one of the solutions to litter issues is for the Council and the NPA to work together and on some of the other big issues such as lack of toilets. Visitor numbers create enormous pressure and there are just not enough facilities, especially in key honeypot locations.

7. Any other business

JF said that holidays at home this year will bring great benefits to businesses in the National Park. In the meantime Friends will continue to move forward with the projects outlined.

JF wished everyone an enjoyable summer and thanked them for joining the AGM.

The meeting was closed at 5.30pm.

Chairman's Report

1. Introduction

2021 was another very unusual year due to the restrictions that were still in place because of the COVID 19 pandemic with many of the Friends normal core activities having to be scaled back or adjusted to respond to some of the key issues with lobbying and tackling some aspects of visitor management taking on a greater priority.

While some restrictions eased after the first quarter of the year, the continued restrictions on overseas travel compounded the visitor management challenges in the National Park given its proximity to major centres of population with the return of UK tourists and day visitors in record numbers. The importance of the role of the National Park as a valuable outdoor recreational resource was very much to the fore again but thankfully lessons were learnt from the invasion of visitors in 2020 with the public agencies, including the National Park Authority, local authorities, Police Scotland and Forestry & Land Scotland, being better prepared and better resourced to respond to the changing nature of visitor pressures in a more coordinated way. However, this did not prevent some major problems arising in lochside communities such as Luss and Balloch due to the scale of visitor pressures and some irresponsible behaviour which disrupted the quality of life for residents.

There was also a notable surge in water-based activities with a growth in motorised and non-motorised craft and open water swimming on several lochs in the National Park and tragically there were some tragic drownings in Loch Lomond and in Loch Lubnaig which served to reinforce how dangerous lochs can be with extremely cold water and sharply falling away rock shelves close to shorelines. The scale of deaths led to an urgent review of water safety measures in the National Park and nationally with some steps taken to raise awareness of the dangers of lochs and rivers and the introduction of some practical water safety training of frontline staff.

Like many businesses and other charities operating in the National Park we began the slow process of recovery in 2021 but much of our initial focus continued to be on lobbying for resources to be made available to support local businesses, many of which had been closed for lengthy periods over the previous 15 months, and also for more resources to be made available to tackle pressing visitor management issues with the assistance of local MSP Jackie Baillie who continued to coordinate meetings with the Tourism Minister and raised a series of parliamentary questions on our behalf with great effect.

We took direct action to improve basic visitor services infrastructure at visitor hotspots at the head of Loch Long and at Duck Bay where there had been problems of heavy toileting and littering which pre-dated Covid19 but had become markedly worse. We recruited seasonal visitor services wardens and installed public toilets at three locations. We also stepped in and ran a very successful pilot A82 litter bin scheme in laybys between Arden and Tarbet which has now been converted into an 'Adopt a Bonnie Banks Bin Scheme'

In the last quarter of 2021, we re-activated our popular volunteer Make a Difference Days and organised a very successful event on West Loch Lomondside with over 40 volunteers taking part. The Friends of OUR Park visitor giving scheme also was gradually re-introduced as tourism businesses opened again and this generated some welcome income to support some heritage and access projects.

Despite the setbacks arising from the impacts of COVID 19 we managed to make progress with some other 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, local businesses, tourism groups such as the Destination National Park, community councils and community development trusts. We took an active part in meetings of the Destination National Park Group and various visitor management consultation groups coordinated by the National Park to review issues linked to the COVID 19 restrictions, pressing industry support needs and visitor management challenges. There was also more contact and joint working with local community groups to help tackle visitor management problems and to support lobbying efforts for improvements. We were pleased that a Luss community led group chaired by Jackie Baillie MSP was convened to address the serious visitor management issues in Luss which resulted in an increased police and ranger presence along with the preparation of an action plan to improve the situation further in 2022.

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 Officers working from home for most of the year when they were not on furlough due to some of our activities being suspended. We also appreciated support from the National Park Authority, Argyll & Bute Council, the Hannah Stirling Loch Lomond Trust and NatureScot for assistance with funding toilet provision at the busy Duck Bay picnic area on Loch Lomondside which was made available for the first time in a staggering 25 years. NatureScot and the Hannah Stirling Loch Lomond Trust also stepped in with the lion's share of the funding to enable other elements of the West Loch Lomond Visitor Management Project to be piloted last year and VisitScotland approved a major grant for the Trossachs Visitor Management Project led by the Sir Walter Scott Steamship Trust with support from the Friends.

Despite the curtailment of some of our usual activities we had an exceptionally busy year given our limited staff and volunteer resources and we achieved major successes with our visitor management activities at visitor hotspots on West Loch Lomond, at the head of Loch Long and in the Trossachs in partnership with others.

We managed to progress or support a limited number of access, nature conservation and cultural heritage projects and we took part in several important consultations including Aberfoyle & Strathard Place Plan and Loch Lomond Visitor Infrastructure Studies. We took a particular close interest in the emerging plans for upgrading the A82 between Tarbet and Inverarnan which we submitted detailed comments on to try and secure some design changes more sympathetic to the sensitive and classic Loch Lomond landscape setting. 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 members of staff- Carol Lloyd (until July 2021) and Jennifer Plunkett (from July 2022)- as well as our 9 Trustees who were very active in furthering the aims of the Friends and the National Park throughout the year.

2. Funding

We were successful with funding bids to support the Trossachs Trail refresh and a review of visitor management issues in the Port 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. Early in the year a £375,000 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.

We assembled an impressive £90,000 funding package to support a new Two Lochs Visitor Management Project in response to local representation about the gaps in basic visitor infrastructure provision at the visitor hotspots of Duck Bay Picnic Area and Arrochar as well as along the busy A82 where toileting and littering had become major issues. The bulk of the funding for this initiative was secured from the NatureScot Green Recovery Fund and the Hannah Stirling Loch Lomond Trust while the Park Authority and Argyll & Bute Council contributed funds to the cost of providing temporary toilets at Duck Bay and the Cawley Group covered the costs of toiletries and regular cleaning of the toilets.

We secured a grant of £31,000 from the national Thrive and Adapt scheme to support our recovery programme following the suspension of some of our fund-raising activities, including the Business Supporters Scheme, and the understandable reduction in contributions from business participating in the Friends of Our Park visitor giving scheme. Donations from visitors increased significantly linked to the provision of toilets at Arrochar. The Thrive and Adapt grant enabled us to increase the hours of the Support Officer post which has been invaluable as we started to re-build some of our schemes and services.

The donation posts at the Tom Weir site in Balmaha, the Lauder Monument and Loch Katrine generated low levels of income in 2021. Disappointingly the one of the three donation posts at Balmaha was broken into again but fortunately due to the frequency of emptying very little was stolen though considerable damage was done to the donation post and signage. Sandy Fraser at the Oak Tree Inn very kindly absorbed the cost of maintaining the Tom Weir site throughout 2021 which was a great help.

We ended the year with a healthy bank balance but it should be noted the Thrive and Adapt income is designed to support us over a three year period with strengthened staffing and over £13,000 is allocated for a legacy Young Friends initiative. We are in good shape financially to tackle future challenges and to 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 also supported several access projects including the re-instatement of the culturally important Roderick Dhu path and scenic lookout at Loch Katrine where Sir Walter Scott and other famous writers were inspired to write about the scenic beauty of the Trossachs and is credited with being the birthplace of Scottish tourism. We objected to some housing applications in Drymen which didn't conform with the local Plan. We also objected to the clutter of signing planned as part of the National Park's proposal to introduce parking charges at the scenic viewpoints of Tarbet and Inveruglas. These applications were subsequently withdrawn.

(ii) Support for Tourism Businesses During the COVID 19 Crisis

In the first quarter of 2021 tourism businesses were shut down again due to COVID 19 restrictions and many sectors operated for a further 6 months with social distancing regulations in force which greatly reduced capacities which had a devastating impact on viability. We continued to lobby for Government support for the industry and played an important role in providing support and advice to tourism business owners and operators in the National Park. We had direct access to the Tourism Minister and with the help of local MSP Jackie Baillie a number of issues were raised in the Scottish Parliament and with relevant ministers relating to tourism business support and additional funding for public sector and local visitor management activities and initiatives.

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 were particularly pleased that following the submission of a parliamentary question on future funding for additional visitor management activities via Jackie Baillie MSP and continued lobbying by us and others, the Scottish Government had a change of heart and released extra funding to both National Park Authorities, Forest & Land Scotland and NatureScot. This extra funding is welcome and should enable public agencies, charities, and local communities to build on the successes achieved last year in managing visitor pressures more effectively and making life more tolerable for residents in visitor hotspots.

(iii) Lake of Menteith Visitor Management Study

We worked jointly with Port of Menteith Community Council in an extremely short timeframe to commission a review of visitor management issues and to draw up a practical visitor management action plan for the Lake of Menteith and surrounding area. This was funded by NatureScot from their Green Recovery grant scheme and involved employing a locally based countryside specialist to undertake extensive local consultations which resulted in clearly identifying the nature and scale of visitor management issues and led on to the production of a practical action plan to assist future funding bids to improve the situation locally. Sadly, following the production of the action plan endorsed by a number of local landowners and the Community Council it proved challenging to implement any short-term actions as some of those consulted hadn't realised that both the Community Council and the Friends were keen to follow through with some delivery. Hopefully the study can be used to strengthen the case for action and future investment as part of the wider National Park visitor infrastructure study recently commissioned covering the Trossachs and Strathard area.

(iv) Two Lochs Visitor Management Project

While we continued to lobby the Park Authority and other agencies to respond more effectively to some of the visitor management challenges arising from the increased influx of visitors to the National Park, in response to approaches from local residents and

businesses, we stepped in to take direct action where there were some major gaps in basic visitor infrastructure and support services. We successfully broke the 25-year deadlock regarding the provision of public toilets at the busy Duck Bay picnic area and through collaboration with partners and with the Friends taking the lead it was possible to provide 5 temporary toilets at the main Duck Bay car park for the period May-October which local business owner, Alan Cawley described as transformative. This was jointly funded with contributions from the Park Authority, Argyll & Bute Council, the Hannah Stirling Loch Lomond Trust, NatureScot and the Friends. The Cawley Group assisted too with the provision of practical in kind support-regular toilet cleaning and the provision of toiletries and hygiene materials.

We also developed a wider Two Lochs Visitor Management Project with the support of Arrochar & Tarbet development Trust, Destination Arrochar Alps and a sub-group of Destination National Park. This involved drawing up an early delivery programme that included the provision of temporary toilets at two locations in Arrochar-Arrochar Car Park and at the start of the Cobbler Mountain Path, recruitment of seasonal Visitor Services Wardens, design and installation of a series of Arrochar & Tarbet welcome maps and signage and the rollout of an ambitious pilot A82 layby litter bin scheme which involved the installation of 20 bins and regular emptying during the period June-March. Following the success of the pilot bin scheme we continued to fund this over the winter months to give time to develop a more sustainable scheme with a mixture of public and private sector funding as part of an 'Adopt a Bonnie Banks Bin Scheme'.

We were successful in securing £68,000 of funding for this ambitious programme of activity from the NatureScot Green Recovery Scheme and further funding from the Hannah Stirling Loch Lomond Trust. However, the requirement to deliver the programme with short lead times and to monitor and evaluate activities involved a major commitment of time by several of our volunteer Trustees and our Support Officer. I am particularly grateful to John Urquhart and Duncan MacLachlan who became project champions for strands of the work which proved to be a great success with positive feedback from residents, businesses and visitors.

The results of the programme exceeded expectations with many thousands of visitors being able to use clean and well-presented temporary toilets at busy visitor hotspots and being able to get information and advice from friendly and knowledgeable local visitor services wardens. The pilot bin scheme, along with some other litter management measures undertaken by partners such as the Council's Community Service squad and the Park Authority, was a spectacular success with many people commenting that the A82 corridor between Arden and Tarbet was the cleanest it has been for many years. An impressive 25 tonnes of litter, the equivalent of 6,500 bin bags of rubbish, was removed in a 9-month period with 97% of this waste being recycled or re-purposed.

Importantly, it has been possible to build on the success of this programme with a wider range of partners stepping in to help fund a continuation of the programme in 2022. It is particularly encouraging to see the Park Authority, Argyll & Bute Council and local businesses engaging more and helping with funding alongside the Hannah Stirling Loch Lomond Trust.

(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 funding

partners are Forestry & Land Scotland, VisitScotland, Scotland Loves Local and the Callander and Strathard Community Hydro Schemes. The project is being supported by the local communities along the Trail and Stirling Council while the National Park Authority is acting as the conduit for the £375,000 grant secured by the Steamship Trust with support from the Friends.

The Friends took the lead with the Trossachs Trail refresh that included upgrading signing and information boards as well as producing a new Trossachs Trail website which were completed by early summer 2021. The information & map panels proved to be particularly popular with local business and 40 waterproof versions were distributed to tourism businesses and were displayed in prominent locations. Giant versions of the map panel were produced for use in the new Callander Visitor Information Centre and in the large window at the former Aberfoyle Co-op building in the Main Street.

The much needed Ben A'an and Stronachlachar Car Park extensions have been completed and further infrastructure improvements at Trossachs pier are planned later in the year.

(vi) 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. Site maintenance works at Tom Weir's Rest were undertaken by Sandy Fraser and his staff and the site was maintained to a very high standard and continued to be very popular. The maintenance works were sponsored by Sandy Fraser and the Oak Tree Inn which was appreciated during a period when income from donations at the site were well down due to travel restrictions for part of the year and another break in to the donation posts.

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.

(iv) Friends of OUR Park Visitor Giving Scheme

During 2021 an encouraging sum of £8,053 was raised in donations from visitors which was understandably substantially less than previous years due to the COVID 19 restrictions. The grants scheme was suspended temporarily but some awards were made in the second half of the year for the Trossachs Trail refresh, tree planting, Brig o Turk heritage project, Cormonachan Woodlands path extension project, the community led Callander Visitor Information Centre and the Steamship Sir Walter Scott restoration. Over £6,000 in donations was generated from donation posts and by text linked to the Two Lochs Visitor management Project and most of this is being channelled back into the area to support the Windows on the loch Project and visitor management activities.

(v) Promoting and Celebrating the National Park

We produced two editions of the popular Voice magazine. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic publication dates were revised to June and December with the print runs reduced but distribution via online channels greatly increased to extend the readership reach. 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 continued to receive positive feedback from many quarters on the quality and content of Voice.

Staff, Trustees and Partners

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, our loyal members and business supporters and various other partners including the National Park Authority for all their support, commitment and encouragement during the past year. It was pleasing to get back to some form of normality recently which has enabled us to deal with some legacy issues that were put on hold during the past two years and it is encouraging that we have again been able to step up our efforts again to make a real difference for people and nature in Scotland's first National Park that celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

James Fraser

Chair
Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs

**Financial Report and Accounts
Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs
SC015389**

	2021	2020
Income		
Membership	1,519	1,269
Donations /Appeals	8,642	959
Gift Aid	-	
Misc Donations	-	61
Business supporters	2,885	1,000
Voice Advertising	3,200	1,040
Project Funding:		
West Dunbartonshire Council	-	-
National Park Authority	-	
Two Lochs Project	90,348	
Trossachs Trail	1,000	5,500
Port of Menteith	8,500	
OUR Park Business Donations	8,053	4,323
Adapt & Thrive	31,000	
Events		
AGM	-	-
Christmas Event	-	-
Lauder Events	-	-
Other events	-	-
Loch Lomond Cruise	-	-
Merchandising	673	11
HMRC	3,457	5261
Bank interest	12	38
Tom Weir Statue	979	186
Love Loch Lomond		-
<u>Income TOTAL</u>	<u>160,268</u>	<u>19,648</u>

Expenditure	2021	2020
Salaries and on-costs	12,555	9,845
HMRC	-	-
Travel & Expenses	712	373
Recruitment	230	
Office Costs	1,322	1,661
Voice	4,412	5,052
Projects:		
Friends of OUR park	3,054	2,950
Trossachs Trail	6,185	
Website Redevelopment	-	4,746
Ecotourism project	-	-
Lauder Project	241	-
Port of Menteith	7,975	
Tom Weir Rest	300	3,053
Two Lochs Project	81,377	
Events		
AGM & awards	-	-
Christmas Event	-	-
Loch Lomond Cruise	-	700
Other events	-	-
Two Lochs Tour	-	-
Marketing	-	-
SCVO membership etc	1,003	873
Merchandise	-	52
<u>Expenditure TOTAL</u>	<u>119,366</u>	<u>29,361</u>
<u>Income TOTAL</u>	<u>160,268</u>	<u>19,648</u>
Net deficit in year		-9,713
Net surplus in year	40,902	
Cash reconciliation		
Balance brought forward	36,988	46,701
Net surplus for year	40,902	-9,713
Cash in bank	77,890	36,988

Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs

Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31st. December, 2021

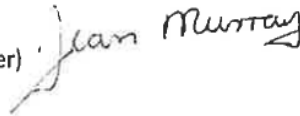
	31/12/20	31/12/21
Current assets:		
Bank:		
Combined balance at year end	£36,988	£77,890
Capital:	£36,988	£77,890

James B Fraser (Chairman)



Tom Wallace (Treasurer)

Jean Murray (Independent Examiner)



Date to go here 06/05/22

Notes/

Notes to the accounts

Year ended 31 December 2021

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 2021 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 31st December 2021 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.



Jean Murray

Loch Goil