

FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

ANNUAL REPORT

For the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

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

Office Bearers

Dr. Hannah Stirling MBE – President
Mar. 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

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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-third Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs will be held at The Winnock Hotel, Drymen on Tuesday 15th May 2012, at 7.30pm, for the transacting of the following business:

1. Receive apologies for absence
2. Receive the Chairman's Report
3. Receive a report from John Urquhart, trustee, on one of the projects selected to be funded by The Friends in 2010 – The Three Lochs Way
4. Receive the Treasurer's Report and approve the Independently Examined Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011
5. To re-appoint the office bearers and trustees
6. To re-appoint Mr James Fraser as Chairman
7. To re-appoint Mr George Boyd as interim treasurer
8. To appoint Mr John Urquhart to the Executive Council
9. To discuss the proposed amendments to the Loch Lomond byelaws
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

Director's report

The major activities undertaken by the charity for the year of 2011 are covered in the Chairman's report. This brief report provides some additional detail in specific areas.

Membership remained steady with over 90% renewals, some new members, and some new business members coming on board under the Business Supporters' scheme. We have continued to expand the scope and distribution of our magazine VOICE, with more adverts covering the cost of production in 2010.

We completed the major part of our pilot project for schools/young people in P7, S1 & S2 - 'Wild.Lomond – Wild.Trossachs', producing a comprehensive set of curriculum notes with guidance for teachers in using the project to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence.

OUR park: 2011 saw the scheme expanding park-wide with new support coming in from Forth Valley and Lomond Leader. The initial 50 businesses involved developed to over 80 throughout the Park committing to fundraising to enhance, conserve and increase the natural, recreational and cultural assets valued by visitors, the local businesses they support, and the local community. Total monies received just from businesses fundraising since the start of the Park-wide Phase of the project in 2011 was £4014 with notable contributions from Balmillig B&B (£944), Lodge on Loch Lomond (£793) and Deli Ecosse (£720). Volunteer litter picking parties and Loch Lomond islands clean-ups all expanded, connecting visitors with the natural heritage in the National Park and further connecting businesses to the environment in which they're operating and on which they depend.

There was an impressive volunteer activity day in October - 42 volunteers participated, 30 of which were sponsored by local businesses, many volunteering for the first time, with 100% feeling they had made a difference. 200m of cycle path was cleared on West Loch Lomond side. On Inchcailloch - 175m of ditching dug and 2 bags litter removed. On Inchmoan – 17 bags litter 5 bags of recycling, 2 buckets of broken glass and 14 fire sites cleared. At Endrick Mouth – 150m of heavy floating vegetation cleared. At The Carrick – 0.6ha of fallen trees cleared and arranged into habitat piles and 0.5ha of native tree saplings checked and protected.

Planning: Planning matters formed a significant part of my work - on the specific issues mentioned in the Chairman's report. I attended a number of days at hearings with Scottish Government reporters in Gartocharn and Callander, presenting the Friend's position on a number of issues including housing and development. Our deliberations on the Gold Mine proposals were featured in a BBC 4 documentary.

Throughout 2011, our relationship with the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park remained very important: we made a positive and supportive contribution to the local plan hearings, received generous support for the OUR park and Wild.Lomond – Wild.Trossachs projects in particular, and from our independent position we challenged some plans and decisions.

Simon Lewis

Director

W.M.HASSALL
Accountant

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND AND THE TROSSACHS**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31ST. December, 2011 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 terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirements of Regulation 10 (1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations do not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44 (1) c of the Act and to state whether particular 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 includes 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 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 opinion on the view 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:

* to keep accounting records in accordance with S. 44 (1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and

*to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have 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.



W. M. Hassall
Accountant.

121, West Clyde Street, Helensburgh, G84 8ET

30th. April, 2012

Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31st December 2011

	High Interest A/c	Current A/c	Total
Receipts			
Subscriptions	2,521.56	116.66	2,638.22
Donations	469.70	2,128.46	2,598.16
Bank Interest	18.67		18.67
Sales	1,038.28	55.00	1,093.28
Business Members	3,815.00		3,815.00
YP Project	6,000.00		6,000.00
Golf Event	4,500.00	1,000.00	5,500.00
DVD Project	3,064.43	3,500.00	6,564.43
AGM	458.50		458.50
Xmas Reception	487.56		487.56
Voice	4,092.50		4,092.50
Inland Revenue Refund		431.30	431.30
Our Park			
Matching Funding	19,700.00	18,463.36	38,163.36
Caledonian Challenge	2,200.00		2,200.00
Business Donations	6,715.48	1,467.76	8,183.24
	<hr/> 55,081.68	<hr/> 27,162.54	<hr/> 82,244.22
 Payments			
Office Expenses	(3.50)	(4,924.27)	(4,927.77)
Salaries & Expenses		(23,628.80)	(23,628.80)
Cost of Sales		(835.02)	(835.02)
Voice		(8,308.03)	(8,308.03)
Membership Recruitment		(1,129.73)	(1,129.73)
Golf Event	(385.77)	(1,479.00)	(1,479.00)
AGM	(23.50)	(278.50)	(278.50)
DVD Project		(4,341.00)	(4,341.00)
Other Charities		(2,100.00)	(2,100.00)
Our Park			
Marketing		(1,498.92)	(1,498.92)
Office		(7,200.00)	(7,200.00)
Promotion/Training		(1,978.26)	(1,978.26)
Fundraising Cost		(939.06)	(939.06)
Recruitment		(79.00)	(79.00)
Salaries		(38,325.87)	(38,325.87)
Travel		(964.54)	(964.54)
Donations		(400.00)	(400.00)
	<hr/> (412.77)	<hr/> (98,410.00)	<hr/> (98,822.77)
 Total	 54,668.91	 (71,247.46)	 (16,578.55)
 B/Fwd. from 2010	 41,272.64	 313.18	 41,585.82
 Account Transfers	 (70,150.00)	 70,150.00	
 Deposit in advance		 1,315.38	 1,315.38
 Prepayment		 (10.00)	 (10.00)
 Bank Balances 31/12/2011	 25,791.55	 521.10	 26,312.65

Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs

Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31st December 2011

	as at 31/12/11 £	as at 31/12/10 £
Bank:		
Bank balances at start	41,586	5,574
Deficit in year	(16,578)	(3,617)
Realisation of investments		39,629
sub-total	<hr/> 25,008	<hr/> 41,586
Creditor: due in 1 year: deposits received in advance	1,315	-
Debtor: prepayment	10	-
Bank balances as at 31st December 2011	26,313	41,586
Fixed Asset:		
Property, W. Princes Street Helensburgh - at cost	25,000	25,000

James B Fraser (Chairman)

George F. Boyd (Treasurer)

WM Hassall (Independent Examiner)

15th May 2012

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

For information: We attach a copy of last year's financial report. This is provided separately to the accounts for 2011 as most of the budget and project headings have changed significantly to better reflect the current business of the Charity.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

Receipts	£	
Subscriptions	3,332	
Donations	11,780	
Income Tax Recovered		
Investment Income	280	
Bank Interest	27	
Project - Our Park	2,250	
Project match funding - Guide Book	-	
Project match funding – OUR park	25,502	
Donations Our Park	894	
Proceeds from sales of investments	9,279	
Grant income	10,478	
Voice Advertising	650	
Trading	671	
Business Members	1,730	
Fund Raising Events	350	
Total Receipts	67,223	
Payments		
Core costs		
Consultancy Fees	-	
Wages & salaries	22,901	
Recruitment costs	-	
Travelling Expenses	729	<u>23,630</u>
Overheads		
Office expenses - Cleaning	-	
Office expenses - Heat & light	381	
Office expenses - Repairs	-	
Office expenses - Water rates	486	
Office expenses - Other	75	
Office expenses - Travel	222	
Telecoms & data	413	
Insurance	1,400	
Licences and fees	-	
Stationery	235	
Subscriptions	150	
Sundries	36	<u>3,398</u>
Membership & Marketing		
Events	6,808	
Printing - the Voice	7,487	
Postage - the Voice	373	
NPA Guide Book	-	
Show attendance	-	
Membership campaign	-	
New Media	225	
Printing - other	-	
Postage - other	263	<u>15,156</u>
Planning & campaigning		
Website development	2,410	
Amenity and conservation costs	-	<u>2,410</u>
Conservation		
Archaeological Advice	-	
Our Park Project T & C Salaries	24,163	
Our Park Project Travel	1,083	
Our Park Project Marketing	500	
Our Park Project Outgoing Donations	500	
Our Park Project Recruitment	-	
Our Park Project Capital	-	
Our Park Project Study tour		<u>26,246</u>
Total costs	70,840	
Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,617)	