

The Scottish Wild Land Group

A Registered Scottish Charity SC004014

Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

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Campaigning for Scotland's Wild Land

The Scottish Wild Land Group

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The Scottish Wild Land Group is a Scottish Registered Charity, number SC004014. It is a membership body, which welcomes new members who support Scotland's wild land.

Charity Trustees

General control and management of the Scottish Wild Land Group resides with the Steering Committee, the members of which are therefore the "Charity Trustees" for the purposes of The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. They are elected annually by the members in general meeting.

During the year to 31 March 2021, the Steering Committee comprised:

Beryl Leatherland – Co-ordinator (retired December 2020)

Tim Ambrose – Treasurer

Grant Cornwallis – Membership Secretary

Dr Pete Ewing

Dr James Fenton – Editor Wild Land News

Jane Meek – resigned July 2021

Andrew Painting – resigned May 2021

Peter Willimott

Jonathan Binny was appointed to the Steering Committee in May 2021, and elected as Convenor.

Constitution

The Scottish Wild Land Group is an independent unincorporated association, and a Scottish Registered Charity, number SC004014. Its purpose and constitution are set out in a written document, a copy of which may be obtained from the Treasurer. The Group is a member of Scottish Environment LINK, an umbrella organisation for Scottish environmental and conservation charities.

It is the intention of the Steering Committee to recommend that the Group transfer its assets and activities to a new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the Scottish Wild Land Group SCIO, with similar aims and objectives, at the Annual General Meeting in December 2021.

Recruitment of Charity Trustees

The trustees of the Scottish Wild Land Group comprise the Steering Committee which manages the activities of the Group. The Committee welcomes communication from members and the public. The Steering Committee is elected by members at the Annual General Meeting, to which all members are invited, and welcomes nominations to join the Committee.

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The purposes and public benefit of the Scottish Wild Land Group

As set out in the Group's constitution, the Group is a campaigning body, which aims to protect and preserve Scotland's wild land. It publishes Wild Land News, a magazine sent free to members and to politicians and other decision makers to highlight issues threatening Scotland's wild land, and to generate discussion and educate the public on land conservation matters. The Group encourages sound effective planning policies to protect and enhance wild land, and supports those local communities that nurture good land management. Its activities carry a clear public benefit, aiming to preserve Scotland's wild land for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

Main activities and achievements during the year to 31 March 2021

Activities were inevitably adversely affected by the Covid19 pandemic, which prevented travel and personal meetings for much of the year, but many of the activities of the Group were able to continue, with Committee meetings and the AGM held virtually on-line by Zoom, and much use of telephones and e-mails.

Wild Land News

James Fenton, the Editor, produced two issues of Wild Land News which were circulated around the members and other interested parties.

Issue 97, Summer 2020, covered the lengthy campaign against a grossly unsightly bulldozed road in Glen Clova, within the Cairngorms National Park, which had been constructed by the Estate in defiance of the law, and the long, and continuing, effort to enforce the restoration work.

Issue 98, which came out in Spring 2021, included a forcefully argued piece by David Jarman highlighting the damage being done by a spate of Run-of-River hydro schemes in some of the most special wild glens of Scotland. As well as the concrete dams well up the hill, there are the pipelines and roads for the construction and maintenance, borrow pits for the hardcore, and the noisy generating stations at the bottom. A Rogues' Gallery of some of the worst and most intrusive developments can be found on our website.

SWLG Website

The website is our main means to keep members up to date with current matters, campaigns, petitions, and when we have needed to encourage our members to take action such as writing to their MSP. It includes an archive of past issues of Wild Land News, and details of recent objections and our responses to many planning applications in wild land areas.

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Membership and participation in Scottish Environment LINK

SWLG has been an active member of the Scottish Environment LINK network of environmental and bio-diversity charities and NGOs for many years. The SWLG participated in LINK's "Fight for Scotland's Nature" campaign, and was a leading proponent, as in previous years, in LINK's advocacy of bringing all bulldozed Hill Tracks into the planning system, with proper approval required for all additions and extensions.

Financial Review and Policy on Reserves

During the year the Group's income exceeded its expenditure by £5,188, (2020, surplus £1,941), leaving unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2021 of £23,209 (2020, £18,021).

The Group aims to retain reserves around the level of one year's gross income, to ensure adequate funds to meet day to day expenses, and a sufficient level of continuity. At present, funds exceed this level, which is welcome as it enables the Group to embark upon a larger project, specifically the research into the present state of wild land in Scotland, which has been commissioned in 2021. All funds are available for the general purposes of the Group.

Retirement of the Convenor

Beryl Letherland, who retired as Convenor from the Steering Group at the AGM in December 2020, served on the Steering Group of the SWLG with great energy since 2012, and as Convenor since April 2015. She has combined her enthusiasm for Wild Land with her passions for the outdoors and other causes, and has been tireless in composing objections to unsightly wind farms in wild places, in her work on the hill tracks campaign and in mailing the Wild Land News. She has kindly agreed to continue as our representative link with LINK, and the Steering Group is pleased to thank her for all her work on behalf of the Group.

For and on behalf of the Steering Committee,

Tim Ambrose, Treasurer

15 November 2021

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Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the Scottish Wild Land Group

I report on the Accounts of the Scottish Wild Land Group for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, “the Act”, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 – “the Regulations”. The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) does not apply.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility under S 44(1)(c) of the Act to examine these accounts, and to report whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner’s Report

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11, and includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity, and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner’s statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 of the Act and Regulation 4; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records; and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and Regulation 9, 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.

Martin RW George, ACA

18 November 2021

Baruch, Fort Road, Lavernock, Penarth. CF64 5UL

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Statement of Financial Activities

	Year ended 31 March 2021	Year ended 31 March 2020
	£	£
INCOME		
Membership subscriptions and donations	4,530	3,992
Gift Aid reclaimed (5 years)	2,982	
Advertising in Wild Land News	<u>92</u>	<u>183</u>
Total Income	<u>7,604</u>	<u>4,175</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Printing Wild Land News - 2 (2) issues	1,122	935
Postage - WLN and general	829	403
Stationery and Website costs	262	117
Donations relating to charitable activities		
Scottish Environment LINK subscription	180	150
LINK Nature Network film contribution	0	500
Governance and administration expenses		
AGM and meeting expenses	0	120
PayPal and Bank charges	<u>23</u>	<u>9</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>2,416</u>	<u>2,234</u>
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	<u>5,188</u>	<u>1,941</u>

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STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT 31 MARCH 2021 and 2020

	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
	£	£
Opening Unrestricted Group Funds	18,021	16,080
Surplus for the year	<u>5,188</u>	<u>1,941</u>
Unrestricted Group funds at the year end	<u>23,209</u>	<u>18,021</u>

Represented by balances at the year end

RBS Current Account	22,775	18,184
PayPal account	434	154
Receivables	275	183
Less: Liabilities and Accruals	<u>-275</u>	<u>-500</u>
	<u>23,209</u>	<u>18,021</u>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by
JMT Ambrose MA FCA CTA(Fellow) - Treasurer

15 November 2021

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Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

Basis of preparation of the Accounts

The accounts comprise an Income and Expenditure Account, recording receipts and payments including receivables and accruals, and a Statement of Balances at the year end, in accordance with the requirements of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, “the Regulations”.

Accounts – Independent Examination

As the Group has gross income less than £100,000 pa, it has prepared this statement of account in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 9. As required by Regulation 11, the trustees have appointed an independent examiner to examine the accounts, and to report to them. His report is attached.

Unrestricted General Funds

The Group’s funds are held without restriction, to be applied for the general purposes of the Group.

Charity Trustees

No remuneration or other benefit was paid or provided to any of the trustees. Direct out of pocket expenses, such as postage costs incurred on the Group’s activities, were reimbursed, but no reimbursement of travel costs to Steering committee meetings was made. There were no transactions between the Group and the trustees or any persons connected with them.

The Independent Examiner received no remuneration for his services to the Group. The Group is extremely grateful to the Independent Examiner for his work and report.