

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

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FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

CONTENTS

	Page
Chairman's statement	1 - 2
Trustees report	3 - 16
Statement of Trustees responsibilities	17
Independent auditor's report	18 - 21
Statement of financial activities current period	22 - 23
Summary income and expenditure account	24
Balance sheet	25
Statement of cash flows	26
Notes to the financial statements	27 - 44
Statement of financial activities prior period	45 - 46

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."

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

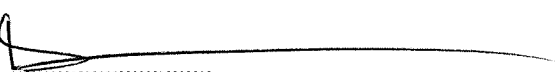
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.*

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 visually intrusive 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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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; Shielling.

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."

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) ***FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

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, Gillian 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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Relationship with wider network

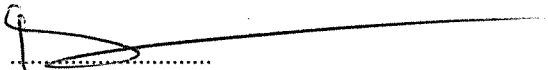
Cooperation with other organisations

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.


.....
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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

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.

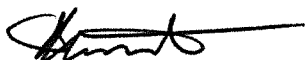
FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

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		Unrestricted funds General 2024 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowment funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
Income and endowments from:							
Donations, Legacies, Membership							
Subscriptions & Grants	3	697,131	-	235,690	-	932,821	1,363,650
<u>Charitable activities</u>							
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:							
<u>Raising funds</u>							
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
<u>Charitable activities</u>							
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		Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total	Total
		General	Designated				
		2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
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

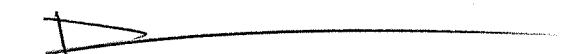
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15		1,604,473		1,618,976
Investments	16		2,848,637		2,686,528
			<u>4,453,110</u>		<u>4,305,504</u>
Current assets					
Stocks	17	2,511		3,243	
Debtors	18	354,198		489,855	
Cash at bank and in hand		730,970		917,581	
		<u>1,087,679</u>		<u>1,410,679</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(96,160)		(70,293)	
Net current assets			<u>991,519</u>		<u>1,340,386</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>5,444,629</u>		<u>5,645,890</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>5,444,629</u>		<u>5,645,890</u>
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
			<u>5,444,629</u>		<u>5,645,890</u>

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


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 £	£	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

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>697,131</u>	<u>235,690</u>	<u>932,821</u>	<u>1,107,849</u>	<u>255,801</u>	<u>1,363,650</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
Rural Payments Agency	18,854	-	18,854	32,488	-	32,488
Westmorland Dales	-	209,054	209,054	-	184,347	184,347
Landscape Partnership	-	5,000	5,000	-	1,500	1,500
Dark Skies	-	-	-	-	10,319	10,319
Landscape Engagement	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>18,854</u>	<u>214,054</u>	<u>232,908</u>	<u>32,488</u>	<u>196,166</u>	<u>228,654</u>

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>37,707</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>38,013</u>	<u>33,648</u>	<u>8,470</u>	<u>42,118</u>

5 Income from investments

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

6 Other income

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

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>172,368</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>172,368</u>	<u>134,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>134,329</u>
Trading costs						
Cost of merchandise sold	7,989	-	7,989	9,370	-	9,370
Support costs	64,555	-	64,555	51,724	-	51,724
	<u>72,544</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,544</u>	<u>61,094</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,094</u>
Investment management	12,036	5,178	17,214	9,217	-	9,217
Total costs	<u>256,948</u>	<u>5,178</u>	<u>262,126</u>	<u>204,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>204,640</u>

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- 34 -

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
		<u>1,075,917</u>	<u>824,342</u>
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
		<u>1,075,917</u>	<u>824,342</u>

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
	<u>11,700</u>	<u>15,249</u>

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)

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>354,198</u>	<u>489,855</u>

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
	<u>96,160</u>	<u>70,293</u>

20 Retirement benefit schemes

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

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
	<u>424,392</u>	<u>22,477</u>	<u>(5,178)</u>	<u>(6,813)</u>	<u>467</u>	<u>435,345</u>

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>520,690</u>	<u>8,547</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(96,298)</u>	<u>432,939</u>

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 Fund and Margaret Taylor Memorial Fund is for the general purposes of the charity.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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	-
	<u>159,106</u>	<u>235,996</u>	<u>(297,662)</u>	<u>53,686</u>	<u>151,126</u>

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>125,312</u>	<u>264,271</u>	<u>(243,299)</u>	<u>21,322</u>	<u>167,606</u>

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>2,809,976</u>	<u>(14,503)</u>	<u>2,795,473</u>
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)	-
	<u>4,015,214</u>	<u>(1,205,238)</u>	<u>2,809,976</u>

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	<u>2,252,416</u>	<u>836,030</u>	<u>(1,208,100)</u>	<u>(32,370)</u>	<u>214,709</u>	<u>2,062,685</u>
Previous year:	At 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	At 31 December 2022 £
General funds	<u>808,804</u>	<u>1,308,975</u>	<u>(754,561)</u>	<u>1,183,916</u>	<u>(311,765)</u>	<u>2,235,369</u>

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>2,062,685</u>	<u>2,795,473</u>	<u>151,126</u>	<u>435,345</u>	<u>5,444,629</u>
	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
	<u>2,235,369</u>	<u>2,809,976</u>	<u>167,606</u>	<u>432,939</u>	<u>5,645,890</u>

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
	<u>7,643</u>	<u>12,818</u>

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)

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

28 Related party transactions

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

29 Cash generated from operations	2024 £	2022 £
(Deficit)/surplus 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		Unrestricted funds General 2022 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes					
Income and endowments from:						
Donations, Legacies, Membership Subscriptions & Grants	3	1,107,849	-	255,801	-	1,363,650
<u>Charitable activities</u>						
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		<u>1,308,975</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>264,271</u>	<u>8,547</u>	<u>1,581,793</u>
Expenditure on:						
<u>Raising funds</u>						
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
		<u>204,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>204,640</u>
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		<u>754,561</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>243,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>997,860</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	13	<u>(311,765)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(96,298)</u>	<u>(408,063)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		242,649	-	20,972	(87,751)	175,870
Transfers between funds		<u>1,183,916</u>	<u>(1,205,238)</u>	<u>21,322</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
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		Unrestricted funds General 2022 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes					
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		2,235,369	2,809,976	167,606	432,939	5,645,890