



## Trustee Annual Report 2021/2022



**FORRES FRIENDS  
OF WOODS AND FIELDS**



(SCO 50361)



## **Word of Introduction**

Forres Friends of Woods and Fields is a local environmental community-based charity situated in Forres, Scotland. Since its establishment in 2020, it has steadily grown, despite the challenges the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought to our community. This Annual Report 2021/2022 aims to outline and summarise the mission and vision of the charity, our main outputs and impacts, future plans and the financial accounts.

The Annual Report is a legal obligation under the rules of the independent regulator of charities in Scotland, OSCR (Scottish Charity Regulator), to ensure transparency, reliability, and good practice from their registered charities. This report covers the period from the 1st of August 2021 until the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2022.

Thus, the Trustees of Forres Friends of Woods and Fields are proud to formally introduce our Annual Report 2021/2022.

This report is signed on behalf of the trustees:

Nick Molnar (Chair)

Date: 19 January 2023

A. M.

Lin Batten (Secretary)

Date: 19 January 2023



Charity name: Forres Friends of Woods and Fields

Registered Charity Number: SC050361

Charity's main address: Kininvie, 3 Albert Street, Forres, IV36 1PR, Moray

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Website: [Forresfriends.com](http://Forresfriends.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/ForresFWF/](https://facebook.com/ForresFWF/)

Twitter:@ForresFWF

LinkedIn: [Linkedin.com/company/forres-friends-of-woods-and-fields/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/forres-friends-of-woods-and-fields/)



FORRES FRIENDS  
OF WOODS AND FIELDS



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

### ABOUT US

Forres Friends of Woods and Fields is a **community-based environmental charity** intent on restoring our woodlands, river, and fields, supporting local food sustainability. The charity stewards **8.5 acres of woodland** and **17.5 acres of fields** on the edge of the town of Forres.

The trustee group of Forres Friends of Woods and Fields consists of **4 dedicated trustees** with varying backgrounds of woodland management, community engagement, agricultural experience and food systems expertise.

### VOLUNTEERS

9  
VOLUNTEERS  
(PER SESSION)



1532  
WORKING HOURS



116  
EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS



### IMPACT AND OUTCOMES



Started the **local food growing project** with 1 acre ploughed and 0.3 acre growing over 15 different types of vegetables, fruits, flowers and herbs.



Expanding our collaboration with other **local community groups**, including outdoor learning groups, local artists and primary schools.



Our online presence grew with over **400 followers** on social media, and started an **educational video-series** on wild foraging with over 1000 views.



Restoring a **native oak woodland** with species such as elder, hazel, oak, rowan and hawthorn and by reducing the number of **non-native invasive species**.



Took on a part time **development worker** to undertake **community consultation**, funded by Awards by All until the end of 2022.

### Find us on



[ForresFriends.com](http://ForresFriends.com)



[Facebook/ForresFWF](#)



[ForresFriends@gmail.com](mailto:ForresFriends@gmail.com)



[@ForresFWF](#)

Figure 1. Infographic and Summary of the Annual Report 2021/2022

## About Us

The aim of Forres Friends of Woods and Fields (FFWF) since its establishment in 2020, is to steward 26 acres of land on the edge of the town of Forres, Moray, Scotland.

The charity looks after the Kennel Wood on the ridge to the south of Sanquhar Loch; the adjacent Kennel Field where the horse stable is; and the Chapleton Fields up towards the old farmhouse including parts of the Mosset Burn.

Our land borders that of other well-established environmental organisations in the community of Forres, namely the Sanquhar Pond Group which cares for the Council owned woodlands around Sanquhar Loch, and the Forres Community Woodland Trust, which is restoring the adjoining woodlands. These areas together form a vital and intriguing wildlife and recreational asset to the local town.

Whilst Forres is already blessed with numerous green spaces, it was felt that when this particular piece of land became available, the opportunity was irresistible. Hence, in 2020, it was acquired from the Altyre Estate and its stewardship was taken on by the charity. The fields, once farmland, and the woodland had been neglected and the access and benefits underused by the local population. A moment had come to fit an important missing piece of the jigsaw into Forres' green spaces.

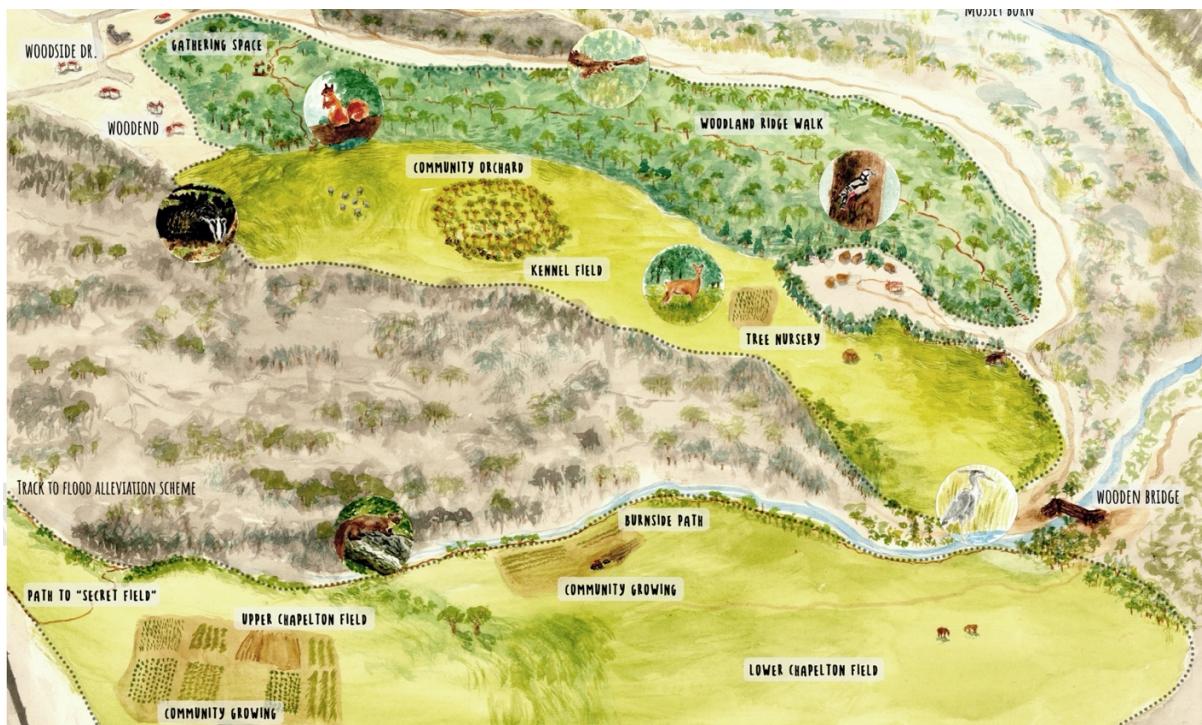


Figure 2. Map of the land of Forres Friends of Woods & Fields - Illustrated by Julie Adam

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

Forres Friends of Woods and Fields is a registered charity established by constitution. There are 4 dedicated trustees with varying backgrounds and expertise (see [website](#) for descriptions). We have held monthly trustee meetings over the last year to progress the work of the charity, discuss projects, aims and objectives. Latterly in the year, we hired Kerry McInnis as community consultant and she has regularly joined these meetings as well.

We generally reach agreement by consensus, with the views of our volunteers taken into consideration during the Trustee meetings. The decision-making process states that we make decisions by majority vote with all the trustees.

Thanks to the Awards for All fund of the National Lottery, we have been able to start an elaborate community consultation. This consultation aims to incorporate the opinions of the community on how we steward and manage this land. This would eventually result in an Action Plan, which we can use for long-term vision and strategic development of FFWF.

At this moment, the landowners, one of which is the chair, founder, and trustee of FFWF, are in discussion with the Biodynamic Land Trust to donate this land to the land trust to ensure the long-term sustainable management of the land.

## **Trustee recruitment and appointment**

*Table 1. Trustee overview*

<b>Current Trustee Name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Dates if not acted for the whole year</b>
<i>Nick Molnar</i>	Chair	18/07/2020 - Present
<i>George Paul</i>	Treasurer	18/07/2020 – Present
<i>Mick Drury</i>	Health & Safety Officer	18/07/2020 – Present
<i>Lin Batten</i>	Secretary	01/02/2021 - Present
<b>Past Trustee Name</b>		
<i>Fiona Chalmers</i>	N.A.	23/02/2021 – 25/03/2022

The charity currently has 4 trustees, who gradually came together with shared environmental interests to join the charity, founded by Nick Molnar.

One former trustee withdrew this year, realising that she would not have the time to devote to the organisation. We are actively recruiting two more trustees to broaden our collective experience; however we are struggling to find trustees to

dedicate the time and effort towards the running of the charity. The prospective trustees would be invited for an initial meeting by walking the land to familiarise them with our aims and objectives, followed by meeting with the current trustees to discuss and decide.

## **Objectives and Activities**

By managing this land with environmental consideration, FFWF aims to create a new space for recreational activity and local food access for all inhabitants of Forres and the surrounding area. Also, we aim to provide a venue for outdoor education for all ages as well as for cultural activities and events to promote physical and mental well-being.

In the following section, we have outlined the major activities and accomplishments of this year.

### ***Our Vision***

- Land, the river, people and wildlife living and working in harmony -

### ***Our Mission***

- To cultivate an understanding and appreciation of nature, with community wellbeing at its core, through land stewardship and local food sustainability -

## *Community Consultation*

Our National Lottery for Scotland Awards for All public consultation project commenced in March 2022 with the recruitment of Kerry McInnes as Development Worker for the project.

Kerry's first task was to draft an online survey using Google Forms that could be sent out on-line and via our social media channels to the community of Forres to gather feedback on our project and to inform our future plans. This survey was published online in June and will close in November. Kerry also identified various stakeholders, interested groups and individuals, which have then been interviewed about their project or group and how FFWF can work with them.

To connect with the younger population of Forres, Kerry contacted teachers at Forres Academy who would like to run a weekly outdoor session for 16 2<sup>nd</sup> year students as well as other outdoor sessions for different focus groups. Kerry also applied to the Co-op community fund for a grant to specifically aid FFWF to engage with the younger population of Forres. Summary of project application - "Our project will give young people an opportunity to be involved in developing and

growing our community garden. This will ensure that the garden meets young people's needs and is one which they will find interesting and exciting. Increasing youth participation will foster greater ownership and responsibility, build transferable skills and boost confidence and pride in their community".

To increase our outreach to the community of Forres, Kerry signed FFWF up for the Good to Grow Day 2022 (See Figure 3). The day received attention via social media posts, posters and through the Forres Gazette.<sup>1</sup>



*Figure 3. Poster for the Good to Grow day*

To help connect with a wider audience, Kerry made a new Instagram account for FFWF and has posted more frequently on Facebook, which slowly increased in reach over the last year (See Section 'Social Media and website' on Pg. 12). Kerry also designed a PowerPoint presentation to be used for promotion at various events, and she designed a volunteer sign-up sheet to help recruit more volunteers.



*Figure 4. Meeting with Dandelion project*

### *Volunteers and volunteer activities*

Throughout the year, we have organised regular volunteer sessions from 10:00 to 13:00 every Wednesday and every second Saturday with only a 2 week break during Christmas. In this, we have steadily increased the volunteer group, now totalling 116 people with an average of 9 participating in the regular work mornings. This is over 3.5 times more volunteers than in the previous year. Over the last year, we have carried out approximately 1532 hours of volunteer work during 72 volunteer sessions.

Moreover, thanks to Kerry, FFWF took part in "Cultivating Connections" – an offshoot of the Dandelion project hosted by Findhorn Bay Arts. This project brought different growing groups from Forres together to share ideas and solve problems (see Figure 4).

<sup>1</sup> See McCartney (21 April 2022) 'Forres Friends of Woods and Fields are inviting visitors to see what they are growing in their Kennel and Chapelton fields'. Available online via <<https://www.forres-gazette.co.uk/news/be-a-part-of-a-new-community-growing-project-272881/>>.

These sessions included a social tea break as well as organised activities relating to woodland management and/or food growing. This year, the volunteers were also rewarded with local vegetables and fruits from the garden.

Our activities and our accomplishments with the volunteers are outlined below.

### Community Garden

Considering the rising food prices in Scotland, as a cumulative consequence of rising inflation, Brexit and the soaring energy prices, local food production and distribution are increasingly vital for the survival of rural communities. Forres Friends of Woods and Fields has made a small contribution to our local community starting to cultivate 0.3 acres of land in the autumn and winter of 2021. It was first ploughed, harrowed and sown in with green manure in preparation for beginning the community vegetable garden in spring 2022. After intensive stone picking and manuring by a large group of volunteers sowing and planting began in earnest.

Although the Community Garden is attracting a more diverse set of volunteers interested in food growing, we were only able to actively grow on 0.3 acres intensively (see Figure 5). This is due to the amount of volunteer working hours necessary to dedicate to the acreage, and we did not want to become overwhelmed with the other ongoing projects and the maintenance of the Children's Garden which was set up last year.<sup>2</sup>

The cultivated land consists of the 4-year rotational growing system of brassicas, potatoes, legumes (with alliums and salad crops), and root vegetables. This year, we have successfully grown, for example, leeks, various potato varieties, runner beans, broad beans, radishes, beetroot, various kale-species (from the brassica-family), carrots, salsify, spinach, onions, red and green cabbages, and lettuces. The growing season has been extremely successful, and surpluses are going to two local food banks: Forres Food Larder and the Big Blue mobile pantry.

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<sup>2</sup> See page 10, Trustee Annual Report 2020/2021 via <https://www.forresfriends.com/annual-report>.



*Figure 5: Community volunteer day with harvesting, sowing wildflowers and foraging.*

On the upper Chapelton Field, the Children’s Garden was tended by a group of parents and their families, leading to a good first harvest in the summer and autumn of 2021. It was then put to rest with a green manure cover before entering its second season in 2022.

For the upcoming growing season, we are aiming to set up deer fencing, a polytunnel and pathways to improve and develop the garden. We are awaiting funding from the Berry Burn Community Fund<sup>3</sup>, and £4000 and £685 from the Developers Obligation Fund and the Money for Moray fund respectively, to be used in the next financial year for the polytunnel and deer fencing, pending planning permission.

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<sup>3</sup> See McBlane (2 May 2022) ‘Forres Polytunnel plan receives £7724 cash grant’. Available online via <<https://www.forres-gazette.co.uk/news/polytunnel-project-granted-7724-273888/>>.

## Managing Invasive Species

Our continuing work to manage the invasive species within the 8 1/2-acre woodland is key in our aim to restore and regenerate this to an oak woodland.

The woodland is officially classed as a long-established plantation. It is a fine and unusual local example of a substantial stand of oak trees. This, however, was in danger of being overgrown by invasive rhododendron, western hemlock, and laurel, thereby limiting the reproduction and growth of native species. The management of the Kennel and Chapleton Fields is balanced on letting nature take her course and control of the more vigorous species such as bracken, ragwort, creeping thistle and the invasive himalayan balsam. This has been an ongoing challenge in the summer of 2022.

In the autumn of 2020, we hired professional help for laurel control and this work continued through 2021. In the winter of 2021/2022, we achieved the complete removal of western hemlock from our woodland.



Figure 6: Glasgow School of Arts students scything invasive bracken on the edge of Kennel Field.

## Orchard

Last year, we planted a small group of fruit trees which are starting to bear fruit. We are on the point of expanding this to a large orchard in the winter of 2022/2023 with the £500 received from the Tesco Community Fund and £300 expected to be received from the Dandelion project. This would finance not only the bare-rooted fruit saplings but also the fencing required to protect the trees from the roe deer in the area. Some of the trustees and volunteers also attended a fruit grafting

workshop to help to supply future trees, where we grafted over 10 different varieties to contribute to the orchard (See figure 7). The varieties include James Grieve, Discovery, Howgate Wonder, Katy, Scotch Dumpling and Egremont Russet.



Figure 7: Tree grafting workshop at Sandown Allotments in Nairn.

### Tree Planting

With the volunteers, we planted a grove of approximately 80 native trees, including hazel, hawthorn, and cherry, on a slope near Chapleton Field. It was a challenge to manage the slope with the dense growth of bracken rhizomes. We also continued to plant some hazel and hawthorn on the woodland edge. On the edge of Kennel Field, we planted a large hazel grove of about 150 home raised saplings from the tree nursery through the autumn and winter of 2021. In this, both our volunteers and trustees have enjoyed the experience of learning tree-planting techniques and best-practices from our trustee Mick Drury, experienced tree planter with the charity Trees for Life.

As most trees in the Moray area require a protected (plastic) tree guard to help them establish without being grazed by the roe deer population, the planted forests are often littered with these tree guards. The volunteers of FFWF helped in removing some of the littered tree guards on the slope of Chapleton Field and reused those still fit for purpose. The rest of the decrepit fencing was removed this year.

### Tree Nursery

In line with the ambition to rewild and replant the woodlands, FFWF has built up a small tree nursery in 2020 to raise local saplings sustainably for future planting. This allows the charity to become less dependent on commercial tree nurseries and contribute to the self-sufficiency of the charity. The tree nursery has raised over 700 small saplings of various species this year including though not limited to oak, hazel, holly, elder, hawthorn, gean (wild cherry), downy birch, alder, walnut, blackcurrant, and bird cherry. Of this, we planted around 200 of these saplings and sold another 200 to add to the finances of the charity. Some saplings were donated to the Sanquhar Loch Group.

Early 2022, we accepted growing on 200 trees from the Forres Community Council to be planted autumn/winter on Cluny Hill as part of Queens Green Canopy project.<sup>4</sup>

### **Field and Wildflowers**

On Chapleton and Kennel Field, a group of horses have been grazing to help manage the meadow and, over time, improve it for wildflowers. In Kennel field itself, we are carrying out a wildflower meadow project sowing locally gathered yellow rattle, red clover, knapweed, yarrow, and lady's bedstraw in 7 x 50 m<sup>2</sup> plots.

### ***Education and Outdoor Activities***

With the ongoing programme of planting out native trees raised in our nursery, the woodland is now becoming a place which local groups, as well as ourselves, like to use for educational and cultural activities.

A theatre group called Frozen Charlotte have performed for, and with, children in the gathering place which also made a beautiful venue for a winter gathering for 35 people with storytelling, community singing, roasting potatoes and chestnuts and holly wreath making. Earthtime and Wild things, our two local environmental education projects, use the woodland periodically as well as special needs groups from Forres Academy.

As part of the celebration of S. Leonards day on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, a large group gathered on the neighbouring medieval site of the ruins of a medieval chapel dedicated to St. Leonard. A local archaeologist explained its possible significance and thoughts on a future community archaeological investigation. We also organised a small gathering on the harvest festival, or Michaelmas, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and hosted a midsummer fire in 2022.

Throughout the year, FFWF have endeavoured to engage with other local initiatives. This included working together with the Forres Community Woodland Trust, carrying out an ongoing conversation with the Leanchoil Trust with a view to offering therapeutic gardening sessions for users of the planned community health hub, providing support and advice to students of the Design and Innovation master's degree at the local campus of the Glasgow School of Art and being part of the Dandelion Project.<sup>5</sup>

### ***Social Media and Website***

FFWF's online presence started in March 2021 when we launched our website and opened several social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

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<sup>4</sup> See McCartney, Forres Gazette (03 August 2022) 'Forres Friends of Woods and Fields raising 200 tree for Cluny Hill as part of Queen's Green Canopy'. Available online via <https://www.forres-gazette.co.uk/news/queens-green-canopy-to-reach-cluny-hill-283204/>.

<sup>5</sup> McCartney, Forres Gazette (8 October 2022) 'Dandelion Living Lanes and Unexpected Gardens project in Forres promoted by Findhorn Bay Arts inspires town centre growing.'. Available online via <<https://www.forres-gazette.co.uk/news/towns-community-growing-project-is-a-success-289954/>>

Since then, FFWF has gained over 400 followers and likes on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn and has had 755 unique visitors on the website – 5.8 times more than the previous year.

The charity is regularly contacted via these channels by community members who would be interesting in joining the volunteer sessions.

Additionally, FFWF has over the past year collaborated with Marc Hindley from Forres Local, a local news website, to create a vlog-series 'A Walk on the Wild Side' on the flora of the stewarded land and how to use them in your household. Two episodes were released in the summer of 2021, and both received over 1000 views online. The vlogs are posted on our website [forresfriends.com](https://www.forresfriends.com/news).<sup>6</sup>

## **Financial Review**

### *Grants and Fundraising*

This year, we have received several generous grants from various sources. The largest amount of income (£9,250) came from a very generous donation from the Awards for All National Lottery Community Fund dedicated to the community consultation in line with their "Reaching Community Partnership program". Furthermore, we have received £500 from the Tesco Community Fund for the Orchard, and £685 from the Money For Moray Fund for deer fencing of the garden. The Findhorn Windpark also donated £200 for the purchase of tools, which we were able to buy second-hand. In terms of unrestricted funds, we received a generous £265 from the Co-op community fund and an anonymous donation of £200 from the Charities Aid Foundation.

For the upcoming year, we have been granted £4,000 from the Developers Obligation Fund for deer fencing, and £7,724 from the Berry Burn Community Fund for a polytunnel. Both funds will be received pending planning permission for these two key features of infrastructure which will protect the community vegetable garden.

Donations from individuals and groups amounted to £1,500. Our trustee Lin Batten raised over £1,192 of these donations through her fundraising campaign by successfully completing the Etape Caledonia of 140 km in September 2021 (see Figure 8). A large share of the individual donations was paid through PayPal, which means that with every transaction 2% is paid to them. Additionally, we sold several tree saplings from our tree nursery which brought in £135.

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<sup>6</sup> Walk on the Wild Side Episode 1 and 2, News page, Forres Friends website. Available online via <https://www.forresfriends.com/news>.



Figure 8: Facebook post on the Etape Caledonia Fundraising Campaign by Lin Batten

### *How did we spend it?*

#### **Restricted Funds**

The Awards for All National Lottery Community Fund as a part of the 'reaching communities and partnership program' is currently being spent on our various elements of 'community engagement' organized by Kerry McInnes, our development worker. By the end of this financial year, we had spent £1,615.

The contract for removal of invasive species was completed this year and cost our remaining £700 from the Berry Burn Community Grant.

The £200 grant from The Findhorn Wind Park was spent on tools for gardening and woodland management work.

The Tesco Community Fund grant and the Money for Moray grant have yet to be used.

#### **Unrestricted Funds**

We spent a total of £1,210. Purchase of vegetable seeds, tools and tree stakes took £632. Insurance cost £307. Website management took £137. General administration expenditure came to £34. Our planning application cost £100 but although it was spent during this financial year, we anticipate that as a result of negotiations by Nick Molnar, it will cost us nothing and money spent will be reimbursed.

On the 31st July, we had balances of £828 as unrestricted funds and £8,821 as restricted funds.

### *How do we decide how to spend unrestricted funds?*

Our policy on reserves is one of caution. We are aware that each year there are fixed costs for running the charity, such as insurance, which are independent of the programme. Therefore funds can be held at year end to cover such expenses,

up to £500. Money more than this is subject to prioritisation by the Board in line with the charity's strategic plan.

The Treasurer and Chairperson together can agree to an expenditure of up to £50. Expenditure above that must be after a proposal has been put to the Trustees and agreed on. Please see the Appendix 1. for the Receipt and Payments account (pg. 17).

### **Prospective Plans for development and growth**

The community consultation is still ongoing which can hopefully help the charity to build community relationships, engage with the public and eventually result in a Plan of Action detailing our next steps in furthering the aims of the charity. Awaiting this report, we are keen to outline a few ideas of development and growth in our near future.

#### *Community Garden & Expansion of the Orchard*

In our vision, as can be seen on the illustrated map (see Figure 2), a community space for growing local food based on organic principles is a vital component.

This has started with the Children's Garden and has expanded to 0.3 acre of plot for the community garden. The charity aims to expand and professionalise the garden further to make an impact and to contribute to local food by setting up the polytunnel, creating accessible paths and building a deer fence.

In line with this, we would like to see an expansion of the orchard, which should be possible as community support increases.

#### *Cooperation with the Leanchoil Trust*

Across the road from the upper Chapleton Field is the (currently unoccupied) Leanchoil Hospital, a magnificent and historical building established in 1892. The Leanchoil Trust has recently acquired the hospital through a community asset transfer and aims to reopen this as a local community hospital. Our charity has built a relationship with the Trust together with Erskine Veteran Charity, and as the FFWF's community food growing project continues to expand, it would be ideally situated for providing therapeutic gardening sessions.

## **Appreciation**

The Board of Trustees wish to express extreme gratitude to so many who have supported our cause and charity over this last year.

We are grateful for the grants that we have received this year from the Berry Burn Community Fund, Awards for All, Developer Obligations, Coop Community Fund, Tesco Community Fund and Money for Moray.

Also, we would like to thank our Chair Nick Molnar, with his continuous enthusiasm and dedication while stepping out of the field (his comfort zone) and deep-diving into the wondrous world of planning permission.

Thank you for all the financial and material donations from our supporters made over the last year. This made much of our work this year possible. Many thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who have joined us in the volunteering sessions and have provided much social relief while working with nature. A special thanks to Julie Adam, for her continuous dedication to the community garden, to Amy Taylor, Robbie Miller, and James Franklin whose contribution to the planning application was invaluable, and of course to Pip Molnar, who continues to delight us with her cakes for the tea breaks.

Warm Wishes,

Nick Molnar

Mick Drury

George Paul

Lin Batten

## Appendix 1. Accounts 2021 – 2022

### **Forres Friends of Woods and Fields                    SCO50361 Receipts and Payments Accounts from 01-08-21 to 31-07-22**

Opening balance: £138 in unrestricted funds and £700 in restricted funds

#### A.

##### **Receipts**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
Donations	1,500		1,500	516
Grants	265	10,635	10,900	11,100
Gross trading receipts	135		135	86
<b>Total of receipts</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>10,635</b>	<b><u>12,535</u></b>	<b>11,702</b>

##### **Payments**

Payments for charity activities	971	2,314	3,285	10,863
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>2,314</b>	<b>3,285</b>	<b>10,863</b>

##### **Payments related to assets**

Purchases of fixed assets (tools)	239	200	439	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total of payments</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>2,514</b>	<b><u>3,724</u></b>	<b>10,863</b>

**B.****Statement of Balances**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Cash and balance at end of last year	138	700	838
Total receipts this year	1,900	10,635	12,535
<b>Total available for year</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>11,335</b>	<b>13,373</b>
Total of payments	1,210	2,514	3,724
<b>Balance at the end of year</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>8,821</b>	<b>9,649</b>

**Cash and bank balances at 31-07-22 as per bank statement** **9,649**

**Liabilities**

1. Reimburse N. Molnar (Chair) for cash purchase of seeds and tool parts.	Unrestricted fund	51
Invoices late to treasurer		
Invoices submitted after July 31st		
2. uncashed cheque for secure storage containers to J. Gordon Williamson	Unrestricted funds	240
Cheque cashed after July 31st		
3. Kerry McInnis for consultancy work	Restricted funds (awards for all)	158
Invoice submitted after July 31st		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>449</b>

## C.

### **Notes to the Accounts**

#### Nature and Purpose of Funds

##### Receipts

Unrestricted funds were/are to be used for the general furtherance of the aims of the charity. This includes administration cost and insurance and the purchase of tools and seeds, tree guards, compost etc.

We received a generous **£265** from the Co-op community fund and **£200** from the Charities Aid Foundation(an anonymous donation)

Sale of plants (mainly tree seedlings) brought in **£135**.

Generous donations from individuals are much appreciated, especially Lin's hard earned cycle sponsorship money.

Restricted Funds were/are to be used on specific aspects of the charities aims.

The **£700** remaining from the Berry Burn Community Fund was used to complete work on the removal of invasive species from the oak woodland.

The **£200** from the Findhorn Windpark was used to purchase tools.

The "Award for All" grant of **£9250** is restricted in use in accordance with "National Lottery Community Fund, reaching communities/partnerships program". We have been able engage a self-employed 'Development Worker' who can help us build community relationships, engaging with the public, researching and consulting and finally producing a Plan of Action detailing our next steps in furthering the aims of the Charity, including habitat management, food growing, education and recreation for and with the wider community.

The Money for Moray grant (**£685**) is to be spent on deer fencing to protect new planting from roe deer. The delay in spending this is due to a misunderstanding on the part of Moray Council regarding planning permissions

The Tesco Community Fund grant (**£500**) is for establishment of an orchard. The bare root trees cannot be bought until the planting season this coming winter.

#### Summary of Grants (Restricted Funds)

Berry Burn Community Fund	700 (remained from last year)
Findhorn Wind Park	200
Awards for All National Lottery Community Fund Reaching Communities and Partnership Programme	9,250
Tesco Community Fund	500
Money for Moray	685

**Total      11,335**

## Payments

## **Unrestricted Funds**

Seeds	189
Tools	239
Tree stakes	204
Insurance	307
Website	137
Planning application	100
Administration	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>1210</b>

## **Restricted funds**

Completions of invasive species treatments (Berry Burn Community Fund)	700
Purchase of tools (Findhorn Windpark Fund)	200
Development worker costs (Awards for All)	1,615
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,514</b>

TRUSTEES

Fiona Chalmers resigned as a trustee on the 25th March (see attachment to minutes of 23rd May). OSCR have not been informed separate to this report as she was not a Principal Contact.

ACCEPTED BY THE TRUSTEES AND SIGNED FOR ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES:

Signature Date  
Nick Molnar (Chair) 19 January 2023

P. Mih

Signature Date  
Lin Batten (Secretary) 19 January 2023



## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Forres Friends of Woods and Fields Trust**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2022 which are set out on pages 17 to 20.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities

Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 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 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

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.

Name: Grietje A. Menger, FCCA

Relevant Professional qualification/professional body: Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Address: Monymusk, Castle Street, Forres IV36 1PW

Date: 19 January 2023

Signed:

