



## Trustees' Annual Report

1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

24 Forth Crescent, Stirling, FK81LG

Website: <https://www.treelinkstirling.org>

Scottish Charity Number: SC050794

## **Charitable Purpose**

TreeLink Stirling's constitution states its charitable purpose as "*the advancement of environmental protection.*" Our purpose is put simply as "*Connecting Trees and People*".

TreeLink Stirling was formed in 2020 by a group of Stirling residents who were brought together by their appreciation of the significant contribution that trees and woodlands make to mitigating the intersecting climate, biodiversity and health and wellbeing crises. The founders saw an opportunity to help people to work together and with the local council and other organisations to improve tree-cover and connectivity across the region to the benefit of all.

## **Mission**

TreeLink Stirling's mission is "To increase the quality, connectivity and extent of Stirling's trees and woodlands and to improve recognition of their importance and value for our communities and our environment."

## **Structure, governance and management**

TreeLink Stirling has a written constitution and is registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is managed by its volunteer trustees and has no paid staff.

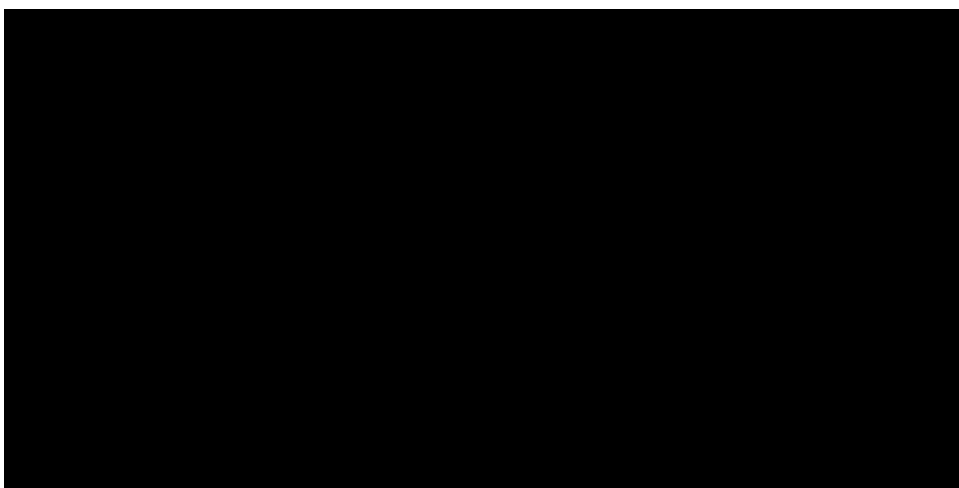
At the end of March 2025 TreeLink had 68 paid-up members, 72 registered volunteers and 224 subscribers to its quarterly newsletter.

## **Trustee recruitment and appointment**

All members of TreeLink were invited to consider putting themselves forward for election to the board of trustees at the Annual General Meeting. It was not necessary to hold a formal election as the maximum number of trustees had not been achieved. During the year three new trustees were co-opted.

Newly elected or appointed trustees are offered an induction into the charity procedures, informed of their responsibilities as charity trustees and sign a declaration to uphold the Scottish Third Sector Governance code.

## Charity Trustees 2024-25



## Key Achievements 2023-24

During the year April 2023 to March 2024 the key achievements have been:

***The TreeLink Tree Nursery*** has been extended by building two large enclosed raised beds. The well-established team of volunteers continues to provide excellent support. The trustee responsible for co-ordinating the nursery has networked with other community tree nurseries, attended training sessions and reviewed practice including bio-security.

The nursery grew over one thousand trees which were planted in several community locations.

***Free Trees Schemes*** *The Free Trees for Babies* project ran for a third year and provided over 120 trees to almost 100 families. The *Free Nut & Fruit Tree* project delivered 200 trees to homes in Bannockburn and Raploch.

***The Crown of Trees*** Much of TreeLink's tree planting and woodland management was associated with developing the Crown of Trees.

During the summer of 2024 six guided walks along the walking route were held. During the winter over 1,200 trees were planted in eight locations. All the 3,000+ trees planted in the previous year were checked, mulched and tended. Eight volunteer sessions were held clearing invasive Himalayan Balsam from Balquhiddelock Wood.

Work has been started on the feasibility of a "Nature Loop" on the River Forth at Kildean on the route of the Crown of Trees.

***Speaking Up for Trees*** The Spring and Autumn Gatherings highlighted key issues and developments. TreeLink has worked hard to influence policy, especially through our work supporting Stirling Council to develop its Tree and Woodland Strategy. Some of TreeLink's work is aimed at involving people with trees and woodlands, for example the very successful summer TreeLink Art Competition and the subsequent exhibition at the MacRobert Centre

***Governance and Administration*** The constitution was revised and members voted to introduce an annual membership fee. Policies which were due for review were updated. Improved software security and file sharing facilities we introduced.

***Scotland's Finest Woods Awards*** TreeLink was delighted to be Highly Commended in the Small Community Woodland category.

## Financial review

### 1. Overview

This report covers the financial year running from 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025. Treelink Stirling has had a year with significantly more activity than last year. The operating surplus for the year was £14,308 and ended the year with available funds of £11,617 after allowances for known commitments in 2025.

Accounts have been kept on a receipts and payments basis.

### 2. Receipts and Payments

#### Income

Total income for the year was £30,899 comprising Membership contributions of £1481, Donations of £6,444 (Vivisol, Stirling Rugby Club and Calido) grants totalling £22,974 (CSET, Stirling Council, Future Woodlands Scotland and Inspire Scotland)

#### Expenditure

Total expenditure was £16,684. £980 allocated to the Charities core costs, £2,412 for the provision of the Free Trees for Babies programme and purchase of equipment and £13,291 covering the Nursery expansion Free Fruit and Tree programme and the Kildean Nature Loop study.

#### Bank Balances

*Opening balance £ 4,940.38*

#### Closing Balances

*Current account £ 1,155.52*

*Business reserve account £11,027.44*

*Liquidity Management account £ 7,065.91*

#### Total Funds at Bank

*£19,248.87*

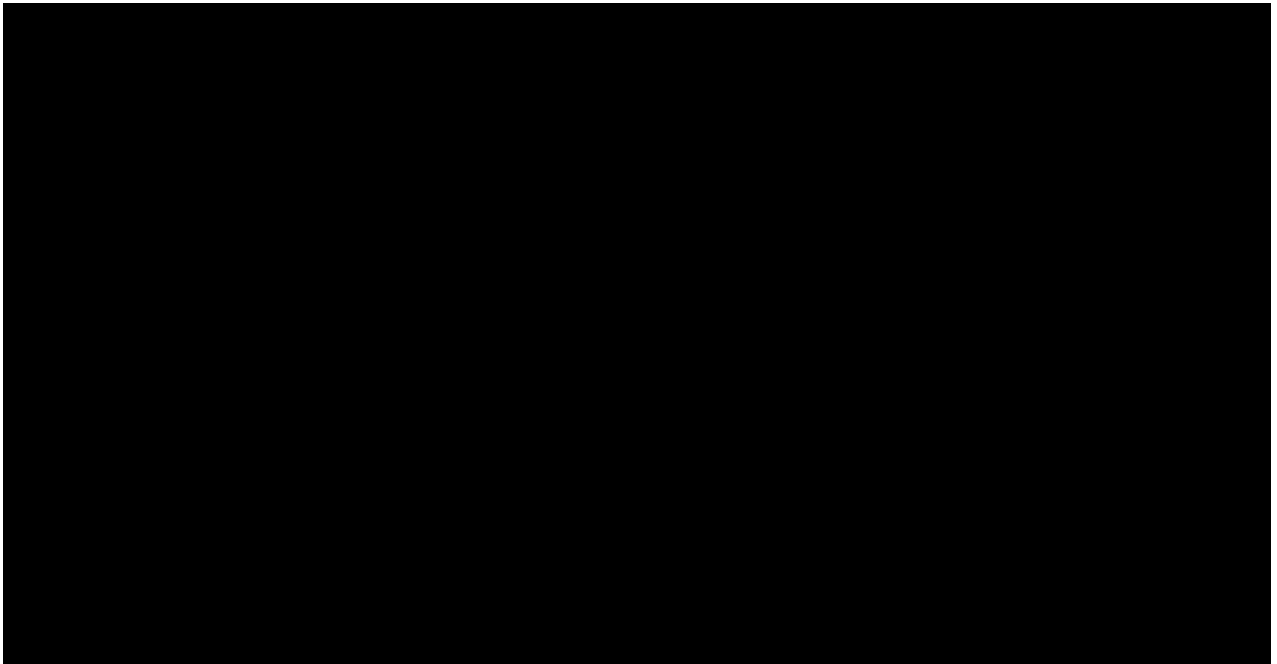
#### Operating surplus for year

*£14,308.49*

### 3. Financial Provisions for 2025-26

The trustees have made provision for £3000 reserves to ensure essential core operating costs are protected for up to 3 years and have set aside a further fund of £5000 to provide flexibility in supporting ad hoc opportunities for community plantings. The trustees have set a budget for expenditure for all known identified activities and projects. New projects and funding sources will continue to be pursued to ensure no spending commitment are made without appropriate funding.

## Declaration



Designation Secretary

Date 31.07.2025

Treelink Stirling

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Receipts and payments accounts						
For the period from	Financial year starts on			to	Financial year ends on	
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month
	1	04	2024		31	03
			2025			

## Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>						
Donations	7,925				7,925	391
Legacies					-	
Grants	350	22,624			22,974	2,000
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings	93				93	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
					-	
<b>A1 Sub total</b>	<b>8,368</b>	<b>22,624</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,992</b>	<b>2,391</b>
<b>A2 Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>A2 Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>8,368</b>	<b>22,624</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,992</b>	<b>2,391</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	2,412	13,292			15,704	4,664
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:	980				980	407
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
<b>A3 Sub total</b>	<b>3,392</b>	<b>13,292</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,684</b>	<b>5,071</b>
<b>A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>A4 Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>3,392</b>	<b>13,292</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,684</b>	<b>5,071</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>4,976</b>	<b>9,332</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,308</b>	<b>(2,680)</b>
<b>A5 Transfers to / (from) funds</b>						
					-	
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	<b>4,976</b>	<b>9,332</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,308</b>	<b>(2,680)</b>



## Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	4,943	(3)			4,940	7,619
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	4,975	9,333			14,308	(2,679)
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	9,918	9,330	-	-	19,248	4,940
(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))							

B2 Investments	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
		Total	-	-

B3 Other assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available)	Current value (if available)	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		Total	-	-	-

B4 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
		Total	-	-

B5 Contingent liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate)	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees  
on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

16/1/25

## Section C Notes to the Accounts

**C1 Nature and purpose of funds** (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

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**C2 Grants**

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Sundries purchase to support volunteers	Council	1	350
Kildean Nature Loop Project	Inspire Scot.	1	13,500
Free Nut & Fruit tree project	Woodland Scot	1	8,000
Nursery Expansion	CSET	1	1,124
Total			22,974

**C3a Trustee remuneration**

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	x
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**C3b Trustee remuneration - details**

Authority under which paid	£

**C4a Trustee expenses**

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	
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**C4b Trustee expenses - details**

	Number of trustees	£
External training day	1	45

**C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons**

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)

**C6 Other information**

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## Additional analysis (2)

## 5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
	Volunteer support- essential equipment	Overheads and volunteer support	Free Fruit trees for Babies			
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations	367	4,151	3,500		8,018	391
Legacies					-	
Grants	350				350	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>4,151</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,368</b>	<b>391</b>
<b>Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>4,151</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,368</b>	<b>391</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	717	710	985		2,412	1,336
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:		980			980	407
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,392</b>	<b>1,743</b>
<b>Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,392</b>	<b>1,743</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,461</b>	<b>2,515</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,976</b>	<b>(1,352)</b>
<b>Transfers to / (from) funds</b>					-	
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,461</b>	<b>2,515</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,976</b>	<b>(1,352)</b>

## Nature and purpose of funds

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## Treelink Stirling

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## Additional analysis (3)

## 6 Breakdown of restricted funds

	Restricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
	Tree Nursery Upgrade	Fre Nut & Fruit tree Project	Kildean Nature Loop Study			
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants	1,124	8,000	13,500		22,624	2,000
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,624</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,624</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	1,423	5,502	6,076		13,001	3,328
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:		291			291	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,423</b>	<b>5,793</b>	<b>6,076</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,292</b>	<b>3,328</b>
<b>Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>1,423</b>	<b>5,793</b>	<b>6,076</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,292</b>	<b>3,328</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>(299)</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>7,424</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,332</b>	<b>(1,328)</b>
<b>Transfers to / (from) funds</b>					-	
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	<b>(299)</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>7,424</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,332</b>	<b>(1,328)</b>

## Nature and purpose of funds

TLS has ongoing commitment for completion of existing projects and the Trustees have set a budget for 2025-26 that makes provision for a £3000 reserve fund to ensure the charity has sufficient funds to cover core cost for a period of 3years. It has also created a 'Community Opportunity Fund' of £5000 to provide flexibility in considering low cost ad hoc community tree planting projects without needing to secure additional funding first.



# APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts						V2
Report to the trustees/members of	Registered charity number	Charity name Treelink Stirling						
On the accounts of the charity for the period		SC050794						
		Period start date				Period end date		
		Day	Month	Year	to	Day	Month	Year
		01	04	2024		31	03	2025
Set out on pages	1 to 6	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)						
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.							
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.							
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]							
	1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and</li> <li>to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations</li> </ul> have not been met, or							
	2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.							
Signed:					Date:	16-07-25		
Name:								
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):								
Address:								

\*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.