

FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

## ANNUAL REPORT

For the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

## FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

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## FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

Office Bearers etc.

Honorary Vice President

Sir Malcolm Colquhoun Bart.

Office Bearers

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

Executive Council

Dr. Joyce Deans CBE  
Mr. Jock Scott-Park  
Mr. Frank Bracewell (resigned June 2010)  
Mr. Iain Stuart  
Ms. Carron Tobin  
Ms. Rowena Ferguson  
Mr. Bill Dalrymple (co-opted August 2010)

Office

63 West Princes Street, Helensburgh G84 8BN.  
Tel. No: 01436 677733  
Email address: [info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](mailto:info@lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)  
Website: [www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk](http://www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk)

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland, Colquhoun Square, Helensburgh

Independent Examiner

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-second Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs will be held on board the SS Maid of The Loch, Balloch on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011, at 7.30pm, for the transacting of the following business:

1. Receive apologies for absence
2. Receive the Chairman's Report
3. Receive the Director's Report
4. Receive the Treasurer's Report and approve the Independently Examined Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2010
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 Bill Dalrymple to the Executive Council
9. Receive the President's Address
10. To transact any other competent business

By order of the Executive Council

On conclusion of the formal business of the AGM, we welcome Linda Mackay, new Convenor of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority and ask her to say a few words.

James Fraser  
Chair

## Chairman's report

It has been an interesting and challenging year for the Friends and I have enjoyed my first year as Chairman working with fellow trustees, staff, members, volunteers, our growing band of Business Supporters and key partners such as the National Park Authority, Scottish Enterprise and Scottish National Heritage. We have strived to build positive relationships with all our partners to further our aims and take forward a number of practical initiatives to protect, promote and provide for this very special part of Scotland which our President, Dr Hannah Stirling MBE has rightly described as a national treasure in a recent press article.

In last year's Annual Report Rowena Ferguson referred to the depletion of funds and the need to place the Friends on a more sustainable footing if we wish to continue to employ staff and be a sustainable and progressive force for the future. Consequently, a key focus in the past year has been to look at ways of generating more income streams linked to a review of our future priorities which we have now simplified and grouped under our three core strategic themes of protecting, providing for and promoting the area covered by the National Park.

We have achieved some notable successes with the introduction of a Business Supporters Scheme which continues to grow rapidly with many businesses and groups such as Callander Enterprise and the new Love Loch Lomond Destination Organisation signing up as they recognise their business success depends on protecting and promoting the special natural and scenic qualities of the area. With advertising support we have also managed to boost the print run, distribution and content of our magazine, The Voice which is now almost self-financing. Other fundraising initiatives in the pipeline include a golf charity event in June with the generous support from Cameron House Hotel & Resort and the Mouldsdale Foundation/Optical Express. This should help stabilise our funding base and release funds for our growing 'doing agenda'.

It has been a busy year for us on the 'protecting' front with appearances at gold mine, wind farm, Drymen housing and Local Plan hearings. This has been time consuming but with others we have achieved some notable successes including the rejection of a large scale wind farm close to the maritime gateway to the National Park in south Cowal and the development of the goldmine near Tyndrum with developers being sent away to come forward with a more environmentally sensitive solution for dealing with mine

waste. The first Park Local Plan review is on-going and we have made representations on housing and renewable energy issues while being supportive of most of the other policies in the extensive document that sets out the future planning framework for the Park.

We stepped up our promotional activities and the highlight of the year was two very successful Scottsland events in Callander we organised as part of the National Park led celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of Sir Walter Scott's epic poem 'Lady of the Lake' that was responsible for popularising the Trossachs area as Scotland's top tourist destination in Victorian times. Remarkably, our events caught the attention of the world's media and a Russian TV channel beamed extracts from one of the evenings to 100 million viewers. We also achieved national coverage for our stance on wind farm development and the goldmine in the national press.

With public sector budgets becoming tighter we have been turning our attention to where we can help make a difference in the Park and our pilot visitor donation scheme under 'Our Park' has begun to gather momentum with more business supporting the roll out of the scheme Park wide. This should start to generate significant income to support conservation, heritage and access projects and funding support from public sector partners has enabled us to strengthen staffing to develop this scheme further. As part of the scheme a number of successful volunteer litter clean ups have also been organised at high visitor pressure areas in the Park and more are planned in partnership with local groups and the Park Ranger Service.

We have lobbied Government Ministers on a number of issues and supported the National Park Authority's successful bid for funding for much needed pier repairs around Loch Lomond. It is encouraging to see an expansion and the re-establishment of some of the cruise and ferry services re-connecting parts of the lochside. On a less positive note we have expressed our displeasure at the loss of visitor orientation and interpretation facilities at the busy National Park Gateway and Luss Visitor Centres linked to the private sector franchising of these facilities by the Park Authority as part of their drive to reduce costs and generate income. We believe this could have been dealt with in a more constructive and satisfactory way as opposed to letting these facilities become catering outlets duplicating existing provision by well-established lochside businesses.

There have been some changes on our Board of Trustees with a stalwart of the Friends, Frank Bracewell stepping down after many years of dedicated service. We have been fortunate to recruit Bill Dalrymple, the former Chief Executive of the National Park Authority as a replacement to join of our group of knowledgeable and committed Board members who are working hard 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 as the jewel in Scotland's natural heritage and scenic crown.

We are now in a much stronger position to play a positive role to take forward our ambitious agenda as a strong independent voice for the Loch Lomond & Trossachs area and I wish to place on record my thanks to 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. It is clear everyone passionately cares about this very special place which augers well for the future despite the many challenges facing us collectively.

**James Fraser**

**Chairman**

## Director's report

With the installation of our new chairman at the last AGM and the expansion of the OUR park scheme, the charity moved into a new phase in which we developed much more active contacts with many more businesses across the National Park area. We expanded the scope of our magazine VOICE, with more decisive comment and featuring a wider range of articles. 2010 was also a year in which planning became a major focus of our work. Business membership expanded rapidly under the new Business Supporters' scheme; individual membership remained at the 2009 level, and generous additional donations were made by a number of Life members to help us devote more time to planning matters. We also started to develop a portfolio of project ideas including the 'traditional' infrastructure projects the FRIENDS had been much involved in in past years and new ideas to engage a wider public and younger generations. In 2010 we started to comment more in the press, not only to raise vital issues for the National Park and promote our programme, but also to acknowledge the generous support of our Business and public members through both the funds and the voluntary energy they contribute.

We are very grateful indeed for the loyal support provided by members of the charity through 2010, who are the absolute foundation of our work.

**OUR park:** 2010 saw extended negotiations with LEADER in the Eastern side of the Park, and at the end of the year we successfully achieved funding to take the scheme genuinely park-wide. This was possible thanks to the forward thinking and generous initial support of LEADER Argyll & the Islands in starting the scheme with support from the Park Authority, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Natural Heritage and West Dunbartonshire Council – resulting in an initial development and trialling of the scheme. The pilot phase completed in September 2010 with some 50 businesses 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. There are many other benefits accruing from the scheme. These include volunteer beach and Loch Lomond islands clean-ups, 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.

**Business Supporters' scheme:** The scheme developed through the second part of 2010, enabling businesses operating here to show that they value with us the wonderful natural setting of The Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, and through their membership fees at the three levels of £500, £250 and £100, to add their financial support to that of our public members and enable the broad scope of our work. A majority of our Business Supporters are also participants in the OUR park scheme.

**VOICE:** The autumn edition of our bi-annual magazine grew into a more outspoken VOICE for the National Park, and with more active comment on issues in the Park, limited advertising and more interest pieces such as the nature diary by Keith Graham that will be a continuing feature. During 2010 we also built up a wider distribution network for an increased print run (x 3+) of the magazine including through our business supporters and OUR park participating companies.

**Press:** After limited activity in 2009, we stepped up media activity in the second half of the year, raising issues of concern and our efforts to address them such as the potentially damaging wind farm policies in the draft finalised Local Plan, the state of the Loch Lomond Islands, and to spread the good news of generous business supporters coming on board to support our work for Loch Lomond and The Trossachs. We resisted the temptation to get into extended 'tit for tat' arguments in the press over issues such as the proposed Connonish gold mine, though others were certainly happy to play that game.

**Planning:** Planning issues formed a significant part of our work with detailed responses both to the draft local plan for the National Park – the major issues for us were renewables (wind farms), housing and the 'local need/in perpetuity' policies, and our objection to the gold mine proposal near Tyndrum. The local plan is now being examined by Scottish Government reporters; the 2010 gold mine proposal was refused permission. An appeal was lodged (withdrawn in 2011 with revised plans likely to be re-submitted in the summer of 2011).

Throughout 2010, our relationship with the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority grew and remained of vital importance: with them we had influence on issues within the Park, we received generous support from them for the OUR park scheme in particular, and from our entirely independent position we both supported and challenged, in a positive way, some of their decisions.

**Simon Lewis**

**Director**

**W.M.HASSALL**  
Accountant

121, West Clyde Street,  
Helensburgh, G84 8ET

01436 670544

E [wmhassall@btinternet.com](mailto:wmhassall@btinternet.com)

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

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>ST</sup>, December, 2010 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.

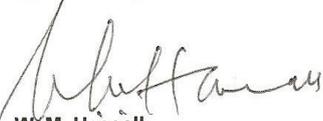
**Basis of independent examiner's statement.**

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 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.



**W. M. Hassall**  
Accountant.

121, West Clyde Street, Helensburgh, G84 8ET

7<sup>th</sup>. May, 2011

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	£	£
Subscriptions	3,332	3,473
Donations	11,780	2,811
Income Tax Recovered		137
Investment Income	280	2,110
Bank Interest	27	37
Project - Our Park	2,250	-
Project match funding - Guide Book	-	3,000
Project match funding – OUR park	25,502	29,247
Donations Our Park	894	-
Proceeds from sales of investments	9,279	23,729
Grant income	10,478	5,211
Voice Advertising	650	-
Trading	671	1,225
Business Members	1,730	
Fund Raising Events	350	850
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>67,223</b>	<b>71,830</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
<b>Core costs</b>		
Consultancy Fees	-	9,750
Wages & salaries	22,901	10,220
Recruitment costs	-	775
Travelling Expenses	729	622
	23,630	21,367
<b>Overheads</b>		
Office expenses - Cleaning	-	30
Office expenses - Heat & light	381	231
Office expenses - Repairs	-	213
Office expenses - Water rates	486	279
Office expenses - Other	75	156
Office expenses - Travel	222	
Telecoms & data	413	668
Insurance	1,400	1,272
Licences and fees	-	70
Stationery	235	389
Subscriptions	150	125
Sundries	36	
	3,398	3,433

**Membership & Marketing**

Events	6,808	551
Printing - the Voice	7,487	1,220
Postage - the Voice	373	503
NPA Guide Book	-	5,000
Show attendance	-	49
Membership campaign	-	1,554
New Media	225	
Printing - other	-	1,034
Postage - other	263	84
	15,156	9,995

**Planning & campaigning**

Website development	2,410	6,364
Amenity and conservation costs	-	0
	2,410	6,364

**Conservation**

Archaeological Advice	-	98
Our Park Project T & C Salaries	24,163	17,602
Our Park Project Travel	1,083	434
Our Park Project Marketing	500	58
Our Park Project Outgoing Donations	500	-
Our Park Project Recruitment	-	895
Our Park Project Capital	-	330
Our Park Project Study tour	-	1,250
	26,246	20,667

**Total costs** **70,840** **61,826**

**Surplus/(Deficit)** **(3,617)** **10,004**

# Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs

## Balance Sheet

As at 31st December 2010

	£
<b>Cash Funds:</b>	
Cash and bank balances at start of the year	5,574
Deficit per receipts and payments account	(3,617)
Receipts from realisation of investments	39,628
Cash and bank balances at the end of the year	41,585
Investments:-	nil
<b>Other Assets:</b>	
Office Property	25,000
<b>NETT ASSETS</b>	<b>66,585</b>

All funds and assets are unrestricted

**James B Fraser (Chairman)**

**George F Boyd (Treasurer)**

**WM Hassall (Independent Examiner)**

**9 May 2011**

Notes to the accounts  
Year ended 31 December 2010

**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 2010 there was no outstanding capital expenditure approved or committed.

All the Charities funds are unrestricted