FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

England & Wales · Charity number 1100759

Details

Other names	FLD
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04878364
Registered	2003-11-18
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Friends of the Lake District Murley Moss Business Park Oxenholme Road Kendal LA9 7SS
Phone	01539720788
Email	info@fld.org.uk
Website	www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk

Activities

Objects: A) TO PROMOTE AND ORGANISE CONCERTED ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF THE LANDSCAPE AND NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE LAKE DISTRICT AND THE COUNTY OF CUMBRIA AS A WHOLE;B) TO CO-OPERATE WITH OTHER BODIES HAVING SIMILAR OBJECTS OR INTERESTS, PROVIDED THAT IN FURTHERANCE OF THE COMPANY'S OBJECTS THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY FROM TIME TO TIME TAKE ACTION CONCERNING AREAS NEAR BUT OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE COUNTY OF CUMBRIA.

Activities: FLD strives to protect and enhance the landscape and natural beauty of Cumbria and the Lake District by working to influence relevant decision-makers and policy processes, initiating and participating in landscape-orientated projects, making grants to local projects and co-operating with other bodies having similar objectives or interests.

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Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CUMBRIA AND SURROUNDING AREAS
- Cumbria

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,681,820	£1,182,428	£7,232,526	21
2024-03-31	£1,287,200	£1,510,940	£5,444,629	23
2022-12-31	£1,581,793	£997,860	£5,645,890	19
2021-12-31	£1,595,840	£901,917	£5,470,020	18
2020-12-31	£1,025,527	£854,833	£4,513,663	18

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Felton		2018-09-18
Fiona Sanders		2023-02-13
Helen Catherine Howe		2025-09-20
Janette Nicholls		2024-09-13
John William Whittle		2025-09-20
Lucy Hetherington		2019-06-15
Malcolm Boswell		2023-02-13
Neil Greenhalgh		2024-09-13
Robin David Forrest		2021-07-02

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FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1100759

Accounts

Charity registration number 1100759 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 04878364

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	David Felton	
	Lucy Hetherington	
	Robin Forrest	
	Malcom Boswell	
	Robert McCracken	
	Fiona Sanders	
	Anthony Vaux	
	Janette Nicholls	(Appointed 13 September 2024)
	Neil Greenhalgh	(Appointed 13 September 2024)
	Laura Doan	(Resigned 13 September 2024)
Secretary	Linda McGinley	(Appointed 11 February 2025)
	Stuart Clayton	(Resigned 11 February 2025)
Senior management	Michael Hill	Chief Executive Officer
	Stuart Clayton	Head of Finance and Operations
	Lorayne Wall	Head of Policy and Planning
	Jeremy Smith	Head of Campaigns and Engagement
Charity number (England and Wales)	1100759	
Company number	04878364	
Registered office	Murley Moss Oxenholme Road Kendal Cumbria LA9 7SS	
Auditor	Lamont Pridmore 136 Highgate Kendal Cumbria LA9 4HW	
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4TA	
	National Westminster Bank 10 Elephant Yard Kendal Cumbria LA9 4LZ	
	Co-operative Bank Delf House Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Solicitors

Burnetts
Victoria House
Wavell Drive
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA1 2ST

Investment advisors

Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management Ltd
Talisman House
Boardmans Way
Blackpool
FY4 5FY

RBC Brewin Dolphin
1 Mason Court
Gillan Way
40 Business Park
Penrith
Cumbria
CA11 9GR

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4ET

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

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FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Welcome to this year's Trustee Report, within which you will find lots of information about our achievements over the last twelve months. I would like to highlight a few to demonstrate the range of activities delivered by the team. The need to challenge, including by way of Judicial Review, the decision to approve a zip wire attraction in Elterwater and the efforts to prevent the development of a large-scale holiday park at Roanhead on the Furness coast, demonstrates that the protection of tranquillity, areas of outstanding natural beauty and the Lake District's UNESCO status should not be taken for granted.

In addition to pursuing these high-profile cases, the team continues to make a significant contribution to achieving our aims by challenging inappropriate development, making recommendations which reduce the adverse impact of planning applications and contributing to the strategic Development Plan for the National Park and our two County Councils. We recognise the needs of our communities and those who live and work within the Lake District, and in keeping with the aims of those who created Friends in 1934, we continue to argue for appropriate affordable housing, in keeping with the surroundings and now also argue for environmentally sustainable housing.

The appeal of the Lake District is a very personal thing. The millions of individuals who access the Park have different priorities and enjoy different things. We are rightly proud of the work delivered by our staff across a wide range of subjects and activities. They help ensure that what makes the Lake District so uniquely appealing is maintained for the benefit of all. Their management of the land we own across Cumbria provides access to those who wish to enjoy it, promotes sustainable and environmentally friendly farming, and improves biodiversity. The project to extend our land at Dam Mire in Threlkeld, which began last year but is still on-going, is a great example of what can be achieved with a relatively small area of land. It is particularly pleasing to see the work being done to engage with the local community, giving children from the local school the chance to appreciate and work with nature.

There is a conflict between the desire to make the Lake District accessible to all and the need to protect the very things which make it so special. Tourism plays a vital role in supporting local economies, but we need to understand the impact it can have on local communities and the landscape, which ultimately can undermine the visitor experience. We are proud of the fact that we commissioned the report "Who Pays for the Lake District". The report has kick-started the debate over how we might fund things such as increased access to public transport, repairing the damage caused by inconsiderate visitors, and footpath maintenance. It has also triggered the discussion around how the problems associated with visitor numbers and private vehicle journeys might be managed through the introduction of the types of visitor levies used across the world in areas experiencing similar pressures. One thing is certain, funding to the National Park and Local Authorities will not be exempt from wider cutbacks in public spending.

It is good practice to question the relevance of a charitable organisation. Given the challenges facing Cumbria and the Lake District (I have not even mentioned the need to clean up our waterways, lakes and the sea or the threat of pylons being reintroduced), I hope that you will agree with me in concluding that Friends is increasingly relevant. In terms of the future, due to the judicious management of our finances, we are a financially resilient charity. This means not only are we able to secure the continued day-to-day running of the organisation, but we are also able to act to protect the landscape by securing the ownership of threatened land and putting into practice what we advocate.

It is important to recognise that in the financial year 2024-25 trustees took the decision to re-value the fixed assets (land and property) including the land at Dam Mire which we purchased in that year. Whilst this has made a significant positive difference to our balance sheet, we view our portfolio of land as a protected asset; an asset which is unlikely to ever materialise as cash given the contribution it makes to one of our key strategic aims: Nature Friendly Farming and Communities and wider access to the countryside. We have also re-positioned our financial investments to move away from capital growth to a focus on financial yield. The return generated by our investments brings a much-needed income stream into our annual budget, mitigating our over-reliance on income from other sources.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

I would like to close with a few notes of thanks. Firstly, to my predecessor Dave Felton, who led the Board with great passion, energy and commitment to our cause. He did a sterling job of Chairing the board of trustees for two years. Since I took over as Chair in December 2024, I have been ably supported by Vice-Chair Lucy Hetherington, Treasurer Robin Forrest, and my team of fellow trustees, all of whom give many unpaid hours to the charity ensuring that we deliver the aims of the organisation and meet the governance and regulatory compliance obligations placed upon us; I would like to thank them all. Thanks also to every member of staff, under CEO Mike Hill's leadership, for your expertise, dedication and passion, which underpins everything we do.

None of this would be possible of course, without our generous members and a huge team of volunteers, without whom we would be less able to protect the Lake District and Cumbria, preserving their outstanding natural beauty for generations to come. Thank you.

.....

Malcolm Boswell
Chair

Date: 1-8-25

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who are serving at the date of this report, are set out at the start of this report.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

Friends of the Lake District continues to have the following Objects:

- to promote and organise concerted action for the protection and conservation of the Landscape and natural beauty of the Lake District and the County of Cumbria as a whole.
- to co-operate with other bodies having similar objectives or interests.

Our Vision:

Thriving Cumbrian landscapes – for nature, for people, for ever.

Our Mission:

We campaign for landscapes that are tranquil, rich in cultural heritage and environmentally healthy. We inspire and mobilise people to work in partnership with us to protect and enhance these landscapes for generations to come. We lead by example in demonstrating sustainability and conservation on the land that we look after.

Our Values:

We are Impactful - we are committed to ensuring that what we are doing is making a real difference both to the landscapes of Cumbria, and to the lives of the people who live, work and visit here. We take time to reflect on our work, admitting and learning from our mistakes so we can become more effective.

We are Collaborative - we know that teamwork and partnership working are essential, and we foster good working relationships within our own charity and with other organisations. We collaborate in order to empower communities to take action.

We are Expert - we draw on our expertise to make the case for protecting and enhancing Cumbrian landscapes, and we are generous about how we share it.

We are Positive - we work with enthusiasm and passion for what we do and inspire others to do the same. We take pride in what we do and celebrate our successes as a team, recognising the efforts made by staff, trustees, volunteers, members and donors in order to deliver results.

We are Caring - we look out for each other and encourage one another to maintain a healthy work life balance. We recognise the positive effects that being out in the landscape provide and encourage everyone to understand and enjoy this wonderful resource. We are inclusive and actively seek opportunities to widen diversity among the people involved in our charity.

2024 – 2027 Strategic Direction:

Friends of the Lake District has 5 Strategic Landscape Themes which provide a framework for our work in the period 2024-2027:

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

We support good planning practice that enhances landscape character, and we challenge inappropriate development that degrades landscapes, harms tranquillity and/or undermines transition to net zero.

OBJECTIVES

- We will provide a robust response to inappropriate development proposals.
- We will contribute to and influence the formulation of legislation, policy and plans affecting the Cumbrian landscape, with our own positive vision of the future.
- We will build on our reputation for planning and policy expertise, developing new ways to share our knowledge and lead thinking.
- We will engage, empower and support members, communities and other relevant groups to influence policies, proposals and decisions of public bodies.

BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE

We work for the protection and enhancement of ecosystems within the Cumbrian landscapes for the benefit of people and nature; we recognise the challenge of climate change in all that we do.

OBJECTIVES

- We will work towards an enhanced landscape and biodiverse, climate-resilient habitats through partnerships, volunteer action and the influencing of landowners.
- Across our land portfolio we will deliver and showcase management practices that increase biodiversity, carbon sequestration and flood resilience.
- We will campaign for policy change, decision-making, enforcement, and subsidy frameworks that support landscape, the move towards net zero, and habitat enhancement/resilience.
- Through in-person and virtual engagement with local people, members, visitors, and public authorities we will increase awareness of the importance of biodiverse landscapes, and dark skies.
- Over the life of the strategy Friends will develop and initiate a plan to meet a credible 'net zero' target for our operations, and we will encourage others to do the same.

WATER

We will work to ensure healthy water in Cumbria which benefits natural beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage and communities, and promote the tranquil appreciation of it.

OBJECTIVES

- Working with partners and volunteers, we will research water quality across several targeted catchments beyond Windermere, and we will campaign for regulatory and infrastructure action to improve it.
- By influencing planning and policy frameworks we will push for measures that decrease water consumption, reduce pollution, promote re-naturalisation, and address the risk of flooding and drought.
- Through engagement and education we will raise awareness of ways we can all affect the health of our bodies of water.
- We will promote quiet recreation on and in Cumbria's water, and appreciation of its value for natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.

NATURE-FRIENDLY FARMING & COMMUNITY

We support resilient Cumbrian communities and their connections to the landscape, and we champion nature-friendly farming for its biodiversity, cultural and climate benefits.

OBJECTIVES

- We will campaign for a well-implemented system of rural payments that recognises the full range of public benefits potentially generated by farming – including food security, cultural heritage, biodiversity, access, and climate resilience.
- Through management of our own land holdings, partnerships with others and public engagement we will increase awareness of best practices in nature-friendly farming.
- We will champion the continuity of traditional rural skills, including training in dry stone walling and hedge laying.
- We will campaign for measures to address the inaccessibility of affordable housing to people who live and work within Cumbria in ways which avoid harm to the landscape.
- We will promote an understanding of the Cumbrian landscapes, with a particular focus on schools, young people and under-represented communities.
- We will advocate for the multiple benefits of common land, and for their importance to be fully recognised.

VISITS, ACCESS & TRANSPORT

We campaign to reduce the damage done by some forms of tourism, and for people to be able to travel sustainably to and within the Cumbrian landscape, without harming its natural beauty and tranquillity.

OBJECTIVES

- We will research, then campaign for, models of 'visitor levy' that support thriving communities and benefit the landscape.
- Through engagement and communication, we will increase awareness of the impact of motor vehicles on tranquillity, landscape character and visitor experience.
- We will campaign for an extended, integrated and affordable public transport system; for 'active travel' opportunities on joined-up cycle networks; and for improvements to footpaths.
- We will champion access to the landscape by demonstrating best practice on our land, engaging people through physical signage and digital experiences.
- We will fight restrictions where access rights are unjustifiably compromised.

Public benefit

The Trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance in preparing this statement of public benefit. The protection and enhancement of the landscape of Cumbria and the Lake District is recognised as a charitable purpose and is regarded as producing a public good. Friends of the Lake District exists to promote and organise concerted action for the protection and conservation of the landscape and natural beauty of the Lake District and the County of Cumbria as a whole and therefore provide a clear public benefit.

Achievements and performance

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Our campaigning focus has been to prevent the proposed development of a 'Zipworld' adventure attraction at Elterwater Quarry. We organised a rally at Elterwater in the spring of 2024, then spoke at the planning committee, where the plans were narrowly approved in April. Following this, we requested a judicial review of the decision, which was granted by the High Court. The hearing took place in April 2025, and at the time of writing we await the verdict.

In our work to combat light pollution we continued to raise the profile of the Cumbria Good Lighting Technical Advice Note, responding to several applications where conflicts with the TAN were key concerns. Whilst some have resulted in disappointing outcomes, LDNPA Planning Committee in particular are taking a firm line on this.

In liaison with Grasmere Village Society and Lakes Parish Council, we successfully challenged plans for excessive and insensitive signage and lighting by the Wordsworth Trust at their site at Townend, Grasmere. The Trust responded positively to our concerns, getting in touch directly several times to share new iterations of their plans. The final plans were dramatically scaled back with all lighting removed.

We worked with members of the community and Friends of the Dales to successfully challenge proposals for a 'zoo-type' visitor attraction in the YDNP, at a site that was also highly visible from the LDNP.

Responses have been made to a number of other applications, with a notable uptick in solar proposals and associated battery storage. Decisions are still awaited on Ullock Moss, the luge track and Roanhead proposals. Additionally, several responses were made to consultations on local and national planning policy or legislation, including the Planning Reform White paper, changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and consultation on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan.

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE

We completed the purchase of the adjacent field to our land at Dam Mire Wood and are working up plans for a network of ponds and some additional tree planting to increase biodiversity, slow the flow of water and absorb carbon. We are working on a project with Plantlife to make our Atlantic rainforest woodlands in the Rusland Valley more robust and resilient to future changes. We now own and manage over 600ha of land, all of it delivering for the landscape, people, nature and climate.

WATER

Our work on water during this year has centred on Crummock Water and Overwater, where United Utilities plan to remove dam infrastructure, lowering water levels significantly. Our normal stance would be to support re-naturalisation of water bodies through the removal of man-made infrastructure – but having consulted widely with local communities we understand there is concern about the visual impact and other factors. We continue to monitor the proposals and will submit a response when they go through the planning process.

Responses were made on consultations relating to reform of the Bathing Waters regulations, the framework/content for the United Utilities business plan, guidelines for drought plans, Cumbria River Basins Management Plans and the Independent Water Commission's Call for Evidence.

We have also shown strong support for the *Save Windermere* campaign during 24/25, joining several rallies and showing solidarity with Matt Staniek at his weekly vigils.

NATURE-FRIENDLY FARMING AND COMMUNITY

During 24/25 we wrote several times to the DEFRA Secretary of State, asking him to maintain funding levels for agri-environment schemes aimed at encouraging nature-friendly farming. We have also lobbied Cumbrian MPs on this issue. Most of the grants remain in place at the time of writing, but the application process remains over-complex, particularly for hard-pressed upland farmers.

Along with our annual dry stone walling and hedge laying competitions in 24/25 we ran several pilots of a nature recovery project which will launch in the 25/26 financial year. Called Hedges and Edges, the work is aimed at planting or restoring dozens of miles of hedgerows across Cumbria, to boost wildlife, combat climate change, slow the flow of water, and enhance the landscape. We will deliver this project in partnership with the Cumbria Wildlife Trust and other organisations.

We continue to make responses where needed to proposals for fencing and other structures/plans on common land.

VISITS, ACCESS, TRANSPORT

In October 2024 we published a major piece of research entitled *Who Pays For The Lake District?* Intended to stimulate a discussion about the concept of a visitor levy, the report looked at the 'invisible burdens' of mass tourism in the Lakes, and featured examples of tourist destinations around the world where visitor levies have been introduced. It generated huge media interest, including from BBC TV and radio, ITV, and newspapers.

In 24/25 and 25/26 we have taken the decision to increase our support for the work of Fix the Fells, using money from our restricted funds. Friends of the Lake District was a founding partner in this project, which is aimed at improving access and reducing erosion.

Our *'Leave No Trace'* campaign made a big impact in the press, particularly through the creative angle we took, stressing that *'there are no litter fairies in the Lake District'*.

CROSS-CUTTING CAMPAIGNS AND ADVOCACY

Ahead of the General Election in July 2024 we wrote a Manifesto for Cumbrian Landscapes, designed to influence political opinion on all our themes, with a focus on Nature, Housing, Visitor Levy, Water, Climate, and Farming. We also organised a Hustings event in Ambleside, attended by several parliamentary candidates, hundreds of members and supporters, and members of the press.

In October 2024 we held our annual Kirby Lecture at the University of Cumbria, on the theme *'Lake District 2051 – what will the National Park be like when it's 100?'.* Chaired by Dame Fiona Reynolds, a distinguished panel discussed the future of the national park landscapes from the perspectives of farming, tourism, and community.

Following years of steady decline in membership numbers (mirroring a general trend across the charity sector), we have seen membership numbers stabilise and start to grow again in the 24/25 financial year. This is testament to the efforts of the whole team, who have made the brand more prominent through campaigning and communication activity.

Part of that is down to the evolution of our in-house magazine - Conserving Lakeland. Throughout 24/25 we have slowly introduced a new editorial style, fresh design elements, and more images.

And no review of the year would be complete without a brief mention of our 90th birthday celebrations. 2024 saw us hit this milestone, which we marked at several points throughout the year including the AGM, where there was a special cake (in true Friends style!).

STRATEGIC REVIEW

The year covered by this report (April 2024 - March 2025) represents the first year of a new strategic direction for Friends of the Lake District. The biggest consultation exercise ever undertaken sought views from thousands of members, supporters, staff, trustees, and the public, resulting in the development of the 5 Strategic Landscape Themes listed above. The distinct themes and associated objectives give the charity focus and will enable us to have more impact. New Vision and Mission statements were developed (see above) to ensure the charity has a unifying sense of direction and purpose.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To help us deliver the new strategic objectives, we undertook a wide-ranging review of the charity's structures, processes, and culture. This financial year saw a complete re-organisation of the team with extra resource targeted at Planning, Fundraising, Campaigning, Leadership, and Engagement. To complement the Strategic Landscape Themes, we also developed internal strategic plans for Membership, Fundraising, and Communications, commissioned a new Customer Relations Management system to handle all our contacts with members and stakeholders, and started work to evolve the organisational culture of the charity.

FUNDRAISING PRACTICES

Membership
In 2024/25 we delivered a mixture of in person and virtual membership engagement activities, a well-attended 90th birthday Annual General Meeting and a sell-out Kirby lecture.

We published four editions of our membership magazine Conserving Lakeland. We also sent monthly Postcard from the Lakes e-newsletters to members and supporters.

In this year, we welcomed 153 new members and introduced a new membership strategy.

Fundraising
We ran appeals last year to raise funds for our Fighting Fund – Elterwater, Nature Recovery programme and Dam Mire development. 149 walkers and 9 dogs took part in the annual Morecambe Bay Crossing in 2024. Legacy income and general donations continues to be incredibly important enabling us to deliver our charitable activities, plan for the future and hold an acceptable level of reserves to purchase at risk land/property.

Merchandise
Along with Christmas cards and calendars, sales of our notecards, tea towels, landscape gifts and art prints generated £23,193.

Digital evolution
We understand the importance of maintaining traditional methods of working whilst also recognising the ever-evolving digital world we all live in. This year we built on the work carried out in the previous year to begin our due diligence on the purchase of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system which will help us streamline our supporter experience and general administration.

Thank you

Thank you to our members, supporters and partner organisations for all their support during the last twelve months. From generous donations to the hard work of our volunteers, we are grateful for all the contributions that we've received to help us protect and enhance Cumbrian landscapes.

We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to those who left a gift to Friends of the Lake District in their will:

Eileen Barton, Gordon Biddle, Joan Wendy Blundell, Margaret Ann Bousfield, Sheila Brandon, Sylvia Brockbank, Mark Cook, Audrey Dawson, Ellen Ann Dougherty, Rosamund Jill Euden, Gillian Featonby, Eileen Francis, Margaret Gaffney, Patricia Grenfell, Judith Helling, Betty Hinchliffe, David Hitchen, Joy Hutchings, Paul Edward Langley, Rita Langman, John Latcham, Grahaeme Lauder, John Laycock, Donald Margerison, Mabel Shirley Markham, Muriel Metcalfe, Gloria Pamela Muchowski, J Norrington, Barbara Peel, Ashley Pugh, Geoffrey Richardson, Brian Saunders, Pat Schwarzenbach, Margaret Elizabeth Taylor, Michael Thurman, William Willfred Pigot Wood, and Nancy Woof.

Leaving a lasting legacy is a wonderful way to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the tranquillity and beauty of these special places. If you'd like to know more about leaving a legacy, please contact anne-marie@fld.org.uk.

We'd also like to thank and honour donations made in the memory of:

Derek Arnold, Jean Mary Cope, John Harry Cousins, David Cutforth, Aileen Goodall, James Barry Haddow, Tricia and Tony Rees, Trevor Shaw, Robert Somervell Jr and Sr, John Malcolm Wallace and David Woodhead.

And finally, we'd like to thank our benefactors for their continued support:

John Berry, James Brockbank and Louise Ronane, John Campbell, Richard Coates, Philip Cropper, Margaret Haigh, John Harris, Peter Hughes KC, John and Margaret Jackson, Brian Leigh-Bramwell, Rosamund Macfarlane, Matt and Taysia Malone, Jim and Sue Martin and Elizabeth Reddaway.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Consolidated financial figures from the 2024/5 Accounts:

Total income £1,681,820

Voluntary Income – (Legacies, Donations and Subscriptions) £1,406,435

Charitable Activities £22,008

Trading Activities £23,193

Investments £105,184

Land donated £125,000

Total expenditure £1,182,428

Generating Voluntary Income (Inc. Membership) £212,466

Charitable Activities £940,704

Trading Activities £6,000

Investment Management Costs £14,407

Other expenditure £8,851

Total Funds/Net Assets at 31 March 2025 Total £7,232,526

Tangible Fixed Assets (including properties) £3,177,490

Investments £2,660,714

Net Current Assets £1,394,322

Funds by restriction

Unrestricted £3,828,311

Designated (including Tangible fixed assets) £2,871,379

Restricted £107,665

Permanent Endowment £425,171

Going concern

In line with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Acts of 2006 and 2011, as a result of our evidence assessment and levels of reserves, as laid out in this Annual Report, the Trustees conclude the charity is a going concern and there are no material uncertainties relating to its going concern status. The financial statements have been prepared on a 'going concern' basis.

Reserves policy

The Charity needs reserves in order that;

- it can provide working capital when funding is paid in arrears;
- it can meet the costs of new campaigns, unforeseen emergencies and/or other unexpected needs for funds, including employing temporary staff to cover long-term sick absence;
- it protects against unpredictable legacy income, in order to provide a stable and quality service to fulfil its objectives;
- it can acquire strategic land holdings, should they become available; and
- It can purchase land which may be at threat of inappropriate development;
- it can meet contractual obligations should the charity have to close.

In 2024/5, the Board maintained reserves for the following purposes:

- a designated fund for working capital;
- a designated fund for contingencies –including provision to address the ongoing financial impact of inflationary pressures;
- The purchase of land under threat of inappropriate development.

The calculation of free reserves is based on the definition included in the charity statement of recommended practice (SORP), which provides recommendations for accounting and reporting for charities. The trustees have examined the requirements of the charity to hold free reserves - those reserves not invested in tangible fixed assets, excluding long term liabilities, designated for a particular purpose. The Trustees considered it would be appropriate to hold the equivalent of six to nine months of operating expenditure (up to a maximum of 12 months), which would equate to holding approximately £600,000 to £900,000 in free reserves.

At the year end, free reserves were £650,821 (2024: £458,212), an increase of £192,609 in the year.

Endowment funds: Our Endowment funds are managed separately from the other assets of the charity by Brewin Dolphin. The two **Kirby Endowment Funds** are: 1) **Amenity Fund**, the income from which is restricted for use in our charitable activities and policy work; and 2) **General Fund**, income from which is unrestricted but used to support all aspects of our work including the annual Kirby Lecture. The other endowment fund is the **Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund**. The income from the Margaret Taylor Memorial fund is not restricted and is also used to support our wider work.

Property Assets

The charity owns a portfolio of land and a property, which are maintained by the charity in furtherance of its charitable objects. Details of all our properties can be found on our website: Our Land / Friends of the Lake District

In the year, Trustees took the decision to revalue the land and property owned by the charity. Whilst this has increased the tangible fixed assets from £1,604,473 to £3,177,490 the charity views the land as a protected asset; an asset which is unlikely to ever materialise due to the reasons why the charity acquired the land – to protect and preserve.

Investment policy

The Articles of Association of the charitable company permit the Board wide powers of investment. The investment policy for the charity changed in recent times. Fund managers are now asked to at least maintain the capital position and focus on fund performance targets, the income/capital harvest is then used to support the ongoing costs of the charity.

Plans for future periods

Friends of the Lake District has 5 Strategic Landscape Themes which provide a framework for our work in the period 2024-2027, as outlined earlier:

- Planning & Development
- Biodiversity & Climate
- Water
- Nature-friendly Farming & Community
- Visits, Access & Transport

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a membership organisation governed by its Articles of Association dated 16 June 2003, updated and approved at the AGM in May 2014, and was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 27 August 2003.

The previous, unincorporated, charity of the same name was founded in 1934.

The new Charities Act 2022 received Royal Assent in early 2022, and the first tranche of provisions came into effect at end of October 2022. There were no immediate implications for our working practices during 2024-25 and the Trustees remained aware of provisions being introduced in 2024-25 and any implications these might have.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The Board, whose members carry the responsibilities of directors with trustee responsibilities, is the main governing body of the Charitable Company. Trustees are elected by the members at the AGM in accordance with the Articles of Association which provides for a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 18 members on the Board.

New Trustees are supported in the induction process by the Chair of the Board and Company Secretary and are usually elected after a period of co-option. This induction process includes sessions with the staff and an introduction to the Charity. Newly inducted Trustees reported high levels of satisfaction with the induction programme.

Trustees agree a Code of Governance which is reviewed and adopted after each AGM. In compliance with the Code of Governance, a self-assessment of effectiveness and efficiency was conducted during the year. The option of remote attendance at Board and subcommittee meetings will be maintained, as required, although face-to-face attendance is encouraged.

Strategy and governance functions of the trustee Board are monitored as part of trustee meetings, with regular agenda items that include: the strategic direction of the organisation; proper arrangements relating to effective governance of the Friends of the Lake District; risk management; the nomination of candidates for appointment as trustees; and that appropriate systems exist for the induction and training of trustees. In addition to this, a Governance Committee was set up in January 2025. Its purpose is to oversee FLD's governance framework on behalf of the trustee board and make recommendations as appropriate.

Organisational structure
Who we are - from April 2024 to March 2025

President

Position Vacant

Vice President

Position vacant

Emeritus President

Sir Martin Holdgate

Trustees

Malcolm Boswell	Chair
Lucy Hetherington	Vice Chair
Robin Forrest	Treasurer
David Felton	
Robert McCracken KC	
Fiona Sanders	
Tony Vaux	
Janette Nicholls (Appointed 13 September 2024)	
Neil Greenhalgh (Appointed 13 September 2024)	

Staff (Full and Part time)

Michael Hill (Chief Executive Officer)

Linda McGinley (Company Secretary)

Land

Jan Darrall (Policy Officer - Land)

Planning and Policy

Lorayne Woodend Wall (Head of Planning and Policy)
Amanda McCleery (Policy Officer)
Kate Willshaw (Policy Officer)
Leanne Parr (Planning Officer)
Jack Ellerby (Project Officer)

Campaigns and Engagement

Jeremy Smith (Head of Campaigns & Engagement)
Kay Andrews (Engagement Lead)
Helen Howe (Membership and Volunteer Lead)
Stacey Plant (Volunteer Co-ordinator)
Christian Lisseman (Communications Lead)
Dawn Groundsell (Communications Officer)

Central Resources and Fundraising

Stuart Clayton (Head of Finance and Operations)
Peter Yorke (Finance Lead)
Megan Mattinson (Administration Officer)
Alex Hill (Administration Officer)
Jasmine O'Flaherty (Data Lead)
Claire Coburn (Fundraising Supporter Relations Manager)
Rachel Dorrington (Fundraising Officer)
Anne-Marie Rooney (Fundraising Officer)

Corporate Governance

Rolling agenda items include consideration of the financial status and sustainability of the organisation and regular reviews of risk management which includes financial systems and audit procedures. Specifically, the Trustee Board:

- maintains oversight of the development of an annual budget in line with the requirements of the proposed Business Plan;
- ensures appropriate financial systems and controls are in place, that there is effective management and monitoring of the Friends of the Lake District's finances, financial control systems and procedures, assets including properties, and all other matters relevant to the financial affairs of Friends of the Lake District in order to achieve the charitable Objects and the legal obligations of the organisation;
- ensures proper arrangements are in place to secure effective audit of the Friends of the Lake District.

During 2018 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was introduced. There have been no requests for personal data erasure. There have been no fundraising, or other complaints. We continue to operate within the guidelines set out by the Fundraising Regulator. We take great care and caution with our fundraising practices to ensure protection of vulnerable people and other members of the public and keep all direct fundraising in-house.

We have not employed any external professional fundraiser or commercial participator. Our Fundraising & Relations Manager has monitored and maintained an overview of all fundraising activities carried out by individuals within the organisation, and by the organisation as a whole, which is overseen by the Chief Executive and the Board of Trustees.

Organisational Management

Staff vacancies enabled the management team to re-shape the staffing structure to deliver the clear objectives within the new strategic plan. This includes investment in a new fundraising team recognising the need to diversify our income streams to meet the ever-increasing operational costs and enable the charity to achieve our medium and long term aspirations.

Our new structure reflects the new strategic plan and will enable the charity to focus on the areas we know are of importance to our members, such as planning/development, campaigning, and communications.

Relationship with wider network

Cooperation with other organisations

Throughout the year, we have continued to work in co-operation with other bodies with similar aims and objectives to our own. These include the Campaign for National Parks, the Campaign to Protect Rural England [since 1978 the charity has represented CPRE in Cumbria], the National Trust and the Lake District National Park Authority. We are also members of the Lake District National Park Partnership.

Friends of the Lake District is a partner at the Fix the Fells project Board and other organisations we have more direct involvement with include: Foundation for Common Land, Cumbria Local Nature Partnership and the UK Dark Skies Partnership. As part of our landscape engagement activities we have worked closely with a number of partners including: John Muir Trust, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Eden Rivers Trust, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, John Strutt Conservation Foundation, Trash Free Trails, as well as National Trust, National Park and Fix the Fells.

Our adjacent AONB's (areas of outstanding natural beauty) have similarly been involved in events such as Great Cumbrian Litter Pick and Great Landscapes Festival.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Lamont Pridmore be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

M. Boswell

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Malcom Boswell

Date: 1-8-25

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees are responsible for preparing their Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the net income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

(i) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
(ii) make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
(iii) prepare the financial statements on the 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information published on the charity's website.

The Trustees understand there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware. The Trustees have each taken all the steps that Company's Directors need to take in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are aware of no incidents of non-compliance with other regulatory policies and internal policies, and we have complied with all previous and current fundraising requirements. In line with Charity Commission recommendations, we are happy to report no serious incidents have come to our attention in 2024-25. In addition, the Trustees are confident that during the year since the AGM in September 2024, the Charity has complied with its Articles of Association, charity law requirements and other applicable laws. In 2017, legislation was introduced requiring all companies to identify and register any Persons of Significant Control. This was reviewed by the trustees in 2017, and subsequently on an annual basis most recently March 2023. Since then there has been no change to this position, and FLD continues to have no Persons with Significant Control.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Friends of the Lake District (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise, the summary income and expenditure account, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees report; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud are: to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are: Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Companies Act 2006.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We examined supporting documents for all material balances, transactions and disclosures.
- We applied analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.
- We tested the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non- compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non- compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Christopher Lamont BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Lamont Pridmore
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
136 Highgate
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4HW
Date: 01.08.2025

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Current financial year	Notes	Unrestricted funds General 2025 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Endowment funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Donations, Legacies, Membership Subscriptions & Grants	3	1,548,546	-	250	-	1,548,796	932,821
Charitable activities							
Properties	4	3,042	-	-	-	3,042	2,941
Events & Other Income	4	1,605	-	-	-	1,605	12,593
Sale of Merchandise	4	23,193	-	-	-	23,193	22,479
Investments	5	84,308	-	-	20,876	105,184	123,669
Total income and endowments		1,660,694	-	250	20,876	1,681,820	1,094,503
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds							
Costs of Generating Voluntary Income	7	212,466	-	-	-	212,466	172,368
Costs of Sale of Merchandise	7	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	72,544
Investment Management Costs	7	9,301	-	-	5,106	14,407	17,214
		227,767	-	-	5,106	232,873	262,126
Charitable activities							
Land	8	163,248	-	-	-	163,248	343,052
Planning & Policy	8	348,179	-	8,009	-	356,188	797,599
Campaigns & Engagement	8	412,766	-	8,502	-	421,268	108,163
Total charitable expenditure		924,193	-	16,511	-	940,704	1,248,814
Other expenditure	13	8,851	-	-	-	8,851	-
Total expenditure		1,160,811	-	16,511	5,106	1,182,428	1,510,940
Net gains/(losses) on investments	14	(42,193)	-	-	(6,042)	(48,235)	215,176
Net income/(expenditure)		457,690	-	(16,261)	9,728	451,157	(201,261)

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Current financial year	Notes	Unrestricted funds General 2025 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Endowment funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Net income/(expenditure)		457,690	-	(16,261)	9,728	451,157	(201,261)
Transfers between funds		(28,804)	75,906	(27,200)	(19,902)	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses:							
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		1,336,740	-	-	-	1,336,740	-
Net movement in funds	10	1,765,626	75,906	(43,461)	(10,174)	1,787,897	(201,261)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		2,062,685	2,795,473	151,126	435,345	5,444,629	5,645,890
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		3,828,311	2,871,379	107,665	425,171	7,232,526	5,444,629

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	All income funds	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross income	1,681,820	1,094,503
(Losses)/gains on investments	(48,235)	215,176
Total income in the reporting period	1,633,585	1,309,679
Total expenditure from income funds	(1,182,428)	(1,510,940)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	451,157	(201,261)

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**16**		3,177,490		1,604,473
Investments	**17**		2,660,714		2,848,637
			5,838,204		4,453,110
Current assets					
Stocks	**18**	1,093		2,511	
Debtors	**19**	411,418		354,198	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,074,641		730,970	
		1,487,152		1,087,679	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**20**	(92,830)		(96,160)	
Net current assets			1,394,322		991,519
Total assets less current liabilities			7,232,526		5,444,629
Net assets excluding pension liability			7,232,526		5,444,629
The funds of the Charity					
Endowment funds	**22**		425,171		435,345
Restricted income funds	**23**		107,665		151,126
Unrestricted funds - general			3,828,311		2,062,685
Unrestricted funds - Designated	**25**		2,871,379		2,795,473
			7,232,526		5,444,629

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 1-8-25

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Malcom Boswell

Company registration number 04878364 (England and Wales)

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	31		224,592		(363,347)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(125,793)		-	
Purchase of investments		-		(50,000)	
Net proceeds from disposal of investments		139,688		103,067	
Investment income received		105,184		123,669	
Net cash generated from investing activities			119,079		176,736
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			343,671		(186,611)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			730,970		917,581
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,074,641		730,970

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Friends of the Lake District is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7SS.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Office equipment	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	20% reducing balance

Freehold land is not depreciated.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Properties whose fair value can be measured reliably are held under the revaluation model and are carried at a revalued amount, being their fair value at the date of valuation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. The fair value of the land and buildings is usually considered to be their market value.

Revaluation gains and losses are recognised in other recognised gains and losses and accumulated in equity, except to the extent that a revaluation gain reverses a revaluation loss previously recognised in net income/ (expenditure) or a revaluation loss exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains recognised in equity; such gains and loss are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

Under FRS 102 the company will perform revaluations with sufficient regularity such that the carrying amount does not differ materially from the fair value at the balance sheet date.

1.8 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.9 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.10 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured at the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.12 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.13 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.14 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations, legacies, membership subscriptions & grants

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	76,640	250	76,890	150,206	21,636	171,842
Legacies	1,152,773	-	1,152,773	391,247	-	391,247
Grants	17,361	-	17,361	18,854	214,054	232,908
Membership fees	176,772	-	176,772	136,824	-	136,824
Donated land	125,000	-	125,000	-	-	-
	1,548,546	250	1,548,796	697,131	235,690	932,821
Grants						
Rural Payments Agency	17,361	-	17,361	18,854	-	18,854
Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership	-	-	-	-	209,054	209,054
Dark Skies	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
	17,361	-	17,361	18,854	214,054	232,908

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Properties						
Charitable rental income	3,042	-	3,042	2,941	-	2,941
Events & Other Income						
Other income	1,605	-	1,605	12,593	-	12,593
Sale of Merchandise						
Sale of Merchandise	23,193	-	23,193	22,173	306	22,479
	27,840	-	27,840	37,707	306	38,013

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Endowment funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Other income	84,308	20,876	105,184	101,192	22,477	123,669

6 Other income

	2025 £	2024 £
Land donated - Clayhurley Bank Wood	125,000	-

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Endowment funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity						
Seeking donations, grants and legacies	18,741	-	18,741	-	-	-
Membership schemes and social lotteries	-	-	-	33,972	-	33,972
Staging fundraising events	-	-	-	4,476	-	4,476
Other fundraising costs	1,721	-	1,721	4,810	-	4,810
Staff costs	111,466	-	111,466	-	-	-
Support costs	80,538	-	80,538	129,110	-	129,110
	212,466	-	212,466	172,368	-	172,368
Trading costs						
Operating charity shops	6,000	-	6,000	7,989	-	7,989
Support costs	-	-	-	64,555	-	64,555
	6,000	-	6,000	72,544	-	72,544
Investment management	9,301	5,106	14,407	12,036	5,178	17,214
Total costs	227,767	5,106	232,873	256,948	5,178	262,126

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Land	Planning & Policy	Campaigns & Engagement	Total	Land	Planning & Policy	Campaigns & Engagement	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs								
Staff costs	66,837	197,625	192,222	456,684	-	181,129	-	181,129
Depreciation and impairment	891	-	-	891	-	-	-	-
L.E. Project Costs	-	-	4,093	4,093	-	-	5,649	5,649
Dark Skies Project Costs	-	-	3,727	3,727	-	-	13,485	13,485
OHW Project Costs	-	-	-	-	-	1,636	-	1,636
Sanctuarty Project Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,300	4,300
WDLPS Project Costs	-	3,931	-	3,931	-	24,799	-	24,799
Motor Expenses	1,941	-	-	1,941	-	-	-	-
Sustainable Transport Policy	-	-	-	-	-	26,755	-	26,755
Project Costs	-	17,533	-	17,533	-	31,613	-	31,613
Membership Engagement	-	-	15,578	15,578	-	-	2,335	2,335
Property Costs	36,480	-	-	36,480	54,716	-	-	54,716
Grants & Donations	368	-	-	368	7,021	12,921	-	19,942
Sundry	-	-	-	-	-	203	-	203
	106,517	219,089	215,620	541,226	61,737	279,056	25,769	366,562
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)								
Support	46,022	111,219	166,828	324,069	266,070	491,207	81,868	839,145
Governance	10,709	25,880	38,820	75,409	15,245	27,336	526	43,107
	163,248	356,188	421,268	940,704	343,052	797,599	108,163	1,248,814
Analysis by fund								
Unrestricted funds - general	163,248	348,179	412,766	924,193	343,052	513,422	94,678	951,152

8 Expenditure on charitable activities **(Continued)**

Restricted funds	-	8,009	8,502	16,511	-	284,177	13,485	297,662
	163,248	356,188	421,268	940,704	343,052	797,599	108,163	1,248,814

9 Support costs allocated to activities

		2025	2024
		£	£
	Basis of allocation		
Staff costs	*staff time*	217,195	805,023
Depreciation	*staff time*	4,774	14,503
Marketing & communication	*staff time*	44,010	72,057
Other staff costs	*staff time*	26,563	19,565
IT Costs	*staff time*	45,349	42,937
Printing stationery & postage	*staff time*	15,057	15,790
Telephone	*staff time*	2,868	5,735
Property costs	*staff time*	22,078	33,790
Motor & travel	*staff time*	10,088	7,022
Bank charges	*staff time*	4,108	3,631
Sundry	*staff time*	12,517	3,295
Governance costs	*staff time*	94,150	52,569
		498,757	1,075,917
Analysed between:			
Fundraising		99,279	193,665
Land		56,731	281,315
Planning & Policy		137,099	518,543
Campaigns & Engagement		205,648	82,394
		498,757	1,075,917

10 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	12,374	11,700
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	5,665	14,503
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	8,851	-

11 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

Amounts of £339 (2024: £295) were reimbursed to cover part of the travel and subsistence expenses incurred on behalf of the charity by one trustees (2024: two trustees).

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Generating funds	4	3
Charitable activities	11	10
Governance	1	1
Support	5	9
Total	21	23

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	641,644	797,682
Social security costs	52,774	61,104
Other pension costs	90,927	127,366
	785,345	986,152

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	-	1
£70,001 - £80,000	-	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	-
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	199,389	167,956

13 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Net loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	8,851	-

14 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Endowment funds 2025	Total 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Endowment funds 2024	Total 2024
Gains/(losses) arising on:	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revaluation of investments	(42,193)	(6,042)	(48,235)	214,709	467	215,176

15 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

16 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Office equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2024	1,619,436	111,535	18,134	1,749,105
Additions	238,771	12,022	-	250,793
Disposals	-	(77,447)	-	(77,447)
Revaluation	1,295,564	-	-	1,295,564
At 31 March 2025	3,153,771	46,110	18,134	3,218,015
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2024	41,176	89,779	13,677	144,632
Depreciation charged in the year	-	4,774	891	5,665
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(68,596)	-	(68,596)
Revaluation	(41,176)	-	-	(41,176)
At 31 March 2025	-	25,957	14,568	40,525
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2025	3,153,771	20,153	3,566	3,177,490
At 31 March 2024	1,578,260	21,756	4,457	1,604,473

The carrying value of land included in land and buildings is £2,989,375 (2024 - £1,352,836).

Land and buildings were revalued at a value of £3,040,000 on 2 May 2024 by independent valuers William Bashall Associates, Stout Hill, Little Salkeld, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 1NN on the basis of fair value. Additions subsequent to the valuation have been added at fair value.

If the revalued land and buildings were measured using the historical cost model, the carrying amounts would have been £1,688,535 (2024 - £1,578,260).

17 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2024	2,848,637
Valuation changes	(48,235)
Interest & Dividends	76,633
Disposals	(216,321)
At 31 March 2025	2,660,714
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	2,660,714
At 31 March 2024	2,848,637

18 Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	1,093	2,511

19 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Accrued legacy income	397,381	345,065
Other debtors	-	5,101
Prepayments and accrued income	14,037	4,032
	411,418	354,198

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	16,957	15,400
Other creditors	56,242	63,874
Accruals and deferred income	19,631	16,886
	92,830	96,160

21 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
Defined contribution schemes	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	90,927	127,366

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

22 Endowment funds

Endowment funds represent assets which must be held permanently by the Charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the Charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the assets form part of the fund.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments						
Kirby General Fund	298,834	14,330	(3,505)	(13,661)	(4,148)	291,850
Kirby Amenity Fund	38,429	1,843	(451)	(1,757)	(533)	37,531
Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund	98,082	4,703	(1,150)	(4,484)	(1,361)	95,790
	435,345	20,876	(5,106)	(19,902)	(6,042)	425,171

Previous period:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments						
Kirby General Fund	291,321	15,429	(3,554)	(4,683)	321	298,834
Kirby Amenity Fund	37,459	1,984	(457)	(598)	41	38,429
Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund	95,612	5,064	(1,167)	(1,532)	105	98,082
	424,392	22,477	(5,178)	(6,813)	467	435,345

The permanent endowment fund represents the two Kirkby funds and the Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund. The capital of the Kirkby & Taylor Funds is invested. The income arising from the Kirkby Amenity Fund may only be used for special conservation activities and is included in restricted funds. The income from the Kirkby General Fund and Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund is for the general purposes of the charity.

23 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Fell Care Days	35,368	250	(1,038)	-	34,580
Wellbeing Work (Sanctuary Project)	7,508	-	(3,599)	-	3,909
Troutbeck Churchyard For Upkeep	1,871	-	(1,871)	-	-
Our Green Space	1,668	-	(1,668)	-	-
Virtual Gifts	13,312	-	-	-	13,312
Donation Paths	12,042	-	-	-	12,042
Climate Change Project	12,239	-	-	-	12,239
Conquer the Lakes	539	-	(539)	-	-
WDLPS	51,474	-	(7,796)	(27,200)	16,478
Championing Upland Hill Farming	15,105	-	-	-	15,105
	151,126	250	(16,511)	(27,200)	107,665

Previous period:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Fell Care Days	17,443	17,925	-	-	35,368
Wellbeing Work (Sanctuary Project)	29,225	-	(21,717)	-	7,508
Troutbeck Churchyard For Upkeep	1,871	-	-	-	1,871
Properties	373	-	(1,135)	762	-
Our Green Space	1,668	-	-	-	1,668
Virtual Gifts	13,006	306	-	-	13,312
Donation Paths	8,746	3,296	-	-	12,042
Land Management Appeal	7,447	258	(21,160)	13,455	-
Policy and Planning	15,025	-	(16,877)	1,852	-
Climate Change Project	12,239	-	-	-	12,239
Conquer the Lakes	539	-	-	-	539
Storm Arwen Appeal	2,152	-	(2,500)	348	-
WDLPS	34,164	209,054	(191,744)	-	51,474
Championing Upland Hill Farming	15,105	-	-	-	15,105
Property Purchase J Kent	103	-	(1,939)	1,836	-
Dark Skies	-	5,157	(40,590)	35,433	-
	159,106	235,996	(297,662)	53,686	151,126

24 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	2,062,685	1,660,694	(1,160,811)	(28,804)	(42,193)	2,491,571
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	1,336,740	1,336,740
	2,062,685	1,660,694	(1,160,811)	(28,804)	1,294,547	3,828,311

Previous period:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	2,252,416	836,030	(1,208,100)	(32,370)	214,709	2,062,685

25 Unrestricted funds - Designated

These are funds designated by the trustees for specific purposes

	At 1 April 2024 £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,604,473	236,277	1,840,750
Working Capital	600,000	131,629	731,629
Sustainability and Growth	316,000	(316,000)	-
Digital Transformation	100,000	(100,000)	-
Organisational Development	100,000	4,000	104,000
Future Land Purchases	75,000	100,000	175,000
Campaigns Contingency	-	20,000	20,000
	2,795,473	75,906	2,871,379

Previous period:	At 1 April 2023 £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,618,976	(14,503)	1,604,473
Working Capital	600,000	-	600,000
Sustainability and Growth	316,000	-	316,000
Digital Transformation	100,000	-	100,000
Development Fund	100,000	-	100,000
Capital Expenditure	75,000	-	75,000
	2,809,976	(14,503)	2,795,473

26 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General 2025 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Endowment funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 March 2025:					
Tangible assets	1,344,546	1,832,944	-	-	3,177,490
Investments	2,235,543	-	-	425,171	2,660,714
Current assets/(liabilities)	248,222	1,038,435	107,665	-	1,394,322
	3,828,311	2,871,379	107,665	425,171	7,232,526

26 Analysis of net assets between funds **(Continued)**

	Unrestricted funds General 2024 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:					
Tangible assets	-	1,604,473	-	-	1,604,473
Investments	2,413,292	-	-	435,345	2,848,637
Current assets/(liabilities)	(350,607)	1,191,000	151,126	-	991,519
	2,062,685	2,795,473	151,126	435,345	5,444,629

27 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the Charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	5,098	4,894
Between two and five years	8,363	2,749
In over five years	1,134	-
	14,595	7,643

28 Contingent Assets - Legacy Income

At the reporting date, the Charity had been notified of residuary legacies where the value of the estates was uncertain as the executors had not yet compiled the estate accounts and probate had not been granted. Therefore no amount has been accrued in respect of these legacies which are estimated to be £217,655 (2024: £186,000).

29 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

30 Analysis of changes in net funds

The Charity had no material debt during the year.

31	Cash generated from operations	2025 £	2024 £
	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	451,157	(201,261)
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(105,184)	(123,669)
	Donation of land	(125,000)	-
	Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	8,851	-
	Fair value gains and losses on investments	48,235	(215,176)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	5,665	14,503
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease in stocks	1,418	732
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(57,220)	135,657
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(3,330)	25,867
	Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	224,592	(363,347)

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Prior financial period	Notes	Unrestricted funds General 2024 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:						
Donations, Legacies, Membership Subscriptions & Grants	3	697,131	-	235,690	-	932,821
Charitable activities						-
Properties	4	2,941	-	-	-	2,941
Events & Other Income	4	12,593	-	-	-	12,593
Sale of Merchandise	4	22,173	-	306	-	22,479
Investments	5	101,192	-	-	22,477	123,669
Total income and endowments		836,030	-	235,996	22,477	1,094,503
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Costs of Generating Voluntary Income	7	172,368	-	-	-	172,368
Costs of Sale of Merchandise	7	72,544	-	-	-	72,544
Investment Management Costs	7	12,036	-	-	5,178	17,214
		256,948	-	-	5,178	262,126
Land	8	343,052	-	-	-	343,052
Planning & Policy	8	513,422	-	284,177	-	797,599
Campaigns & Engagement	8	94,678	-	13,485	-	108,163
Total expenditure		1,208,100	-	297,662	5,178	1,510,940
Net gains/(losses) on investments	14	214,709	-	-	467	215,176
Net income/(expenditure)		(157,361)	-	(61,666)	17,766	(201,261)
Transfers between funds		(32,370)	(14,503)	53,686	(6,813)	-
Net movement in funds	10	(189,731)	(14,503)	(7,980)	10,953	(201,261)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		2,252,416	2,809,976	159,106	424,392	5,645,890
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		2,062,685	2,795,473	151,126	435,345	5,444,629

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1100759

Accounts

Charity registration number 1100759

Company registration number 04878364 (England and Wales)

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	David Felton	
	Lucy Hetherington	
	Robin Forrest	
	Malcom Boswell	(Appointed 13 February 2023)
	Laura Doan	
	Robert McCracken	(Appointed 13 February 2023)
	Fiona Sanders	(Appointed 13 February 2023)
	Anthony Vaux	
Secretary	Stuart Clayton	
Senior management	Position Vacant	President
	John Campbell	Vice President
	Sir Martin Holgate	Emeritus President
	Michael Hill	Chief Executive Officer
Charity number	1100759	
Company number	04878364	
Registered office	Murley Moss Oxenholme Road Kendal Cumbria LA9 7SS	
Auditor	Lamont Pridmore 136 Highgate Kendal Cumbria LA9 4HW	
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4TA	
	National Westminster Bank 10 Elephant Yard Kendal Cumbria LA9 4LZ	
	Co-operative Bank Delf House Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Solicitors	Burnetts Victoria House Wavell Drive Rosehill Carlisle Cumbria CA1 2ST
Investment advisors	RBC Brewin Dolphin 1 Mason Court Gillan Way Penrith 40 Business Park Penrith Cumbria CA11 9GR CCLA Investment Management Ltd Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4ET Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management Ltd Talisman House Boardmans Way Blackpool FY4 5FY

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

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FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I write this report two months after local elections for the new unitary authorities, three days into a new Parliament, and a day after the Lake District National Park Authority announced the appointment of Gavin Capstick as the next Chief Executive of the Lake District National Park Authority. He takes the reins from Richard Leafe in October. The three sets of changes offer opportunities to Friends at both the national and local level.

After too many years of change at Friends, the last year has been more settled. Mike has now been in post for 18 months, and the strategic review – which took in the views of staff, trustees and, most importantly, members – was completed in January, and is now being bedded in across the charity. A subsequent soft-touch refinement of the organisation to deliver its objectives is also well underway. Notably, the resounding response to our strategic outreach was to double down on our campaigning and planning work – strands of work that have been in Friends' DNA since day one. We have responded by adding staff capacity into the charity for both.

We are aware of a continuing downward trend in membership, and a steady decline in associated membership income. Some of this decline is explained by the older demographic of Friends' membership. But there is much we can – and must – do to reverse these trends. As such trustees have backed ambitious plans to invest from our reserves into expanding both the membership and fundraising teams. I am pleased to say both teams are now at capacity and working on new growth strategies.

In the past year you will, I hope, have heard from a louder Friends, not least in our objections to a major new holiday resort at Roanhead and the Zipworld adventure development at Elterwater. It was good to see members at both rallies.

But Friends has always had a quieter side, too, and we continue that work, whether by contributing to the amazing footpath work undertaken by Fix the Fells, supporting rural skills like hedge-laying and dry-stone walling, or running Forest School sessions with primary schools. Our hands-on projects continue apace, with staff, volunteers and plenty of local schoolchildren removing litter, planting trees, building walls and removing tree guards from emerging woodland. We continue to inspire, through our Leaders Landscape Training Programme, our works with schools and our Nurtured by Nature programme. And we are literally rewriting planning rules; our Cumbria Good Lighting Technical Advice Note won two awards – the Platinum, and Green Build Back Better Awards which champion innovation, creativity, environmental leadership and social purpose. For a small charity, we hit high, and where necessary, hard.

Meanwhile, our work on landscape value has started conversations way beyond our own walls and landscapes about how the emerging Environmental Landscape Management Schemes (ELMS) might reward farmers and landowners for a range of societal and cultural benefits beyond a gain in, say, soil health or access. We are also working, in house, on how to pass the baton from our transport conference in 2019 and subsequent 'Public appetites for the future of the Lake District's transport system' report to build consensus for a world-leading transport system that captures revenue from tourists to re-invest in buses, active travel and Fix the Fells to the benefit not just of air quality and landscape, but also locals, tourists and business.

One of the criticisms levelled with boring regularity at Friends is that we're always the naysayer. Aside from the fact that we rarely say no, when we do, we do so for good reason. But it's important – sometimes – to also offer a positive vision to contextualise the 'no', and I am proud of the work FLD is doing to make the case for taking tourist pressure seriously; for seeking ways to properly fund visionary land management; and for imagining a future beyond the status quo for traffic on the Park's roads, built – mostly – with non-mechanised transport in mind.

Announcing his new role, the National Park press team noted that Gavin Capstick "had shared three key priorities he will be working towards, alongside partners: supporting nature recovery and agricultural transition, promoting low impact visiting, and helping people access and learn about the National Park and World Heritage Site."

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

They are areas of interest to FLD, too. Gavin may have been inspired by the 2023 vision of the Brecon Beacons National Park – The Bannau – with a Park filled with new areas of woodland; of restored peatlands; of re-meandered rivers; and of waters running free of sewage. The challenge – as ever – will be how to resolve a drive for nature restoration with the 'promotion' of 'low impact visiting'. What does 'low impact' look like in reality? With nature and water quality in decline, can the Park continue to support the number of visitors it currently does? And – this is where the more difficult questions start for the Park – would a major new tourist hub, like the Elterwater quarry – be described as 'low impact' (we don't think so)? When considering an answer, I would ask Gavin to think big; the Park challenges of our age will not be solved by tinkering with the status quo.

We remain – as ever – here to help lead/frame and/or contribute to both the debate and to implementation of policy, as we have done for a proud 90 years. I have left Mike to write in detail about the many areas of FLD work that for space reasons I have neglected; and I will leave you in our Treasurer Robin's more than capable hands to write about our perennially healthy finances (with enduring thanks to all of you who support Friends, in whatever form).

I close with a few notes of thanks; firstly to my team of fellow trustees, who give many, many unpaid hours to the governance of this charity. And secondly, to every member of the staff team, whose commitment both to the charity and the landscapes we love mean that both are in the best possible hands.

And finally, to the team of the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership. This fabulous scheme – that ran between March 2019 and February 2024 – showcased the very best in collaborative working, with David Evans and his sterling team involved in a swathe of activities, from tree planting and habitat restoration to excavating archaeological sites and improving access. Friends was there at the very start of the scheme, which managed not only to do a whole lot of good on-the-ground work, but also inspired thousands of people – locals and visitors – to learn more about, and celebrate the remarkable hidden heritage of the county's quieter eastern dales. It was a showcase in what we can do when we work together, and we look forward to capturing the energy at the heart of that scheme as Friends moves into 2025.

.....

Chairman

Date: 26 July 2024

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the 15 month period ending 31 March 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who are serving at the date of this report, are set out on page 13.

The Trustees took the decision to align the charity's financial year with the business operating year 1 April to 31 March.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

Friends of the Lake District continues to have the following **Objects**:

- to promote and organise concerted action for the protection and conservation of the Landscape and natural beauty of the Lake District and the County of Cumbria as a whole.
- to co-operate with other bodies having similar objectives or interests.

Our **Vision**: to secure a LANDSCAPE that is:

- *Beautiful, diverse, locally distinctive, tranquil* and *environmentally healthy.*
- *Conserved* and *enhanced.*
- Accessible and enjoyed by all.

Our **Mission**: to ensure that People:

- Are inspired by the beauty and diversity of the landscape;
- *Have an understanding of how the landscape has been shaped;*
- *Care for and help look after the landscape, both for its own sake and for the benefits it brings to people's lives.*

Our Principles

- *The special qualities and distinctiveness of Cumbria's landscapes should be conserved and enhanced.*
- *Land use change should be sustainable, be sympathetic to the local landscape character and deliver positive long-term social, economic, cultural and biodiversity benefits. Where there is conflict between land use change and the landscape, then precedence should be given to the landscape.*
- *Quiet enjoyment of the countryside is fundamental to people's physical and spiritual well-being and should be accessible to all.*
- *Public understanding of the special qualities of the landscape and the value of its sustainable management should be encouraged.*

2021-23 Strategic Direction

Our Strategic Direction has 4 key Strategic Aims which provide a framework for our work in the period 2021-2023:

- Protecting and enhancing the landscapes of the Lake District and Cumbria
- Promoting thriving, sustainable communities
- Inspiring and Empowering
- Securing our Future

To deliver our vision and to address the key challenges in the period, we will prioritise our activities and resources on the following four Aims and eight Objectives:

Aim 1: Protecting and enhancing the landscapes of the Lake District and Cumbria

- 1.1 We want legislation, plans and policies which better protect and enhance our landscapes and all its inhabitants
- 1.2 We want a living, working, biodiverse and culturally rich landscape
- 1.3 We want sustainably-managed upland landscapes

Aim 2: Promoting thriving, sustainable communities

- 2.1 We want to support thriving communities and protect cultural heritage

Aim 3: Inspiring and Empowering

- 3.1 We want an increasingly diverse range of people to be inspired by, value and understand our landscapes
- 3.2 We will use our land to showcase best practice land management and to engage, inspire and educate people of all ages and backgrounds on the value of landscapes

Aim 4: Securing our Future

- 4.1 We will have a financial strategy that ensures our goals are funded and that we are resilient into the future
- 4.2 We will further develop the positive culture within the organisation and its engagement with others

The structure of our Strategic Direction has been aligned to our Landscape Charter, launched in 2017, and can be found on our webpage:

https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/our-purpose

Public benefit

The Trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance in preparing this statement of public benefit. The protection and enhancement of the landscape of Cumbria and the Lake District is recognised as a charitable purpose and is regarded as producing a public good. Friends of the Lake District exists to promote and organise concerted action for the protection and conservation of the landscape and natural beauty of the Lake District and the County of Cumbria as a whole and therefore provide a clear public benefit. Examples of our charitable activities for public benefit include: our campaigning and events to raise awareness of and improve Dark Skies in the Lake District and Cumbria; our Fell Care Days and Great Cumbria Litter Picks that improve and enhance the landscape of the Lake District and Cumbria.

Achievements and performance

Policy and Planning

Elterwater
In March 2022 plans began to emerge for a significant tourist development at Elterwater Quarry in the Langdale Valley which originally included a 'cavern coaster' and an outdoor zip-wire. These plans were scaled down and a revised proposal was submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority in January 2023. Friends of the Lake District campaigned against the proposal, on the grounds of the impact increased traffic would have on the tranquillity and rural character of the area. The plans were rejected in September 2023 as the planning committee were not satisfied by transport plans connected to the site. A revised proposal, with an updated travel plan, was submitted in December but we remained unconvinced by the travel arrangements. In March 2024 we organised a rally near the proposed site at Elterwater which attracted over 100 people and gained significant media attention.

Planning responses
In 2023, we responded to 35 planning applications out of a total of 7,625 applications received by Cumbrian planning authorities. The greatest proportion of those we responded to were within the Lake District National Park. We objected to just 0.3% of all the planning applications received by local authorities in 2023.

Roanhead: working with local communities
The Save Roanhead campaign was set up by a local community group in response to a proposal to develop a major holiday park on the Furness peninsula, close to an internationally important nature reserve. In July 2023, Friends of the Lake District staged a *Make a Stand on the Sand* event which gained lots of media coverage. Developers withdrew their initial application for a holiday resort consisting of 450 lodges, but since then, a new application for a reduced number of lodges has been put forward. Concerns about the impact of the resort on the surrounding natural environment remain the same.

Masts
Throughout 2023, there was an influx of proposals for telecommunications masts to be placed throughout the Lake District. Many of the proposals were linked to the Government's roll-out of 4G connectivity and preparation for 5G. Whilst Friends of the Lake District appreciate the need for mobile and internet connectivity in rural areas, many of the applications for masts were ill-thought out and lacked important information regarding aspects such as assessed alternatives, and existing and anticipated coverage.

Between January 2023 and March 2024 we worked with local communities to respond to several planning applications in relation to masts and successfully challenged most of them.

Improving the View
Following our *No Pylons in the Lake District* campaign and other work via lobbying and detailed consultation responses, the government changed its policy on electricity networks last year. New power lines will now be undergrounded as a matter of course when crossing through protected landscapes.

We worked with our partners from Electricity North West, National Parks and National Landscapes, to place existing wires underground. Not only does this enhance the landscape, it also ensures energy security by protecting powerlines from things like strong winds and ice.
Areas included: Dacre, near Penrith; Helsington church; Aughertree near Caldbeck; Thompson Ground near Hawkshead; RSPB land at Clesketts near Brampton; Mungrisdale; RSPB land at North Plain in the Solway Coast; New Barns near Arnside.

Between January 2023 and March 2024 nearly 10km of overhead lines were removed – that's more than twice our planned target for a year.

Cutting Carbon in Cumbria
Our work with the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership has helped get Emissions Reduction Action Plans up and running with bold targets for carbon reduction across a number of areas in Cumbria, including transport, housing and buildings, waste, and agriculture and biodiversity. We also helped develop a Roof First Solar campaign with our colleagues at the CPRE the Countryside charity which urges the government to fully realise the potential of solar panels on rooftops, rather than using farmland or other land for solar panels.

Transport Report
We supported Action with Communities in Cumbria on developing the transport report *"Where do you want to get to?"* which will be published later in 2024. The research, which started in 2022 and went on throughout 2023, looked at visitors and residents' attitudes to transport in the Lake District using on-street and online surveys, alongside focus groups. The research, jointly funded by Friends of the Lake District, Lake District National Park Authority and Action with Communities, has found that both visitors and local people are keen to see a change in the Lake District's transport system.

Landscape Engagement and events

Fix the Fells
As a partner of the Fix the Fells Programme, Friends of the Lake District were delighted that an independent evaluation report found that the programme plays a vital role in the conservation of the Lake District uplands and has a positive impact on changing the way people behave when walking in the fells. The evaluation was carried out as a requirement of the European Regional Development Fund, which funded the programme from April 2019 to June 2023. Friends of the Lake District are proud to continue to support the programme through our role as a Fix the Fells board member, the sale of our Fix the Fells Landscape Gifts, and by joining forces on volunteer events such as our annual Fell Care Day.

Fell Care Day
Our annual mass volunteering event in November welcomed 60 volunteers, task leaders and Friends of the Lake District staff to sites around Buttermere valley, carrying out a wide range of conservation tasks. They contributed around 300 hours of conservation work.

- 7.5 metres of hedge laid at Watergate Farm, Loweswater
- 7 metres of dry-stone wall rebuilt at High Nook, Loweswater, led by the National Trust.
- 400 tree shelters and stakes extended and redundant shelters removed from trees planted in the Hobcarton Valley, led by Forestry England.
- 12km walked maintaining the Fleetwith Pike fell path with Fix the Fells.

Friends in the community
We delivered 40 events during this period, including conservation days, litter picking, training events, and traditional rural skills such as hedge laying and dry stone walling. More than 800 people took part in one or more of our events.

Great Cumbrian Litter Picks
We led two Great Cumbrian litter picks between January 2023 and March 2024. Community groups, schools and individual volunteers from all over the county helped to pick up litter from their local streets, school grounds, public areas, lakes and mountain tops.

At least 203 bags of rubbish were collected by 450 people across both events.

Hedge laying and dry stone walling competitions
We held two hedge laying competitions, and one for dry stone walling, between January 2023 and March 2024. Hedgerows and dry stone walls are significant features in the Lake District. They are an important part of our cultural heritage, help keep livestock in place, and provide habitats for all kinds of nature.

Their maintenance is vital to retain the landscape character of the Lake District, but the traditional skills needed to maintain them are being lost. The Friends of the Lake District hedge laying and dry stone walling competitions encourage people to learn these skills, to keep hedgerows thriving and dry stone walls in good shape. The youngest entrant in our 2023 dry stone walling competition was aged 11.

Leaders' Landscape Training Programme
Our Leaders' Landscape Training Sessions are aimed at outdoor practitioners to help deepen their understanding of Cumbria's landscapes and enable them to pass on their new-found knowledge to those with whom they work. The sessions are also offered as accredited Continuous Professional Development training through the Mountain Training Association. Last year's sessions were themed around geology with sessions discussing topics such as how our landscapes have been formed, and the features of glaciation and the last ice age. 38 people attended Leaders Landscape Training sessions with an estimated reach of 4,000 people with whom they will share their newfound knowledge.

Nurtured by Nature
Through this project we were able to offer free opportunities for key workers and others to get involved in different wellbeing activities, whether to take a break from the stresses of everyday life, get out with likeminded people, or build the skills and confidence to continue to get out in nature in their own time.

We held 22 events between February to November 2023 including guided walks, navigation training days, sound bathing, wild swimming and alpaca walking.

Working with Schools
43 pupils and 5 staff from Sedbergh School visited our land at High Borrowdale in December for their 'Giving Back Day'. They removed around 500 tree tubes from the fell-side and restaked many trees. Meanwhile, children from Threlkeld Primary School helped build a willow den on our land at Dan Mire Wood. The school uses the site regularly as part of their forest school sessions, which Friends of the Lake District is helping to run.

Projects

Westmorland Dales
Westmorland Dales is a beautiful area of Cumbria north of the Howgill Fells and within the north-west corner of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It stretches from Tebay in the south-west to Kirkby Stephen in the east and to Maulds Meaburn in the north-west. At its heart are the limestone fells above Orton and Asby, rich in natural and cultural heritage, and with magnificent views to the Pennines, the Howgills and the Lakeland fells. Relatively overlooked compared with its better-known neighbours, our projects have aimed to reveal its heritage for more to enjoy without detracting from its unique qualities.

The Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership, led by Friends of the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, delivered a range of projects, mainly funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It ran over a five-year period from March 2019 to February 2024. The scheme was led by David Evans, and trustees are grateful to him for the project's enormous achievements, including....

Revealing the Foundations: designating Local Geological Sites (11); interpreting the area's geology; engaging with schools and wider public; working with Cumbria GeoConservation.

Conserving Species-rich Grasslands: volunteer training, surveying and monitoring; enhancing/restoring species-rich meadows (20ha); creating a roadside nature reserve; grassland-related events; pollinator workshop.

Reconnecting Woods, Trees and People: creating woodland (10ha); restoring hedgerow (4km); installing tree cages (150) and bird boxes (40); engaging landowners (10) and schools (4).

Changing the Course, Slowing the Flow: restoring the reaches of Scandal Beck and River Lyvennet (tributaries of the River Eden) through: restoring river channel (2km) and water dependent habitat (1ha); planting trees (1,800); adding flood management measures (20); and engaging landowners (6).

Sustaining Farming in the Westmorland Dales: involving farm businesses (60) in knowledge-transfer events; training vouchers for farmers (20); skills development programme for young people (2); public events (6).

Riverine Species Monitoring - Upper Lune Area:collect better data on the presence, prevalence and distribution of key riverine indicator species including White Clawed crayfish, Atlantic salmon and other fish species.

Great Asby Scar Community Archaeology Survey: surveying 4.3 sq km.

Little Asby Through the Keyhole: community archaeology excavations (6).

Digging the Past: community archaeology excavating test pits (25) in an historic settlement.

Gamelands Stone Circle: undergrounding visuallyintrusive overhead electricity cables (1.3km); geophysical survey involving volunteers.

Dry-stone Walls: historical and condition survey of drystone walls; consolidating priority lengths (1km).

Traditional Farm Buildings: surveying, recording, interpreting and conserving.

Small-scale Heritage Features: community surveying settlements (7).

Our Common Heritage: training volunteers (6) in Oral History capture and recording testimonies from commoners (15).

Monuments at Risk: conserving Monuments at Risk (4): Pendragon Castle; Smardale Lime Kilns; Crosby; Ravensworth Barrow; Shieling.

A Way Through from Roman roads to M6: researching routes; interpreting findings.

Love your landscape: small grants scheme for voluntary and community groups, landowners, farmers, schools and local councils (20 grants).

Skills for the future: apprenticeships (9) in environmental management and cultural heritage conservation, plus certified vocational training.

Discovering the Westmorland Dales: improving accessibility of rights of way network; creating a link (9km) between the Pennine Bridleway National Trail and other bridleways; extending the Yorkshire Dales Cycleway to become a touring route around the whole National Park.

Distinctly Westmorland Dales: up-skilling and connecting local tourism businesses through courses, workshops and liaison events.

Interpreting the Westmorland Dales: schematic map; interpretative (15) and orientation (9) panels and leaflets.

Celebrating and Engaging: volunteers' skills workshops (8), annual socials and other events; arts events; formal and informal learning events, focusing on outdoor activity sessions for primary (9) and secondary (2) schools, families, young people and adults.

Dark Skies

In 2023, we launched our Cumbria Good Lighting Technical Advice Note developed in conjunction with Dark Source Lighting Design. The guide provides lighting guidance to planners and planning applicants, and is also designed to help individuals, organisations or communities to make good lighting choices. The work was supported and endorsed by planning authorities across Cumbria and the Yorkshire Dales National Park. By developing it, we hope to achieve a net reduction in light pollution across the region, helping to protect the darkest areas and reduce light pollution in those areas already affected. Almost as soon as it was launched, the guide won two awards: the Platinum, and Green Build Back Better Awards which champion innovation, creativity, environmental leadership and social purpose.

Stargazing

There were over 100 Dark Sky events across the region organised by our Dark Skies partners and businesses, which included dark sky walks, a "moonwatch" with Kirkbie Kendal school pupils, talks and even a canoeing trip under the stars. We also ran three Big Switch Off events where businesses, community groups and residents in Ambleside, Grasmere and Keswick turned off lights to enjoy the night sky. In addition, we created a 'Cumbria Dark Skies room brochure' for hotel and B&B guests to encourage them to step outside, look up and be wowed by how many stars they could see.

Lighting the way

We worked with Patterdale and Sedbergh Parish Councils who installed new dark sky and wildlife friendly streetlights. As our Dark Skies officer Jack Ellerby explains: "The design of the new lights means their beam throws light onto path and road surfaces, rather than up into the sky. They are a warmer colour too, which is gentler on our eyes and better for wildlife that's active overnight.

National Park Societies conference in Kendal
Representatives from the UK's 15 national parks societies, government and partner organisations gathered in Kendal in October for the 2023 National Park Societies Annual Conference co-hosted by Friends of the Lake District and Campaign for National Parks. Key topics on the agenda included politics, policy making and a panel session on campaigning, passion, and principle.

Kirby lecture
Our 2023 Kirby lecture was titled "Re-imagining Lakeland's water: fresh ideas for a sparkling future", and it was inspired by the pollution-free Lake Annecy in France. There was a briefing about the science behind water from Freshwater Biological Association and West Cumbria Rivers Trust, and then speakers talked about the main challenges facing water quality: mains and public sewage, private septic tanks and agricultural run-off. They answered lots of searching questions from a packed audience and presented their visions for the future of water in Cumbria.

Our land
Friends of the Lake District has owned land in Cumbria since 1937. We own land to enhance the landscape of the area, increase access and model best practice in land management. Our land includes valleys, native woodlands, moorlands, uplands and commons.

We own 11 pieces of land scattered across the Lake District National Park and Cumbria covering approximately 600 hectares.

Virtual Tours
In 2023, we launched a virtual tour of High Borrowdale and began work on six other properties, enabling people to explore our beautiful landscapes from the comfort of their own armchairs no matter where they are in the world. We also added digital information points onto our High Borrowdale land, meaning people can watch videos explaining more about the area around them as they explore.

Benefits of the Land
Last year, we commissioned the first ever assessment of the multiple benefits that land provides for society. We focused on Little Asby Common and our report found the land delivers between £20 million to £60 million pounds of public benefits in terms of health and wellbeing, access and recreation, and cultural heritage. This research can help us make the case for better funding to protect and enhance landscapes in the future, for example.

Fundraising practices
Membership
In 2023/24 we had two membership meet-ups plus a well-attended Annual General Meeting and a sell-out Kirby lecture. We brought together our February 2024 member meet up with our Ambleside Big Switch Off event and spent time exploring all the incredible achievements of our Dark Skies project.

We published four editions of our membership magazine Conserving Lakeland, and a special supplement on climate and biodiversity. We also sent 15 Postcard from the Lakes e-newsletters to members and supporters.

Between January 2023 and March 2024 we welcomed 279 new members. We're working on a new membership strategy which will be launched later in the year.

Fundraising
We ran four appeals last year to raise funds for land management, planning and campaigning, a general appeal and our 90th Birthday Nature Appeal. 229 walkers took part in the annual Morecambe Bay Crossing in 2023. Legacy income and individual giving continues to be incredibly important enabling us to deliver our charitable activities, plan for the future and hold an acceptable level of reserves to purchase at risk land/property.

Fundraising performance
Merchandise
Our 2023 photo competition contest attracted the usual high quality entries with the winning images featuring in our 2023 Christmas card collection and 2024 calendar. Along with Christmas cards and calendars, sales of our notecards, tea towels, landscape gifts and art prints generated £22,479.

Digital evolution

We understand the importance of maintaining traditional methods of working whilst also recognising the ever evolving digital world we all live in. This year we enlisted the support of an external specialist to help us map our digital journey to ensure that we are not left behind. We have developed a new digital strategy which will guide us to embed technologies across the organisation which will increase efficiency, greater agility and, ultimately, unlock new value for employees, members, volunteers and donors.

Thank you

Thank you to our members, supporters and partner organisations for all their support during the last fifteen months. From generous donations, to the hard work of our volunteers, we're grateful for all the contributions that we've received to help us protect and enhance Cumbrian landscapes.

We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to those who left a gift to Friends of the Lake District in their will: Joyce Andrews, Jill Austin, Eileen Barton, Joyce Blanchard, Sheila Brandon, Sylvia Brockbank, Gilian Brown, Patricia Joan Crompton, David Cutforth, Robert Harry Hill, Betty Hinchliffe, Ann Hinton, Duncan Hobbs, Christine Huggins, Nancy Hyde, Katharine Mary Jephcott, Rita Langman, Brian Lawrence, Barbara Peel, Robin Scoones, Robert K Thompson, Judith Todd, Raymond Todd, Alan Wells and Constance Wright.

Leaving a lasting legacy is a wonderful way to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the tranquillity and beauty of these special places. If you'd like to know more about leaving a legacy, please contact claire.coburn@fld.org.uk

We'd also like to thank and honour donations made in the memory of: John Battersby, Mrs Bower, Susan Bradley, Winefride Bromley, David Cutforth, Joanna Gent, Jeffrey Hazelton, Joy Hutchings, Geoff Mather, Godfrey Moy, John Nutter, John Pattison, Alan Place, Heather Reid Whittaker, Jean Savage, Pat Schwarzenbach, Eric Stuffins, Michael Thurman, Rita Tuck & Sharon Bloomfield, Simon Rodney Tudor, Joanna Wates, Neil Wraight, Constance Wright and Sheila Willett Anholt.

And finally, we'd like to thank our benefactors for their continued support: John Berry, James Brockbank & Louise Ronane, John Campbell, Richard Coates, Philip Cropper, Margaret Haigh, John Harris, Peter Hughes QC, John & Margaret Jackson, Brian Leigh-Bramwell, Rosamund Macfarlane, Jim & Sue Martin, and Elizabeth Reddaway.

Financial review

Consolidated financial figures from the 2023/4 Accounts (15 month period):

Total income £1,094,503
Voluntary Income – (Legacies, Donations and Subscriptions) £699,912
Charitable Activities £248,443
Trading Activities £22,479
Investments £123,669
Land donated £Nil

Total expenditure £1,510,940
Generating Voluntary Income (Inc. Membership) £172,368
Charitable Activities £1,248,814
Trading Activities £72,544
Investment Management Costs £17,214

Total Funds/Net Assets at 31 March 2024 Total £5,444,629
Tangible Fixed Assets (including properties) £1,604,473
Investments £2,848,637
Net Current Assets £991,519

Funds by restriction
Unrestricted £2,062,685
Designated (including Tangible fixed assets) £2,795,473
Restricted £151,126
Permanent Endowment £435,345

Going concern

In line with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Acts of 2006 and 2011, as a result of our evidence assessment and levels of reserves, as laid out in this Annual Report, the Trustees conclude the charity is a going concern and there are no material uncertainties relating to its going concern status. The financial statements have been prepared on a 'going concern' basis.

Reserves policy
The Charity needs reserves in order that;

- it can provide working capital when funding is paid in arrears;
- it can meet the costs of new campaigns, unforeseen emergencies and/or other unexpected needs for funds, including employing temporary staff to cover long-term sick absence;
- it protects against unpredictable legacy income, in order to provide a stable and quality service to fulfil its objectives;
- it can acquire strategic land holdings, should they become available; and
- It can purchase land which may be at threat of inappropriate development;
- it can meet contractual obligations should the charity have to close.

In 2023/4, the Board maintained reserves for the following purposes:

- a designated fund for working capital;
- a designated fund for contingencies –including provision to address the ongoing financial impact of inflationary pressures;
- The purchase of land under threat of inappropriate development.

Endowment funds: Our Endowment funds are managed separately from the other assets of the charity by Brewin Dolphin. The 2 **Kirby Endowment Funds** are: 1) **Amenity Fund**, the income from which is restricted for use in our charitable activities and policy work; and 2) **General Fund**, income from which is unrestricted but used for our Environmental Improvement Grants (which became the Landscape Grants Scheme in 2019) and the annual Kirby Lecture. Towards the end of 2015 we were notified of a new endowment legacy – the **Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund**. The income from the Margaret Taylor Memorial fund is not restricted and is used to support our wider work.

Property Assets
The charity owns a portfolio of land and a property, which are maintained by the charity in furtherance of its charitable objects.

Details of all our properties can be found on our website: https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Listing/Category/our-land

The trustee Board in 2017 agreed to adopt the change to accounting procedures relating to valuation of property assets, as offered by the transition arrangements switching from FRSSE to FRS102. As such, property asset values will be set at 2012 amounts as deemed cost.

Investment policy
The Articles of Association of the charitable company permit the Board wide powers of investment. The investment policy for the charity has been to maintain capital growth and take advantage of the income which it generates.

Plans for future periods
Over the summer of 2023 Friends of the Lake District ran a major strategic consultation exercise, with detailed questionnaires sent to thousands of members, supporters, staff, and trustees.

The results fed into a new set of strategic objectives, a new work plan, and a revised organisational structure, which have been signed off by trustees and adopted from April 2024.

Structure, governance and management
The Charity is a membership organisation governed by its Articles of Association dated 16 June 2003, updated and approved at the AGM in May 2014, and was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 27 August 2003. The previous, unincorporated, charity of the same name was founded in 1934.

The new Charities Act 2022 received Royal Assent in early 2022, and the first tranche of provisions came into effect at end of October 2022. There were no immediate implications for our working practices during 2023-24 and the Trustees remained aware of provisions being introduced in 2023 and any implications these might have. Similarly, the Trustees were aware of the anticipated changes to Companies House legislation in early 2023.

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the period and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Judith Cooke	(Resigned 7 July 2023)
David Felton	
Philip Cropper	(Resigned 7 July 2023)
Lucy Hetherington	
Robin Forrest	
Malcom Boswell	(Appointed 13 February 2023)
Laura Doan	
Sarah Hodgson-Jones	(Resigned 7 July 2023)
Robert McCracken	(Appointed 13 February 2023)
Fiona Sanders	(Appointed 13 February 2023)
Anthony Vaux	

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The Board, whose members carry the responsibilities of directors with trustee responsibilities, is the main governing body of the Charitable Company. Trustees are elected by the members at the AGM in accordance with the Articles of Association which provides for a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 18 members on the Board.

New Trustees are supported in the induction process by the Chair of the Board and Company Secretary, and are usually elected after a period of co-option. This induction process includes sessions with the staff and an introduction to the Charity. Newly inducted Trustees reported high levels of satisfaction with the induction programme.

Trustees agree a Code of Governance which is reviewed and adopted after each AGM. In compliance with the Code of Governance, a self-assessment of effectiveness and efficiency was conducted during the period. Given the effectiveness of hybrid meetings during the COVID pandemic, the option of remote attendance at Board and sub-committee meetings will be maintained, as required, although face-to-face attendance is encouraged.

Strategy and governance functions of the trustee Board are monitored as part of trustee meetings, with regular agenda items that include: the strategic direction of the organisation; proper arrangements relating to effective governance of the Friends of the Lake District; risk management; the nomination of candidates for appointment as trustees; and that appropriate systems exist for the induction and training of trustees.

Organisational structure

Who we are - from January 2023 to March 2024

President
Position Vacant

Vice President
Mr John Campbell

Emeritus President
Sir Martin Holdgate CB

Trustees
David Felton (Chair)
Lucy Hetherington (Vice Chair)
Robin Forrest (Treasurer)
Malcolm Boswell (co-opted from February 2023)
Robert McCracken (co-opted from February 2023)
Fiona Sanders (co-opted from February 2023)
Laura Doan
Anthony Vaux
Philip Cropper (term ended July 2023)
Sarah Hodgson-Jones (term ended July 2023)

Staff (Full and Part time)
Kay Andrews (Landscape Engagement Officer)
Stuart Clayton (Head of Finance and Operations) and acting Chief Executive until April 2023
Jan Darrall (Policy Officer)
Rachel Dorrington (Fundraising Officer)
Jack Ellerby (Dark Skies Officer)
Dawn Groundsell (Communications Officer)
Amanda McCleery (Overhead Wires Project & Policy Officer)
Megan Mattinson (Administration & Finance Officer)
Jasmine O'Flaherty (Data Lead)
Laura Partington (Policy Officer)
Kate Willshaw (Policy Officer)
Lorayne Woodend Wall (Planning Officer)

New starters in the period
Michael Hill (Chief Executive) from April 2023
Stacey Plant (Finance & Administration Officer) from July 2023
Helen Howe (Membership & Volunteering Lead) from September 2023
Maggie Shelton (Finance & Administration Officer) from October 2023
Claire Coburn (Fundraising Supporter Relations Manager) February 2024
Christian Lisseman (Communications Lead) from March 2024

Leavers in the period
Grace Cooper (Administration and Finance Officer) until March 2023
Vanessa Rhoden (Fundraising Manager) until August 2023
Jodie Lucas-Jones (Administration and Finance Officer) until September 2023
Ellie Morton (Membership Officer) until October 2023
Kristina Dobie (Finance and Central Resources Manager until December 2023
Clare Hucknall (Company Secretary) until January 2024
Chris James (Communications Officer) until February 2024
Maggie Shelton (Finance & Administration Officer) March 2024

Closure of the Heritage Lottery Funded Westmorland Dales Landscape Project
Hannah Kingsbury (Cultural Heritage Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership) until July 2023
Nicola Estill (Community Engagement Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership) until October 2023
Penny McMullen (Administration and Finance Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership) until December 2023
Amanda Walters (Interpretation Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership) until December 2023
David Evans (Scheme Manager, Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership) until March 2023

Other matters
Corporate Governance
Rolling agenda items include consideration of the financial status and sustainability of the organisation and regular reviews of risk management which includes financial systems and audit procedures. Specifically, the Executive Board:

- maintains oversight of the development of an annual budget in line with the requirements of the proposed Business Plan;
- ensures appropriate financial systems and controls are in place, that there is effective management and monitoring of the Friends of the Lake District's finances, financial control systems and procedures, assets including properties, and all other matters relevant to the financial affairs of Friends of the Lake District in order to achieve the charitable Objects and the legal obligations of the organisation;
- ensures proper arrangements are in place to secure effective audit of the Friends of the Lake District.

During 2018 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was introduced and in 2022 we reviewed our policies and procedures to meet these regulations. There has been one request for personal data erasure, which was carried out within the timeframe specified. There have been no fundraising, or other complaints. We continue to operate within the guidelines set out by the Fundraising Regulator. We take great care and caution with our fundraising practices to ensure protection of vulnerable people and other members of the public and keep all direct fundraising in-house. We have not employed any external professional fundraiser or commercial participator. Our Fundraising Manager has monitored and maintained an overview of all fundraising activities carried out by individuals within the organisation, and by the organisation as a whole, which is overseen by the Chief Executive and the Board of Trustees.

Organisational Management
The introduction of Michael Hill as the new CEO in April 2023 coincided with the requirement to draft a new strategic plan to guide the organisation through the next 3 year period.

The period saw a relatively high turnover of staff due to a number of factors including the planned closure of the 5 year funded Heritage Lottery project – Westmorland Dales Landscape Scheme.

Staff vacancies enabled the management team to re-shape the staffing structure to deliver the clear objectives within the new strategic plan. This includes investment in a new fundraising team recognising the need to diversify our income streams to meet the ever-increasing operational costs and enable the charity to achieve our medium and long term aspirations.

Our new structure reflects the new strategic plan and will enable the charity to focus on the areas we know are of importance to our members.

Relationship with wider network

Cooperation with other organisations

Throughout the year, we have continued to work in co-operation with other bodies with similar aims and objectives to our own. These include the Campaign for National Parks, the Campaign to Protect Rural England [since 1978 the charity has represented CPRE in Cumbria], the National Trust, the Lake District National Park Authority, and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, who worked closely with us in The Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme. We are also members of the Lake District National Park Partnership, leading on the Dark Skies and Landscape Character Assessment projects. In addition, we are represented on a number of local groups. Friends of the Lake District is a member of the Fix the Fells project Board and other organisations we have more direct involvement with include: Foundation for Common Land, and Cumbria Local Nature Partnership and the UK Dark Skies Partnership. As part of our landscape engagement activities we have worked closely with a number of partners including: John Muir Trust, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Eden Rivers Trust, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, John Strutt Conservation Foundation, Trash Free Trails, as well as National Trust, National Park and Fix the Fells. Our adjacent AONB's (areas of outstanding natural beauty) have similarly been involved in events such as Great Cumbrian Litter Pick and Great Landscapes Festival.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Lamont Pridmore be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

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David Felton

Date: 26 July 2024.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees are responsible for preparing their Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the net income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

(i) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
(ii) make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
(iii) prepare the financial statements on the 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information published on the charity's website.

The Trustees understand there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware. The Trustees have each taken all the steps that Company's Directors need to take in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are aware of no incidents of non-compliance with other regulatory policies and internal policies, and we have complied with all previous and current fundraising requirements. In line with Charity Commission recommendations, we are happy to report no serious incidents have come to our attention in 2023-24. In addition, the Trustees are confident that during the year since the AGM in July 2023, the Charity has complied with its Articles of Association, charity law requirements and other applicable laws. In 2017, legislation was introduced requiring all companies to identify and register any Persons of Significant Control. This was reviewed by the trustees in 2017, and subsequently on an annual basis most recently March 2023, and there was no one identified as being a person of significant control.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Friends of the Lake District (the 'Charity') for the period ended 31 March 2024 which comprise, the summary income and expenditure account, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees report; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud are: to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are: Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Companies Act 2006.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We examined supporting documents for all material balances, transactions and disclosures.
- We applied analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.
- We tested the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non- compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non- compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

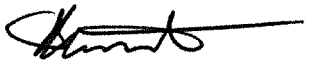
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Christopher Lamont BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Lamont Pridmore

05/08/2024

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

136 Highgate
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4HW

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Current financial period	Notes	Unrestricted funds General 2024 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations, Legacies, Membership Subscriptions & Grants	3	697,131	-	235,690	-	932,821	1,363,650
Charitable activities							
Properties	4	2,941	-	-	-	2,941	1,840
Events & Other Income	4	12,593	-	-	-	12,593	10,754
Sale of Merchandise	4	22,173	-	306	-	22,479	29,524
Investments	5	101,192	-	-	22,477	123,669	66,025
Other income	6	-	-	-	-	-	110,000
Total income and endowments		836,030	-	235,996	22,477	1,094,503	1,581,793
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds							
Costs of Generating Voluntary Income	7	172,368	-	-	-	172,368	134,329
Costs of Sale of Merchandise	7	72,544	-	-	-	72,544	61,094
Investment Management Costs	7	12,036	-	-	5,178	17,214	9,217
		256,948	-	-	5,178	262,126	204,640
Charitable activities							
Protect Your Lake District	8	344,818	-	-	-	344,818	242,710
Train & Inspire	8	518,083	-	284,741	-	802,824	488,552
Grants - Amenity and Conservation	8	88,251	-	12,921	-	101,172	61,958
Total charitable expenditure		951,152	-	297,662	-	1,248,814	793,220
Total expenditure		1,208,100	-	297,662	5,178	1,510,940	997,860
Net gains/(losses) on investments	13	214,709	-	-	467	215,176	(408,063)
Net income/(expenditure)		(157,361)	-	(61,666)	17,766	(201,261)	175,870

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Current financial period	Notes	Unrestricted funds General 2024 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2022 £
Net income/(expenditure)		(157,361)	-	(61,666)	17,766	(201,261)	175,870
Transfers between funds		(32,370)	(14,503)	53,686	(6,813)	-	-
Net movement in funds	**10**	(189,731)	(14,503)	(7,980)	10,953	(201,261)	175,870
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		2,252,416	2,809,976	159,106	424,392	5,645,890	5,470,020
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		2,062,685	2,795,473	151,126	435,345	5,444,629	5,645,890

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	All income funds Period ended 31 March 2024 £	31 December 2022 £
Gross income	1,094,503	1,581,793
Gains/(losses) on investments	215,176	(408,063)
Total income in the reporting period	1,309,679	1,173,730
Total expenditure from income funds	(1,510,940)	(997,860)
Net (expenditure)/income for the period	(201,261)	175,870

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**15**		1,604,473		1,618,976
Investments	**16**		2,848,637		2,686,528
			4,453,110		4,305,504
Current assets					
Stocks	**17**	2,511		3,243	
Debtors	**18**	354,198		489,855	
Cash at bank and in hand		730,970		917,581	
		1,087,679		1,410,679	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**19**	(96,160)		(70,293)	
Net current assets			991,519		1,340,386
Total assets less current liabilities			5,444,629		5,645,890
Net assets excluding pension liability			5,444,629		5,645,890
The funds of the Charity					
Endowment funds	**21**		435,345		432,939
Restricted income funds	**22**		151,126		167,606
Unrestricted funds - general			2,062,685		2,235,369
Unrestricted funds - Designated	**23**		2,795,473		2,809,976
			5,444,629		5,645,890

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 26 July 2024

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David Felton

Company registration number 04878364 (England and Wales)

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2022 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	**29**		(363,347)		166,997
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-		(16,011)	
Purchase of investments		(50,000)		(500,000)	
Proceeds from disposal of investments		103,067		-	
Investment income received		123,669		66,025	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			176,736		(449,986)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(186,611)		(282,989)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period			917,581		1,200,570
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period			730,970		917,581

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Friends of the Lake District is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7SS.

1.1 Reporting period

In the first quarter of 2023 trustees took the decision to align the financial year with the fiscal rather than the calendar year as per previous years. This move enabled the organisation to align the financial activities of the organisation with the operational activities to enhance efficiencies.

1.2 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.3 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

1.5 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold buildings	2% straight line
Office equipment	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	20% reducing balance

Freehold land is not depreciated.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.8 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.9 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.10 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured at the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.12 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.13 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.14 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations, legacies, membership subscriptions & grants

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and gifts	150,206	21,636	171,842	102,556	59,635	162,191
Legacies receivable	391,247	-	391,247	850,329	-	850,329
Grants receivable	18,854	214,054	232,908	32,488	196,166	228,654
Membership fees	136,824	-	136,824	122,476	-	122,476
	697,131	235,690	932,821	1,107,849	255,801	1,363,650
Grants receivable for core activities						
Rural Payments Agency	18,854	-	18,854	32,488	-	32,488
Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership	-	209,054	209,054	-	184,347	184,347
Dark Skies	-	5,000	5,000	-	1,500	1,500
Landscape Engagement	-	-	-	-	10,319	10,319
	18,854	214,054	232,908	32,488	196,166	228,654

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Properties						
Charitable rental income	2,941	-	2,941	1,840	-	1,840
Events & Other Income						
Other income	12,593	-	12,593	9,919	835	10,754
Sale of Merchandise						
Sales of services by beneficiaries	22,173	306	22,479	21,889	7,635	29,524
	37,707	306	38,013	33,648	8,470	42,118

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Investment income	101,192	22,477	123,669	57,478	8,547	66,025

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Land Donated - Little Bleansley, Broughton-In-Furness	-	110,000

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fundraising and publicity						
Membership schemes and social lotteries	33,972	-	33,972	16,598	-	16,598
Staging fundraising events	4,476	-	4,476	3,549	-	3,549
Other fundraising costs	4,810	-	4,810	10,736	-	10,736
Support costs	129,110	-	129,110	103,446	-	103,446
	172,368	-	172,368	134,329	-	134,329
Trading costs						
Cost of merchandise sold	7,989	-	7,989	9,370	-	9,370
Support costs	64,555	-	64,555	51,724	-	51,724
	72,544	-	72,544	61,094	-	61,094
Investment management	12,036	5,178	17,214	9,217	-	9,217
Total costs	256,948	5,178	262,126	204,640	-	204,640

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Protect Your Lake District	Train & Inspire	Grants - Amenity and Conservation	Total	Protect Your Lake District	Train & Inspire	Grants - Amenity and Conservation	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2022	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs								
Staff costs	-	181,129	-	181,129	-	-	-	-
L.E. Project Costs	-	5,649	-	5,649	-	1,378	-	1,378
Dark Skies Project Costs	-	13,485	-	13,485	-	2,082	-	2,082
OHW Project Costs	1,636	-	-	1,636	109	8,398	-	8,507
Sanctuary Project Costs	-	4,300	-	4,300	-	-	-	-
Project Costs WDLPS	-	24,799	-	24,799	-	22,083	-	22,083
Sustainable Transport Policy	26,755	-	-	26,755	1,176	-	-	1,176
Policy & Planning Costs	31,613	-	-	31,613	16,601	-	-	16,601
Campaign Costs	2,335	-	-	2,335	58	-	-	58
Property Costs	-	54,716	-	54,716	-	46,295	-	46,295
Grants & Donations	1,164	-	18,778	19,942	-	-	25,608	25,608
Sundry	-	203	-	203	198	62	-	260
	63,503	284,281	18,778	366,562	18,142	80,298	25,608	124,048
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)								
Support	266,070	491,207	81,868	839,145	218,576	397,509	36,144	652,229
Governance	15,245	27,336	526	43,107	5,992	10,745	206	16,943
	344,818	802,824	101,172	1,248,814	242,710	488,552	61,958	793,220
Analysis by fund								
Unrestricted funds - general	344,818	518,083	88,251	951,152	242,710	245,253	61,958	549,921
Restricted funds	-	284,741	12,921	297,662	-	243,299	-	243,299

8 Expenditure on charitable activities **(Continued)**

344,818	802,824	101,172	1,248,814	242,710	488,552	61,958	793,220

9 Support costs allocated to activities

		2024	2022
		£	£
	Basis of allocation		
Staff costs	*staff time*	805,023	665,488
Depreciation	*staff time*	14,503	15,249
Marketing & communication	*staff time*	72,057	19,784
Other staff costs	*staff time*	19,565	28,781
IT Costs	*staff time*	42,937	25,633
Printing stationery & postage	*staff time*	15,790	12,512
Telephone	*staff time*	5,735	5,092
Property costs	*staff time*	33,790	17,202
Motor & travel	*staff time*	7,022	3,037
Bank charges	*staff time*	3,631	1,472
Sundry	*staff time*	3,295	9,429
Governance costs	*staff time*	52,569	20,663
		1,075,917	824,342
Analysed between:			
Fundraising		193,665	155,170
Protect Your Lake District		281,315	224,568
Train & Inspire		518,543	408,254
Grants - Amenity and Conservation		82,394	36,350
		1,075,917	824,342

10 Net movement in funds

	2024	2022
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	11,700	7,885
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	14,503	15,249

11 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the period.

Amounts of £295 (2022: £1,090) were reimbursed to cover part of the travel and subsistence expenses incurred on behalf of the charity by two trustees (2022: three trustees)

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the period was:

	2024 Number	2022 Number
Generating funds	3	3
Charitable activities	10	12
Governance	1	1
Support	9	9
Total	23	25

Employment costs	2024 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	797,682	544,910
Social security costs	61,104	45,090
Other pension costs	127,366	75,488
	986,152	665,488

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2024 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

13 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Endowment funds 2024	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds 2022	Endowment funds 2022	Total 2022
Gains/(losses) arising on:	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revaluation of investments	214,709	467	215,176	(311,765)	(96,298)	(408,063)

14 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold buildings	Office equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	1,619,436	111,535	18,134	1,749,105
At 31 March 2024	1,619,436	111,535	18,134	1,749,105
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 January 2023	36,886	81,051	12,192	130,129
Depreciation charged in the period	4,290	8,728	1,485	14,503
At 31 March 2024	41,176	89,779	13,677	144,632
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2024	1,578,260	21,756	4,457	1,604,473
At 31 December 2022	1,582,550	30,484	5,942	1,618,976

The carrying value of land included in land and buildings is £1,352,836 (2022 - £1,352,836)

16 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2023	2,686,528
Additions	50,000
Valuation changes	215,212
Interest & Dividends	51,162
Disposals	(154,265)
At 31 March 2024	2,848,637
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2024	2,848,637
At 31 December 2022	2,686,528

17 Stocks

	2024	2022
	£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale	2,511	3,243

18 Debtors

	2024	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Accrued legacy income	345,065	434,171
Other debtors	5,101	52,095
Prepayments and accrued income	4,032	3,589
	354,198	489,855

19 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	15,400	12,337
Other creditors	63,874	30,966
Accruals and deferred income	16,886	26,990
	96,160	70,293

20 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024	2022
Defined contribution schemes	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	127,366	75,488

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

21 Endowment funds

Endowment funds represent assets which must be held permanently by the Charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the Charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the assets form part of the fund.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments						
Kirby General Fund	291,321	15,429	(3,554)	(4,683)	321	298,834
Kirby Amenity Fund	37,459	1,984	(457)	(598)	41	38,429
Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund	95,612	5,064	(1,167)	(1,532)	105	98,082
	424,392	22,477	(5,178)	(6,813)	467	435,345

21 **Endowment funds** **(Continued)**

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments						
	-	8,547	-	-	-	8,547
Kirby General Fund	357,425	-	-	-	(66,104)	291,321
Kirby Amenity Fund	45,959	-	-	-	(8,500)	37,459
Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund	117,306	-	-	-	(21,694)	95,612
	520,690	8,547	-	-	(96,298)	432,939

The permanent endowment fund represents the two Kirkby funds and the Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund. The capital of the Kirkby & Taylor Funds is invested. The income arising from the Kirkby Amenity Fund may only be used for special conservation activities and is included in restricted funds. The income from the Kirkby General Fund and Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund is for the general purposes of the charity.

22 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Fell Care Days	17,443	17,925	-	-	35,368
Wellbeing Work (Sanctuary Project)	29,225	-	(21,717)	-	7,508
Troutbeck Churchyard For Upkeep	1,871	-	-	-	1,871
Properties	373	-	(1,135)	762	-
Our Green Space	1,668	-	-	-	1,668
Virtual Gifts	13,006	306	-	-	13,312
Donation Paths	8,746	3,296	-	-	12,042
Land Management Appeal	7,447	258	(21,160)	13,455	-
Policy and Planning	15,025	-	(16,877)	1,852	-
Climate Change Project	12,239	-	-	-	12,239
Conquer the Lakes	539	-	-	-	539
Storm Arwen Appeal	2,152	-	(2,500)	348	-
WDLPS	34,164	209,054	(191,744)	-	51,474
Championing Upland Hill Farming	15,105	-	-	-	15,105
Property Purchase J Kent	103	-	(1,939)	1,836	-
Dark Skies	-	5,157	(40,590)	35,433	-
	159,106	235,996	(297,662)	53,686	151,126

22 **Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
	-	8,500	-	-	8,500
Fell Care Days	19,669	-	(2,226)	-	17,443
Wellbeing Work (Sanctuary Project)	29,225	-	-	-	29,225
Troutbeck Churchyard for Upkeep	1,870	-	-	-	1,870
Properties	1,994	-	(1,621)	-	373
Our Green Space	1,668	-	-	-	1,668
Landscape Grants (WDLPS)	(7,470)	-	-	7,470	-
Dark Skies Project	(16,044)	2,880	-	13,164	-
Virtual Gifts	15,069	-	(2,063)	-	13,006
Donation Paths	-	8,746	-	-	8,746
Land Management Appeal	-	-	(10,717)	18,165	7,448
Policy and Planning (restricted)	-	15,025	-	-	15,025
Climate Change Project	30,404	-	-	(18,165)	12,239
Conquer The Lakes	989	-	(450)	-	539
Storm Arwen Appeal	-	2,152	-	-	2,152
WDLPS	29,043	226,968	(214,377)	(7,470)	34,164
Kirby Amenity Fund	342	-	(8,500)	8,158	-
Championing Upland Hill Farming	15,105	-	-	-	15,105
Property Purchase J Kent	3,448	-	(3,345)	-	103
	125,312	264,271	(243,299)	21,322	167,606

23 Unrestricted funds - Designated

These are funds designated by the trustees for specific purposes

	At 1 January 2023	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,618,976	(14,503)	1,604,473
Working Capital	600,000	-	600,000
Sustainability and Growth	316,000	-	316,000
Digital Transformation	100,000	-	100,000
Development Fund	100,000	-	100,000
Capital Expenditure	75,000	-	75,000
	2,809,976	(14,503)	2,795,473

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Transfers	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,508,214	110,762	1,618,976
Working Capital	450,000	150,000	600,000
Sustainability and Growth	525,000	(209,000)	316,000
Digital Transformation	-	100,000	100,000
Development Fund	-	100,000	100,000
Capital Expenditure	700,000	(625,000)	75,000
Contingency including support through the impacts of Covid-19	832,000	(832,000)	-
	4,015,214	(1,205,238)	2,809,976

24 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	2,252,416	836,030	(1,208,100)	(32,370)	214,709	2,062,685

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	808,804	1,308,975	(754,561)	1,183,916	(311,765)	2,235,369

25 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General 2024 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:					
Tangible assets	-	1,604,473	-	-	1,604,473
Investments	2,413,292	-	-	435,345	2,848,637
Current assets/(liabilities)	(350,607)	1,191,000	151,126	-	991,519
	2,062,685	2,795,473	151,126	435,345	5,444,629

	Unrestricted funds General 2022 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
At 31 December 2022:					
Tangible assets	-	1,618,976	-	-	1,618,976
Investments	2,246,031	-	-	440,497	2,686,528
Current assets/(liabilities)	(10,662)	1,191,000	167,606	(7,558)	1,340,386
	2,235,369	2,809,976	167,606	432,939	5,645,890

26 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the Charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024 £	2022 £
Within one year	4,894	4,898
Between two and five years	2,749	7,920
	7,643	12,818

27 Contingent Assets - Legacy Income

At the reporting date, the Charity had been notified of residuary legacies where the value of the estates was uncertain as the executors had not yet compiled the estate accounts and probate had not been granted. Therefore no amount has been accrued in respect of these legacies which are estimated to be in excess of £186,000 (2022: £186,000)

28 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the period (2022 - none).

29 Cash generated from operations

	2024	2022
	£	£
(Deficit)/surpus for the period	(201,261)	175,870
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(123,669)	(66,025)
Donation of land	-	(110,000)
Fair value gains and losses on investments	(215,176)	408,063
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	14,503	15,249
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	732	(70)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	135,657	(275,661)
Increase in creditors	25,867	19,571
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(363,347)	166,997

30 Analysis of changes in net funds

The Charity had no material debt during the year.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Prior financial year	Notes	Unrestricted funds General 2022 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations, Legacies, Membership Subscriptions & Grants	3	1,107,849	-	255,801	-	1,363,650
Charitable activities						-
Properties	4	1,840	-	-	-	1,840
Events & Other Income	4	9,919	-	835	-	10,754
Sale of Merchandise	4	21,889	-	7,635	-	29,524
Investments	5	57,478	-	-	8,547	66,025
Other income	6	110,000	-	-	-	110,000
Total income and endowments		1,308,975	-	264,271	8,547	1,581,793
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Costs of Generating Voluntary Income	7	134,329	-	-	-	134,329
Costs of Sale of Merchandise	7	61,094	-	-	-	61,094
Investment Management Costs	7	9,217	-	-	-	9,217
		204,640	-	-	-	204,640
Protect Your Lake District	8	242,710	-	-	-	242,710
Train & Inspire	8	245,253	-	243,299	-	488,552
Grants - Amenity and Conservation	8	61,958	-	-	-	61,958
Total expenditure		754,561	-	243,299	-	997,860
Net gains/(losses) on investments	13	(311,765)	-	-	(96,298)	(408,063)
Net income/(expenditure)		242,649	-	20,972	(87,751)	175,870
Transfers between funds		1,183,916	(1,205,238)	21,322	-	-
Net movement in funds	10	1,426,565	(1,205,238)	42,294	(87,751)	175,870
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		808,804	4,015,214	125,312	520,690	5,470,020

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Prior financial year	Notes	Unrestricted funds General 2022 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		2,235,369	2,809,976	167,606	432,939	5,645,890

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1100759

Accounts

Charity number: 1100759
Company number: 04878364

Friends of the Lake District

Trustees' report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Friends of the Lake District
The only membership organisation dedicated to protecting and enhancing the Lake District and Cumbria's landscapes

Legal and administrative information

Charity number 1100759
Company registration number 04878364, Registered Company in England and Wales.

Business address and registered office
Friends of the Lake District
Murley Moss
Oxenholme Road
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 7SS

Auditors
Lamont Pridmore
136 Highgate
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4HW

Solicitors
Burnetts
Victoria House
Wavell Drive
Rosehill
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA1 2ST

Bankers
CAF Bank Limited
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

National Westminster Bank
10 Elephant Yard
Kendal,
Cumbria
LA9 4LZ

Co-operative Bank
Delf House
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Investment Advisors
RBC Brewin
Dolphin 1
Mason Court
Gillan Way, Penrith 40 Business Park
Penrith, Cumbria
CA11 9GR

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4ET

Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management Ltd
Talisman House,
Boardmans Way,
Blackpool
FY4 5FY

Who we are - from January 2022 to present

President
Position Vacant

Vice President
Mr John Campbell

Emeritus President
Sir Martin Holdgate CB

Trustees
Judith Cooke (Chair to end November 2022)
David Felton (Honorary Treasurer to End November, Chair from December 2022)
Philip Cropper (Vice Chair)
Lucy Hetherington (Vice Chair from July 2022)
Robin Forrest (Treasurer from December 2022)
Malcolm Boswell (co-opted from February 2023)
Laura Doan
Sarah Hodgson-Jones
Robert McCracken (co-opted from February 2023)
Fiona Sanders (co-opted from February 2023)
Anthony Vaux

Staff (Full and Part time)
Kay Andrews (Landscape Engagement Officer)
Douglas Chalmers (Chief Executive) to July 2022
Stuart Clayton (Head of Finance and Operations) and acting Chief Executive from July 2022
Grace Cooper (Administration and Finance Officer) from October 2022
Jan Darrall (Policy Officer)
Kristina Dobie (Finance and Central Resources Manager) from June 2022
Rachel Dorrington (Fundraising Officer)
Jack Ellerby (Dark Skies Officer)
Nicola Estill (Community Engagement Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
David Evans (Scheme Manager, Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
Dawn Groundsell (Communications Officer)
Michael Hill (Chief Executive) from April 2023
Clare Hucknall (Company Secretary) and acting Finance Manager January-June 2022
Chris James (Communications Officer)
Jodie Lucas-Jones (Administration and Finance Officer) from September 2022
Hannah Kingsbury (Cultural Heritage Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
Marianne Kitchen (Finance Officer) to January 2022
Amanda McCleery (Overhead Wires Project Officer)
Penny McMullen (Administration and Finance Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
Megan Mattinson (Administration Assistant) and acting Office Administrator from January-July 2022
Ellie Morton (Membership Officer)
Jasmine O'Flaherty (Database Administrator)
Laura Partington (Policy Officer)
Vanessa Rhoden (Fundraising Manager)
Amanda Walters (Interpretation Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
Kate Willshaw (Policy Officer)
Lorayne Woodend Wall (Planning Officer)

Report of the Trustees (incorporating the Directors' Report) for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who are serving at the date of this report, are set out on page 2.

Chair's Report

If a year is a long time in politics, it has seemed even longer at Friends over the past twelve months.

As the aftershocks of COVID continue to ricochet through so many areas of our lives, Friends finds itself in a time of transition.

This time last year Douglas Chalmers was CEO and my colleague Judith Cooke was Chair of Trustees. In December 2022, I took the baton from Judith, and on 11 April 2023 we welcomed our new CEO, Michael Hill. Mike comes to us from the BBC with a deep passion for the landscapes we love. One of the first tasks we are giving him is to complete a strategic review, taking in the views of members, staff, partners and trustees. This will ensure that Friends not only continues to meet the challenges of this post-pandemic world, but nearly nine decades after it was formed, also to cultivate a renewed energy and vision. I wish Mike well and extend my – and trustees' – thanks to Stuart Clayton, our Head of Finance and Operations, who stood up in Douglas' absence to steady the tiller as we recruited a new CEO.

It is something of a refrain among those of us who care for the landscapes of Lakeland and Cumbria that the need for Friends has never been greater. With ever-increasing tourist pressure, and ever-diminishing funds issued to the Park Authority as 'austerity' chips depressingly on, there would seem to be a space for us to carve out a refreshed purpose. We can act not only as a champion for these landscapes, but also as a broker of deep thinking in how collectively we might tackle some of the great landscape challenges of our age: visitor pressure; congestion; water pollution; biodiversity decline; while continuing to do what we have always done so well – responding to planning applications, fighting inappropriate development, engaging with the public, and caring for our own little pockets of Lakeland.

On the road to that renewed focus, we have had a busy year. Key activities and achievements during the year included:

- **Policy:** Friends and partners ran a Future Transport in the Lake District seminar looking at how to make transport in the National Park sustainable and accessible for all. In addition, we responded to numerous local, regional and national transport policy consultations, in each case emphasising the need for sustainable transport modes to be prioritised for local people and visitors to Cumbria.
- **Planning:** We responded to 47 planning applications; either challenging them outright or suggesting changes to reduce landscape impacts. The most high-profile included plans for a large tourist facility on Hartside Pass, a campsite in Newlands valley, a lodge development at Humphrey Head and the redevelopment of Brandlehow Cottage. Applications for telecommunications masts increased in number, including at Hartsop, Eskdale and Barbon. Of all the applications we responded to in 2022 – and for which an outcome has been reached as at 18/04/2023 – 21 were refused or have been withdrawn, and a further 9 were approved but with changes or conditions reflecting our concerns or comments. More widely, we contributed to 6 national planning consultations on topics ranging from planning reform, second homes and biodiversity net gain to communications masts and holiday lets, as well as several local and neighbourhood plan consultations.

- **Landscape management**: We continue to manage 1,500 acres of Cumbrian countryside for everyone to enjoy. In the past year we put in 500 metres of new hedging at High Borrowdale and Dam Mire Wood, and held 45 volunteer conservation work parties to plant trees, repair walls and control gorse.
- **Landscape engagement**: A wide-reaching programme of engagement saw hundreds of people explore our land or learn more about the landscapes we care for and about. Our Landscape Leaders Training events concentrated on climate change, diversity in the outdoors, archaeology, biodiversity and path erosion, while 2 Great Cumbrian Litter Picks engaged with 600 volunteers across the county. Meanwhile on our own land, April saw the official opening, by film-maker Terry Abraham and local primary school children, of our most recent property acquisition, Dam Mire Wood, in Threlkeld. The day of celebration – the sun shone on us – included yoga sessions, pastel painting and bug hunts. Elsewhere, we bashed balsam (300 of the invasive plants removed from around Rydal Water), welcomed schoolchildren to a 'rainforest day' at Rusland, and worked with partners on our annual Fell Care Day to plant hedging whips, repair walls, check tree guards, clear scrub... and – of course – eat cake.
- **Dark Skies:** Our Dark Skies champion continues to engage locals and national policymakers, with the Cumbria Dark Skies Festival organised by Friends, partners and local businesses during 28 October–November 2022. It featured over 30 events celebrating the night-time environment, including stargazing and astrophotography, night trail running, canoeing, swimming, wildlife walks and forest bathing. It was attended by 1,500 people. On the ground, we worked with Patterdale and Sedbergh Parish Councils to secure funding to change their street lights to dark skies- and wildlife-friendly ones, while wildlife-friendly road lights were installed in Lorton – all steps towards a darker, more natural landscape.
- **Westmorland Dales:** As we reach the final year of activity in our wonderful partnership Westmorland Dales project, manager David Evans and his team have delivered 93+ events and activities, engaging 1,728 adults and 1,594 children. Highlights across the Dales included: repairing two traditional farm buildings at Pendragon Castle and on the Coast-to-Coast route at Raisbeck; a 'Digging the Past' project at Ravenstonedale that dug 26 test pits; an Asby dry-stone wall survey that identified five wall types in 37 walls; 69 traditional farm buildings surveyed as part of the scheme's ongoing survey of buildings; 5,000 Welcome to the Westmorland Dales leaflets in circulation; and six information panels installed.
- **In-person activities:** As the in-person limitations of Covid dissipated, we held three Member Meets and were delighted with a sold-out theatre at Rheged for our annual Kirby Lecture in October, where we debated the future of our uplands in a post Basic-Payments world (if you missed it you can find it online at https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/news/kirby-lecture-2022-what-future-for-the-cumbrian-uplands-recording).

Our income generation activities continued, even though in-person events were much-reduced and the Morecambe Bay walk cancelled. We were delighted to receive significant legacy income during the year of just over £850,000. In addition, we received over £160,000 in donations. The generosity of our members continues to inspire us, and, as ever, we will ensure all funds are put to good use.

The Board of Trustees (with three new co-opted trustees) continues to oversee the work of the organisation, and we were pleased to see so many members at our first in-person AGM in three years in Ulverston.

The crucial work that Friends does is not possible without the great efforts and commitment of our staff to whom as trustees we remain ever-grateful, particularly during the past unusually turbulent year. Their work and success are underpinned by a huge team of volunteers – including the Trustees – and as members we owe a debt of thanks to them all. I would like to thank them, too, for their personal support, their time and their oversight of this charity we love.

David Felton, Chair of Trustees

Annual Review 2022

2022 Highlights - A Review of our year

Policy and Planning

Policy

- Friends of the Lake District and partners ran a Future Transport in the Lake District online seminar attended by almost 100 people looking at how to make transport in the National Park sustainable and accessible for all.
- We responded to more than 10 local, regional and national transport policy consultations. In each case we emphasised the need for sustainable transport modes to be prioritised for local people and visitors to Cumbria and the Lake District in order to reduce carbon emissions and tackle congestion.
- The value of the landscape adjacent to the Lake District in South Copeland and our role in protecting it has been acknowledged by the appointment Friends of the Lake District to the South Copeland Community Partnership in order to advocate for the environment of the area during the process of the local community deciding whether or not it wants to host a geological disposal facility for nuclear waste.
- Working in Partnership with Fix the Fells to deliver a Landscape Leaders Training session and Fix the Fells volunteering event as part of the Great Landscapes Festival, attracting new Friends volunteers for the Fix the Fells scheme.
- Secured 3 more years for the Dark Skies Project.
- On the issue of protecting "Green Lanes" from recreational motor traffic, there were two meetings of the Tilberthwaite Partnership Management Group in 2022 to progress the development of a Management Plan for this route. Friends have supported this by helping to write a section for the Plan about the important things that need to be considered for the management of the route, such as landscape character and World Heritage Status. The Plan will hopefully be submitted to the Rights Of Way committee in July 2023.
- Successfully secured funding from Cumbria Action for Sustainability for an energy audit of the organisation and for support to implement recommendations to reduce energy use.
- Formed a Friends environment group to develop environmental policy and reduce the environmental impact of our activities.

Planning

- 47 planning applications responded to, whether challenging outright or suggesting changes that would reduce landscape impacts.
- Of those applications we responded to, and for which an outcome has been reached, 12 were refused or have been withdrawn and a further 8 were approved but with changes or conditions reflecting our concerns or comments.
- Contributions made to 6 national planning consultations on wider planning reform, and issues from second homes and biodiversity net gain to communications masts and holiday lets.
- Contributions made to 5 local plan consultations, 2 neighbourhood plans and 1 conservation area management plan.

Landscape Management

- 500m new hedge put in at High Borrowdale and Dam Mire Wood
- We held 45 volunteer conservation work parties on our land in 2022, activities included tree planting, dry stone walling, gorse control, woodland work, hedge planting and tree maintenance.
- Kept over 500ha of our land available for public use as open access land.
- Continued to comment on applications affecting common land and to respond to government consultations re new agri-environment schemes for landowners and farmers.

Overhead Wires

- 4 kilometres of line undergrounded – 3 schemes in the Lake District (Meathop Moss, Bampton Grange, Helton) and one in the Yorkshire Dales (Gamelands stone circle near Orton)
- Persuading OFGEM to not only reverse its decision to offer the electricity companies less than they had requested for undergrounding in the next 5-year programme (starting April 2023) but to actually offer them more overall. The companies had requested £53 million in total. OFGEM had only initially offered £47 million but this was increased to a final offer of £64 million, thanks to pressure from Friends and others. Excellent news for the visual amenity of protected landscapes across Britain.
- Publicity – we have written press releases and articles for each edition of Conserving Lakeland magazine on different schemes in order to raise awareness amongst both members and the wider public on the undergrounding of cables.

Fundraising and Membership

Membership

- 3 Member Meets, with 96 attendees across all the meetings.
- A sell-out theatre for our Kirby Lecture in October.
- Welcomed 149 new members and 1000 new contacts.

Legacies

- Exceeded the income target for the year enabling us to invest the year end surplus over the next three years.
- Judith Sugdon legacy funded the following:

  Part time Policy Officer (3 days per week)
  The equivalent of 4 days of Policy Officer time
  2 days per week of our Landscape Engagement Officer

Grants and Trusts

- Secured full funding of over £25,000 from The North Face for 2022 Fell Care Days. These were successfully delivered in the autumn.

Appeals

- Ran 3 appeals to raise funds for land management, planning and campaigning and repair work to our properties following Storm Arwen. Generated over £60,000 in income. The Storm Arwen appeal was one of the charity's most successful ever.

Morecambe Bay Walk

- Nearly 300 sponsored walkers joined us for an adventure across the shifting sands of Morecambe Bay, raising close to £10,500 for our work.

Landscape Engagement and events

Events

Rusland – rainforest day with Asby School.

Dam Mire open day

In April Filmmaker Terry Abraham and Threlkeld Primary School children opened our newest piece of land, Dam Mire Wood in Threlkeld. The day of celebration including yoga sessions, pastel painting, bug hunts, poetry sessions, oak basket making, and talks about the geology and history of the area.

Landscape Leaders Training Events

The Breaking Barriers talk in Whinlatter forest, in April, discussing how we can make outdoor

events more inclusive, was the first of seven events held for our Landscape Leaders Training events programme. Other subjects covered included *Beneath our Feet* – rare species and natural solutions to climate change, *Tackling Upland Path Erosion, Farming Landscape* - how farmers shape the landscape then and now, *Hidden Landscapes* - the Archaeology of Grange and Little Asby Scars, *Landscape futures?* - the different drivers of landscape change and the tensions between 'cultural' and 're-wilded' landscape visions. And *WILD FELL – Fighting for Nature* - The RSPB's Haweswater project, trialing new approaches to upland management, including river, hay meadow, bog, floodplain and woodland restoration.

Great Cumbrian Litter Picks in May and November

In 2022 we ran 2 of our Great Cumbrian Litter Pick events with 600 volunteers across Cumbria filling 170 big bin bags with litter - an incredible effort by all.

In November we visited Ambleside C of E Primary School with 'Trash Free Trails' for a litter assembly followed by a 'Trash Mob' where pupils picked up more than 300 pieces of litter in just 20 minutes. A survey of the litter picked showed 90% of it was single use plastic.

We also carried out an expedition litter pick over Loughrigg returning via Rydal Caves collecting 700 pieces of litter including 79 dog poo bags! After a massive rise in litter after lockdown, we commissioned Keep Britain Tidy to carry out research into why people litter. Though it is a very complex issue with no single solution, the research gave us a 10-point plan of suggestions which has helped guide us and others on actions we can take to begin to address the litter issues in the landscape. We're delighted to report that some of these initiatives are now being trialled in the Lake District such as 'Last Litter Bin' signage.

Big Balsam Bash around Rydal Water July 22

30 volunteers gave 270 person hours of Himalayan balsam pulling, at our Big Balsam Bash around Rydal Water in July, pulling an estimated 300 plants out. After running this event for several years, the size of the Rydal infestation has greatly reduced.

Fell Care Day - Westmorland Fell Care Day

- 5m of dry stone wall rebuilt at Smardale. The dry stone wall is an important boundary wall as well as keeping the reserve stock-proof.
- 170 metres of hedge planted at Gaythorne Hall with volunteers joining Asby Tree Group, Woodland Trust, and Westmorland Dales apprentices.
- 200 metres of grassland ride clippings raked off by volunteers at Cumbria Wildlife Trust's Smardale Nature Reserve. Maintenance of grassland ride habitat is important for the conservation of the pollinators who use them.
- Hundreds of trees checked and cared for with Eden Rivers Trust. The trees were previously planted for Natural Flood Management purposes, helping to make the Westmorland Dales landscape more resilient.
- 200 metres of scrub clearance carried out with John Strutt Conservation Foundation along the old railway line at Hartley. The John Strutt Conservation Foundation is managing this area of land to create a range of habitats and increase biodiversity.
- 242 hours of work completed.
- 80 pieces of cake eaten!

Great Landscapes Festival

We held a Family Fun Day at the Helm, making hedgehog homes and bee hotels – one of 22 events led by us and other organisations, as part of our Great Landscapes Festival.

Projects

Dark Skies

- The *Cumbria Dark Skies Festival* organised by Friends, partners and local businesses during 28 October - November 2022 had over 30 events, attracting 1,500 people.
- Cumbria Dark Skies Festival in November: 30 events celebrating the night-time environment, including stargazing and astrophotography, night trail running, canoeing, swimming, wildlife walks and forest bathing. It was attended by 1,500 people.
- We ran the second Ambleside and Grasmere 'Big Lighting Switch Off' in February, to raise public awareness about light pollution and our collective carbon footprints. This project was developed in partnership with councils, community groups and businesses, and over 220 road lights were switched off from 8 to 12pm. In November we held a mini-Switch Off in the Kendal Market Place with local businesses supporting the event. Over 1,000 parents and children heard the local girl's Amabile Choir sing carols in the dark as part of the Mountain Festival, and saw the Xmas lights switched on.
- Patterdale and Sedbergh Parish Councils secured funding with our support to change their street lights to dark skies and wildlife friendly ones (8 in Patterdale and 26 in Sedbergh).
- New Dark Skies and wildlife friendly road lights were installed in Lorton, replacing sodium road lights with more energy efficient and dark skies friendly ones.
- We worked jointly with all 9 local planning authorities and appointed an award-winning lighting design consultant to draft a Good Lighting Guide for the whole of Cumbria.

Westmorland Dales

- Total expenditure of £825,472, drawing in £577,830 in grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.
- 510 days of volunteer time provided, amounting to £67,745 in additional value to the Scheme.
- Over 93 events and activities delivered, engaging 1728 adults and 1594 children.

Notable events and activities included:

- Dark Skies planetarium events at Maulds Meaburn and Kirby Stephen in early March engaging 96 adults and 525 children
- Our Annual Landscape Forum in April in Ravenstonedale engaging over 60 people in 8 morning talks and 3 afternoon walks
- A Hay Meadows exhibition in July at Bowber Head attracting over 380 visitors
- Summer wild play days in Morland and Kirkby Stephen engaging over 100 children and 50 adults
- Fell Care Day with Friends and other partners in October engaging 44 volunteers on 5 different projects

Project successes include:

- 2 traditional farm buildings repaired at Pendragon Castle and on the Coast-to-Coast at Raisbeck
- Season 2 of our Little Asby Through the Keyhole project completed with 7 trenches excavated.
- Digging the Past project completed at Ravenstonedale with 26 test pits dug.

- Dry Stone Wall survey of 37 walls completed at Asby, identifying 5 wall types
- Small-Scale Heritage Features survey completed across 9 settlements, recording 718 features.
- At least 69 Traditional Farm Buildings surveyed as part of our ongoing survey of buildings in the area.
- 14 oral history Interviews carried out as part of the Our Common Heritage project.
- 17 geology factsheets and walks leaflets added to the website and the Westmorland Dales geology added to the Dales Rocks website.
- 5,000 Welcome to the Westmorland Dales leaflets are in circulation from 22 different locations, promoting the area for both existing and new audiences.
- 6 information welcome panels about the Westmorland Dales have been installed at popular locations and arrival points
- 11 new recordings across the Westmorland Dales for 'Sounds like the Westmorland Dales' logged on the global aporee sound map
- Strong partnership established with Yorkshire Dales National Park Association through the project, for which we are very grateful
- Love Your Landscape grants paid to 9 different projects totalling £24,300

Statement Of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing their Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the net income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

(i) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
(ii) make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
(iii) prepare the financial statements on the 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information published on the charity's website.

The Trustees understand there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware. The Trustees have each taken all the steps that Company's Directors need to take in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are aware of no incidents of non-compliance with other regulatory policies and internal policies, and we have complied with all previous and current fundraising requirements. In line with Charity Commission recommendations, we are happy to report no serious incidents have come to our attention in 2022. In addition, the Trustees are confident that during the year since the AGM in July 2022, the Charity has complied with its Articles of Association, charity law requirements and other applicable laws. In 2017, legislation was introduced requiring all companies to identify and register any Persons of Significant Control. This was reviewed by the Executive in 2017, and subsequently on an annual basis most recently March 2023, and there was no one identified as being a person of significant control.

Corporate Governance

Rolling agenda items include consideration of the financial status and sustainability of the organisation and regular reviews of risk management which includes financial systems and audit procedures. We also included monitoring of COVID issues. Specifically, the Executive Board:

- maintains oversight of the development of an annual budget in line with the requirements of the proposed Business Plan;

- ensures appropriate financial systems and controls are in place, that there is effective management and monitoring of the Friends of the Lake District's finances, financial control systems and procedures, assets including properties, and all other matters relevant to the financial affairs of Friends of the Lake District in order to achieve the charitable Objects and the legal obligations of the organisation;

- ensures proper arrangements are in place to secure effective audit of the Friends of the Lake District.

During 2018 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was introduced and in 2022 we reviewed our policies and procedures to meet these regulations. There has been one request for personal data erasure, which was carried out within the timeframe specified. There have been no fundraising, or other complaints. We continue to operate within the guidelines set out by the Fundraising Regulator. We take great care and caution with our fundraising practices to ensure protection of vulnerable people and other members of the public and keep all direct fundraising in-house. We have not employed any external professional fundraiser or commercial participator. Our Fundraising Manager has monitored and maintained an overview of all fundraising activities carried out by individuals within the organisation, and by the organisation as a whole, which is overseen by the Chief Executive and the Board of Trustees.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a membership organisation governed by its Articles of Association dated 16th June 2003, updated and approved at the AGM in May 2014, and was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 27th August 2003. The previous, unincorporated, charity of the same name was founded in 1934.

The new Charities Act 2022 received Royal Assent in early 2022, and the first tranche of provisions came into effect at end of October 2022. There were no immediate implications for our working practices during 2022 and the Trustees remained aware of provisions being introduced in 2023 and any implications these might have. Similarly, the Trustees were aware of the anticipated changes to Companies House legislation in early 2023.

Governing Body

The Board, whose members carry the responsibilities of directors with trustee responsibilities, is the main governing body of the Charitable Company. Trustees are elected by the members at the AGM in accordance with the Articles of Association which provides for a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 18 members on the Board.

New Trustees are supported in the induction process by the Chair of the Board and Company Secretary, and are usually elected after a period of co-option. This induction process includes sessions with the staff and an introduction to the Charity. Newly inducted Trustees reported high levels of satisfaction with the induction programme.

Trustees agree a Code of Governance which is reviewed and adopted after each AGM. In compliance with the Code of Governance, a self-assessment of effectiveness and efficiency was conducted during the period, and the findings will be incorporated into revised Executive and joint working practices in 2023, as well as the development of a new Strategic Direction and strategic priorities. Given the effectiveness of hybrid meetings during the COVID pandemic, the option of remote attendance at Executive and sub-committee meetings will be maintained, as required, although face-to-face attendance is encouraged.

Strategy and governance functions of the Executive are monitored as part of the Executive meetings, with regular agenda items that include: the strategic direction of the organisation; proper arrangements relating to effective governance of the Friends of the Lake District; risk management; the nomination of candidates for appointment as Trustees; and that appropriate systems exist for the induction and training of Trustees.

Organisational Management

2022 saw fewer but somewhat significant staffing changes than the previous year. We said goodbye to Marianne Kitchen (Finance Administrator) in January 2022, and our Chief Executive Douglas Chalmers at the AGM in July (with a fond farewell on the Coniston Steam Gondola). Stuart Clayton (Head of Finance and Operations) stood in as Interim Chief Executive until April 2023, until our newly appointed Chief Executive Michael Hill could start. New members of the Finance and Administration team were welcomed in 2022: Kristina Dobie (Finance and Central Resources Manager); Finance and Office Administrators Jodie Lucas Jones and Grace Cooper. We said a temporary farewell to Megan Mattinson, who left on maternity leave in October 2022. As of early 2023, we are in the process of further recruitment for a Volunteer Officer and additional fundraising team members.

Objects, Vision and Mission

Friends of the Lake District has the following **Objects**:

- to promote and organise concerted action for the protection and conservation of the Landscape and natural beauty of the Lake District and the County of Cumbria as a whole.
- to co-operate with other bodies having similar objectives or interests.

A new 3-year Strategic Direction 2021-2023 was adopted at the start of 2021 which aims to fulfil the objects of the charity through:

Our **Vision**: to secure a LANDSCAPE that is:

Beautiful, diverse, locally distinctive, tranquil and *environmentally healthy.*
Conserved and *enhanced*;
Accessible and *enjoyed* by all

Our **Mission**: to ensure that PEOPLE:

Are inspired by the beauty and diversity of the landscape;
Have an understanding of how the landscape has been shaped;
Care for and help look after the landscape, both for its own sake and for the benefits it brings to people's lives

Our Principles

The special qualities and distinctiveness of Cumbria's landscapes should be conserved and enhanced.
Land use change should be sustainable, be sympathetic to the local landscape character and deliver positive long-term social, economic, cultural and biodiversity benefits. Where there is conflict between land use change and the landscape, then precedence should be given to the landscape.
Quiet enjoyment of the countryside is fundamental to people's physical and spiritual well-being and should be accessible to all.
Public understanding of the special qualities of the landscape and the value of its sustainable management should be encouraged.

2021-23 Strategic Direction

Our Strategic Direction has 4 key Strategic Aims which provide a framework for our work in the period 2021-2023:

- Protecting and enhancing the landscapes of the Lake District and Cumbria
- Promoting thriving, sustainable communities
- Inspiring and Empowering
- Securing our Future

To deliver our vision and to address the key challenges in the period, we will prioritise our activities and resources on the following four Aims and eight Objectives:

Aim 1: Protecting and enhancing the landscapes of the Lake District and Cumbria

- 1.1 We want legislation, plans and policies which better protect and enhance our landscapes and all its inhabitants
- 1.2 We want a living, working, biodiverse and culturally rich landscape
- 1.3 We want sustainably-managed upland landscapes

Aim 2 - Promoting thriving, sustainable communities

- 2.1 We want to support thriving communities and protect cultural heritage

Aim 3 - Inspiring and Empowering

- 3.1 We want an increasingly diverse range of people to be inspired by, value and understand our landscapes
- 3.2 We will use our land to showcase best practice land management and to engage, inspire and educate people of all ages and backgrounds on the value of landscapes

Strategic Aim 4 - Securing our Future

- 4.1 We will have a financial strategy that ensures our goals are funded and that we are resilient into the future
- 4.2 We will further develop the positive culture within the organisation and its engagement with others

The structure of our Strategic Direction has been aligned to our Landscape Charter, launched in 2017, and can be found on our webpage:

https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/our-purpose

Cooperation with other organisations

Throughout the year we have continued to work in co-operation with other bodies with similar aims and objectives to our own. These include the Campaign for National Parks, the Campaign to Protect Rural England [since 1978 the charity has represented CPRE in Cumbria], the National Trust, the Lake District National Park Authority, and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, who work closely with us in The Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme. We are also members of the Lake District National Park Partnership, leading on the Dark Skies and Landscape Character Assessment projects. In addition, we are represented on a number of local groups. Friends of the Lake District is a member of the Fix the Fells project Board and other organisations we have more direct involvement with include: Foundation for Common Land, and Cumbria Local Nature Partnership and the UK Dark Skies Partnership. As part of our landscape engagement activities we have worked closely with a number of partners including: John Muir Trust, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Eden Rivers Trust, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, John Strutt Conservation Foundation, Trash Free Trails, as well as National Trust, National Park and Fix the Fells. Our adjacent AONB's (areas of outstanding natural beauty) have similarly been involved in events such as Great Cumbrian Litter Pick and Great Landscapes Festival.

Statement Of Public Benefit

The Trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance in preparing this statement of public benefit. The protection and enhancement of the landscape of Cumbria and the Lake District is recognised as a charitable purpose and is regarded as producing a public good. Friends of the Lake District exists to promote and organise concerted action for the protection and conservation of the landscape and natural beauty of the Lake District and the County of Cumbria as a whole and therefore provide a clear public benefit. Examples of our charitable activities for public benefit include: our campaigning and events to raise awareness of and improve Dark Skies in the Lake District and Cumbria; our Fell Care Days and Great Cumbria Litter Picks that improve and enhance the landscape of the Lake District and Cumbria.

Financial review 2022

Generous individual giving in 2022 meant that over 70% of our income was in the form of memberships, donations and legacy giving, with legacies specifically providing over 50%. The substantial amount of legacy income in 2022 has been remarkable and humbling, including a significant legacy from Mrs Judith Sugdon, which is being used to fund additional staffing capacity to support our crucial policy and project work. Our strong membership gives us a powerful lobbying and influencing mandate; and membership income itself is vital to the charity as it provides us with a dependable funding that we can plan around, so we thank you for choosing to be a member. In 2021 we were also kindly left some land in the Will of Mr. Mark Stansfield Stephenson near Broughton in Furness, (Middle Bleansley) and we formally took ownership of this land in early 2022.

Consolidated financial figures from the 2022 Accounts:

Total income £1,581,793

- Voluntary Income – (Legacies, Donations and Subscriptions) £1,134,996
- Charitable Activities £241,248
- Trading Activities £29,524
- Investments £66,025
- Land donated £110,000

Total expenditure £997,860

- Generating Voluntary Income (Inc. Membership) £134,329
- Charitable Activities £793,220
- Trading Activities £61,092
- Investment Management Costs £9,218

Total Funds/Net Assets at 31 December 2022 Total £5,645,890

- Tangible Fixed Assets (including properties) £1,618,976
- Investments £2,686,528
- Net Current Assets £1,340,386

Funds by restriction

- Unrestricted £2,252,416
- Designated (including Tangible fixed assets) £2,809,976
- Restricted £159,106
- Permanent Endowment £424,392

Given ongoing concerns regarding the wider economic environment and wishing to seek to secure a more sustainable organisation, it is important that Friends of the Lake District maintains sufficient funding to support its vital work. As such during 2022 we invested any surplus income in line with the following Reserves Policy:

Reserves Policy

The Charity needs reserves in order that:

- it can provide working capital when funding is paid in arrears;
- it can meet the costs of new campaigns, unforeseen emergencies and/or other unexpected needs for funds, including employing temporary staff to cover long-term sick absence;
- it protects against unpredictable legacy income, in order to provide a stable and quality service to fulfil its objectives;
- it can acquire strategic land holdings, should they become available; and
- it can meet contractual obligations should the charity have to close.

In 2022, the Board maintained reserves for the following purposes:

- a designated fund for working capital;
- a designated fund for contingencies –including provision to address the ongoing financial impacts of COVID and inflationary pressures;
- a designated fund to support the Trustees' plan to restore Friends of the Lake District to financial self-sufficiency by the beginning of 2023, whilst fulfilling the activities of the 3-year 2021-2023 Strategic Direction;
- a designated fund to allow Friends of the Lake District to make further investments in strategic land holdings in Cumbria, and developments to existing properties held for charitable purposes.

From early 2023, a new Reserves Policy was introduced, which covered working capital only. Designated funds allocations were reviewed and updated as part of the Audit process (see Note 14 to the Accounts). For 2023, designated funds have been agreed as the following:

- **Working Capital** - a designated fund to cover between 6 and 9 months operating costs to maintain essential services which includes all risks associated with the unplanned closure of the charity's business model, spending commitments, potential liabilities and financial forecasts. £600,000.
- **Sustainability and Growth** - Trustees have committed to invest in the development of operational and income generation activities over a three-year period to ensure the charity can respond to ever increasing demands and develop long term financial sustainability - £316,000 (deficit over 3 years).
- **Digital Evolution** - As Friends of the Lake District embraced digital acceleration in 2020 and 2021, adjusting to the demands of the moment Trustees recognise that a 'new normal' has emerged from the pandemic years. Therefore, a designated fund of £100,000 has been identified to help consolidate existing digital activities and assist digital evolution to help increase fundraising efforts, enhance our marketing and communications, engage with our members and supporters and support the day-to-day in-house operations.
- **Development** - A designated fund of £100,000 has been agreed to support unforeseen campaigns and promote innovation outside of the agreed budget.
- **Capital Expenditure** - A designated capital expenditure fund of £75,000 has been agreed to support capital initiatives in the year including our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint.

Investment Policy

The Articles of Association of the charitable company permit the Board wide powers of investment. The investment policy for the charity has been to maintain capital growth and take advantage of the income which it generates. In 2022 Trustees made the decision to move away from the preference of capital growth and increased focus on generating income from the investment portfolio to support rising operational costs. As a result, income from Investments was materially higher in 2022 compared to 2021. We anticipate a continuation of this trend in 2023.

Performance of our investments continued to be reviewed during 2022 by the Finance and Investment Committee, led by Philip Cropper, and involving the whole Executive. Global investment fluctuations arising from the COVID pandemic, war in Ukraine, the emerging energy crisis and other global financial pressures meant that performance of our Investments, in particular the endowment funds, was significantly below previous years and recorded a net loss in the period. The accounts reflect year end valuations (at 31.12.22), and whilst concern to Trustees, valuations and performance have begun to improve again in the first quarter of 2023. The investment performance continues to be monitored closely and alternative investment options are being considered.

In 2022 we continued our review of our Investment Strategy and Policy, including an ongoing review of ethical investments, culminating in early 2022, with a new Investment Policy.

As a landscape charity, we are committed to ensuring our investment portfolio is one that does not contribute to global carbon emissions and takes into account any investments that might have a detrimental impact on climate change, or any factors that contribute to the damage of the landscape we aim to protect.

Endowment funds: Our Endowment funds are managed separately from the other assets of the charity by Brewin Dolphin. The 2 **Kirby Endowment Funds** are: 1) **Amenity Fund**, the income from which is restricted for use in our charitable activities and policy work; and 2) **General Fund**, income from which is unrestricted but used for our Environmental Improvement Grants (which became Landscape Grants Scheme in 2019) and the annual Kirby Lecture. Towards the end of 2015 we were notified of a new endowment legacy – the **Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund**, the first part of this endowment income was received towards the end of 2018. The income from the Margaret Taylor Memorial fund is not restricted and is used to support our wider work.

Property Assets

The charity owns a portfolio of properties, which are maintained by the charity in furtherance of its charitable objects. In 2022 Jan Darrall, one of our Policy Officers, was seconded as Policy Officer (Land and Property) for the Friends, with direct responsibility for all our Property assets. This is a new way of managing our properties and is overseen by the work of the Property Working Group and the wider Executive. Updated property management plans and associated use to engage the public have been developed, which will be fed into a full Property Review, planned as part of the Strategic Direction development later in 2023.

We were notified of bequeathed land near Broughton in Furness, (Middle Bleansley) from Mr Mark Stansfield Stephenson, in the early part of 2021 and which we formally took ownership of in early 2022. Details of all our properties can be found on our website:
https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Listing/Category/our-land

The Executive Board in 2017 agreed to adopt the change to accounting procedures relating to valuation of property assets, as offered by the transition arrangements switching from FRSSE to FRS102. As such, property asset values will be set at 2012 amounts as deemed cost.

Thank you

Thank you to our members, partners and friends for your wonderful support in 2022. From generous donations to the dedication of our volunteers, we're very grateful for the many contributions we've received to protect and enhance Cumbrian landscapes. We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to those who've left a gift to Friends of the Lake District in their Will. If you'd like to know more about leaving a legacy to help care for the landscapes of the Lake District and Cumbria, please contact Vanessa Rhoden on 01539 720788 or email vanessa-rhoden@fld.org.uk.

Leaving a legacy is a wonderful way to ensure future generations can continue to enjoy the tranquility, beauty and inspiration of this special place. In 2022, the following members and supporters left a lasting legacy:

Edith Marjorie Yeo
Margaret Joan Whitely
James Fordyce Lumsden
Audrey Letitia Heckels
Michael Drew Stevens
Judith Sugdon
David Smith
Margaret Joan Gradwell
Bryan Percival Austin
Cyril Sanders
Margaret Whiteley
Mark Stansfield Stephenson
Patricia Joan Crompton
Donald Margerison
Paul Edwards Langley
Gillian Featonby
Sheila Mary Brandon
Cedric Hugh Briscoe
Eileen Barton
Christine Marion Huggins

In addition, generous donations were made in memory of:

Ann Highton
Ann Hinton
Anne Prasad
Ashley Pugh
Bill MacFarlane
Colin L Rushton
David Cutforth
Dennis Fox
Eric Stuffins
James Lea Steele
Jeanne Smith
Joan Willacy
Joanne Heron Wates
John 'Eric' Pearson
John Nevile Whitehorn
Mary Ohlson
Patricia May Moss
Peter Williams
Richard Evans

And donations made in celebration of: Prof Laura Doan

We would also like to thank our generous benefactors for their support in 2022:

John Berry, James Brockbank and Louise Ronane, John Campbell, Richard Coates, Philip Cropper, Margaret Haigh, John Harris, Peter Hughes QC, John and Margaret Jackson, Brian Leigh-Bramwell, Rosamund Macfarlane, Jim and Sue Martin, Diana Matthews, Angela Monkman-Brushett, David Pennefather CB OBE, Elizabeth Reddaway, David Salter, Mr and Mrs Eric Thomas.

Looking ahead – our priorities in 2023

Our work continues in line with our 2021-2023 Strategic Direction. During the course of 2023 a new Strategic Direction for 2024 onwards will be developed with the arrival of our new Chief Executive. Some of our main objectives for 2023 are:

- We will review our current strategic plan to ensure that we remain true to our charitable objectives and relevant in a post pandemic environment
- We will review our land and property portfolio to ensure that we are clear about our intentions
- We will review how we campaign, and as part of the strategic review, identify headline campaigning initiatives
- We will review our income generation activities to continue diversifying our income streams
- We will continue to raise our profile and showcase the work of our organisation
- We will celebrate the successes and learning from the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership
- We will continue with our commitment to the Lake District National Park Partnership
- We will begin a digital evolution process to enhance all aspects of our organisation

Statement of Going Concern

In line with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Acts of 2006 and 2011, as a result of our evidence assessment and levels of reserves, as laid out in this Annual Report, the Trustees conclude the charity is a going concern and there are no material uncertainties relating to its going concern status. The financial statements have been prepared on a 'going concern' basis.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 18th May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

David Felton, Chair of Trustees 

Friends Of The Lake District
A Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Friends of the Lake District Year Ended 31 December 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Friends of the Lake District (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Friends Of The Lake District
A Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Friends of the Lake District
(continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2022

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Friends Of The Lake District
A Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Friends of the Lake District
(continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2022

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud are: to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are: Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Companies Act 2006.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We examined supporting documents for all material balances, transactions and disclosures.
- We applied analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.
- We tested the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements.

Friends Of The Lake District
A Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Friends of the Lake District
(continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2022

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non- compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Friends Of The Lake District
A Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Friends of the Lake District
(continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2022

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with chapter 3 of part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Christopher Lamont BSc FCA
Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of:

Lamont Pridmore
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
136 Highgate
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4HW

Dated: 18.05.2023

Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Friends of the Lake District meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Going concern

The current economic conditions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic continue to create uncertainty over the incoming resources available for the charity's activities. The charity's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonably possible changes in performance, show that the charity should be able to operate within its current level of reserves. The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds that are available for use by the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.
Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds has restrictions which are described in note 14. Any capital gains or losses arising on the endowment fund investments form part of the endowment fund.

Investment income and gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies and bequests, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.
Subscriptions are accounted for on a cash basis. Income from investment is included when it becomes payable. Grant income is included when receivable, as long as any conditions attaching to the grant are within the Charity's control
Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources (see note 4).

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, the costs involved with other activities for generating funds, and the costs of managing the Charity's investments.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the furtherance of its charitable objects.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity.

Grants payable

Grants payable are included once they have been approved.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation over the anticipated useful life of the assets concerned. The principal rates are as follows:

Freehold land	0%
Freehold property	2% straight line
Equipment	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicle	20% reducing balance

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. Market value is based on the mid-market price of quoted investments at the balance sheet date. Surpluses or deficits on revaluation and sales of investments are credited or charged in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks consist of purchased goods for resale. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities over the period in which the cost is incurred.

Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which they are payable.

Taxation

Friends of the Lake District has charitable status and is thus potentially exempt from taxation of its income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives. No taxation has been charged in the accounts.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022
(including Income and Expenditure account)

	Note	General Funds Unrestricted £	General Funds Designated £	General Funds Restricted £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Income and Endowments From:							
Donations		102,556	-	59,635	-	162,191	163,988
Legacies		850,329	-	-	-	850,329	1,036,821
Membership Subscriptions		122,476	-	-	-	122,476	118,874
Charitable Activities							
Grants	1	32,488	-	196,166	-	228,654	187,580
Properties		1,840	-	-	-	1,840	2,080
Event & Other Income		9,919	-	835	-	10,754	6,466
Other Trading Activities							
Sale of Merchandise		21,889	-	7,635	-	29,524	36,827
Investments	2	74,525	-	(8,500)	-	66,025	28,204
Other	3						
Land Sales		-	-	-	-	-	-
Land Donated		110,000	-	-	-	110,000	15,000
Total Income		1,326,022	-	255,771	-	1,581,793	1,595,840
Expenditure On:							
Raising Funds							
Costs of Generating Voluntary Income		134,329	-	-	-	134,329	113,465
Cost of Sale of Merchandise		61,092	-	-	-	61,092	54,992
Investment Management Costs		9,218	-	-	-	9,218	12,989
Charitable Activities							
Protect Your Lake District		242,710	-	-	-	242,710	233,976
Train & Inspire		245,254	-	243,299	-	488,552	447,845
Grants - Amenity and Conservation		61,958	-	-	-	61,958	38,650
Total Expenditure	4,5	754,561	-	243,299	-	997,860	901,917
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Gains/(Losses) on Investments		571,461	-	12,472	-	583,933	693,922
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)							
Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investment Assets		(311,765)	-	-	(96,298)	(408,063)	262,435
Net Movement in Funds		259,696	-	12,472	(96,298)	175,870	956,357
Reconciliation of Funds							
Fund Balances Brought Forward		808,804	4,015,214	125,312	520,690	5,470,020	4,513,663
Transfers		1,183,916	(1,205,238)	21,322	-	-	-
Fund Balances Carried Forward		2,252,416	2,809,976	159,106	424,392	5,645,890	5,470,020

All activities of the charity are classed as continuing. The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those in the Statement of Financial Activities. There is no material difference between the reported results and the historical results of the charitable company. The Balance Sheet, Cash Flow and Notes on subsequent pages form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Registration Number: 04878364

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	6,7	1,618,976	1,508,214
Investments at Market Value	8	2,686,528	2,594,591
		4,305,504	4,102,805
Current Assets			
Stock		3,243	3,173
Debtors and Accrued Income	9	489,855	214,194
Cash at Bank and in Hand		917,581	1,200,570
		1,410,679	1,417,937
Current Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	10	70,293	50,722
Net Current Assets		1,340,386	1,367,215
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		5,645,890	5,470,020
Net Assets		5,645,890	5,470,020
Represented by Accumulated Funds	14		
Unrestricted funds		2,252,416	808,804
Designated funds		2,809,976	4,015,214
Restricted funds		159,106	125,312
Permanent endowment funds		424,392	520,690
		5,645,890	5,470,020

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The accounts were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 18th May 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Dave Felton, Chair of Trustees

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Registration Number: 04878364

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	21	166,997	789,009
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	2	66,025	28,204
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment Proceeds from sale of investments		(16,011)	(7,958)
		-	-
Purchase of investments		(500,000)	(216,327)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(449,986)	(196,081)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments of borrowing		-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing		-	-
Receipt of endowment		-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(282,989)	592,928
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,200,570	607,642
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	22	917,581	1,200,570

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. Grants Receivable

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Totals 2022 £	Totals 2021 £
Rural Payments Agency Grants				
Properties	32,487	-	**32,487**	22,144
Natural England Grants				
Landscape Character Assessment	-	-	-	-
Other Grants				
Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership	-	**184,347**	**184,347**	151,876
Dark Skies	-	**1,500**	**1,500**	500
Landscape Engagement	-	**10,319**	**10,319**	9,205
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	855
South Lake District Discretionary Grant	-	-	-	3,000
	32,487	**196,166**	**228,653**	187,580

2. Investment Income

	2022	2021
General Investments		
Brewin Dolphin General Fund	**22,740**	2,744
CCLA COIF Charity Fund (Accumulation)	**13,964**	1,838
CCLA COIF Charity Ethical Fund (Accumulation)	**10,502**	2,824
Canaccord G. W. Ltd (Hargreave Hale) Investment Fund	**1,298**	1,567
Canaccord G. W. Ltd (Hargreave Hale) Ethical Investment Fund	**3,281**	207
Interest on Short Term Deposits	**5,691**	86
	57,477	9,266
Permanent Endowment Funds		
Kirby & Taylor Funds		
UK Fixed Interest Bonds	-	1,783
Brewin Dolphin Endowment Fund	**8,547**	17,155
Interest on Short Term Deposits	-	-
	8,547	18,938
	66,025	28,204

3. Other Income

	2022	2021
Land Donated - Little Bleansley, Broughton-In-Furness	**110,000**	-
Land Donated at Underknott, Threlkeld (Dam Mire Wood)	-	15,000
	110,000	15,000
Land with value		

4. Analysis of Total Resources Expended

	Direct Staff costs £	Support Staff costs £	Direct expenses £	Overheads £	Governance costs £	Totals 2022 £	Totals 2021 £
Basis of Allocation	Staff time	Staff time	Direct	Staff time	Staff time		
Voluntary Income Generation	53,239	27,152	30,883	16,583	6,472	**134,329**	113,465
Costs of Sale of Merchandise	26,619	13,576	9,369	8,291	3,236	**61,092**	54,992
Investment Management Costs	-	-	9,218	-	-	**9,218**	12,989
Protect Your Lake District	113,133	58,829	19,176	35,930	15,642	**242,710**	233,976
Train & Inspire	206,301	108,607	79,264	66,332	28,047	**488,552**	447,845
Landscape Grants	6,655	18,101	25,608	11,055	539	**61,958**	38,650
Totals	405,947	226,266	173,518	138,191	53,937	**997,859**	901,917

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

5. Employee Information

	2022		2021	
	Actual	Full Time Equivalent	Actual	Full Time Equivalent
The number of employees working in the following areas were:				
Generating funds	3	2	3	2
Charitable activities	12	9	12	9
Governance	1	1	1	1
Support	9	7	7	6
Total	25	19	23	18

The average monthly head count for employees was 25 (2021: 23)

Employee costs were as follows:	£	£
Salaries	544,909	516,092
National insurance	45,091	39,997
Pension costs	75,487	72,983
	665,487	629,073

One employee received benefits in excess of £60,000 (2021: 1)

6. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold property	Office equipment	Motor vehicle	Total
Deemed cost	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2022	1,509,436	95,524	18,134	1,623,094
Additions	110,000	16,011	-	126,011
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	1,619,436	111,535	18,134	1,749,105
Accumulated depreciation At 1 January 2022	33,455	70,719	10,706	114,880
Charge for year	3,431	10,332	1,486	15,249
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	36,886	81,051	12,192	130,129
Net book value At 31 December 2022	**1,582,550**	**30,484**	**5,942**	**1,618,976**
Net book value At 31 December 2021	1,475,981	24,805	7,428	1,508,214

Details of the freehold property are given in note 7.

7. Freehold Property at deemed Cost

	2022	2021
	£	£
Used in the Operation of the Charity		
Kendal Office	**266,600**	266,600
Held for Environmental Purposes		
Farmland, High Borrowdale	**234,000**	234,000
Common Land Grazing Rights, Ullpha, Little Asby, Roundthwaite, Whelpside	**64,800**	64,800
Hows Wood, Eskdale	**11,806**	11,806
The Helm	**318,155**	318,155
Common Land, Little Asby	**198,000**	198,000
Land at Mazonwath, Little Asby	**152,452**	152,452
Woodland at Staveley	**60,623**	60,623
Greenbank Wood	**18,000**	18,000
Bull Coppice & Resp Haw Woodland, Rusland	**100,000**	100,000
Land Underknott, Threlkeld	**15,000**	15,000
Littlerigg, Sweden Wood, Ambleside	**70,000**	70,000
Little Bleansley, Broughton-In-Furness	**110,000**	-
	1,619,436	1,509,436

Legacy of land at Broughton-in-Furness, Little Bleansley left to the charity in 2021, by Mr Mark Stansfield Stephenson amounting to £110,000 came under control of the charity in 2022.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ended 31 December 2022

8. Fixed Assets - Investments

	2022 Market value £	2021 Market value £
General Unrestricted Funds		
Brewin Dolphin General Fund	**492,143**	469,049
CCLA COIF Charity Fund (Accumulation)	**467,747**	369,298
CCLA COIF Charity Ethical Fund (Accumulation)	**595,258**	627,344
Canaccord G.W. Ltd (Hargreave Hale) Ethical Investment Fund	**221,810**	206,146
Canaccord G. W. Ltd (Hargreave Hale) Investment Fund	**469,073**	385,959
Total	**2,246,031**	2,057,796
Permanent Endowment Funds		
Kirby Fund	**348,004**	407,754
Taylor Fund	**92,493**	129,041
Total	**440,497**	536,795
Total Fixed Asset Investments	**2,686,528**	2,594,591

Movement of Investments	Brewin Dolphin **2022 General Unrestricted Funds** £	CCLA **2022 General Unrestricted Funds** £	CCLA Ethical **2022 General Unrestricted Funds** £	Canaccord **2022 General Unrestricted Funds** £	Canaccord **2022 General Unrestricted Funds** £	Total **2022 General Unrestricted Funds** £	Brewin Dolphin **2022 Endowment Funds** £
Market value at 1 January 2022	**469,049**	**369,298**	**627,344**	**206,146**	**385,959**	**2,057,796**	**536,795**
Additions	**100,000**	**150,000**	**50,000**	**50,000**	**150,000**	**500,000**	**-**
Disposals at carrying value	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Net gains/ (losses) on revaluation	**(76,906)**	**(51,551)**	**(82,086)**	**(34,336)**	**(66,886)**	**(311,765)**	**(96,298)**
Market value at 31 December 2022	**492,143**	**467,747**	**595,258**	**221,810**	**469,073**	**2,246,031**	**440,497**
Historical cost at 31 December 2022	**427,214**	**448,538**	**570,438**	**250,000**	**404,195**	**2,100,385**	**496,588**

9. Debtors and Accrued Income

	2022 £	2021 £
Accrued Legacy Income	**434,171**	192,563
Other Debtors	**52,094**	18,043
Prepayments and Accrued Income	**3,589**	3,589
	489,855	214,195

10. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals and Deferred Income	**26,990**	25,229
Taxation and Social Security	**12,337**	12,026
Other Creditors	**30,966**	13,467
	70,293	50,722

11. Trustees

The Trustees received no remuneration.
Amounts of £1,090 (2021: £636) were reimbursed to cover part of the travel and subsistence expenses incurred on behalf of the charity by three trustees (2021: one trustee).

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

12. Auditors' Remuneration

	2022	2021
	£	£
Audit	7,885	6,180
	7,885	6,180

13. Legal Status of the Charity

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of a winding up is limited to £1 (One Pound).

14. Movement in Funds

	At 1 January 2022	Surplus/ (Excess) of Expenditure over Income	Transfers	Other Recognised Gains and Losses	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
Designated Funds					
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,508,214	-	110,762	-	1,618,976
Specific Designated Funds	2,507,000	-	(1,316,000)	-	1,191,000
Total Designated Funds	4,015,214	-	(1,205,238)	-	2,809,976
General Funds	808,804	571,461	1,183,916	(311,765)	2,252,416
Total Unrestricted Funds	4,824,018	571,461	(21,322)	(311,765)	5,062,392
Restricted Funds					
Fell Care Days	19,669	(2,226)	-	-	17,443
Wellbeing Work (Sanctuary Project)	29,225	-	-	-	29,225
Troutbeck Churchyard For Upkeep	1,871		-	-	1,871
Properties	1,994	(1,621)	-	-	373
Our Green Space (formerly Greens for Life)	1,668	-	-	-	1,668
Landscape Grants (WDLPS Love Your Landscape)	(7,470)	-	7,470	-	-
Dark Skies Project	(16,044)	2,880	13,164	-	-
Virtual Gifts	15,069	(2,063)	-	-	13,006
Donations Paths	-	8,746	-	-	8,746
Land management appeal	-	(10,717)	18,165	-	7,447
Policy and planning (restricted)	-	15,025	-	-	15,025
Climate Change Project	30,404	-	(18,165)	-	12,239
Conquer the Lakes	989	(450)	-	-	539
Storm Arwen appeal	-	2,152	-	-	2,152
WDLPS	29,043	12,592	(7,470)	-	34,164
Kirby Amenity Fund	342	(8,500)	8,158	-	-
Championing Upland Hill Farming	15,105	-	-	-	15,105
Property Purchase - J Kent	3,448	(3,345)	-	-	103
Total Restricted Funds	125,312	12,472	21,322	-	159,106
Permanent Endowment Funds					
Kirby General Fund	357,425	-	-	(66,104)	291,321
Kirby Amenity Fund	45,959	-	-	(8,500)	37,459
Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund	117,306	-	-	(21,694)	95,612
Total Permanent Funds	520,690	-	-	(96,298)	424,392
Total Funds	5,470,020	583,933	-	(408,063)	5,645,890

Purpose of Designated Funds

The trustees continue to designate funds deployed in tangible fixed assets.
In addition to this the trustees have designated £1,191,000 (2021: £2,507,000) out of general unrestricted funds into the following funds:

Working Capital	600,000
Sustainability and Growth	316,000
Digital transformation	100,000
Development fund	100,000
Capital expenditure	75,000
	1,191,000

Permanent Endowment Fund

The permanent endowment fund represents the two Kirby Funds and the Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund. The capital of the Kirby & Taylor Funds is invested.
The income arising from the Kirby Amenity Fund may only be used for special conservation activities and is included in restricted funds.
The income from the Kirby General and Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund is for the general purposes of the Charity.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

15. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted General	Designated	Restricted	Permanent Endowment	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	1,618,976	-	-	1,618,976
Investments	2,246,031	-	-	440,497	2,686,528
Net Current Assets	6,385	1,191,000	159,106	(16,105)	1,340,386
	2,252,416	2,809,976	159,106	424,392	5,645,890

16. Commitments

Operating leases

As at 31 December 2022, the Charity had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as below:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Operating leases which expire:		
Within 1 to 2 years	4,894	1,152
Within 2 to 5 years and after 5 years	7,920	6,817
	12,814	7,969

17. Pension costs

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they accrue. The charity generally contributes 6% of pensionable salary matched by members. Most members have chosen to match the company contribution and to do so by salary sacrifice. Contribution costs for the year amounted to £75,487 (2021: £72,983).

18. Ultimate controlling party

There is no ultimate controlling party.

19. Related party disclosures

There were no connected charities or branches during the year ended 31 December 2022.
There were no material transactions with Trustees or other connected persons during the year ended 31 December 2022.

20. Contingent assets - legacy income

As at the year end, the charity had been notified of residuary legacies where the value of these estates was uncertain as the executors had not yet compiled the estate accounts and probate had not yet been granted. Therefore, no amount has been accrued in respect of these legacies which are estimated to be in excess of £186,000 (2021: £320,000)

21. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	175,870	956,357
Adjustments for:		
Donated/bequeathed land	(110,000)	(15,000)
Depreciation charges	15,249	14,239
(Gains)/losses on investments	408,063	(262,435)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(66,025)	(28,204)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(70)	(2,310)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(275,661)	137,462
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	19,571	(11,100)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	166,997	789,009

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash in hand	917,581	1,200,569
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	917,581	1,200,569

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1100759

Accounts

Charity number: 1100759
Company number: 4878364

Friends of the Lake District

Trustees' report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Friends of the Lake District
The only membership organisation dedicated to protecting and enhancing the Lake District and Cumbria's landscapes

Legal and administrative information

Charity number 1100759
Company registration number 4878364, Registered Company in England and Wales.

Business address and registered office
Friends of the Lake District
Murley Moss
Oxenholme Road
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 7SS

Auditors
Lamont Pridmore
136 Highgate
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4HW

Solicitors
Burnetts
6 Victoria Place
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA1 1ES

Bankers
CAF Bank Limited
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

National Westminster Bank
10 Elephant Yard
Kendal,
Cumbria
LA9 4LZ

Co-operative Bank
Delf House
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Investment Advisors
Brewin Dolphin
1 Mason Court
Gillan Way, Penrith 40 Business Park
Penrith, Cumbria
CA11 9GR

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4ET

Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management Ltd
Talisman House,
Boardmans Way,
Blackpool
FY4 5FY

President
Mr John Entwistle OBE (to July 2021)

Vice President
Mr John Campbell (from July 2021)

Emeritus President
Sir Martin Holdgate CB

Trustees
John Campbell (Chairman) to July 2021
Judith Cooke (Chair) from July 2021, Vice Chair to July 2021,
David Felton (Honorary Treasurer)
Philip Cropper (Vice Chair) from July 2021
Michael Day (to July 2021)
Laura Doan (Co-opted from July 2021)
Robin Forrest (Co-opted from July 2021)
Lucy Hetherington
Sarah Hodgson-Jones
Tiffany Hunt (to July 2021)
Antony Leeming (to July 2021)
Anthony Vaux (Co-opted from July 2021)

Staff (Full and Part time)
Kay Andrews (Landscape Engagement Officer) from November 2021
Janine Bickerstaff (Membership Officer) to August 2021
Douglas Chalmers (Chief Executive)
Stuart Clayton (Head of Finance and Operations) from December 2021
Jan Darrall (Policy Officer)
Rachel Dorrington (Fundraising Officer)
Jack Ellerby (Dark Skies Officer)
Nicola Estill (Community Engagement Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
David Evans (Scheme Manager, Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
Dawn Groundsell (Communications Officer)
Clare Hucknall (Company Secretary)
Catriona James (Finance and Office Manager) to June 2021
Chris James (Communications Officer)
Jodie Lucas-Jones (Office Administrator) to December 2021
Hannah Kingsbury (Cultural Heritage Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
Ruth Kirk (Landscape Engagement Officer) to July 2021
Marianne Kitchen (Finance Administrator)
Amanda McCleery (Overhead Wires Project Officer)
Penny McMullen (Administration and Finance Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
Megan Mattinson (Administration Assistant) from July 2021
Ellie Morton (Membership Officer) from November 2021
Jasmine O'Flaherty (Database Administrator)
Laura Partington (Policy Officer) from December 2021
Vanessa Rhoden (Fundraising Manager) from March 2020
Andrew Tait (Policy Officer) to July 2021
Amanda Walters (Interpretation Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
Kate Willshaw (Policy Officer)
Lorayne Woodend Wall (Planning Officer)
Claire Wickham (Office Administrator) to May 2021

Report of the Trustees (incorporating the Directors' Report) for the year ended 31 December 2021

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who are serving at the date of this report, are set out on page 3.

Chair's Report

This report contains some very positive achievements and changes during the year being reviewed as well as some thoughts about the current year and looking ahead for Friends of the Lake District.

Throughout 2021, our work remained dominated by COVID-19 lockdowns and the challenges the pandemic posed for Friends of the Lake District. Despite being hampered by some of the restrictions, we continued work on key projects and campaigns including our work on sustainable transport which included working with others (in particular the Lake District National Park Partnership and local supportive organisations) to identify longer term solutions to the increasing pressures on transport within the Lake District. It is clear that transport is now a landscape issue given the continuing increase in visitor numbers. During 2021 we maintained (with colleagues in the Lake District National Park Partnership and local parishes) our pressure for Natural England to be much more proactive in considering our application for the Southern Extension to the Lake District National Park.

Once guidance permitted, we restarted (cautiously) activities including meetings, events, office-working and landscape engagement. Key activities and achievements during the year included:

- **Campaigning:** Following post-Covid lockdown problems, we commissioned Keep Britain Tidy research on littering to inform on why people littered and how we could influence changing behaviour.
- **Planning and Protection**: Ongoing work to challenge potentially harmful developments in a number of landscapes including Ullswater, Threlkeld, Portinscale, Windermere, Grasmere, Hawkshead, Coniston and Seathwaite. Particular concerns were car park proposals where there were negative impacts on the landscape and (in some cases) undermined efforts to move towards more sustainable travel options.
- **Work on our land**: We continued to manage 1500 acres of Cumbrian countryside, for everyone to enjoy. We work to enhance its landscape, increase biodiversity, build climate-change resilience and to increase rural skills such as dry-stone walling and hedge-laying.
- **Dark Skies project**: This project is led by us, as part of our work within the National Park Partnership. It has raised awareness with more than 500 attending online roadshows and talks. The Dark Skies compliant and wildlife-friendly road lighting pilot projects are established in seven Cumbrian communities. This has been in partnership with: Cumbria County Council; Thorn Lighting UK; and with parish and town councils. Sky Quality Meter Readings have been taken in 120 new locations.
- **Great Cumbria Litter Pick**: More than 500 bags of rubbish collected over 2 days, by dozens of volunteers covering 194 miles on 75 litter picks.
- **Climate Change**: we sent representatives to the COP-26 Climate Conference in Glasgow, raising awareness about rural area problems and learning more about nature-based solutions. It is clear this will be a growing part of the Friends' work especially given likely changes for protected areas and land management.

Our income generation activities continued, although in-person events were much reduced and the Morecambe Bay walk cancelled. We were delighted to receive significant legacy income during the year, more than £1 million. We had a very large legacy from Mr John Berry. In addition we received over £120,000 in donations. The generosity of our members continues to amaze and inspire us, we will ensure all funds donated will be put to very good use.

Our external communications have increased, with larger profiles on social media and through online webinars and workshops by our very successful Westmorland Dales and Dark Skies projects. The fortnightly 'Postcard from the Lakes' has reached new viewers and existing readers alike and provides an excellent means for many to connect and share.

The Board of Trustees (with three co-opted trustees) continues to oversee the work of the organisation and we welcomed the return to face-to-face meetings in June. Although the Annual General Meeting was held remotely, this was well attended and meant new people could attend. We sadly said farewell and thanks to our President – John Entwistle OBE. We also thanked John Campbell, our outgoing Chair, for all his work for Friends, and were delighted when he agreed to become Vice President. We have appreciated the ongoing support and counsel of Sir Martin Holdgate, our Emeritus President.

Our work would not have been possible without the great efforts and commitment of our staff, led by Douglas Chalmers, and for which we are very grateful. Our work and success is underpinned by a huge team of volunteers, including the Trustees, and we owe a huge debt of thanks to them all.

The staff team at Friends of the Lake District changed towards the end of 2021, and we have welcomed new faces in the office and on our screens. As we move further into 2022, we are anticipating yet more changes with the addition of new colleagues and the departure of our Chief Executive. Douglas has made a huge difference to Friends of the Lake District and he will be very much missed. I very much hope he will enjoy greater time on his farm and the activities they pursue there, as well as (hopefully) having more time with his family.

Judith Cooke, Chair of Trustees

Annual Review 2021

2021 Highlights - A Review of our year

Friends of the Lake District has an enviable record of achievement in protecting and enhancing the landscapes of Cumbria and the Lake District. The threats that face our landscapes are increasing, and can be environmental, economic, political, social or climatic.

Through our Business Plan we set targets each year and work under three aims:

1. **Protect your Lake District** – conserving and enhancing local distinctiveness and landscape character for the enjoyment and benefit of everyone.
2. **Engage and Inspire** – encouraging people to enjoy, reconnect with and value the landscape and actively engage in work on the ground to enhance the countryside and maintain traditional rural skills.
3. **Securing our organisation for Cumbria's landscapes** – strengthening and consolidating our influence as a campaigning organisation through membership, staff resource and funding security to enable to carry out aims 1 and 2 effectively.

Protect your Lake District

We achieve this aim through work we undertake on our land, by giving out environmental improvement grants and via our project, planning and policy work.

Dark Skies Cumbria Project

Headline achievements:

- Over 3,100 attended the online festival in 2021. 777 new contacts and 20,000 extra website visits and £6.5k income raised.
- 15 roadshow presentations to 521 people, covering a diverse range of community and interest groups.
- Over 120 additional Sky Quality Meter readings taken by our volunteers.
- Generated the highest sign-up of new supporters in 2021 .
- Appeal generated over £10k, plus a project specific £1,000 legacy.
- First Big Lights Switch off took place in Ambleside in April.
- Piloted new Dark Sky compliant and wildlife friendly road and footway lighting schemes in partnership with Cumbria County Council and Thorn Lighting UK in 7 communities.
- Carlisle City Council completed an investment to save lighting replacement programme for their 1,500 road and footway lights to Dark Sky compliant lighting.
- Commented on approximately 8 development proposals per month with light pollution implications covering the whole range of developments across Cumbria.



Holme Wood Walk, image John Macfarlane

Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme

Project delivered by the Westmorland Dales team, employed by Friends of the Lake District, and the wider partnership including the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (the accountable body), Cumbria GeoConservation, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Eden Rivers Trust, the Farmer Network, the Woodland Trust and others.



Sheepfolds and walls, Westmorland Dales

Headline achievements:

- 14 geological factsheets, 3 geotrail leaflets and 10 earth-caches developed as part of the geology project
- 4.8ha meadows and 4.9ha riverine habitat restored, 1300 trees planted and 23 landowners engaged as part of our natural heritage conservation projects
- Completion of the Great Asby Scar archaeological survey by volunteers, identifying 1,218 new sites to add to the Historic Environment Record
- Completion of season one of the Little Asby Through the Keyhole project by volunteers, including 15 keyhole excavations
- Continuation of the Traditional Farm Building Survey by volunteers and the completion of feasibility work to identify priority farm buildings for conservation in 2022
- The award of four grants worth £13,160 to community groups for heritage projects within the area, including the access for all film "Get Outside in the Westmorland Dales"
- The successful completion of the first group of four countryside worker apprenticeships in February, the commencement of the next group of four in August, and the cultural heritage trainee in November.
- The publication of four self-guided walks leaflets as part of YDNPA's Discovering the Westmorland Dales projects
- 15 webinars and online conference held, with 878 people attending live and recordings watched by 1,681 people to date
- 62 other events held or attended, engaging 491 children and 822 adults, including working with schools, local groups and farmers, guided walks and art activities
- 308 volunteer days completed, valued at £44,575 as in-kind match funding towards the scheme over and above the cash match funding

Transport

- We were co-opted onto the new LDNP Partnership Transport Group which is looking to push forward with the actions in the LDNPA Management Plan.
- We got the go-ahead to put together a proposal for further transport research working with Lorraine Smyth of ACT and Emma Moody of LDNPA to scope the research.
- Responded in detail to the Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan (CTIP)
- Liaised with Zero Carbon Cumbria (ZCC) to push them to make a statement about the high carbon proposals in the CTIP. Now sitting on the ZCC transport working group looking at solutions to decarbonise transport in Cumbria.
- Worked with the Copeland People's Panel on Climate Change to look at sustainable transport issues.

- We responded in detail to the A66 consultation. We identified issues that needed querying including no photomontages showing what the proposed road will look like, the fact that it extends into the North Pennines AONB, an extremely short consultation period, very poorly presented consultation information, and nothing about the cumulative carbon emissions from the road.

Geological Disposal of Nuclear Waste

We responded to the threat of constructing Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Infrastructure in or under the Lake District National Park.

- Attended Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) Exchange meetings in order to try and influence the way Working Groups and Community Partnerships are set up.
- Worked with the Allerdale Working Group in sub groups around selecting an "area of search" and working with communities.
- Worked with the Solway Coast AONB Director and Partnership to lobby the Allerdale Working Group and Allerdale Borough Council to ensure that the AONB was excluded from the area of search
- Liaised with David Savage from the Southern Boundary Partnership who is now a member of the South Copeland Community Partnership (SCCP).

Litter

The Keep Britain Tidy research into littering in the Lake District - funded by Friends of the Lake District - reported in June 2021. We have circulated the report to the Lake District's Tactical Visitor Management Group who have used some of the findings to target their messaging to visitors. We hope to work further with the Lake District National Park Authority in using the research results to develop an anti-litter strategy.

Climate Change

- Engaged with Zero Carbon Cumbria and the LDNPP Climate Change working group
- LDNPP climate change meetings attended and work to help shape the Climate Change section of the LDNP Management Plan.
- Started attending ZCC meetings early in 2021. We now have a place on both the Energy and Transport subgroups of ZCC.

Water, Agriculture and Common Land

Influenced plans and proposals to ensure that the sustainable use and management of water is properly considered

- Attendance at Catchment Management Group meetings and site visits to see Natural Flood Management Interventions in Whinlatter, Lorton and Glenderamackin area.
- Commented on Water Resources West: Environmental Destination consultation
- Responded to United Utilities Drought Plan

Conducted research, with partners, into adapting landscapes to withstand future flood and drought events (includes work on our properties)

- Regular photos taken by volunteers
- Final report written up by University of Cumbria
- Press release issued about final report
- *Conserving Lakeland* article on final report

Raised the profile of the uplands, hill farming and the need to minimise landscape harm and lobbied, in partnership with other organisations, to increase our voice when advocating on upland farmers' behalf

- Fed into LDNPA Post CAP working group and Management Plan paper on agriculture.
- Consultation responses on Defra proposals for lump sum exit payment for farmers, delinking the Basic Payment Scheme
- Consultation response on Sustainable Farming Incentive options
- Input into Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Commented on CNP peat policy

Helped to highlight the risk to our cultural heritage and landscapes without adequate support for land management in the future

- Input into consultation responses on Sustainable Farming Incentive, Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Supported and advised commoners and upland farmers (including working in partnerships).

- Commented on proposals for Langstrath and Coombe Fells Commons, Crosby Ravensworth Common and various pieces of common land in Kendal.
- Submitted responses to consultation 'Sustainable Farming Incentive on common land'.

Participation in Common Cause project

- Joint Chair of Lake District Area group.
- Area Group meetings held
- Bi monthly meetings with Area Project Officer

Participation in LDNPP post-CAP Group

Attended meetings and fed into development of Management Plan paper including agriculture, nature and climate change.

Further extensions to the Lake District National Park

We continued our work calling for further extensions to the Lake District National Park, by maintaining contact with the Parish Council Coordination Group and calling on Natural England to clarify their next steps. They will create a visionary map, reflecting the spirit of the Hobhouse Agreement. We will be included in this assessment which will work with others, including communities, and which will identify nature conservation and enhancement needs including any remaining places suitable for future National Park or AONB designation, and our application will be part of this.

Landscape Grants

We awarded five Landscape Grants totalling £4750 and re-profiled previous grants which are were delayed in delivery due to Covid. Grants awarded in Bewcastle, Ambleside, Broughton, Egremont, Langdale and Sedbergh.

Overhead Wires

In 2021 a total of 4.92kms of overhead wires were removed. There were three undergrounding schemes in the Lake District National Park (at Bootle station, Mungrisdale and Pooley Bridge amounting to 1.47kms of line removed) and two undergrounding schemes in the North Pennines AONB (at RSPB Tindale Tarn and Swindalehead near Brough totalling 3.45kms of line removed). This was above the annual target of 4kms and was particularly pleasing as Covid continued to impact on work.



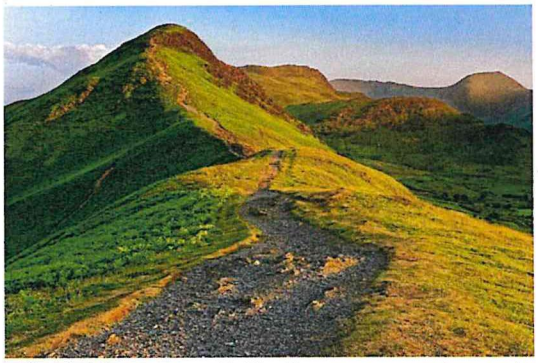
Undergrounding work at Mungrisdale

Planning

We responded to 57 planning applications out of a total of 7420 valid applications received by the Cumbrian Planning Authorities. This works out at 0.8% with an objection rate of 0.6% (see table). As you might expect, those we responded to were predominantly within the Lake District National Park.

Key successes

Ullock Moss and 3 other car parks (Waterfoot, Ullswater; Lands Field, Coniston; Swan Hotel, Grasmere). These decisions collectively represent a crucial point in the ongoing discourse around transport in the LDNP. The engagement, support and joint working we had from local people, visitors and other organisations on Ullock Moss in particular was very encouraging.



Ullock Moss near Catbells

Scotby

We submitted further information to the appeal which was held and dismissed in 2021. We worked closely with the community and a local Councillor on this and the result was particularly pleasing as landscape/visual amenity was a key factor, with the Inspector referring almost verbatim to wording in our response, and significantly the applicant was one of the UK's largest land agent companies – Gladman.

'Success rate' for applications that we objected to or commented on in 2021 and on which there has been an outcome:

Approved with our concerns outstanding	Approved but with changes we suggested	Refused	Withdrawn	Appealed - approved	Appealed - dismissed	Not yet decided but recommended for refusal
4	10	13	9	0	2	0

Local Planning Authority (LPA)	Total applications submitted	No. responded to by FLD in 2021 (%)*	No. objected to by FLD in 2021 (%)*	Dark skies only**
LDNPA	1460	32 (2.2)	27 (1.8)	1
Allerdale	748	3 (0.4)	3 (0.4)	0
Cumbria CC	30	1 (3)	0	1
Eden	1090	4 (0.4)	4 (0.4)	0
Barrow	553	0	0	0
Carlisle	1413	6 (0.4)	5 (0.4)	1
SLDC	1324	8 (0.6)	2 (0.6)	7
YDNP	237 (Cumbria area only)	2 (0.8)	0	1
Copeland	565	1 (0.2)	1 (0.2)	0
Total	7420	57 (0.8)	42 (0.6)	11

*some figures not yet available as not yet heard back from the relevant LPAs
**Applications where we made comments/objected on light pollution/dark skies grounds ONLY and no other issues. Responses to other applications also often include dark skies points. SLDC higher than others as one of the study/pilot areas.

Train and Inspire

We run events and practical activities, getting people directly involved in the landscape through conservation work parties and rural skills training.

The Great Cumbrian Litter Pick

Our litter pick event went ahead in May with 75 separate litter picks taking place across the county. A distance of 311 km was covered by 780 litter pick volunteers and 509 bags of rubbish were collected. Whilst inspiring to see so many people giving up their free time, it was dispiriting to come across huge piles of rubbish left behind by people in a year when visitor numbers continued to soar as a result of more 'staycations'.

Fight the Aliens – Big Balsam Bash

In July we worked to deliver this event around Rydal in partnership with South Cumbria Rivers Trust.

After 2022's Fight the Aliens Day it is likely a mass volunteering effort will no longer be needed and instead will be handed over to several dedicated 'Balsam Bailiffs'



Getting stuck in - Volunteer Balsam Bashers

Fell Care Days 2021

We were able to run a Fell Care Day in November in the Haweswater area. Though we kept numbers lower than usual, the volunteers and task leaders achieved great things:

- 50 volunteers, task leaders and Friends of the Lake District staff
- 3 metres of dry stone wall rebuilt at Orton
- 150 Juniper saplings planted
- 10km of upland trails (bridleways and footpaths) maintained
- 1000 tree guards removed from woodland in Orton



Success for Fell Care Day tree-planters

Leaders' Landscape Training (LLT)

We delivered eight LLT sessions in 2021, raising awareness of Cumbria's landscapes their conservation and management and challenges land managers face. The sessions covered a diverse range of topics including geology, night navigation, farming, beaver projects, upland management, tranquillity, rainforests and the work of Fix the Fells.

Property Maintenance

- Current property assets reviewed against why we own and manage land, and forward plans agreed
- Transfer of land at Sweden Wood, Ambleside, Dam Mire Wood at Threlkeld and start of the process of transfer for Middle Bleansley, Broughton in Furness.
- We began a review of Management Plans and draft plans written for Dam Mire Wood, Greenbank Wood and Sweden Wood.

Work Parties

- 24 work parties held
- Final report on High Borrowdale matting research published
- Funding secured from Farming in Protected Landscapes Scheme to put in 420m new hedge and 6000 upland hay meadow plug plants at High Borrowdale

2021 Annual General Meeting

The 2021 AGM was held as an online event, via Zoom. Thirty members attended. We conducted all the usual AGM business including voting (by screen show of hands), a Q&A session, and a review of our year's achievements by the Chairman and Chief Executive. We thanked John Entwistle, who retired as President. We also thanked our outgoing Chairman John Campbell, but quickly welcomed him back as Vice President.

Securing our organisation for Cumbria's landscapes

Ensuring that our charity is well run and monitoring our fundraising, membership and volunteering activities. Our achievements in 2021:

Volunteers

Our brilliant volunteers gave us 1395 hours of their time, equivalent to £9,964 in value.

Volunteers helped us on conservation work parties, events, research, in our office, and not forgetting our Board of Trustees.

Legacies

We continue to be extremely grateful to all members who choose to leave us gifts in their Will. In 2021 we received £1,036,821 in legacies from supporters who wished to protect the landscapes of the Lake District for future generations. Without these gifts, we simply couldn't achieve what we do. Thank you to everyone who chooses to remember us in this special way.

Fundraising

Members and supporters gave generously to our appeals in 2021. Our Dark Skies Appeal raised over £10,000 helping us launch a ground-breaking initiative to tackle light pollution in the Lake District. In June, over £19,000 was raised to support our campaign for sustainable transport options in the National Park. Our Nature in Need appeal to repair over 30 acres of critical habitat at High Borrowdale and Rusland raised £18,000.

Merchandise

Our annual photo competition returned in 2021. The ever-popular contest attracted over 600 entries. Winning images featured in our 2021 Christmas card collection and 2022 calendar. Along with Christmas cards and calendars, sales of our notecards, tea towels, landscape gifts and art prints raised over £36,000 in income.



April Calendar image,
Wastwater by Trevor Davis

Communications

We responded to 127 media enquiries in 2021. We issued 40 press releases including those promoting the Westmorland Dales project. We received 88,000 unique visits to our website. We increased growth of our following on Twitter to 14,200, Facebook to 9,744 and Instagram followers rising to 2,616. We published three Conserving Lakeland magazines and 24 'Postcards from the Lakes'.

Membership

Membership numbers remained stable in 2021 ending the year with 6435 members. Our members play a vital role in the work of Friends of the Lake District, and their regular donations and subscriptions provide long-term stability to ensure our future. We are committed to increasing our membership numbers and growing this core element of vital financial support.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Trustees are responsible for preparing their Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the net income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

(i) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
(ii) make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
(iii) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information published on the charity's website.

The ongoing COVID 19 pandemic throughout 2021 meant the Executive continued with on-line Meetings via Zoom in the first half of the year, and returned to face to face meetings from June onwards (where permitted). Given the uncertainties of larger-scale in-person meetings, the 2021 Annual General Meeting in early July was held remotely via Zoom and was well attended. We conducted all the usual AGM business, including election of Trustees, reporting our 2020 achievements and 2020 Annual Report and Accounts.

Rolling agenda items include consideration of the financial status and sustainability of the organisation and regular reviews of risk management which includes financial systems and audit procedures. We also covered regular monitoring of COVID issues and additional reviews of the budget. Specifically, the Executive Board:

- maintains oversight of the development of an annual budget in line with the requirements of the proposed Business Plan;
- ensures appropriate financial systems and controls are in place, that there is effective management and monitoring of the Friends of the Lake District's finances, financial control systems and procedures, assets including properties, and all other matters relevant to the financial affairs of Friends of the Lake District in order to achieve the charitable Objects and the legal obligations of the organisation;
- ensures proper arrangements are in place to secure effective audit of the Friends of the Lake District.

The Trustees understand there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware. The Trustees have each taken all the steps that Company's Directors need to take in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information. During 2018 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was introduced and in 2021 we reviewed our policies and procedures to meet these regulations. There has been one request for personal data erasure, which was carried out within the time-frame specified. There have been no fundraising, or other complaints. We continue to operate within the guidelines set out by the Fundraising Regulator. We take great care and caution with our fundraising

practices to ensure protection of vulnerable people and other members of the public, and keep all direct fundraising in-house. We have not employed any external professional fundraiser or commercial participator. Our Fundraising Manager has monitored and maintained an overview of all fundraising activities carried out by individuals within the organisation, and by the organisation as a whole, which is overseen by the Chief Executive and the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees are aware of no incidents of non-compliance with other regulatory policies and internal policies, and we have complied with all previous and current fundraising requirements. In line with Charity Commission recommendations, we are happy to report no serious incidents have come to our attention in 2021. In addition, the Trustees are confident that during the year since the AGM in July 2021, the Charity has complied with its Articles of Association, charity law requirements and other applicable laws. In 2017, new legislation was introduced requiring all companies to identify and register any Persons of Significant Control. This was reviewed by the Executive in 2017, and subsequently on an annual basis most recently March 2022, and there was no one identified as being a person of significant control.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a membership organisation governed by its Articles of Association dated 16th June 2003, updated and approved at the AGM in May 2014, and was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 27th August 2003. The previous, unincorporated, charity of the same name was founded in 1934.

GOVERNING BODY

The Board, whose members carry the responsibilities of directors with trustee responsibilities, is the main governing body of the Charitable Company. Trustees are elected by the members at the AGM in accordance with the Articles of Association which provides for a minimum of four and a maximum of eighteen members on the Board.

New Trustees are supported in the induction process by the Chair of the Board and Company Secretary, and are usually elected after a period of co-option. This induction process includes sessions with the staff and an introduction to the Charity. Newly inducted Trustees reported high levels of satisfaction with the induction programme.

Trustees agree a Code of Governance which is reviewed and adopted after each AGM. In compliance with the Code of Governance, a self-assessment of effectiveness and efficiency was conducted during the period, and the findings will be incorporated into revised Executive working practices in 2022 and a wider whole-team review of organisational priorities. Taking notice of the ongoing nature of the COVID pandemic and changing levels of infection rates, the use of remote Executive meetings will be maintained for some Executive meetings, as required, although we aim to conduct as many face-to-face as possible.

Strategy and governance functions of the Executive are monitored as part of the Executive meetings, with regular agenda items that include: the strategic direction of the organisation; proper arrangements relating to effective governance of the Friends of the Lake District; risk management; the nomination of candidates for appointment as Trustees; and that appropriate systems exist for the induction and training of Trustees.

ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT

2021 has seen greater staffing changes than the previous year: we said farewell to six staff members: Claire Wickham; Ruth Kirk; Catriona James, Andrew Tait, Janine Bickerstaff and Jodie Lucas-Jones. In early 2022 we also said 'goodbye' to Marianne Kitchen. We welcomed four new staff at the end of the year: Stuart Clayton (new post of Head of Finance and Operations), Kay

Andrews (Landscape Engagement Officer), Ellie Morton (Membership Officer), and Laura Partington (Policy Officer). As of early 2022, we are in the process of further recruitment for finance and administration roles. In addition, our Chief Executive Douglas Chalmers will sadly be leaving us in July 2022, which will mean a significant change, as well as opportunity, for the Organisation.

Objects, Vision and Mission

Friends of the Lake District has the following **Objects**:

- to promote and organise concerted action for the protection and conservation of the Landscape and natural beauty of the Lake District and the County of Cumbria as a whole.
- to co-operate with other bodies having similar objectives or interests.

A new three year Strategic Direction 2021-2023 was adopted at the start of 2021 which aims to fulfil the objects of the charity through:

Our **vision**: to secure a *LANDSCAPE* that is:

Beautiful, diverse, locally distinctive, tranquil and *environmentally healthy.*
Conserved and *enhanced*;
Accessible and *enjoyed* by all

Our **Mission**: to ensure that *PEOPLE*:

Are inspired by the beauty and diversity of the landscape;
Have an understanding of how the landscape has been shaped;
Care for and help look after the landscape, both for its own sake and for the benefits it brings to people's lives

Our Principles

The special qualities and distinctiveness of Cumbria's landscapes should be conserved and enhanced.
Land use change should be sustainable, be sympathetic to the local landscape character and deliver positive long-term social, economic, cultural and biodiversity benefits. Where there is conflict between land use change and the landscape, then precedence should be given to the landscape.
Quiet enjoyment of the countryside is fundamental to people's physical and spiritual well-being and should be accessible to all.
Public understanding of the special qualities of the landscape and the value of its sustainable management should be encouraged.

2021-23 Strategic Direction

Our Strategic Direction has 4 key Strategic Aims which provide a framework for our work in the period 2021-2023:

- Protecting and enhancing the landscapes of the Lake District and Cumbria
- Promoting thriving, sustainable communities
- Inspiring and Empowering
- Securing our Future

To deliver our vision and to address the key challenges in the period, we will prioritise our activities and resources on the following four Aims and eight Objectives:

Aim 1: Protecting and enhancing the landscapes of the Lake District and Cumbria

- 1.1 We want legislation, plans and policies which better protect and enhance our landscapes and all its inhabitants
- 1.2 We want a living, working, biodiverse and culturally rich landscape
- 1.3 We want sustainably-managed upland landscapes

Aim 2 - Promoting thriving, sustainable communities

- 2.1 We want to support thriving communities and protect cultural heritage

Aim 3 - Inspiring and Empowering

- 3.1 We want an increasingly diverse range of people to be inspired by, value and understand our landscapes
- 3.2 We will use our land to showcase best practice land management and to engage, inspire and educate people of all ages and backgrounds on the value of landscapes

Strategic Aim 4 - Securing our Future

- 4.1 We will have a financial strategy that ensures our goals are funded and that we are resilient into the future
- 4.2 We will further develop the positive culture within the organisation and its engagement with others

The structure of our new Strategic Direction has been aligned to our Landscape Charter, launched in 2017, and can be found on our webpage https://friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/our-purpose.

Cooperation with other organisations

Throughout the year we have continued to work in co-operation with other bodies with similar aims and objectives to our own. These include the Campaign for National Parks, the Campaign to Protect Rural England [since 1978 the charity has represented CPRE in Cumbria], the National Trust, the Lake District National Park Authority, and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, who work closely with us in The Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme. We are also members of the Lake District National Park Partnership, leading on the Dark Skies and Landscape Character Assessment projects. In addition, we are represented on a number of local groups. Friends of the Lake District is a member of the Fix the Fells project Board and other organisations we have more direct involvement with include: Foundation for Common Land, and Cumbria Local Nature Partnership.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance in preparing this statement of public benefit. The protection and enhancement of the landscape of Cumbria and the Lake District is recognised as a charitable purpose and is regarded as producing a public good. Friends of the Lake District exists to promote and organise concerted action for the protection and conservation of the landscape and natural beauty of the Lake District and the County of Cumbria as a whole and therefore provide a clear public benefit. Examples of our charitable activities for public benefit include: our campaigning work to extend the National Park boundaries to widen the landscape benefits to the public and increase protection of a greater areas of landscape; and our Fell Care Days and the Great Cumbria Litter Pick that improve and enhance the landscape of the Lake District and Cumbria.

Financial review

Generous individual giving in 2021 meant that over 70% of our income was in the form of memberships, donations and legacy giving. The substantial amount of legacy income in 2021 has been remarkable and humbling, including a significant legacy from Mr John Berry. Our strong membership gives us a powerful lobbying and influencing mandate, and membership income is particularly vital to the charity as it provides us with a dependable income that we can plan around, so we thank you for choosing to be a member. We were kindly donated Dam Mire Wood at Threlkeld by Mr Mike Hambrey, and we formally took ownership of this land in late 2021. Our work on this land has been made possible by the donation of funds from Mr Hambrey, the Friends of Blencathra, and the previous sale of land at Halfway House, near Skelwith Bridge, in 2020.

Sadly, it was still difficult for us to hold our usual fundraising events in the summer which is why we are so grateful to everyone who supported our appeals and gave so generously to help us get through yet another challenging year. Thank you!

Our ambitions mean we will use some of our reserves for discrete projects including developing new and sustainable income streams to help us achieve our aspirations for the future.

Consolidated financial figures from the 2021 Accounts

Total income £1,595,840

- Voluntary Income – (Legacies, Donations and Subscriptions) £1,319,683
- Charitable Activities £196,126
- Trading Activities £36,827
- Investments £28,204
- Land donated £15,000

Total expenditure £901,917

- Generating Voluntary Income (Inc. Membership) £113,465
- Charitable Activities £720,471
- Trading Activities £54,992
- Investment Management Costs £12,989

Total Funds/Net Assets at 31 December 2021 Total £5,470,020

- Tangible Fixed Assets (including properties) £1,508,214
- Investments £2,594,591
- Net Current Assets £1,367,215

Funds by restriction

- Unrestricted £808,804
- Designated (including Tangible fixed assets) £4,015,214
- Restricted £125,312
- Permanent Endowment £520,690

Given ongoing concerns regarding the wider economic environment, and wishing to seek to secure a more sustainable organisation, it is important that Friends of the Lake District maintains sufficient funding to support its vital work during future financial uncertainties. As such, we are continuing to invest any surplus income in line with the following Reserves Policy:

RESERVES POLICY

The Charity needs reserves in order that:-

- it can meet the costs of new campaigns, unforeseen emergencies and/or other unexpected needs for funds, including employing temporary staff to cover long-term sick absence;
- it protects against unpredictable legacy income, in order to provide a stable and quality service to fulfil its objectives;
- it can provide working capital when funding is paid in arrears;
- it can acquire strategic land holdings, should they become available;
- it can meet contractual obligations should the charity have to close.

The Board has agreed to maintain reserves for the following purposes:

- a designated fund for working capital;
- a designated fund for contingencies –including provision to address the ongoing financial impacts of COVID-19 and inflationary pressures;
- a designated fund to support the Trustees plan to restore Friends of the Lake District to financial self-sufficiency by the beginning of 2023, whilst fulfilling the activities of the 3 year 2021-2023 Strategic Direction;
- a designated fund to allow Friends of the Lake District to make further investments in strategic land holdings in Cumbria, and developments to existing properties held for charitable purposes.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board maintains and regularly reviews a register of the risks facing the charity and has taken steps to ensure that policies and systems to mitigate identified risks are in place, regularly monitored and working effectively. These include:

- Employing professional staff with appropriate skills and training
- Monitoring progress regularly against the annual Business Plan
- Scrutiny of financial performance by Chief Executive and Trustees

INVESTMENT POLICY

The Articles of Association of the charitable company permit the Board wide powers of investment. The investment policy for the charity has been to maintain capital growth and take advantage of the income which it generates. This remained in place during 2021. Performance of our investments continued to be reviewed during 2021 by the Investment working group, led by Philip Cropper, and the whole Executive. In 2021 we continued our review of our Investment Strategy and Policy, including an ongoing review of ethical investments, culminating in early 2022, with a new Investment Policy. Work in this area is now being overseen by the Finance and Investment Committee, as approved by the Executive meeting in March 2022.

As a landscape charity, we are committed to ensuring our investment portfolio is one that does not contribute to global carbon emissions and takes into account any investments that might have a detrimental impact on climate change, or any factors that contribute to the damage of the landscape we aim to protect. Global investment fluctuations arising from the COVID pandemic meant that income from Investments was lower in 2021 compared to 2020. We remain cautious about the impact COVID 19 and the war in Ukraine will continue to have on investments and will monitor the situation regularly.

Endowment funds: Our Endowment funds are managed separately from the other assets of the charity by Brewin Dolphin. The two **Kirby Endowment Funds** are: 1) **Amenity Fund**, the income from which is restricted for use in our charitable activities and policy work; and 2) **General Fund**, income from which is unrestricted but used for our Environmental Improvement Grants (which became Landscape Grants Scheme in 2019) and the annual Kirby lecture. Towards the end of 2015 we were notified of a new endowment legacy – the **Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund**, the first part of this endowment income was received towards the end of 2018. The income from the Margaret Taylor Memorial fund is not restricted and is used to support our wider work.

PROPERTY ASSETS

The charity owns several properties, which are maintained by the charity in furtherance of its charitable objects. In 2016 we instigated a full review of our Property Portfolio, including revision of the Property Acquisition and Disposal Policy and introduction of a Property Working Group. Recommendations from this ongoing review will be considered on a regular basis, and will include updated property management plans and associated use to engage the public.

In 2021 we acquired a donated piece of land at Threlkeld - Dam Mire Wood, at the foot of Blencathra. This was kindly given by a member, Mr Mike Hambrey, and we have used monies donated from Friends of Blencathra to develop this as an accessible woodland, after consultation with the local community. We were also notified of bequeathed land near Broughton in Furness, (Middle Bleansley) from Mr Mark Stansfield Stephenson, in the early part of 2021 and which we formally took ownership of in early 2022. Details of all our properties can be found on our website: https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Listing/Category/our-land

The Executive Board in 2017 agreed to adopt the change to accounting procedures relating to valuation of property assets, as offered by the transition arrangements switching from FRSSE to FRS102. As such, property asset values will be set at 2012 amounts as deemed cost.

Thank you

Thank you to all our members, partners and friends near and far who have shown such committed 'friendship' to the Lake District landscapes, and to all our volunteers for their hard work. We would also like to express our deep thanks to those who have shown their enduring love for the Lakes through leaving a gift in their Will to Friends of the Lake District. If you are interested in leaving a Will legacy, please contact Vanessa Rhoden on 01539 720788 or email vanessa-rhoden@fld.org.uk

We are so grateful to everyone that has shown their love of the Lake District by leaving a gift in their will to help our work. What a wonderful way to ensure future generations can continue to enjoy the tranquillity, beauty and inspiration we have all been lucky enough to enjoy in our time in the Lake District. In 2021 the following members and supporters left a lasting legacy:

John Berry
Anthony Ernest Clarkson
Aileen Fairbanks
Francis Joseph Ashcroft
Bryan Barnett
Roger Norman Quinby
Jill Vera Austin
Winifred Mary Hirst
John Robert Twigger
Sir Christopher John Audland
Tom Harker
John Stacey
Christine Elizabeth Nuttall
Margaret Whiteley
Mark Stansfield Stephenson
Laurence John Turner Hinton
Vera Gladys Stolworthy
Jennifer Anne Hill
David Robert Porter
Gwladwyn Ashby
Judith Olwyn Todd
David John Michel Rowe
Judith Sugdon
Elsie Hewitt
Gillian Thorne
John Rigby

In addition, generous donations were made in memory of:

Aileen Fairbanks
Alan Kaye
Andrew Nicholls & Ray Revill
Ann Collard
Barbara Marion Godfrey
Barbara Thulbourn
Brian Haynes
Colin Leslie Rushton
David Rowe
Gwladwyn Ashby
John Lisle Rixon
John Stephen
John Twigger
Lord Frank Judd
Nick Parry
Patricia Kenyon
Peter Williams
Philip Critchley
Richard Evans
Richard Hugh Broad
Rosemary Buckle
Sam Pilcher
Tom Harker

And donations made in celebration of: Ashely Pugh and Emma

We would also like to thank our generous **Benefactors** for their support in 2021:

John Berry, James Brockbank and Louise Ronane, John Campbell, Richard Coates, Philip Cropper, John Entwistle OBE, Margaret Haigh, John Harris, Peter Hughes QC, John and Margaret Jackson, Brian Leigh-Bramwell, Rosamund Macfarlane, Jim and Sue Martin, Angela Monkman-Brushett, Elizabeth Reddaway, David Salter, Mr and Mrs Eric Thomas, Peter Woods & Francis Ryan

Looking ahead – our priorities in 2022

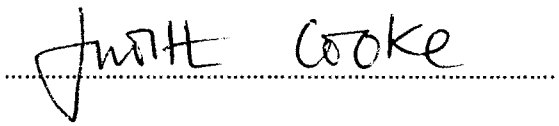
Our work continues in line with our Strategic Direction, and some of our main objectives for 2022 are:

- Ensure that the Charity is fit for purpose in our post-Covid world
- Broaden our income streams to ensure our future sustainability
- Make more of our land in demonstrating and promoting our work, and increasing engagement
- Continue our work towards accessible and sustainable transport in the Lake District and Cumbria
- Initiate further campaigns in line with our Strategic Direction
- Maintain our campaign for the Southern Extensions of the Lake District National Park
- Promote the positive features in the Glover Review of Protected Landscapes.
- Develop our policy on equality, diversity and inclusion

Statement of Going Concern

In line with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Acts of 2006 and 2011, as a result of our evidence assessment and levels of reserves, as laid out in this Annual Report, the Trustees conclude the charity is a going concern and there are no material uncertainties relating to its going concern status. The financial statements have been prepared on a 'going concern' basis.

Approved by the Board of Trustees at the meeting on 20th May 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Judith Cooke, Chair of Trustees 

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

A Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Friends of the Lake District

Year Ended 31 December 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Friends of the Lake District (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud are: to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are: Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Companies Act 2006.

- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur.

- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.

- We examined supporting documents for all material balances, transactions and disclosures.

- We applied analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.

- We tested the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.

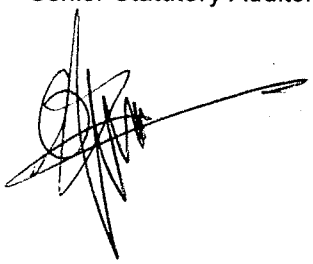
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with chapter 3 of part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Graham W Lamont FCA, FCCA, ACIS, MCMI, AIMC, FRSA
Senior Statutory Auditor



For and on behalf of:

Lamont Pridmore
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
136 Highgate
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4HW

Dated: 31/5/22

Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Friends of the Lake District meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Going concern

The current economic conditions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic continue to create uncertainty over the incoming resources available for the charity's activities. The charity's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonably possible changes in performance, show that the charity should be able to operate within its current level of reserves. With the benefit of the government support packages available to help businesses through the pandemic, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds that are available for use by the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.
Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds has restrictions which are described in note 14. Any capital gains or losses arising on the endowment fund investments form part of the endowment fund.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies and bequests, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.
Subscriptions are accounted for on a cash basis. Income from investment is included when it becomes payable. Grant income is included when receivable, as long as any conditions attaching to the grant are within the Charity's control
Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources (see note 4).

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, the costs involved with other activities for generating funds, and the costs of managing the Charity's investments.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the furtherance of its charitable objects.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity.

Grants payable Grants payable are included once they have been approved.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation over the anticipated useful life of the assets concerned.

The principal rates are as follows:

Freehold land	0%
Freehold property	2% straight line
Equipment	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicle	20% reducing balance

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. Market value is based on the mid-market price of quoted investments at the balance sheet date. Surpluses or deficits on revaluation and sales of investments are credited or charged in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks consist of purchased goods for resale. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities over the period in which the cost is incurred.

Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which they are payable.

Taxation

Friends of the Lake District has charitable status and is thus potentially exempt from taxation of its income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives. No taxation has been charged in the accounts.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT of FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

(Including Income and Expenditure account)

	Note	General Funds Unrestricted £	General Funds Designated £	General Funds Restricted £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Income and Endowments From:							
Donations		129,028	-	34,960	-	163,988	180,906
Legacies		1,036,821	-	-	-	1,036,821	429,328
Membership Subscriptions		118,874	-	-	-	118,874	124,826
Charitable Activities							
Grants	1	25,999	-	161,581	-	187,580	212,104
Properties		2,080	-	-	-	2,080	1,448
Event & Other Income		11	-	6,455	-	6,466	1,398
Other Trading Activities							
Sale of Merchandise		29,187	-	7,640	-	36,827	44,722
Investments	2	27,862	-	342	-	28,204	30,795
Other	3						
Land Sales		-	-	-	-	-	-
Land Donated		15,000	-	-	-	15,000	-
Total Income		1,384,862	-	210,978	-	1,595,840	1,025,527
Expenditure On:							
Raising Funds							
Costs of Generating Voluntary Income		113,465	-	-	-	113,465	111,715
Cost of Sale of Merchandise		54,992	-	-	-	54,992	52,160
Investment Management Costs		12,989	-	-	-	12,989	13,960
Charitable Activities							
Protect Your Lake District		232,762	-	1,214	-	233,976	272,605
Train & Inspire		288,194	-	159,651	-	447,845	387,166
Grants - Amenity and Conservation		38,650	-	-	-	38,650	17,227
Total Expenditure	4,5	741,052	-	160,865	-	901,917	854,833
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Gains/(Losses) on Investments		643,809	-	50,113	-	693,922	170,694
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)							
Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investment Assets		258,557	-	-	3,878	262,435	126,698
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		902,366	-	50,113	3,878	956,357	297,392
Reconciliation of Funds							
Fund Balances Brought Forward		157	3,921,495	75,199	516,812	4,513,663	4,216,271
Designated Funds		(93,719)	93,719	-	-	-	-
Fund Balances Carried Forward		808,804	4,015,214	125,312	520,690	5,470,020	4,513,663

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those in the Statement of Financial Activities.

There is no material difference between the reported results and the historical results of the charitable company.

The Balance Sheet, Cash Flow and Notes on pages 31 to 35 form part of these financial statements

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

Registration Number: 4878364

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	6,7	**1,508,214**	1,499,495
Investments at Market Value	8	**2,594,591**	2,115,829
		4,102,805	3,615,324
Current Assets			
Stock		**3,173**	863
Debtors and Accrued Income	9	**214,194**	351,656
Cash at Bank and in Hand		**1,200,570**	607,642
		1,417,937	960,161
Current Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	10	**50,722**	61,822
Net Current Assets		**1,367,215**	898,339
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		**5,470,020**	4,513,663
Net Assets		**5,470,020**	4,513,663
Represented by Accumulated Funds	14		
Unrestricted funds		**808,804**	157
Designated funds		**4,015,214**	3,921,495
Restricted funds		**125,312**	75,199
Permanent endowment funds		**520,690**	516,812
		5,470,020	4,513,663

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The accounts were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 20th May 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Judith Cooke

Judith Cooke
Chair of Trustees

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Registration Number: 4878364

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	21	789,009	(79,494)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	2	28,204	30,795
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(7,958)	(11,463)
Proceeds from sale of investments		-	-
Purchase of investments		(216,327)	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(196,081)	19,332
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments of borrowing		-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing		-	-
Receipt of endowment		-	(20,000)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		-	(20,000)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		592,928	(80,162)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		607,642	687,804
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	22	1,200,570	607,642

Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. Grants Receivable

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Totals 2021 £	Totals 2020 £
Rural Payments Agency Grants				
Properties	22,144	-	22,144	26,937
Natural England Grants				
Landscape Character Assessment	-	-	-	-
Other Grants				
Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme	-	151,876	151,876	130,938
Dark Skies	-	500	500	1,100
Landscape Engagement	-	9,205	9,205	4,461
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	855	-	855	42,668
South Lakeland District Council Discretionary Grant	3,000	-	3,000	6,000
	25,999	161,581	187,580	212,104

2. Investment Income

	2021	2020
General Investments		
Brewin Dolphin General Fund	2,744	4,313
CCLA COIF Charity Fund (Accumulation)	1,838	2,134
CCLA COIF Charity Ethical Fund (Accumulation)	2,824	1,874
Canaccord G. W. Ltd (Hargreave Hale) Investment Fund	1,567	2,230
Canaccord G. W. Ltd (Hargreave Hale) Ethical Investment Fund	207	-
Interest on Short Term Deposits	86	1,364
	9,266	11,915
Permanent Endowment Funds		
Kirby & Taylor Funds		
UK Fixed Interest Bonds	1,783	6,503
Brewin Dolphin Endowment Fund	17,155	12,377
Interest on Short Term Deposits	-	-
	18,938	18,880
	28,204	30,795

3. Other Income

	2021	2020
Land Donated at Underknott, Threlkeld (Dam Mire Wood)	15,000	-
	15,000	-

4. Analysis of Total Resources Expended

	Direct Staff costs £	Support Staff costs £	Direct expenses £	Overheads £	Governance costs £	Totals 2021 £	Totals 2020 £
Basis of Allocation	Staff time	Staff time	Direct	Staff time	Staff time		
Voluntary Income Generation	50,326	25,666	20,791	11,380	5,302	**113,465**	111,715
Costs of Sale of Merchandise	25,163	12,833	8,655	5,690	2,651	**54,992**	52,160
Investment Management Costs	-	-	12,989	-	-	**12,989**	13,960
Protect Your Lake District	106,943	55,610	33,953	24,657	12,813	**233,976**	272,605
Train & Inspire	195,013	102,665	81,670	45,521	22,976	**447,845**	387,166
Landscape Grants	6,291	17,111	7,220	7,587	442	**38,650**	17,227
Totals	383,735	213,885	165,278	94,835	44,184	**901,917**	854,833

5. Employee Information

	2021		2020	
	Actual	Full Time Equivalent	Actual	Full Time Equivalent
The number of employees working in the following areas were:				
Generating funds	3	2	3	2
Charitable activities	12	9	12	9
Governance	1	1	1	1
Support	7	6	7	6
Total	23	18	23	18

The average monthly head count for employees was 23 (2020: 23)

Employee costs were as follows:	£	£
Salaries	516,092	511,625
National insurance	39,997	40,332
Pension costs	72,983	76,050
	629,073	628,007

One employee received benefits in excess of £60,000 (2020: 1)

6. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold property	Office equipment	Motor vehicle	Total
Deemed cost	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2021	1,494,436	87,566	18,134	1,600,136
Additions	15,000	7,958	-	22,958
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	1,509,436	95,524	18,134	1,623,094
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 January 2021	30,024	61,768	8,849	100,641
Charge for year	3,431	8,951	1,857	14,239
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	33,455	70,719	10,706	114,880
Net book value				
At 31 December 2021	1,475,981	24,805	7,428	1,508,214
Net book value				
At 31 December 2020	1,464,412	25,798	9,285	1,499,495

Details of the freehold property are given in note 7.

7. Freehold Property at deemed Cost

	2021	2020
	£	£
Used in the Operation of the Charity		
Kendal Office	266,600	266,600
Held for Environmental Purposes		
Farmland, High Borrowdale	234,000	234,000
Common Land Grazing Rights, Ulpha, Little Asby, Roundthwaite, Whelpside	64,800	64,800
Hows Wood, Eskdale	11,806	11,806
The Helm	318,155	318,155
Common Land, Little Asby	198,000	198,000
Land at Mazonwath, Little Asby	152,452	152,452
Woodland at Staveley	60,623	60,623
Greenbank Wood	18,000	18,000
Bull Coppice & Resp Haw Woodland, Rusland	100,000	100,000
Land Underknott, Threlkeld (Dam Mire Wood)	15,000	-
Littlerigg, Sweden Wood, Ambleside	70,000	70,000
	1,509,436	1,494,436

Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2021

8. Fixed Assets - Investments

	2021 Market value £	2020 Market value £
General Unrestricted Funds		
Brewin Dolphin General Fund	469,049	667,529
CCLA COIF Charity Fund (Accumulation)	369,298	314,602
CCLA COIF Charity Ethical Fund (Accumulation)	627,344	282,774
Canaccord G. W. Ltd (Hargreave Hale) Ethical Investment Fund	206,146	
Canaccord G. W. Ltd (Hargreave Hale) Investment Fund	385,959	334,334
Total	2,057,796	1,599,239
Permanent Endowment Funds		
Kirby Fund	407,754	408,119
Taylor Fund	129,041	108,471
Total	536,795	516,590
Total Fixed Asset Investments	2,594,591	2,115,829

Movement of Investments	Brewin Dolphin 2021 General Unrestricted Funds £	CCLA 2021 General Unrestricted Funds £	CCLA Ethical 2021 General Unrestricted Funds £	Canaccord 2021 General Unrestricted Funds £	Canaccord 2021 General Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2021 General Unrestricted Funds £	Brewin Dolphin 2021 Endowment Funds £
Market value at 1 January 2021	667,529	314,602	282,774	-	334,334	1,599,239	516,590
Additions	(250,000)	-	250,000	200,000	-	200,000	16,327
Disposals at carrying value	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net gains/ (losses) on revaluation	51,520	54,696	94,570	6,146	51,625	258,557	3,878
Market value at 31 December 2021	469,049	369,298	627,344	206,146	385,959	2,057,796	536,795
Historical cost at 31 December 2021	327,214	298,538	520,438	200,000	254,195	1,600,385	496,588

9. Debtors and Accrued Income

	2021 £	2020 £
Accrued Legacy Income	192,563	323,427
Other Debtors	18,043	24,763
Prepayments and Accrued Income	3,589	3,466
	214,194	351,656

10. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals and Deferred Income	25,229	23,300
Taxation and Social Security	12,026	11,696
Other Creditors	13,467	26,826
	50,722	61,822

11. Trustees

The Trustees received no remuneration.
Amounts of £636(2020: £401) were reimbursed to cover part of the travel and subsistence expenses incurred on behalf of the charity by one Trustee (2020: One Trustee).

12. Auditors' Remuneration

	2021	2020
	£	£
Audit	6,180	6,180
	6,180	6,180

13. Legal Status of the Charity

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of a winding up is limited to £1 (One Pound).

14. Movement in Funds

	At 1 January 2021	Surplus/ (Excess) of Expenditure over Income	Transfers	Other Recognised Gains and Losses	At 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
Designated Funds					
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,499,495	-	8,719	-	1,508,214
Specific Designated Funds	2,422,000	-	85,000	-	2,507,000
Total Designated Funds	3,921,495	-	93,719	-	4,015,214
General Funds	157	643,809	(93,719)	258,557	808,804
Total Unrestricted Funds	3,921,652	643,809	-	258,557	4,824,018
Restricted Funds					
Fell Care Days	10,152	9,517	-	-	19,669
Wellbeing Work (Sanctuary Project)	26,753	2,472	-	-	29,225
Troutbeck Churchyard For Upkeep	1,871	-	-	-	1,871
Properties	703	1,291	-	-	1,994
Our Green Space (formerly Greens for Life)	1,668	-	-	-	1,668
Landscape Grants (WDLPS Love Your Landscape)	(5,000)	(2,470)	-	-	(7,470)
Dark Skies Project	1,100	(17,144)	-	-	(16,044)
Virtual Gifts	7,160	7,909	-	-	15,069
Sunbiggin Tarn	-	-	-	-	-
Climate Change Project	12,239	18,165	-	-	30,404
Conquer the Lakes		989			989
WDLPS		29,043			29,043
Kirby Amenity Fund		342			342
Championing Upland Hill Farming	15,105	-	-	-	15,105
Property Purchase - J Kent	3,448	-	-	-	3,448
Total Restricted Funds	75,199	50,113	-	-	125,312
Permanent Endowment Funds					
Kirby General Fund	354,764	-	-	2,661	357,425
Kirby Amenity Fund	45,617	-	-	342	45,959
Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund	116,431	-	-	875	117,306
Total Permanent Funds	516,812	-	-	3,878	520,690
Total Funds	4,513,663	693,922	-	262,435	5,470,020

Purpose of Designated Funds

The trustees continue to designate funds deployed in tangible fixed assets.
In addition to this the trustees have designated £2,507,000 (2020: £2,422,000) out of general unrestricted funds into the following funds:

Working Capital	450,000
Contingency including support through the impacts of COVID-19	832,000
2021-23 Development of Financial Sustainability	525,000
Strategic Land Acquisition/Existing Developments	700,000
	2,507,000

Permanent Endowment Fund

The permanent endowment fund represents the two Kirby Funds and the Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund. The capital of the Kirby & Taylor Funds is invested.
The income arising from the Kirby Amenity Fund may only be used for special conservation activities and is included in restricted funds.
The income from the Kirby General and Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund is for the general purposes of the Charity.

15. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted General	Designated	Restricted	Permanent Endowment	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	1,508,214	-	-	1,508,214
Investments	2,057,796	-	-	536,795	2,594,591
Net Current Assets	(1,248,992)	2,507,000	125,312	(16,105)	1,367,215
	808,804	4,015,214	125,312	520,690	5,470,020

16. Commitments

Operating leases
As at 31 December 2021, the Charity had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as below:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Operating leases which expire:		
Within 1 to 2 years	1,152	2,304
Within 2 to 5 years and after 5 years	6,817	8,915
	7,969	11,219

17. Pension costs

Defined contribution schemes
The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they accrue. The charity generally contributes 6% of pensionable salary matched by members . Most members have chosen to match the company contribution and to do so by salary sacrifice. Contribution costs for the year amounted to £72,983 (2020: £76,050).

18. Ultimate controlling party

There is no ultimate controlling party.

19. Related party disclosures

There were no connected charities or branches during the year ended 31 December 2021.
There were no material transactions with Trustees or other connected persons during the year ended 31 December 2021.

20. Contingent assets - legacy income

As at the year end, the charity had been notified of residuary legacies where the value of these estates was uncertain as the executors had not yet compiled the estate accounts and probate had not yet been granted. Therefore, no amount has been accrued in respect of these legacies which are estimated to be in excess of £320,000 (2020: £700,000)

21. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	956,357	297,392
Adjustments for:		
Donated/bequeathed land	(15,000)	(70,000)
Depreciation charges	14,239	14,355
(Gains)/losses on investments	(262,435)	(126,698)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(28,204)	(30,795)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	20
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(2,310)	773
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	137,462	(166,990)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(11,100)	2,449
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	789,009	(79,494)

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash in hand	1,200,569	607,642
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,200,569	607,642

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

England & Wales - Charity number 1100759

Accounts

Charity number: 1100759
Company number: 4878364

Friends of the Lake District

Trustees' report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Friends of the Lake District
The only membership organisation dedicated to protecting and enhancing the Lake District and Cumbria's landscapes

Legal and administrative information

Charity number 1100759
Company registration number 4878364, Registered Company in England and Wales.

Business address and registered office
Friends of the Lake District
Murley Moss
Oxenholme Road
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 7SS

Auditors
Lamont Pridmore
136 Highgate
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4HW

Solicitors
Burnetts
6 Victoria Place
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA1 1ES

Bankers
CAF Bank Limited
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

National Westminster Bank
10 Elephant Yard
Kendal,
Cumbria
LA9 4LZ

Co-operative Bank
Delf House
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Investment Advisors
Brewin Dolphin
1 Mason Court
Gillan Way, Penrith 40 Business Park
Penrith, Cumbria
CA11 9GR

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4ET

Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management Ltd
Talisman House,
Boardmans Way,
Blackpool
FY4 5FY

President
Mr John Entwistle OBE

Emeritus President
Sir Martin Holdgate CB

Trustees
John Campbell (Chairman)
Judith Cooke (Vice Chair)
David Felton (Honorary Treasurer)
Martin Brimmer (retired September 2020)
Philip Cropper
Michael Day
Catherine Grezo (retired September 2020)
Lucy Hetherington
Sarah Hodgson-Jones
Tiffany Hunt
Antony Leeming

Staff (Full and Part time)
Janine Bickerstaff (Membership Officer)
Douglas Chalmers (Chief Executive)
Jan Darrall (Policy Officer)
Rachel Dorrington (Fundraising Officer)
Jack Ellerby (Dark Skies Officer) from March 2020
Nicola Estill (Community Engagement Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
David Evans (Scheme Manager, Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
Dawn Groundsell (Communications Officer)
Clare Hucknall (Company Secretary)
Catriona James (Finance and Office Manager) until June 2021
Chris James (Communications Officer)
Jodie Lucas-Jones (Office Administrator)
Hannah Kingsbury (Cultural Heritage Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
Ruth Kirk (Landscape Engagement Officer)
Marianne Kitchen (Finance Administrator)
Johanna Korndorfer (Dark Skies Project Officer) until February 2020
Amanda McCleery (Overhead Wires Project Officer)
Penny McMullen (Administration and Finance Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership)
Jasmine O'Flaherty (Database Administrator) maternity leave from November 2019
Helen Prince (Fundraising Officer - temporary) to April 2020
Vanessa Rhoden (Fundraising Manager) from March 2020
Liz Sutton (Interpretation Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership) to April 2020
Andrew Tait (Policy Officer)
Amanda Waters (Interpretation Officer – Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership) from Nov 2020
Claire Wickham (Office Administrator) until May 2021
Kate Willshaw (Policy Officer)
Lorayne Woodend Wall (Planning Officer)

Intern
Molly Conway (Intern) to August 2020

Report of the Trustees (incorporating the Directors' Report) for the year ended 31 December 2020

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who are serving at the date of this report, are set out on page 3.

Chairman's Report

2020 was a challenging year for everyone and all organisations, and at Friends of the Lake District we rose to that challenge and managed to maintain our core charitable activities throughout. While many events were cancelled, we occasionally managed actual "feet on the ground" work including litter picking, removing alien plant species and our Leaders' Landscape Training. We have dealt with planning applications and Government consultations including the Environmental Land Management Scheme proposals for remunerating land-managers in a post-Brexit Britain; always putting the unique landscape of Cumbria at the heart of everything we do. We have continued our Westmorland Dales and Dark Skies projects, built on the success of our Sustainable Transport Conference, and been a voice for local communities.

Ongoing planning threats included geological disposal of nuclear waste developments and the potential reopening of a Cumbria coal mine. We objected to 46 planning applications out of a total of 6567 submitted to Cumbrian Planning Authorities. We particularly welcomed the refusal or withdrawal of proposals for inappropriate developments at such as those at Beckstones, Elterwater, and Coniston.

We continued with our proactive work, switching to on-line meetings and events as necessary. We have been an active partner of the Transport Working Group of the National Park Partnership Plan, and attended Rural Transport workshops held by the Department for Transport. Our two main projects - Westmorland Dales and Dark Skies – continued to reach out to communities and volunteers, and we held very successful roadshow webinars attended by many new to Friends of the Lake District. In the Westmorland Dales, a range of practical work was undertaken by the increasingly skilled apprentices and teams of volunteers, together with the production of land art and a number of Westmorland Dales wildlife-related films.

Other hands-on activities included a scaled-down Great Cumbria Litter Pick, Leaders Landscape Training and a Balsam Bashing event when lock-down easing permitted. Work on our property was severely hampered, largely restricted to emergency repairs including dry stone wall repairs, water gate maintenance and tree planting but all of our properties remained freely accessible to the public. Towards the end of the year we were grateful to acquire a beautiful woodland at Sweden Bridge, kindly bequeathed to us by Dr Julian Eldridge. We continued to discuss the potential acquisition of donated land at Threlkeld and we continue to work through positions to secure access to this property.

As ever, we continue to rely on Legacy Income and whilst we comment further in the Annual Review it would be remiss not to mention the recent substantial donation from Mr John Berry. He has left us some £700k which we understand is the balance of his estate. We are hugely grateful to him. Serious thought is being given to how best to make use of these monies to the benefit of the Lake District.

Our income generation activities were curtailed, with the cancellation of the Morecambe Bay Walk and other events. However, we continued with many of our other fundraising strategies including two highly successful appeals for the Sanctuary Project and the SOLD campaign. Our membership recruitment has been equally successful, compared to new members recruited in the previous year.

More members turned to using email so we were able to keep in touch more regularly with a greater number. We were saddened to hear of those members passing away from Covid and other illnesses. Our thoughts go out to their families and hope they are left with many happy memories of times spent in the Lakes.

We altered our Communications output in response to Covid-19 in 2020. We switched our member communications to a weekly 'Postcard from the Lakes'. 23 editions were written and delivered, keeping members and supporters up to date with our work and providing a platform to share experiences, thoughts, images and poetry over the year.

The 'background' work of the Executive continued unabated by the pandemic, and my thanks go to all the Trustees. We were sorry to lose Catherine Grezo and Martin Brimmer at the AGM in September, and we thank them both for their valued contributions and to Martin for the many years he served Friends, including time as Chairman. We navigated the switch to Zoom Executive meetings, which worked well and ensured we could maintain active governance. This included holding our Annual General Meeting remotely, a little later than usual but within the guidelines set out by the Charity Commission and in keeping with the emergency legislation. We conducted a self-assessment exercise and reviewed the impact of remote meetings, and the learning from this will be incorporated into our schedule of meetings and working groups for the rest of 2021. The Investment working group began the process of moving some investments into more ethically-based funds, and the overall return on investments during the year has been healthy. The Development Group, involving major donors, stepped back their work during the year, limited by a sensitivity of the wider shift in community priorities, coupled with the practicalities of not being able to hold fundraising events.

The work and achievements of the year are largely due to the considerable work of the Chief Executive and his hard-working team. The majority have been, at some point in the year, furloughed and the rest of the team have stepped up to keep things on track. Our sincere thanks go to Douglas and all the staff for their excellent efforts in the face of much change. As Trustees, we agreed to 'top up' the salaries of those on furlough in recognition of their outstanding efforts.

We have been supported throughout by our President, John Entwistle OBE, and our Emeritus President, Sir Martin Holdgate. Their ongoing championing of our work has been greatly appreciated. Although we haven't be able to connect with all our usual volunteers throughout the year, we have greatly benefited from their efforts and time when lock-downs were over, and we are indebted to them for keeping our properties and activities so well supported.

Our partnership working has shifted to more remote formats, but the level of interaction and achievements have been sustained. We are grateful to all our partners for their support and cooperation in our joint desire to protect and enhance our amazing Lakeland and Cumbrian landscapes.

As we entered 2021 it was clear that much of our work would remain affected by the Pandemic. Looking forward, we are preparing ourselves for the return to face-to-face activities, working and meeting in the same building and sharing the same cake! We very much look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Lakes and will try to ensure this is done in as sensitive, practical and respectful way as possible. At the same time, we have all the learning from 2020 to fall back on should the need arise but hopefully we won't need to.

Sadly, I have come to the end of my term with Friends, and this will be my last AGM as Trustee and as Chairman. I can only say it has been a pleasure to be involved and can only wish the Friends the very best for the future. We have been protecting the environment here for the last 86 years and I'm sure we will continue to do so over the next 86 years.

John Campbell, Chairman of Trustees

Annual Review 2020

2020 Highlights - A Review of our year

Through our Business Plan we set targets each year and work under three aims:

1. **Protect your Lake District** – conserving and enhancing local distinctiveness and landscape character for the enjoyment and benefit of everyone.
2. **Train and Inspire** – encouraging people to enjoy, reconnect with and value the landscape and actively engage in work on the ground to enhance the countryside and maintain traditional rural skills.
3. **Securing our organisation for Cumbria's landscapes** – strengthening and consolidating our influence as a campaigning organisation through membership, staff resource and funding security to enable to carry out aims 1 and 2 effectively.

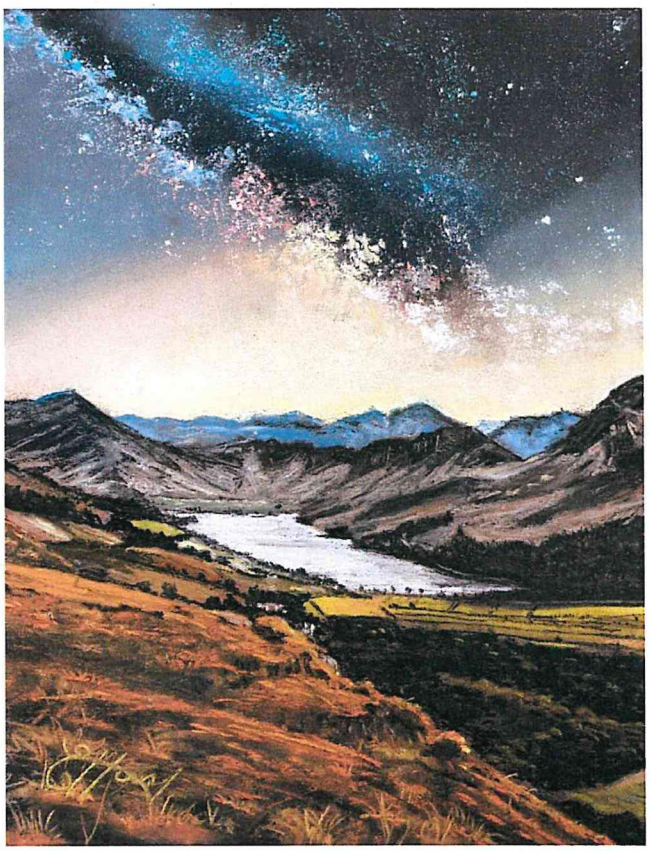
Protect your Lake District

We achieve this aim through work we undertake on our land, by giving out environmental improvement grants and via our planning and policy work.

Projects

Dark Skies Cumbria

- New Project Officer Jack Ellerby appointed end of March (as lock down hit!).
- Work Plan for 2020-21 and budget approved.
- Over 300 sky quality meter readings taken by FLD and LDNPA volunteers.
- 350 adults and children enjoyed the Planetarium in February's weather affected Festival.
- 18 Roadshow and Training talks to over 500 people from Parish Councils, community & interest groups, planners and architects.
- Website continuously updated: 24 news blogs on light pollution impacts, the benefits of dark skies and good lighting tips, Ambassadors and Supporters lending widespread and diverse backing for the Project.
- 5 communities working as pilots for Lighting Audits and Action Plans (LAAPs).
- Establishment of positive working partnership with Cumbria County Council to develop Dark Sky compliant road lighting specification(s).
- Contributing to the UK Dark Skies Partnership Technical Group and feeding into the All Party Parliamentary Group for Dark Skies 10 Policy Plan call to Government to tackle light pollution.
- Yorkshire Dales National Park becomes a Dark Sky Reserve 12 December.



Dark Skies inspired artwork by Emma Hunt

Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme

The Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme, grant funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, picked up momentum in 2020 with a range of practical work undertaken. 9.3ha of meadow and 2.6ha of riverine habitat were restored, and a further 3.5ha of woodland planted. The Great Asby Scar archaeological survey was completed, identifying 699 sites to add to the historic environment record, and the traditional farm buildings grant scheme launched. The apprentice team completed a wide range of conservation tasks and training, improvement work was undertaken on rights of way and the Pennine Bridleway link, and two small landscape grants were awarded. Engagement work was challenging but 140 volunteer days were recorded; 6 pieces of land art created with local schools in their grounds; draft factsheets produced for 14 geological sites; and a range of films produced from wildflower identification to fell gathering.

Policy

Transport

Friends of the Lake District's Transport Policy was updated based on the outcomes of the 2019 Rerouting Expectations Transport Conference. This update includes campaigning for significant and lasting reductions in car and van journeys, encouraging more people to use active travel methods for their journeys (e.g. walking, cycling, electric bikes), pressing for an eco-levy on visitors driving into and around the Lake District and reiterating our position opposing new roads and car parks.

As a member of the Transport Working Group, we have been involved in the development of the transport chapter of the Lake District National Park draft Partnership Plan. This will be published for consultation during the summer of 2021

The Department for Transport help a number of workshops on Rural Transport during 2020. We contributed to these raising the experiences of the Lake District communities which have high levels of visitors and associated car journeys and the often negative outcomes of these.

Geological Disposal of Nuclear Waste

Friends of the Lake District were invited to join the government company Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (RWM) Exchange group of non-governmental organisations looking at how communities should best be involved in determining whether or not they should host a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). We continued to sit on Cumbria Trust as a Board Member.

Both Copeland and Allerdale Districts have been put forward to the government to be investigated as potential sites to host the GDF. This is raising similar concerns around the suitability of the geology of the areas for containing radiation over hundreds of thousands of years.

Coal Mine at Whitehaven

We requested that the Government call in the proposed coal mine at Whitehaven on the basis that the proposed scheme clearly conflicts with national policy and guidance and local, national and international commitments in relation to climate change. It does not provide sufficient benefit to outweigh the harm caused. We urged the Secretary of State to call in the application in order that the decision can be made correctly and objectively, with issues of climate emergency being given appropriate weight.

Litter

Like many, Friends of the Lake District were shocked by the terrible scenes of littering and antisocial behaviour in the National Park after lockdown eased at the end of May 2020. We contributed to the clean up through the Great Cumbria Litter pick, but also decided that this was looking at the problem from the wrong end. We want to know why people litter, and what could be done to change peoples' behaviour. To this end, we commissioned Keep Britain Tidy to undertake a study into littering in the Lake District. This study is ongoing and due to report in June.



Pooley Bridge before and after.

Climate Change

A review of academic literature on the impact of climate change on Cumbria's Landscapes was completed in 2020. This work has contributed to the Lake District National Park's climate change strategy.

Friends of the Lake District has attended and contributed to the Lake District National Park climate change working group and the Zero Carbon Cumbria group chaired by the County Council.

Consultations responded to in 2020

<u>Water, agriculture and common land</u>

In summer, Defra consulted on a discussion document outlining more detail (but still not a lot) on the proposed Environmental Land Management Scheme. The ELM will replace the current agri environment schemes and there will be no Basic Payment Scheme. It will pay land managers for producing public goods. The document outlined the three components, from a basic level through to an ambitious third level which is all about habitat restoration and larger landscape scale change. The consultation sought feedback on many questions such as the principles and objectives of the scheme, how payments should be made, local prioritisation. We submitted a response and whilst there was nothing significantly wrong with what was in the document, it was lacking significant detail.

The Agriculture Bill went through Parliament before the end of the year and the Government released their ideas on the transition period for farming, 2021 – 2024, setting out more detail on the phased reductions in the Basic Payment Scheme and new funds available going forward. There was much that was in line with our previous consultation responses.

We inputted into the development of the pilot Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

We worked with the Eden Catchment Partnership to help produce the Eden Catchment Plan, setting out issues and opportunities for the whole Eden catchment (from say Glenridding to the Eastern fellside, and upto Carlisle).

In terms of common land, we submitted responses relating to proposed developments on common land at Birkbeck, Gooseholme Kendal, Coniston Fells, Allonby, Crosby Ravensworth, and Armboth. We continued to be represented on the Defra Common Land Stakeholder Forum.

Grants

In 2020 there was very little take up of our grant scheme due to the Covid outbreak. We awarded two grants, but only one was fulfilled – the creation of a new footpath at Tirril. This has featured in Conserving Lakeland.

Overhead wires

2020: Two schemes at Corney Fell totalling 2.41 kms – so below target sadly but much better than 2019 and not bad considering coronavirus delayed construction.

Planning

We objected to 46 planning applications out of a total of 6567 valid applications received by the Cumbrian Planning Authorities. This works out at 0.7% (see table). We also made several responses that were not objections, but comments or suggestions.

As you might expect, those we responded to were predominantly within the Lake District National Park.

LPA	Total applications submitted	Number objected to, 2020	% objected to in 2020
LDNPA	1119	34	3%
Allerdale	840	0	0
Cumbria CC	37	1	2.7%
Eden	1001	0	0
Barrow	412	0	0
Carlisle	1080	5	0.4%
SLDC	920	5	0.5%
YDNP	638	0	0
Copeland	520	1	0.2%
Total	6567	46	0.7%

We began the year by joining forces with many others in successfully challenging an application for a Certificate of Lawful Use for 'Gentlemen's Yachts' on Grasmere and despite it being a strange year, continued to be involved in a range of applications, whether through responding ourselves or supporting our Members and supporters to do so. We particularly welcomed the refusal or withdrawal of proposals for inappropriate developments at Beckstones, Scotby, Elterwater, Birkrigg and Coniston but were disappointed to see plans approved at Stanley Ghyll, Threlkeld, Haweswater and Waterhead.

Some really positive outcomes have come through suggesting ways in which proposals could reduce landscape, settlement character, light pollution and visual impacts. We were really pleased to help secure substantial design changes to plans for several proposals, including at High Wray Bank, Dub How, and the Keswick Premier Inn.

We participated in consultations on early-stage Local Plans for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Copeland Borough and South Lakeland as well as on final changes to the forthcoming Local Plan for the Lake District. We also responded to Government consultations on proposed National Planning Reforms.

Train and Inspire

We run events and practical activities, getting people directly involved in the landscape through conservation work parties and rural skills training. In 2020 many of our events and activities were curtailed because of lockdown restrictions but we still managed to deliver elements of our programme where restrictions allowed.

The Great Cumbrian Litter Pick



Our litter pick event went ahead in August with 40 separate litter picks taking place across the county. A distance of 254 km was covered and 250 bags of rubbish collected. The 2020 event proved to be one of mixed emotions. Whilst inspiring to see so many people who genuinely care about our landscapes giving up their free time, it was tremendously dispiriting to come across huge piles of discarded camping equipment, pots, pans, food wrapping, unused food and disposable barbecues left behind by people in a year when visitor numbers soared with international restrictions imposed by lockdown. Photo – Keswick Lions Litter Pick

Fight the Aliens – Big Balsam Bash

In July we worked in partnership to deliver this event around Rydal in partnership with South Cumbria Rivers Trust. Thankfully, as lockdown relaxed, we were able to go ahead with the event with volunteers working safely in small groups. We had 60 volunteers plus leaders participate on the day.



Volunteer Dave Emery Balsam Bashing

Leaders' Landscape Training (LLT)

Out of a programme of ten LLT sessions for 2020 we were able to deliver five of them. 50% in the year of Covid-19 could perhaps be seen as an achievement. Raising awareness of the impacts of outdoor recreation and the management and conservation of our upland landscapes, the sessions

covered a diverse range of topics. A geology session ran the weekend before lockdown in March with an additional four sessions delivered in September and October covering:

- Cumbria's Rainforests: An introduction to a forgotten aspect of our natural heritage
- Archaeology: Hidden Landscapes - the Archaeology of Great Asby Scar
- Peat and Paths: with Fix the Fells
- Restoring Hardknott Forest



The sessions were booked up instantly and were incredibly well received proving that there was a great appetite and appreciation for these sessions particularly whilst so many outdoor practitioners were without work.

LLT Westmorland Dales – Archaeology

Work Parties

Due to Covid-19 we were limited in the number of workparties that we could hold, and in the main did essential tasks only. We managed 4 workparties at Mazonwath, equivalent to 32 days of volunteer time. At High Borrowdale we managed 6 workparties, 25 days of volunteer time. We could not deliver our property management plans without our loyal and skilled volunteers.

Property Maintenance

We were severely hampered by the Covid-19 outbreak as to what we could achieve on our land this year and work was largely restricted to emergency repairs including dry stone wall repairs, water gate maintenance and tree planting. Flood research continued at High Borrowdale but again we were unable to continue with a lot of the monitoring photography. We had the final report of one year's worth of monitoring of inflows to Sunbiggin Tarn. All of our properties remained freely accessible to the public. We were delighted to have Molly Conway, a student placement, working with us until the summer. Her focus was on updating our property leaflets.

Securing our organisation for Cumbria's landscapes

Ensuring that our charity is well run and monitoring our fundraising, membership and volunteering activities. Our achievements in 2020:

Fundraising

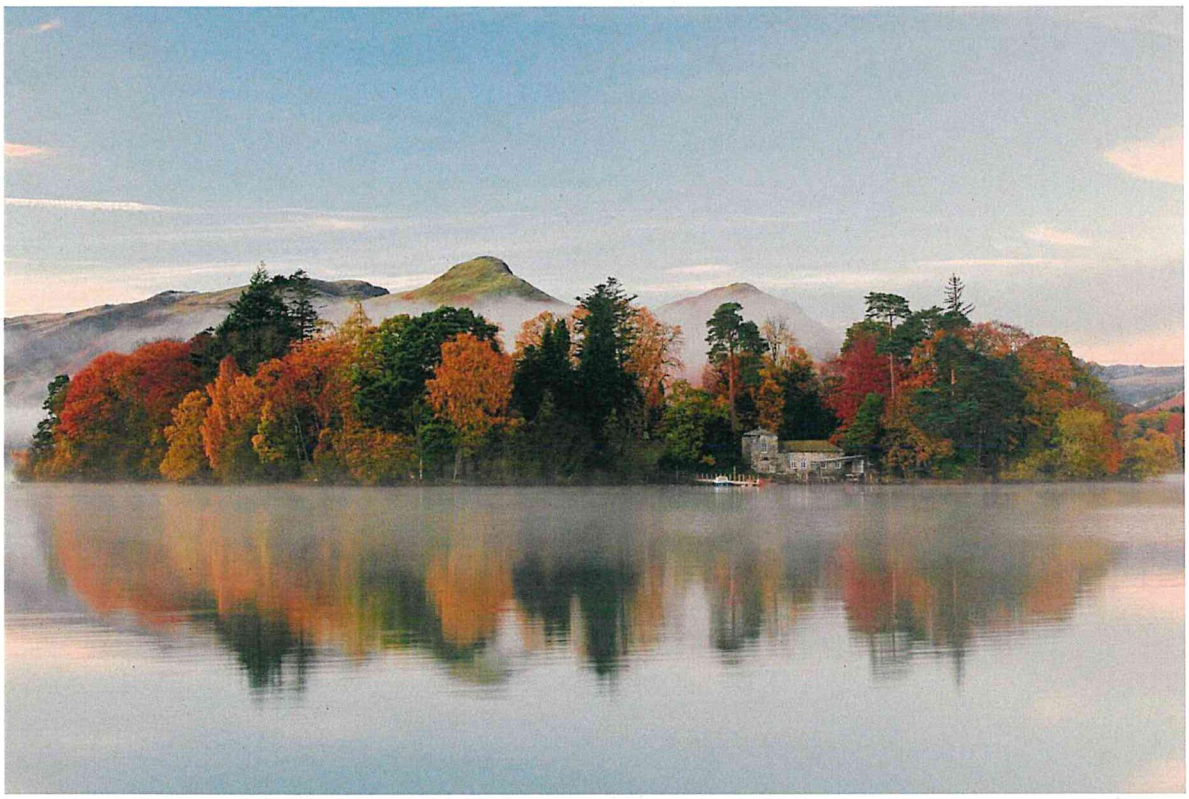
Our members and supporters continued to give generously to our appeals throughout the year. The Save Our Lake District (SOLD) appeal raised £33,000 helping our work to protect the National Park

from damaging developments and encouraging those that conserve and enhance its natural beauty and cultural heritage. Our June appeal towards work we carry out every day protecting and celebrating the Lake District raised £31,000. Our Sanctuary Project appeal to help emergency service workers reconnect with nature through outdoor activities and conservation work raised £26,000.

Legacies

We are very grateful to all our members who left gifts to us in their Will. In 2020 we received £429,328 in legacies from supporters who wished to make a lasting difference to the landscapes of the Lake District. This represents our largest source of funding so thank you to everyone who chooses to support us in this special way.

Merchandise



One of the Photography competition winners, Derwent water by Stephen Jackson

With lockdown measures in place for much of the competition period, the focus of our 2020 photography competition was on past visits to the Lake District National Park. We received over 400 images from entrants hoping to feature in the charity's 2020 Christmas card collection and 2021 calendar. Along with Christmas cards and calendars, sales of our tea towels, landscape gifts and tote bags raised £44,000.

Communications

We altered a lot of our output in response to Covid-19 in 2020. We switched our member communications to a weekly 'Postcard from the Lakes'. 23 editions were written and delivered in 2020 to keep members and supporters up to date with our work and to provide a platform for our supporters to share their experiences, thoughts, images and poetry in a year when we were all feeling the impact of isolation.

A combination of press releases and profile raising resulted in 127 media enquiries leading to coverage in digital and print media. We issued 31 press releases including those promoting the Westmorland Dales project. We have increased growth of our following on Twitter to 13,200 followers, up 18%, Facebook to 7,473 an increase of 37.5% and Instagram followers rising to 2,271 an increase of 31%. We published three Conserving Lakeland magazines.

Membership

Our membership grew in 2020, highlighting the renewed passion for nature and love of the countryside that has helped us all through difficult times this year. Our new membership acquisition rate grew by 30% despite not having a physical presence in the Lake District for most of the year. We saw an increased number of members using email which meant we were able to keep in touch more regularly with more members over the year. We also sent mailed updates in between the magazines to those members not using email to try and keep everyone informed. Renewal rates actually increased in 2020 and our long standing members kept their memberships going despite many of them no doubt facing their own challenges this year and for this we are very grateful. Our team were saddened to hear of those members passing away from Covid and other illnesses. Our thoughts go out to their families and hope they are left with many happy memories of times spent on the fells with their loved ones.

2020 Annual General Meeting

One of the consequences of Covid-19 was that our 2020 AGM was a very different one to usual. Not only was it held a little later than normal, it was a 'remote' event via Zoom. Our AGMs are normally a great opportunity to meet Members and to showcase our work, but one advantage of the remote gathering was that we could welcome some who wouldn't ordinarily be able to join in.

Twenty two members and one non-member attended, and we conducted all the usual AGM business including voting (by screen show of hands), an interesting Q&A session, and hearing all about our achievements of the previous year from the Chairman and Chief Executive. Feedback from those attending was very positive.

Volunteers

Our brilliant volunteers gave us 414 hours of their time, equivalent to £7,903 in value. Whilst activities were limited, our volunteers still helped out on the work parties and events that we were able to run in 2020 and we must not forget the continued contribution of our Board of Trustees.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Trustees are responsible for preparing their Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the net income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

(i) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
(ii) make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
(iii) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information published on the charity's website.

With the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic early in 2020, the Executive switched to on-line Executive meetings via Zoom, which were held on a more frequent basis due to the changing external circumstances and how the organisation should operate. The 2020 Annual General Meeting, originally scheduled for June, was postponed until September and held remotely via Zoom. The onset of COVID restrictions coincided with the financial audit period, which had to be conducted remotely over a longer period than usual. The delay to the Annual General Meeting was in accordance with amended regulations (Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020) that permitted such meetings to be held remotely and within a delayed period from the previous AGM.

Rolling agenda items include consideration of the financial status and sustainability of the organisation and regular reviews of risk management which includes financial systems and audit procedures. In addition, during 2020 there was a regular review of COVID issues and additional reviews of the budget itemised on the agenda. Specifically, the Executive Board:

- maintains oversight of the development of an annual budget in line with the requirements of the proposed Business Plan;
- ensures appropriate financial systems and controls are in place, that there is effective management and monitoring of the Friends of the Lake District's finances, financial control systems and procedures, assets including properties, and all other matters relevant to the financial affairs of Friends of the Lake District in order to achieve the charitable Objects and the legal obligations of the organisation;
- ensures proper arrangements are in place to secure effective audit of the Friends of the Lake District.

The Trustees understand there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware. The Trustees have each taken all the steps that Company's Directors need to take in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information. During 2018 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was introduced and in 2020 we further developed and reviewed our policies and procedures to meet these regulations. There have been two requests for personal data erasure, both of which were

carried out within the time-frame specified. There was one complaint, regarding renewal processes, which was dealt with within the specified time-frame and to the satisfaction of the complainant. There have been no fundraising complaints. We continue to operate within the guidelines set out by the Fundraising Regulator. We take great care and caution with our fundraising practices to ensure protection of vulnerable people and other members of the public, and keep all direct fundraising in-house. We have not employed any external professional fundraiser or commercial participator. Our Fundraising Manager has monitored and maintained an overview of all fundraising activities carried out by individuals within the organisation, and by the organisation as a whole, which is overseen by the Chief Executive and the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees are aware of no incidents of non-compliance with other regulatory policies and internal policies, and we have complied with all previous and current fundraising requirements. In line with Charity Commission recommendations, we are happy to report no serious incidents have come to our attention in 2020. In addition, the Trustees are confident that during the year since the AGM in September 2020, the Charity has complied with its Articles of Association, charity law requirements and other applicable laws. In 2017, new legislation was introduced requiring all companies to identify and register any Persons of Significant Control. This was reviewed by the Executive in 2017, and subsequently on an annual basis most recently March 2021, and there was no one identified as being a person of significant control.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a membership organisation governed by its Articles of Association dated 16th June 2003, updated and approved at the AGM in May 2014, and was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 27th August 2003. The previous, unincorporated, charity of the same name was founded in 1934.

GOVERNING BODY

The Board, whose members carry the responsibilities of directors with trustee responsibilities, is the main governing body of the Charitable Company. Trustees are elected by the members at the AGM in accordance with the Articles of Association which provides for a minimum of four and a maximum of eighteen members on the Board.

New Trustees are supported in the induction process by the Chair of the Board and Company Secretary, and are usually elected after a period of co-option. This induction process includes sessions with the staff and an introduction to the Charity. Newly inducted Trustees reported high levels of satisfaction with the induction programme.

Trustees agree a Code of Governance which is reviewed and adopted after each AGM. In compliance with the Code of Governance, a self-assessment of effectiveness and efficiency was conducted during the period, and the findings will be incorporated into revised Executive working practices in 2021. Having reflected on the implications of COVID restrictions on Executive meetings, the use of remote Executive meetings will be maintained for some Executive meetings, as required, although we aim to conduct as many face-to-face as possible.

Strategy and governance functions of the Executive are monitored as part of the Executive meetings, with regular agenda items that include: the strategic direction of the organisation; proper arrangements relating to effective governance of the Friends of the Lake District; risk management; the nomination of candidates for appointment as Trustees; and that appropriate systems exist for the induction and training of Trustees.

ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT

2020 has seen fewer staffing changes than previous years: we welcomed a new Fundraising Manager (Vanessa Rhoden); a new Dark Skies Officer (a welcome return of Jack Ellerby); and a new Interpretation Officer for the Westmorland Dales Landscapes Partnership Project (Amanda Waters). We welcomed back from maternity leave Jasmine O'Flaherty (towards the end of 2020) and Rachel

Dorrington (at the start of 2021) and said farewell to Helen Prince (temporary Fundraising Officer) and Liz Sutton (Interpretation Officer, Westmorland Dales Landscapes Partnership Project). We also said farewell to our Intern Molly Conway.

During 2020 the Charity utilised the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme as members of staff took furlough when the demands of their work were low, with Trustees agreeing to top-up salaries to 100%. Staff were all equipped to work from home, with a skeleton staff ensuring essential office-based functions were maintained.

With face-to-face engagement with anyone not possible, communications, especially with Members and supporters became even more important, leading to the launch of *Postcard from the Lakes* Staff, with the full support of Trustees, went to great lengths to ensure everyone in the Team was supported during some very difficult times, and everyone deserves credit for the performance of the Charity throughout the year.

Objects, Vision and Mission

Friends of the Lake District has the following **Objects**:

- to promote and organise concerted action for the protection and conservation of the Landscape and natural beauty of the Lake District and the County of Cumbria as a whole.
- to co-operate with other bodies having similar objectives or interests.

A five year strategic direction to the end of 2020 was adopted in 2015 which aims to fulfil the objects of the charity through:

Our **vision**: to secure a *LANDSCAPE* that is:

Beautiful, diverse, locally distinctive, tranquil and *environmentally healthy.*
Conserved and *enhanced;*
Accessible and *enjoyed* by all

Our **Mission**: to ensure that *PEOPLE*:

Are inspired by the beauty and diversity of the landscape;
Have an understanding of how the landscape has been shaped;
Care for and help look after the landscape, both for its own sake and for the benefits it brings to people's lives

Our Principles

The special qualities and distinctiveness of Cumbria's landscapes should be conserved and enhanced.
Land use change should be sustainable, be sympathetic to the local landscape character and deliver positive long-term social, economic, cultural and biodiversity benefits. Where there is conflict between land use change and the landscape, then precedence should be given to the landscape.
Quiet enjoyment of the countryside is fundamental to people's physical and spiritual well-being and should be accessible to all.
Public understanding of the special qualities of the landscape and the value of its sustainable management should be encouraged.

Strategic Direction 2016-2020

Our three Aims within the Strategic Direction provide the framework for our work ahead:

- Looking to the future for Cumbria's landscapes
- Engaging People in Cumbria's future landscapes
- Securing our organisation for Cumbria's landscapes

To deliver our vision and to address the key challenges in the period to 2020 we will prioritise our activities and resources on the following three Aims and seven Objectives:

Aim 1 - Looking to the future for Cumbria's landscapes

- 1.1 Securing the future of Cumbria's landscape character
- 1.2 Enhancing Cumbria's landscape character
- 1.3 Adapting Cumbria's landscapes to the impacts of climate change

Aim 2 – Engaging People in Cumbria's future landscapes

- 2.1 Sustaining Cumbria's upland landscapes in a time of change
- 2.2 Understanding the benefits Cumbria's landscapes provide for people

Aim 3 - Securing our organisation for Cumbria's landscapes

- 3.1 Developing a positive profile for Friends of the Lake District
- 3.2 Sustaining our organisation to achieve our strategy

During 2020 we developed our new Strategic Direction for the period 2021-2023, which was approved at the January 2021 Executive. The structure has been aligned to our Landscape Charter, launched in 2017, and can be found on our webpage https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk .

Cooperation with other organisations

Throughout the year we have continued to work in co-operation with other bodies with similar aims and objectives to our own. These include the Campaign for National Parks, the Campaign to Protect Rural England [since 1978 the charity has represented CPRE in Cumbria], the National Trust, the Lake District National Park Authority, and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, who work closely with us in The Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme. We are also members of the Lake District National Park Partnership, leading on the Dark Skies and Landscape Character Assessment projects. In addition, we are represented on a number of local groups. Friends of the Lake District is a member of the Fix the Fells project Board and other organisations we have more direct involvement with include: Foundation for Common Land, and Cumbria Local Nature Partnership.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance in preparing this statement of public benefit. The protection and enhancement of the landscape of Cumbria and the Lake District is recognised as a charitable purpose and is regarded as producing a public good. Friends of the Lake District exists to promote and organise concerted action for the protection and conservation of the landscape and natural beauty of the Lake District and the County of Cumbria as a whole and therefore provide a clear public benefit. Examples of our charitable activities for public benefit include: our campaigning work to extend the National Park boundaries to widen the landscape benefits to the public and increase protection of a greater areas of landscape; and our Fell Care Days and the Great Cumbria Litter Pick that improve and enhance the landscape of the Lake District and Cumbria.

Financial review

Generous individual giving in 2020 meant that over 70% of our income was in the form of memberships, donations and legacy giving. A strong membership gives us a powerful mandate, and membership income is particularly vital to the charity as it provides us with a dependable income that we can plan around, so thank you very much for choosing to be a member. During 2020 we were fortunate to acquire woodland at Sweden Bridge near Ambleside from the estate of Dr Julian Eldridge, for which we are very grateful. This adds a further £70,000 property asset to our portfolio.

Given ongoing concerns regarding the wider economic environment, and wishing to seek to secure a more sustainable organisation, it is important that Friends of the Lake District maintains sufficient funding to support its vital work during future financial uncertainties. As such, we are continuing to invest any surplus income in line with the following Reserves Policy:

RESERVES POLICY

The Charity needs reserves in order that:-

- it can meet the costs of new campaigns, unforeseen emergencies and/or other unexpected needs for funds, including employing temporary staff to cover long-term sickness absence;
- it protects against unpredictable legacy income, in order to provide a stable and quality service to fulfil its objectives;
- it can provide working capital when funding is paid in arrears;
- it can acquire strategic land holdings, should they become available;
- it can meet contractual obligations should the charity have to close.

The Board has agreed to maintain reserves for the following purposes:

- a designated fund for working capital;
- a designated fund for contingencies – including provision to address the potential financial impacts of COVID-19;
- a designated fund to support the Trustees' plan to restore Friends of the Lake District to financial self-sufficiency by 2023, whilst fulfilling the activities of the 3 year 2021-2023 Strategic Direction;
- a designated fund to allow Friends of the Lake District to make further investments in strategic land holdings in Cumbria, and developments to existing properties held for charitable purposes.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board maintains and regularly reviews a register of the risks facing the charity and has taken steps to ensure that policies and systems to mitigate identified risks are in place, regularly monitored and working effectively. These include:

- Employing professional staff with appropriate skills and training
- Monitoring progress regularly against the annual Business Plan
- Scrutiny of financial performance by Chief Executive and Trustees

INVESTMENT POLICY

The Articles of Association of the charitable company permit the Board wide powers of investment. The investment policy for the charity has been to maintain capital growth and take advantage of the income which it generates. This has remained in place during 2020 and for 2021. Performance of our investments continued to be reviewed during 2020 by the Investment working group, led by Philip Cropper, and the whole Executive. We began our review of our Investment Strategy and Policy, and during the year and we commissioned a report on the ethical status of our investments from an external consultant. The report gauged the environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices in one of our largest funds and has subsequently informed the movement and re-investment of existing funds during the year, resulting in an additional transfer of investments into ethical funds at the start of 2021. The report will continue to inform future decisions and our ongoing review of ethical investments.

As a landscape charity, we are committed to ensuring our investment portfolio is one that does not contribute to global carbon emissions and takes into account any investments that might have a detrimental impact on climate change, or any factors that contribute to the damage of the landscape we aim to protect. Global investment fluctuations arising from the COVID pandemic saw an initial drop in investment value, however these had been reversed by the early months of 2021 and have earned a relatively good return (7%). We remain cautious about the impact COVID 19 will continue to have on investments and monitor the situation regularly.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Our Endowment funds are managed separately from the other assets of the charity by Brewin Dolphin. The two **Kirby Endowment Funds** are the **Amenity Fund**, the income from which is restricted for use in our charitable activities and policy work and the **General Fund**, income from which is unrestricted but which is designated towards our Environmental Improvement Grants (which became Landscape Grants Scheme in 2019) and for an annual Kirby lecture. Towards the end of 2015 we were notified of a new endowment legacy – the **Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund**, the first part of this endowment income was received towards the end of 2018. The remaining amount of this Endowment fund was received in 2020, and has been added to the existing fund. The income from the Margaret Taylor Memorial fund is not restricted and is used to support our wider work.

PROPERTY ASSETS

The charity owns several properties, which are maintained by the charity in furtherance of its charitable objects. In 2016 we instigated a full review of our Property Portfolio, including revision of the Property Acquisition and Disposal Policy and introduction of a Property Working Group. Recommendations from this ongoing review will be considered on a regular basis, and will include updated property management plans and associated use to engage the public.

In 2020 we were bequeathed a beautiful woodland at Littlerigg, Sweden Wood near Ambleside by the late Dr Julian Eldridge with a value of £70,000. We had been managing this area of woodland on behalf of Dr Eldridge for a number of years and are grateful that this work will be able to continue. We were also notified of bequeathed land from Mr Mark Stansfield Stephenson in the early part of 2021. We have also been offered a donation of land near Threlkeld, and we are exploring how this might be developed for wider public use, and begun the process of acquisition.

The Executive Board in 2017 agreed to adopt the change to accounting procedures relating to valuation of property assets, as offered by the transition arrangements switching from FRSSE to FRS102. As such, property asset values will be set at 2012 amounts as deemed cost.

Thank you

Thank you to all our members, partners and friends near and far who have shown such committed 'friendship' to the Lake District landscapes, and to all our volunteers for their hard work. We would also like to express our deep thanks to those who have shown their enduring love for the Lakes through leaving a gift in their Will to Friends of the Lake District. If you are interested in leaving a Will legacy, please contact Vanessa Rhoden on 01539 720788 or email vanessa-rhoden@fld.org.uk

We are so grateful to everyone that has shown their love of the Lake District by leaving a gift in their will to help our work. What a wonderful way to ensure future generations can continue to enjoy the tranquillity, beauty and inspiration we have all been lucky enough to enjoy in our time in the Lake District. In 2020 the following members and supporters left a lasting legacy:

Edith Marjorie Yeo
Jennifer Morrow
Dennis Rose
Rebecca Elizabeth Jennings
Barbara Caulfield
Margaret Cotton
Beatrice Eleanor Hall
Winifred Patricia Oliver
Mark Johnson
Margaret Large
Freda Marie Jones
Clifford James Walder
Robert William Jones
John Beaumont Kent
Alan Raymond Wells
John Berry
Joyce Andrews
Mary Black
Kathleen Mary Atkinson
Gwilym Thomas Jones
Rita Ann Langman
Julian Raymond Eldridge

In addition, generous donations were made in memory of:

Ann Dix	Jimmy Seddon	Michael Kenyon
Dick Broad	John Grimes	Peter John Colley
Glen Cavaliero	Joyce Vines	Reg Pillinger
Hilda Eastwood	Kathleen Johnston	Rod Simonds
Jennifer Campbell	Mary Shaw	Sheila Kozlowski

We would also like to thank our generous **Benefactors** for their support in 2020:

James Brockbank & Louise Ronane, John Campbell, Philip Cropper, John Entwistle OBE, John Harris, Peter Hughes QC, Brian Leigh-Bramwell, John and Margaret Jackson, Jim & Sue Martin, Angela Monkman-Brushett, Mr & Mrs Eric Thomas, Peter Woods & Francis Ryan, and Elizabeth Reddaway.

Approved by the Board of Trustees at the meeting on 25th May 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

John Campbell, Chairman of Trustees .....

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

A Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Friends of the Lake District

Year Ended 31 December 2020

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Friends of the Lake District (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud are: to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are: Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Companies Act 2006.

- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur.

- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.

- We examined supporting documents for all material balances, transactions and disclosures.

- We applied analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.

- We tested the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.

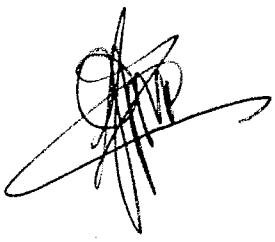
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with chapter 3 of part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Graham W Lamont FCA, FCCA, ACIS, MCMI, AIMC, FRSA
Senior Statutory Auditor



For and on behalf of:

Lamont Pridmore
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
136 Highgate
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4HW

Dated: 26th May 2021

Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Friends of the Lake District meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Going concern

The current economic conditions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic continue to create uncertainty over the incoming resources available for the charity's activities. The charity's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonably possible changes in performance, show that the charity should be able to operate within its current level of reserves. With the benefit of the government support packages available to help businesses through the pandemic, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds that are available for use by the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.
Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds has restrictions which are described in note 14. Any capital gains or losses arising on the endowment fund investments form part of the endowment fund.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies and bequests, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.
Subscriptions are accounted for on a cash basis. Income from investment is included when it becomes payable. Grant income is included when receivable, as long as any conditions attaching to the grant are within the Charity's control
Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources (see note 4).

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, the costs involved with other activities for generating funds, and the costs of managing the Charity's investments.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the furtherance of its charitable objects.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity.

Grants payable Grants payable are included once they have been approved.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation over the anticipated useful life of the assets concerned.

The principal rates are as follows:

Freehold land	0%
Freehold property	2% straight line
Equipment	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicle	20% reducing balance

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. Market value is based on the mid-market price of quoted investments at the balance sheet date. Surpluses or deficits on revaluation and sales of investments are credited or charged in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks consist of purchased goods for resale. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities over the period in which the cost is incurred.

Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which they are payable.

Taxation

Friends of the Lake District has charitable status and is thus potentially exempt from taxation of its income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives. No taxation has been charged in the accounts.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT of FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

(Including Income and Expenditure account)

	Note	General Funds Unrestricted £	General Funds Designated £	General Funds Restricted £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Income and Endowments From:							
Donations		**116,788**	**-**	**64,118**	**-**	**180,906**	279,433
Legacies		**429,328**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**429,328**	182,605
Membership Subscriptions		**124,826**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**124,826**	113,993
Charitable Activities							
Grants	1	**75,605**	**-**	**136,499**	**-**	**212,104**	146,034
Properties		**1,448**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,448**	1,358
Event & Other Income		**150**	**-**	**1,248**	**-**	**1,398**	2,110
Other Trading Activities							
Sale of Merchandise		**35,227**	**-**	**9,495**	**-**	**44,722**	30,847
Investments	2	**30,218**	**-**	**577**	**-**	**30,795**	35,277
Other	3						
Land Sales		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	18,094
Land Donated		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	100,000
Total Income		**813,590**	**-**	**211,937**	**-**	**1,025,527**	909,751
Expenditure On:							
Raising Funds							
Costs of Generating Voluntary Income		**111,715**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**111,715**	166,392
Cost of Sale of Merchandise		**52,160**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**52,160**	31,548
Investment Management Costs		**10,552**	**-**	**-**	**3,408**	**13,960**	14,802
Charitable Activities							
Protect Your Lake District		**221,263**	**-**	**51,342**	**-**	**272,605**	336,801
Train & Inspire		**247,074**	**-**	**140,092**	**-**	**387,166**	353,467
Grants - Amenity and Conservation		**7,227**	**-**	**10,000**	**-**	**17,227**	13,437
Total Expenditure	4,5	**649,991**	**-**	**201,434**	**3,408**	**854,833**	916,447
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Gains/(Losses) on Investments		**163,599**	**-**	**10,503**	**(3,408)**	**170,694**	(6,696)
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)							
Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investment Assets		**120,166**	**-**	**-**	**6,532**	**126,698**	252,485
Transfers		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	-
Net Movement in Funds		**283,765**	**-**	**10,503**	**3,124**	**297,392**	245,789
Reconciliation of Funds							
Fund Balances Brought Forward		**8,813**	**3,622,407**	**71,363**	**513,688**	**4,216,271**	3,970,482
Designated Funds		**(292,421)**	**299,088**	**(6,667)**	**-**	**-**	-
Fund Balances Carried Forward		**157**	**3,921,495**	**75,199**	**516,812**	**4,513,663**	4,216,271

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those in the Statement of Financial Activities.

There is no material difference between the reported results and the historical results of the charitable company.

The Balance Sheet, Cash Flow and Notes on pages 31 to 35 form part of these financial statements

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

Registration Number: 4878364

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	6,7	1,499,495	1,432,407
Investments at Market Value	8	2,115,829	1,969,131
		3,615,324	3,401,538
Current Assets			
Stock		863	1,636
Debtors and Accrued Income	9	351,656	184,666
Cash at Bank and in Hand		607,642	687,804
		960,161	874,106
Current Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	10	61,822	59,373
Net Current Assets		898,339	814,733
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		4,513,663	4,216,271
Net Assets		4,513,663	4,216,271
Represented by Accumulated Funds	14		
Unrestricted funds		157	8,813
Designated funds		3,921,495	3,622,407
Restricted funds		75,199	71,363
Permanent endowment funds		516,812	513,688
		4,513,663	4,216,271

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The accounts were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 25th May 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

John Campbell
Chair of Trustees

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Registration Number: 4878364

	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**21**	**(25,494)**	(62,266)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**2**	**30,795**	35,277
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		-	20,575
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		**(11,463)**	(8,361)
Proceeds from sale of investments		-	250,000
Purchase of investments		-	(250,000)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		**19,332**	47,491
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments of borrowing		-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing		-	-
Receipt of endowment		**(20,000)**	-
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		**(20,000)**	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**(26,162)**	(14,775)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**687,804**	702,579
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**22**	**661,642**	687,804

Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2020

1. Grants Receivable

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Totals 2020	Totals 2019
	£	£	£	£
Rural Payments Agency Grants				
Properties	**26,937**	-	**26,937**	35,215
Natural England Grants				
Landscape Character Assessment	-	-	-	3,000
Other Grants				
Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme	-	**130,938**	**130,938**	105,169
Dark Skies	-	**1,100**	**1,100**	2,650
Landscape Engagement	-	**4,461**	**4,461**	-
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	**42,668**	-	**42,668**	-
South Lakeland District Council Discretionary Grant	**6,000**	-	**6,000**	-
	75,605	**136,499**	**212,104**	146,034

Government grants receivable have been analysed by reference to the charitable activity so supported. The total government grants receivable from central and local government is £75,605 (2019 : £38,215)
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant income of £42,668 was claimed for furloughed staff in 2020 (2019: none) due to the Covid -19 Coronavirus outbreak and resulting lockdown measures affecting most areas of charitable activities and income generation.

2. Investment Income

	2020	2019
General Investments		
Brewin Dolphin General Fund	**4,313**	5,061
CCLA COIF Charity Fund (Accumulation)	**2,134**	3,194
CCLA COIF Charity Ethical Fund (Accumulation)	**1,874**	622
Canaccord G. W. Ltd (Hargreave Hale) Investment Fund	**2,230**	2,015
Interest on Short Term Deposits	**1,364**	3,087
	11,915	13,979
Permanent Endowment Funds		
Kirby & Taylor Funds		
UK Fixed Interest Bonds	**6,503**	8,683
Other	**12,377**	12,584
Interest on Short Term Deposits	-	31
	18,880	21,298
	30,795	35,277

3. Other Income

	2020	2019
Income from Land Sale Halfway House, Skelwith Fold	-	18,094
Land Donated Bull Coppice & Resp Haw, Cinder Hill, Rusland	-	100,000
	-	118,094

4. Analysis of Total Resources Expended

	Direct Staff costs	Support Staff costs	Direct expenses	Overheads	Governance costs	Totals 2020	Totals 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Basis of Allocation	Staff time	Staff time	Direct	Staff time	Staff time		
Voluntary Income Generation	46,346	20,559	24,367	9,738	10,705	**111,715**	166,392
Costs of Sale of Merchandise	18,610	9,794	14,017	4,639	5,100	**52,160**	31,548
Investment Management Costs	-	-	13,960	-	-	**13,960**	14,802
Protect Your Lake District	149,440	46,249	30,927	21,907	24,082	**272,605**	336,801
Train & Inspire	182,286	83,590	38,170	39,595	43,525	**387,166**	353,467
Landscape Grants	3,088	1,323	11,500	627	689	**17,227**	13,437
Totals	399,770	161,515	132,941	76,506	84,101	**854,833**	916,447
Governance Costs	52,882	13,840	10,823	6,556	-	**84,101**	82,375

The Covid -19 Coronavirus outbreak and resulting lockdown has affected charitable and income generation activities in 2020 and this is represented in the apportionment of staff time/costs in these areas. Income from periods of staff furlough is shown in note 1. Costs for furloughed staff are represented as part of support staff costs.

5. Employee Information

	2020 Actual	2020 Full Time Equivalent	2019 Actual	2019 Full Time Equivalent
The number of employees working in the following areas were:				
Generating funds	**3**	**2**	4	3
Charitable activities	**12**	**9**	11	9
Governance	**1**	**1**	2	1
Support	**7**	**6**	5	4
Total	**23**	**18**	22	17

The average monthly head count for employees was 23 (2019: 22)

Employee costs were as follows:	£	£
Salaries	**511,625**	505,868
National insurance	**40,332**	41,571
Pension costs	**76,050**	72,642
	628,007	620,081

One employee received benefits in excess of £60,000 (2019: none)

17 staff were furloughed at different times for the period of April to the end of September 2020 the income for these claims is shown in note 1.
Ex gratia payments were made to all affected staff to top their wages up to 100% during furlough periods.

6. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold property	Office equipment	Motor vehicle	Total
	£	£	£	£
Deemed cost				
At 1 January 2020	1,424,436	76,973	18,134	1,519,543
Additions	70,000	11,463	-	81,463
Disposals	-	(870)	-	(870)
Revaluations	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	1,494,436	87,566	18,134	1,600,136
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 January 2020	26,592	54,016	6,528	87,136
Charge for year	3,432	8,602	2,321	14,355
Disposals	-	(850)	-	(850)
Revaluations	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	30,024	61,768	8,849	100,641
Net book value				
At 31 December 2020	**1,464,412**	**25,798**	**9,285**	**1,499,495**
Net book value				
At 31 December 2019	1,397,844	22,957	11,606	1,432,407

Details of the freehold property are given in note 7.

7. Freehold Property at deemed Cost

	2020	2019
	£	£
Used in the Operation of the Charity		
Kendal Office	**266,600**	266,600
Held for Environmental Purposes		
Farmland, High Borrowdale	**234,000**	234,000
Common Land Grazing Rights, Ulpha, Little Asby, Roundthwaite, Whelpside	**64,800**	64,800
Hows Wood, Eskdale	**11,806**	11,806
The Helm	**318,155**	318,155
Common Land, Little Asby	**198,000**	198,000
Land at Mazonwath, Little Asby	**152,452**	152,452
Woodland at Staveley	**60,623**	60,623
Greenbank Wood	**18,000**	18,000
Bull Coppice & Resp Haw Woodland, Rusland	**100,000**	100,000
Littlerigg, Sweden Wood, Ambleside	**70,000**	-
	1,494,436	1,424,436

Legacy of land at Littlerigg, Sweden Wood, Ambleside left to the charity in 2020, by Dr Julian Raymond Eldridge.

Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2020

8. Fixed Assets - Investments

	2020 Market value £	2019 Market value £
General Unrestricted Funds		
Brewin Dolphin General Fund	**667,529**	629,832
CCLA COIF Charity Fund (Accumulation)	**314,602**	286,558
CCLA COIF Charity Ethical Fund (Accumulation)	**282,774**	257,610
Canaccord G. W. Ltd (Hargreave Hale) Investment Fund	**334,334**	305,073
Total	**1,599,239**	1,479,073
Permanent Endowment Funds		
Kirby Fund	**408,119**	406,131
Taylor Fund	**108,471**	83,927
Total	**516,590**	490,058
Total Fixed Asset Investments	**2,115,829**	1,969,131

Movement of Investments	Brewin Dolphin **2020 General Unrestricted Funds** £	CCLA **2020 General Unrestricted Funds** £	CCLA Ethical **2020 General Unrestricted Funds** £	Canaccord **2020 General Unrestricted Funds** £	Total **2020 General Unrestricted Funds** £	Brewin Dolphin **2020 Endowment Funds** £
Market value at 1 January 2020	**629,832**	**286,558**	**257,610**	**305,073**	**1,479,073**	**490,058**
Additions	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**20,000**
Disposals at carrying value	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Net gains/ (losses) on revaluation	**37,697**	**28,044**	**25,164**	**29,261**	**120,166**	**6,532**
Market value at 31 December 2020	**667,529**	**314,602**	**282,774**	**334,334**	**1,599,239**	**516,590**
Historical cost at 31 December 2020	**577,214**	**298,538**	**270,438**	**254,195**	**1,400,385**	**480,261**

9. Debtors and Accrued Income

	2020 £	2019 £
Accrued Legacy Income	**323,427**	163,025
Other Debtors	**24,763**	18,279
Prepayments and Accrued Income	**3,466**	3,362
	351,656	184,666

10. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2020 £	2019 £
Accruals and Deferred Income	**23,300**	16,879
Taxation and Social Security	**11,696**	9,526
Other Creditors	**26,826**	32,968
	61,822	59,373

11. Trustees

The Trustees received no remuneration.
Amounts of £401(2019: £916) were reimbursed to cover part of the travel and subsistence expenses incurred on behalf of the charity by one Trustee (2019: three Trustees).

12. Auditors' Remuneration

	2020	2019
	£	£
Audit	6,180	6,180
	6,180	6,180

13. Legal Status of the Charity

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of a winding up is limited to £1 (One Pound).

14. Movement in Funds

	At 1 January 2020	Surplus/ (Excess) of Expenditure over Income	Transfers	Other Recognised Gains and Losses	At 31 December 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
Designated Funds					
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,432,407	-	67,088	-	1,499,495
Specific Designated Funds	2,190,000	-	232,000	-	2,422,000
Total Designated Funds	3,622,407	-	299,088	-	3,921,495
General Funds	8,813	163,599	(292,421)	120,166	157
Total Unrestricted Funds	3,631,220	163,599	6,667	120,166	3,921,652
Restricted Funds					
Fell Care Days	15,446	1,373	(6,667)	-	10,152
Wellbeing Work (Sanctuary Project)	-	26,753	-	-	26,753
Troutbeck Churchyard For Upkeep	1,871	-	-	-	1,871
Properties	1,687	(984)	-	-	703
Our Green Space (formerly Greens for Life)	1,668	-	-	-	1,668
Landscape Grants (WDLPS Love Your Landscape)	-	(5,000)	-	-	(5,000)
Dark Skies Project	-	1,100	-	-	1,100
Virtual Gifts	4,557	2,603	-	-	7,160
Sunbiggin Tarn	9,289	(9,289)	-	-	-
Climate Change Project	12,177	62	-	-	12,239
Championing Upland Hill Farming	21,220	(6,115)	-	-	15,105
Property Purchase - J Kent	3,448	-	-	-	3,448
Total Restricted Funds	71,363	10,503	(6,667)	-	75,199
Permanent Endowment Funds					
Kirby General Fund	352,620	(2,339)	-	4,483	354,764
Kirby Amenity Fund	45,341	(301)	-	577	45,617
Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund	115,727	(768)	-	1,472	116,431
Total Permanent Funds	513,688	(3,408)	-	6,532	516,812
Total Funds	4,216,271	170,694	-	126,698	4,513,663

Purpose of Designated Funds

The trustees continue to designate funds deployed in tangible fixed assets.
In addition to this the trustees have designated £2,422,000 (2019: £2,190,000) out of general unrestricted funds into the following funds:

Working Capital	250,000
Contingency including support through the impacts of COVID-19	832,000
2021-23 Development of Financial Sustainability	750,000
Strategic Land Acquisition/Existing Developments	590,000
	2,422,000

Permanent Endowment Fund

The permanent endowment fund represents the two Kirby Funds and the Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund. The capital of the Kirby & Taylor Funds is invested.
The income arising from the Kirby Amenity Fund may only be used for special conservation activities and is included in restricted funds.
The income from the Kirby General and Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund is for the general purposes of the Charity.

15. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted General	Designated	Restricted	Permanent Endowment	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	1,499,495	-	-	1,499,495
Investments	1,599,239	-	-	516,590	2,115,829
Net Current Assets	(1,599,082)	2,422,000	75,199	222	898,339
	157	3,921,495	75,199	516,812	4,513,663

16. Commitments

Operating leases
As at 31 December 2020, the Charity had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as below:

	2020	2019
Operating leases which expire:	£	£
Within 1 to 2 years	2,304	-
Within 2 to 5 years and after 5 years	8,915	11,012
	11,219	11,012

17. Pension costs

Defined contribution schemes
The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they accrue. The charity generally contributes 6% of pensionable salary matched by members . Most members have chosen to match the company contribution and to do so by salary sacrifice. Contribution costs for the year amounted to £39,215 (2019: £36,568).

18. Ultimate controlling party
There is no ultimate controlling party.

19. Related party disclosures
There were no connected charities or branches during the year ended 31 December 2020.
There were no material transactions with Trustees or other connected persons during the year ended 31 December 2020.

20. Contingent assets - legacy income
As at the year end, the charity had been notified of residuary legacies where the value of these estates was uncertain as the executors had not yet compiled the estate accounts and probate had not yet been granted. Therefore, no amount has been accrued in respect of these legacies which are estimated to be in excess of £700,000 (2019: none)

21. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities	2020	2019
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	297,392	245,789
Adjustments for:		
Donated/bequeathed land	(16,000)	(100,000)
Depreciation charges	14,355	13,987
(Gains)/losses on investments	(126,698)	(252,485)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(30,795)	(35,277)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	20	(17,857)
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	773	(918)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(166,990)	75,844
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,449	8,651
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(25,494)	(62,266)

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	2020	2019
	£	£
Cash in hand	607,642	687,804
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	607,642	687,804