

FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

ANNUAL REPORT

For the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019



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)

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Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland, Colquhoun Square, Helensburgh

Independent Examiner

Elizabeth Bain, 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 2019.
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 40th 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 24th.

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

2019 was another busy and successful year for the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs as we have worked hard to make a difference through our campaigning, fundraising and volunteering efforts. In our role as the only independent conservation and heritage charity covering the National Park we focused our efforts on a carefully selected number of priorities and actions in line with the agreed annually reviewed Strategy and Action Plan.

We have made some good progress with projects and initiatives under the umbrella of our three main aims to:

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

As in previous years, where appropriate, we have worked in partnership with the National Park Authority, the Community Partnership, local tourism groups such as Destination National Park, community councils, community development trusts, local project champions and others to further our aims.

Key to our continuing success have been the commitment, enthusiasm and hard work of our part-time staff and our 9 trustees, the support from our membership and our group of volunteers who donate their time so generously, financial contributions and support in kind from our business and Friends of OUR Park supporters and public sector partners. This has again resulted in good levels of fundraising and volunteering in 2019 which, in turn, has meant we have been able to achieve much through initiatives such as Friends of OUR Park visitor giving scheme, Make a Difference Days, our Young Friends programme, our events programme and in particular, the completion of the Lauder Monument improvement project at Invernaden and a successful 102nd anniversary event to commemorate the death of Cpt John Lauder in the First World War. We have also been able to financially support a large number of access, heritage, youth and conservation projects working with local groups and others throughout the National Park through the Friends of OUR park voluntary visitor giving scheme we operate with help of local businesses.

We continued to enjoy a good working relationship with the National Park Authority without compromising our independent views on key issues. We also greatly appreciated the National Park Authority's 'in kind' support through the provision of office space and sponsorship of Park news in our popular Voice magazine which was published twice this year.

2. Key Priorities

We continued to focus on making a difference for the benefit of people and nature and on activities that were complementary to the work of the National Park Authority and others. We contributed to a number of consultations including the draft Outdoor Recreation Plan and our major campaigning activities were aimed at raising awareness

of the growing litter problem in the National Park with the production of a five point action plan that secured a lot of media attention and contributed to the National Park Authority prioritising litter as an issue with the appointment of a Litter Prevention Manager. Our priorities and supporting actions are set out in simple strategy summary sheet which can be viewed on the Friends website.

We have worked hard in 2019 to try and take forward practical initiatives under all five themes identified in the strategy summary which are *Windows on the Park*; *Celebrating Cultural Heritage*; *Nature Conservation*; *Protecting the Park's Special Qualities* and *Young Friends*. This builds on the work undertaken in previous years but there has been a greater emphasis on delivering more youth initiatives and capitalising on the Scottish Government's special theme years to showcase the rich natural and cultural heritage of the National Park.

Campaigning to protect the National Park's special qualities remained as a high priority with monitoring and the submission of comments on a number of planning applications. Volunteering activity primarily through our successful Make a Difference Days was one of the highlights of the year.

3. Funding

We were unsuccessful with funding bids for badly needed eco transport initiatives on East Loch Lomondside and in the Trossachs but we had more success with Landfill Tax Funds and secured £10,000 to complete the final phase of improvements at the Lauder Memorial in Cowal which included the creation of a new car park, a path link, advance signing, interpretation and Monument restoration.

The donation posts at the Tom Weir site in Balmaha continued to generate steady income to cover the annual insurance cost and most of the annual site maintenance works which is topped up as required from the Friends of OUR park visitor giving scheme.

We continued to enjoy funding support from Scottish Enterprise for our eco-tourism initiative with £40,000 being provided over a two year period which is funding a part-time Project Officer post. The Project Officer is working closely with businesses to make more of the potential of the National Park and the Clyde Sea Lochs. Through the Friends of OUR park visitor giving scheme, with the help of local businesses, an encouraging £13,583 was raised in donations from visitors to support a range of projects throughout the National Park.

And finally, with generous donations businesses through the business supporters scheme and individual members linked to annual membership subscriptions, it has been possible to continue funding our core activities including retaining the services of a part-time Support Officer.

4. Protecting the Park's Special Qualities

(i) Planning

We have continued to monitor planning applications in and around the National Park and fortunately more developers are recognising the National Park is a special place with better quality and less contentious planning applications coming forward. This has also been helped by the success of the National Park Authority's pre-application process and the more participative local development plan and community 'charrette' consultation exercises which means there is more of a consensus around future planning for the area.

We made supportive representations on a number of planning applications which we considered would further the aims of the National Park and strengthen communities. This included the revised controversial plans for West Riverside which were eventually refused by the Park Authority resulting in the future of the large tract of reclaimed land between the centre of Balloch and Lomond Shores being thrown into doubt again. We were mostly supportive of small-scale tourism developments and housing schemes elsewhere in the National Park but we did lodge objections to a large scale housing development in Drymen that was subsequently approved and we successfully objected to a cluster of large holiday mansions and a functions building at Wards Estate next to the RSPB National Nature Reserve at the southern end of Loch Lomond which were refused by the National Park Authority and at a later public inquiry.

(ii) Your Park Camping Initiative

We generally remained supportive of the expanded camping byelaws which were aimed at tackling camping problems beside loch shores and providing camping zones for wild camping and formal camping facilities in several locations. We also continued to participate in the camping stakeholders group organised by the National Park Authority. The expanded byelaws came into force in 2017 and involved a massive investment of staff time and funding by the National Park Authority.

The new camping zones have been popular but it has led to some problems of littering and toileting in concentrated areas and demonstrated there is still a need to address more formal camping provision throughout the National Park and not just simply in the new management zones. We welcomed the investment by the Park Authority in new camp sites at Loch Chon and Loch Achray.

(iii) Pylon Visual Impact in the Park

During the past year some progress has been made with the VIEW and VISTA initiative being led by the major energy companies to explore and progress schemes to minimise the impact of pylon and related infrastructure in the National Park. In 2016 Scottish and Southern Energy and SP Energy Networks joined forces to employ landscape specialists LUC to review the visual impact of existing wirescape in the National Park and to work with local stakeholders to come forward with a series of costed measures to reduce the visual impact of pylon lines. The emerging proposals have helped shape funding bids to energy regulator OFGEM who are administering a £500 million fund that is available on a UK wide basis to mitigate or positively enhance the visual impact of pre-existing transmission infrastructure located in nationally designated landscapes, including National Parks and National Scenic Areas.

A successful bid was made for a £30 million scheme around Inveruglas to underground pylons and studies were progressed for other schemes of varying scale at Stronachlachar, Glen Dochart and West Loch Lomondside. A scheme being promoted by the Friends and HADAT in partnership with Luss Estates to open up Luss Glens for a new walking route was identified as a priority with detailed design work on options being progressed but sadly quite slowly. Any funds secured would be used to take stretches of the Three Lochs Way through the Luss Glens and onwards to Tarbet and Arrochar away from under pylon lines as part of a wider West Loch Lomond access initiative.

(iv) Litter Management

Our intensive campaign backed up by a 5 point action plan published in 2018 led to litter being identified as the number one priority of the National Park Authority and the appointment of a Litter Prevention Manager to try and improve the situation through more coordinated action by the various agencies across the National Park. Litter continues to be a major problem in visitor honeypot locations such as Luss, Balmaha and Callander, the arrangements for litter clearing at busy weekends was simply inadequate and it was evident services were being poorly coordinated and resourced by public agencies.

We continued to campaign for a better and more coordinated litter management regime alongside the busy A82 passing through the National Park where there are ongoing litter management problems due to the lack of litter bin provision. We simply don't understand why along the entire stretch of the A9 in the Cairngorms National Park litter bins are provided in every lay-by, while there are none in lay-bys along the A82 north of Balloch in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.

(v) Duck Bay Picnic Area

We regularly raised our concerns about the lack of toilets at this busy picnic area where visitors get their first glimpse of Loch Lomond. We joined forces with the Cawley family who own and manage the successful Duck Bay Hotel to mount a campaign to try and address the need to deliver public toilets at a site that attracts over 300,000 visitors per year. The site is owned by Argyll and Bute Council and we have consistently argued the Council and the Park Authority should join forces to improve visitor infrastructure at this site and if they are not willing to then let the Cawley Group step in to manage the site to a higher standard. The Cawley Group have offered to maintain the site and provide new state of the art toilets at their expense and to allow visitors to continue to have free access to the site and the improved facilities. Meanwhile the Council proposed to introduce parking charges with no commitment to improve site facilities at what should be a showcase site at the entrance to the National Park.

Providing Support for Projects

(i) Tom Weir's Rest, Balmaha

Following the successful public launch of the Tom Weir Statue in late December 2014 at Balmaha Bay we have continued to work closely with Sandy Fraser of the Oak Tree Inn to maintain the busy Tom Weir's Rest and Mountain Garden. This is a popular focal point in the village as well as a staging post on the West Highland Way long distance footpath.

Arrangements for managing the picnic area are now well established with most of the maintenance and statue insurance costs being covered by donations from visitors at three donation posts on site.

(i) Lauder Memorial and Viewpoint

We completed a phase 1 scheme to improve the main path to the badly neglected site at Invernoaden in Argyll Forest Park in 2016 and following this success a phase 2 scheme was developed to progress other improvements at this viewpoint and memorial. The memorial here was built to honour John Lauder, the son of famous Scots entertainer Harry Lauder who died in World War 1 on 28th December 1916, aged just 25.

We secured two landfill tax grants of £5,000 each and with some additional funds from the Friends of OUR park visitor giving scheme and volunteer input we progressed a scheme which involved cleaning the monument, repainting the extensive boundary

railings, installing story boards and creating a new path link and car park which was completed in time for a very successful rededication event on the 102nd anniversary of John Lauder's death. This event was well supported by the local community.

This project was supported by Forestry Commission Scotland, the local landowner, John Montgomery and the Community Council.

(ii) Pilot Eco Transport Services Bid

As a follow on from the Friends very successful eco-tourism initiative, an unsuccessful detailed funding bid was submitted to the SPEN Green Economy Fund to support local partners with the delivery of a £300,000 project that involved the introduction of two innovative eco bus and boat transport services in the Balmaha/Loch Lomond and in the Trossachs. The project was aimed at improving connectivity, testing alternative travel methods, reducing reliance on car-based transport and reducing carbon emissions.

The project made it through a stage 1 assessment process which resulted in 100 projects being whittled down to 40 but sadly, despite a huge amount of time and effort going into this bid, it didn't secure funding. The project was probably ahead of its time and no doubt will emerge in a different guise as part of a future review of visitor management pressures in the National Park.

(iii) Green Tourism and Friends of OUR Park Visitor Giving Scheme

During the year our successful eco-tourism project was successfully completed. Jared Bowers, our part-time Ecotourism Project Manager, ran this project which included boosting participation by businesses in the Friends of OUR park visitor giving scheme as well as stimulating interest in, and action by, the trade in ecotourism activities and the development of new ecotourism products to capitalise more on the special heritage qualities of the National Park and the Clyde Sea Lochs. In the latter part of the programme a series of well attended glamping seminars were organised and backed up by the production of an informative glamping advisory guide. This has led to the development of a number of glamping sites throughout the National Park.

During 2019 a sum of £13,583 was raised in donations from visitors via the visitor giving scheme to support 14 projects throughout the National Park. The number of businesses actively involved in the visitor voluntary donation scheme and associated 'Make a Difference' volunteering programmes to support conservation, heritage and access projects throughout the National Park has remained stable during the past year. Some of the focus has been on encouraging some of the existing businesses to become more actively involved in fundraising and releasing staff for the successful *Make a Difference* volunteering days.

The income raised from visitors donations was used to support the following projects: Callander Blues and Jazz Festival; Callander Summerfest; Cormonachan Woodlands Association path improvements; Ardroy Outdoor Education Trust fundraising appeal for a new bedroom block; Saltire Trust Loch Lomond Exhibition at Lomond Shores; Callander Youth Project storage building; support for volunteering events; Sir Walter Scott Trust for historic path reinstatement survey; green tourism glamping advisory brochure; and red squirrel interpretation at Balmaha.

An encouraging number of people from different walks of life are now involved in volunteering with the Friends and staff from a wider range of businesses took part in 'Make a Difference Days' organised on West Loch Lomondside, the Lauder Monument

site in Cowal and Loch Lubnaigside by our staff with support from the National Park Authority, Forest Holidays and Luss Estates. Tasks undertaken on these days included the removal of trees and bushes to open views of Loch Lomond, litter clearance and path repairs.

Promoting and Celebrating the National Park

We continued to produce the popular Voice magazine twice a year and have tried to keep the content relevant and topical to raise awareness of the special qualities of the Park, the Friends activities and current issues. As a result of a good level of advertising support and sponsorship it was possible to produce two editions of Voice with print runs of 5,000 copies. The magazine was widely distributed to members and others and we further strengthened the distribution of copies to visitors via a growing number of tourism businesses and other outlets throughout the National 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 made greater 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. We also continued to raise the profile of the Friends and used the media to good effect to highlight some of our work and a range of issues including litter and the Lauder Monument project and related rededication event.

We had a successful 'Meet the Friends' stand at Luss Highland Games in July. Our sunset cruise on Loch Lomond in August, which we organised with the Lennox Literary Society, was again well supported. The annual Christmas event hosted by Dr Joyce Deans at Ross Priory with the West of Scotland Military Wives Choir was also a great success.

Offices and Staffing

Following the departure of Andrew Galloway in 2018 we had a gap before we were able to recruit Marie Harvey to step in as part-time Support Officer. Marie split her time between the Community Partnership and the Friends. She did a sterling job for us for the best part of a year generally assisting the Chairman with the smooth running of the Friends and organising events and meetings. She stepped down in summer 2019 and was replaced by Carol Lloyd who joined us from Police Scotland at what was an important time as we stepped up the momentum with a number of projects and initiatives.

During the year our successful eco-tourism project was scaled back with Jared Bowers, our part-time Ecotourism Project Manager, completing the 30 month project with a series of successful and well attended glamping seminars. His role has been to focus more on stimulating interest in, and action by the trade in ecotourism activities and the development of new ecotourism products to capitalise more on the special heritage qualities of the National Park and the Clyde Sea Lochs.

Office hot desk and related costs were met by the National Park Authority as an 'in kind' contribution to the Friends. The support of the National Park Authority in providing office accommodation is greatly appreciated as this frees up some of our limited resources for priority activities.

I would like to place on record my thanks to Marie, Carol and Jared for all their efforts and hard work on behalf of the Friends during what has been another busy year.

Our Trustees and Thanks

There were two changes to our Board of Trustees at the 2018 AGM with the appointment of farmer and tourism operator Fergus Wood and Tarbet and Arrochar Community Development Trust Chair, Duncan MacLachlan who have proved to be great assets to the Friends.

A total of 5 bi-monthly meetings of the Trustees and 4 meetings of Sub-Committees were held courtesy of Strathclyde University at Ross Priory in 2019. We are grateful to the University for continuing to provide meeting space and refreshments free of charge via Trustee Joyce Deans who has been involved with the University for a number of years with a courtyard at Ross Priory named in her honour.

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.

We look forward to continuing to make a positive contribution working for the benefit of people and nature as the only truly independent conservation and heritage charity for the area covered by Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. 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 which has proved to be very productive as we strived to make a real difference.

James Fraser
Chairman

Financial Report and Accounts
Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs

	2019	2018
Income		
Membership	3,405	1,643
Donations /Appeals	618	1,641
Misc Donations	159	-
Business supporters	3,980	4,800
Voice Advertising	5,755	3,485
Project Funding:		
West Dunbartonshire Council	13,500	20,083
OUR Park Business Donations	13,583	14,565
Other grants	-	5,000
Events		
AGM	150	170
Christmas Event	743	433
Lauder Events	5,023	550
Other events	68	589
Loch Lomond Cruise	630	-
Merchandising	333	530
HMRC	-	-
Bank interest	66	26
Tom Weir Statue	2,239	2,741
Love Loch Lomond	-	-
<u>Income TOTAL</u>	<u>50,254</u>	<u>56,257</u>

Expenditure	2019	2018
Salaries and on-costs	8616	5,920
HMRC	-	-
Travel & Expenses	37	10
Office Costs	1,121	1,008
Voice	8,144	7,969
Projects:		
Friends of OUR park	8,847	8,090
Website Redevelopment	-	540
Ecotourism project	-	16,569
Lauder Project	1,237	15,209
Tom Weir Rest	-	3,042
Events		
AGM & awards	517	972
Christmas Event	535	467
Loch Lomond Cruise	50	680
Other events	170	309
Two Lochs Tour	-	-
Marketing	539	-
SCVO membership etc	753	533
Merchandise	156	-
<u>Expenditure TOTAL</u>	<u>30,722</u>	<u>61,348</u>
<u>Income TOTAL</u>	<u>50,254</u>	<u>56,256</u>
Net profit /deficit in year	19532	-5091
Cash reconciliation		
Balance brought forward	27,169	32,260
Net Excess/ deficit for year	19,532	-5,091
Cash in bank	46,701	27,169

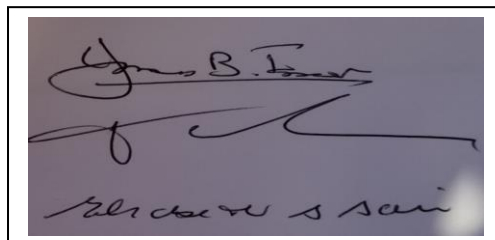
Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs
Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31st. December, 2019

	31/12/18	31/12/19
Current assets:		
Bank:		
Combined balance at year end	£27,169	£46,701
Capital:	£27,169	£46,701

James B Fraser (Chairman)

Tom Wallace (Treasurer)

E Bain (Independent Examiner)

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

12th February 2021

Notes/

Notes to the accounts

Year ended 31 December 2019

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 2019 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 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.

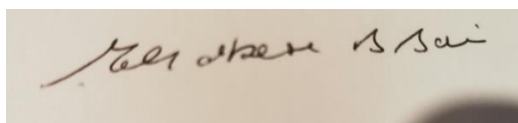
Basis of independent examiner's statement

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
12th February 2021