



**FORRES FRIENDS
OF WOODS AND FIELDS**



**Trustee Annual Report
2023/2024**

(SCO50361)



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INTRODUCTION

Forres Friends of Woods and Fields is a local, environmentally focussed community-based charity situated in Forres, Scotland. Since its establishment in 2020, it has steadily grown in the first two years and has continued to grow in 2023-2024. This Annual Report 2023/2024 summarises our work, our future plans and the financial accounts for this year.

The Annual Report is a legal obligation under the rules of the independent regulator of charities in Scotland, OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator), to ensure transparency, reliability, and good practice from their registered charities. This report covers the period from the 1st of August 2023 until the 31st of July 2024.

Thus, the Trustees of Forres Friends of Woods and Fields are proud to formally introduce our Annual Report 2023/2024.

This report is signed on behalf of the trustees:

Nick Molnar (Chair)

Date: 27/11/2024

Kerry McInnes (Secretary)

Date: 27/11/2024

Charity name: Forres Friends of Woods and Fields

Registered Charity Number: SC050361

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

Email: forresfriends@gmail.com

Phone: +44 7796 462613// +44 1309 67 1112

Website: Forresfriends.com

Facebook: facebook.com/ForresFFWF/

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

ABOUT US

Forres Friends of Woods and Fields is a **community-based environmental charity** intent on restoring our woodlands, river, and fields and 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 **5 dedicated trustees** with varying backgrounds of woodland management, community engagement, agricultural experience and food systems expertise.

VOLUNTEERS

12
VOLUNTEERS
(PER SESSION)



1904
WORKING HOURS



209
EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS



IMPACT AND OUTCOMES



Built a **"Social Hub"** consisting of a **solar-powered potting shed**, **composting toilet** and **tool shed** which will allow us to increase our educational and community activities.



Increased our educational activities with talks from **soil scientists** and **lichen experts**, as well as foraging and nature walks and **scything** demonstrations.



Organised our second **Open Day Festival** with music, storytelling, walks, crafts, ponies and alpacas attended by over 200 people.



Our online presence grew with over **800 unique visits** to our website and our new Instagram page gained **150 followers**.



Planted **30 trees** on Cluny Hill with Anderson's Primary School as part of the **Queen's Green Canopy** project.

Find us on



forresfriends.com



forresfriends@gmail.com



Facebook/ForresFWF



Chapleton Field, Forres

Figure 1. Infographic and Summary of the Annual Report 2023/2024

ABOUT US

Forres Friends of Woods and Fields (FFWF), founded in 2020, aims to cultivate an understanding and appreciation of nature, with community wellbeing at its core. It does this through local food growing and stewardship of 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 Chapelton 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.

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 -

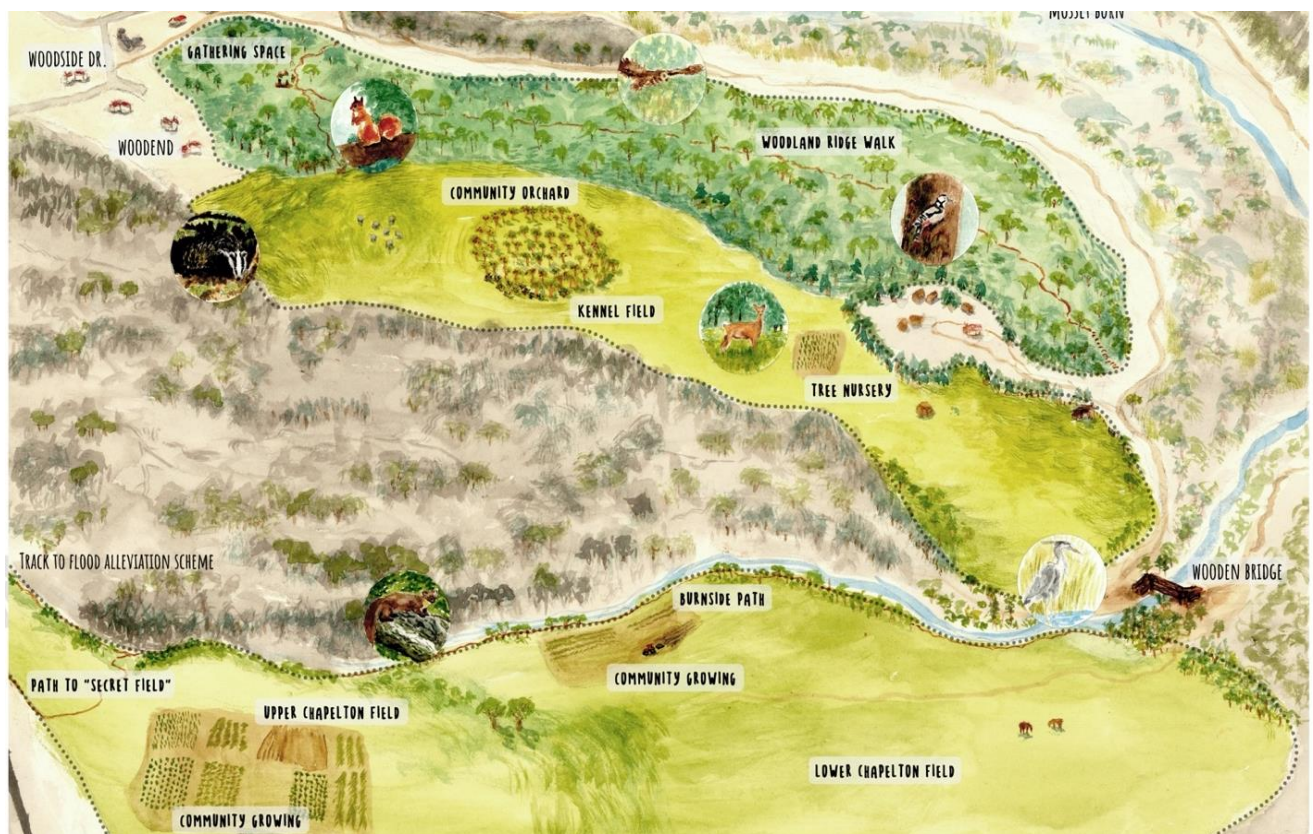


Figure 2. Map of the land of Forres Friends of Woods & Fields - Illustrated by Julie Adam

THE ORGANISATION

Structure, Governance and Management

Forres Friends of Woods and Fields is a registered charity established by constitution. There are currently 5 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. Outwith these meetings, we have held occasional consultations with regular volunteers and volunteer leaders; and amongst trustee project leaders to discuss specific projects.

This year there have been some changes in our trustee group with the resignation of our treasurer and trustee Kim Emmerson. We are very thankful for the work, time and expertise that Kim contributed to the charity particularly in improving our financial accounting, recording and also the decision making in the charity. Julie Adam and George Paul continue to be volunteer leaders and are a vital part for the day to day running of the community garden.

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

At this moment, the landowners, one of which is the chair, founder, and trustee of FFWF, are in discussions to donate the land that FFWF stewards to the Biodynamic Land Trust to ensure the long-term sustainable management of the land. These conversations are ongoing, and several meetings have been organised between the Biodynamic Land Trust and FFWF as well as with outside facilitators to discuss this matter further, since questions have been raised as to the risk to FFWF from having new “absent” landlords and for future funding and opportunities for community wealth building. The discussion around the land transfer will be extended to the public at the FFWF AGM to be held later this year.

Current Trustee Name	Office	Dates if not acted for the whole year
<i>Nick Molnar</i>	Chair	
<i>Mick Drury</i>	Health & Safety Officer	
<i>Kerry McInnes</i>	Secretary	
<i>Lin Batten</i>	Treasurer	
<i>Olly Wilson</i>	Trustee	
<i>Tim Spencer</i>	Trustee	15/05/2024- 31/07/2024
Past Trustee Name		
<i>Kim Emmerson</i>	Treasurer	01/08/23-18/12/23

Table 1. Trustee overview

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.

We now have 809 followers on Facebook which is the dominant and main platform that we have decided to use. The website has had 805 unique visitors – an increase of 109 over the previous year. Our Instagram account is being used more regularly now instead of Twitter (X) with over 100 followers and is a great platform for the charity to showcase all the wonderful photos we have.

The charity is regularly contacted via Facebook and the website by community members who would be interested in joining the volunteer sessions or using the land and by other aspiring, or already existing, community garden projects.

The regular volunteer email goes out to 209 people on the mailing list.

ENVIRONMENT

We are fortunate to be stewards for a mosaic of habitats, with conservation a main objective. There is always something to do, and we had another busy year on the land.

Woodland Work

Our programme of woodland management continued over the last year with much of the volunteer sessions dedicated to tree planting and weeding the more invasive species, including pulling laurel seedlings and rhododendron control. In the Kennel Woodland, some of the semi-mature beech were felled to open up space for the oaks, and we planted a mix of birch, hazel, rowan, cherry, plus a few oaks, in their place.

There is ongoing maintenance of around 300 trees planted previously in the wood and some of the volunteer days have been spent checking the tubes and bashing bracken around planted areas. Special attention is being given to the walnuts and other fruit/nut trees planted above the garden; sadly, the experimental planting of two mulberries there didn't work, and they succumbed over the winter.

Tree Nursery

The tree nursery was productive again, with some trees sold at our open day and other events, and 180 trees planted out on Cluny Hill on behalf of Forres Features and the Community Council. We were paid for this work which in turn funded the felling work described above. It was an abundant mast year for oak, so acorns were collected and sown out, together with a lot of hazel and some cherry. Mast years are "boom" years for acorns and usually occur every 3-5 years followed by an unusually low crop of acorns. The voles and mice inevitably enjoyed the fruits of our labour too.



Figure 3. Tree Planting on Cluny Hill, Forres

Field Conservation and the Mosset Burn

The Kennel Field is being managed for conservation, in co-operation with Anja's three ponies. Our introduced yellow rattle is doing well and the seed of other meadow plants which were collected locally, are now growing on in plugs for planting out in the future. Ragwort and creeping thistle removal continues, with some left for pollinators.

Invasive non-native species are still an issue, and this year has seen a greater spread of giant hogweed on the flood scheme area upstream along the Mosset burn corridor, plus a few on our own land and we have taken action to control its spread. The Himalayan balsam above the Chapelton Field is reducing thanks to our efforts, as is the few-flowered leek along the Mosset.

The Chapelton Field is partly grazed by the ponies, but otherwise it is being left to nature although we need to keep the footpath open for access. Some interesting succession to alder woodland is occurring in one area. The mature ash-alder riparian woodland along the Mosset is largely non-intervention, although there are some signs of ash dieback which we may need to deal with in the future.



Figure 4: The Mosset Burn

COMMUNITY GARDEN

This year, the Community Garden has once again experienced much change and development to the infrastructure and growing areas which will allow us to further increase our growing potential and ability to host a more diverse group of people.

Potting Shed, Composting Toilet and Social Hub

FFWF received funding from the Moray Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund to build a social hub for the community garden consisting of 3 facilities: (1) a potting shed/social hub, (2) a composting toilet and (3) a tool shed. To make this project as sustainable as possible, local and recycled materials were used as much as possible and local tradesmen were engaged to carry out the works. This has supported the local economy and minimised the carbon footprint of the project. Planning permission for all buildings was obtained from The Moray Council prior to application for funding.

The Potting Shed/Social Hub

The design and location of the potting shed was decided upon following consultation with volunteers and the board of trustees. The potting shed was constructed using timber from local company Logie Timber with recycled materials from Moray Waste Busters. The construction was carried out by local company Nailed It. The potting shed was fitted with solar panels and PV battery storage by Forres company AES Solar. The potting shed will be used for potting plants and to provide a sheltered dry area to enjoy social tea breaks. It will also house a library and will serve as a venue to host small educational workshops and community events. Since the community garden is completely off-grid, the Solar panels and battery storage will enable volunteers and community groups to make warm drinks and food using a renewable energy source. The group will also be able to charge electric tools. Water will be collected from the roof in water butts made from old barrels donated by Gordon and MacPhail. An accessible ramp was included in the construction.

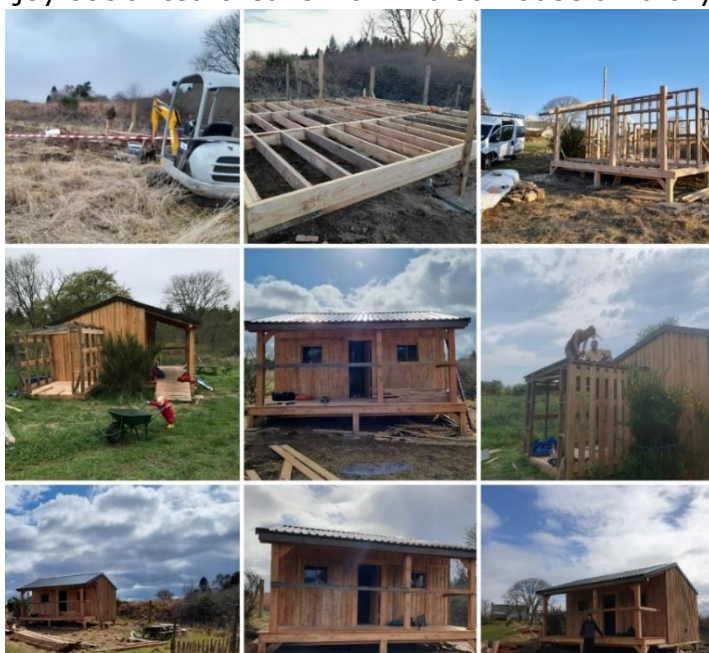


Figure 5: The Social Hub/Potting Shed

The Composting Toilet

The composting toilet was also constructed using timber from local company Logie Timber with recycled materials from Moray Waste Busters. The composting toilet is essential to support FFWF's volunteer and educational activities since toilet facilities are a requirement for many groups. The compost toilet has replaced a conventional Portaloo and will therefore reduce water and chemical usage and will allow waste to be recycled into the garden, enabling the group to become more self-sufficient in their compost making, supporting the permaculture and no-dig practices in the community garden.



Figure 6: Building the Composting Toilet

Tool Shed and Storage

The tool shed provides a secure and organised space adjacent to the main potting shed for storing garden tools which are essential for hosting volunteer sessions in the community garden. Prior to building the tool shed, equipment had to be transported on and off site for each session – often requiring transport by vehicle. The tool shed has further increased the sustainability of the project by reducing the number of car journeys needed.

Project Outcomes and Impact

This project has allowed the charity to expand the facilities at the community garden to increase our educational and volunteer activities. The project has allowed us to become more self-sufficient on our off-grid site and has increased the sustainability of the project aligning with the vision of the charity. By providing these facilities the charity has delivered actions from their action plan which was informed by members of the community and by employing local craftspeople to construct the buildings using locally sourced materials, the project has contributed to the local economy.

The facilities will create more opportunities for the group to collaborate with other community groups, outdoor learning groups and local primary and secondary schools. For example, FFWF will host a Harvest Lunch for the community in September in collaboration with Findhorn Bay Arts using the newly built facilities. Previously, the charity was unable to host these groups or events since they did not meet basic needs requirements such as toilet and inclement weather facilities. The construction of the buildings will also allow volunteers to learn new woodworking skills as elements of the interior of the potting shed e.g. shelving and storage will be designed and made by volunteers using expertise from members of the group.

Vegetable Garden

Our no-dig vegetable garden has been much improved over this year by the hard work of several part-time gardeners, funded by the Moray Local Action Fund, who created 37 neat compost-filled growing beds each bordered by wood chip paths.

This could not have been achieved if it were not for the hard work of a steady and enthusiastic group of volunteers who make the garden function and who also create a vibrant community life. The fact that 18 tons of green waste compost was wheelbarrowed to the new vegetable beds shows that many hands make light work. Furthermore, many square metres of cardboard were cut and cleared of non-organic tape and clips etc. and laid beneath the compost to provide a weed suppressing membrane. Other soil enriching materials including storm-gathered seaweed from Burghead beach and manure from the ponies that graze on our fields were added to the beds.

Our first year of polytunnel growing produced some excellent crops and the winter sowing of greens did exceptionally well providing us with fresh greens and surplus for the Forres Food Bank right into the early spring. Now into its second year we are experiencing some setbacks with what has generally been acknowledged as a difficult growing season, although many of the outdoor crops, including carrots, beetroot, parsnips, brassicas and potatoes have thrived and, with a considerable reduction in the amount of weeds, we are encouraged to continue improving our no-dig cultivation.

In line with our no-dig aspirations, we also now have seven composting bays where we are beginning to develop the subtle art of composting all the green and brown materials from the garden

Our work in the vegetable garden has also been aided by funding from the Forres Developer Obligation Fund which provided us with the resources to buy a battery powered strimmer, crop protection covers and an assortment of gardening tools.



Figure 7: Planting out into the new no-dig beds



Figure 8: Watering tomatoes in the polytunnel

Community Orchard

The fruit orchard that was planted in March 2023 has provided several cuttings of rich clover green manure which was cut during scything classes. The orchard itself is looking fine, despite the initial shock of discovering that there had been an invasion, hopefully a one off, of hungry bank voles. There's just a handful of fruit so far but it's very early days yet.

Scotland the Bread Project

In last year's Annual Report we described how we were collaborating with the Scotland the Bread organisation to cultivate heritage wheat and rye. The full plot of Balcaskie wheat and Fulltofta rye was harvested the old-fashioned way using sickles, which proved very effective for the small area involved. The sheaves were then bound and dried in the sun. Threshing was done by hand and winnowing with the loan of a Victorian hand-cranked machine. Threshing and hand-grinding also proved a popular activity at our Open Day. Finally, a small electric stone mill produced the flour which was baked into, what probably was, the most local bread for many a year!



Figure 9: Sheaves of wheat and rye drying in the sun

COMMUNITY LEARNING AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteer Sessions

Throughout the year, we have organised regular volunteer sessions from 10:00 to 13:00 every Wednesday and every second Saturday, with a 2 week break during Christmas. We now have a volunteer group, totalling 209 people with an average of 12 participating in the regular work mornings. Over the last year, we have carried out approximately 1904 hours of volunteer work.

After 2 years of regular volunteers and newcomers, the group dynamic has become welcoming and warm. This has also been inspired by communal tea breaks in which home bakes and hot thermos flasks of tea are shared around. This community is the heart and soul of Forres Friends.



Figure 10. Forres Friends volunteers enjoying tea break in the polytunnel

Education and Outdoor Activities

This year, we have continued to engage with local schools and outdoor learning groups, such as Earthtime and Wild Things. In January, we invited pupils from Anderson's Primary School to Cluny Hill under Nelson's Tower to plant 30 trees as part of the Woodland Trust's Queen's Green Canopy project. The 30 Hazel trees had been grown in our tree nursery in the Kennel Field.

Nick Molnar (Chair) has also established a relationship between FFWF and a group of pupils at Forres Academy with additional support needs who hope to use the land for some of their learning activities.

Local writer and storyteller, Margot Henderson also completed her interviews with local elderly residents as part of a project funded by Awards 4 All to gather information about how the land has changed. Her artistic work based on oral retellings will be shared on the social media channels and on the website.



Figure 11. Pupils from Anderson's primary school plant trees as part of the Queen's Canopy Project

Botanical Walks & Collaboration with other Conservation Groups

This year we built on the popularity of our botanical walks from last year and we held interesting field meetings with soil scientist Rob Parkinson and local lichen expert, Heather Paul. Eleanor Foster also held a foraging and nature ramble on the land with participants trying out Douglas Fir tea, dock seed crackers and learning to identify chanterelles in the woods.

We also held a very popular scything class with Ian Cooper and were visited by Kelsey Grubb, a PhD student from Edinburgh University who is writing a thesis on the "Connection with Nature".

Collaboration and communication with the neighbouring land managers continues, including some joint volunteer sessions with the Forres Community Woodland Trust. FFWF is also making a contribution to Forres in Bloom's Britain in Bloom entry since the judges are now taking an interest in community collaboration and other sites within Forres.



Figure 12. Examining Lichen



Figure 13. PhD Student Kelsey Grubb with George Paul



Figure 14. Winter gathering at the Yurt

Open Day Festival

Due to the overwhelming success of the Open Day last year, we decided to host another Open Day to encourage people on to the land and share with the community, the work and aspirations of the charity. The day took on a similar format to our first open day last year and was again a great success with over 200 people attending to enjoy demonstrations, botanical walks, foraging workshops, live music, storytelling and crafts. The Wild Things Yurt in the Kennel Field was also officially opened. This year we outsourced the catering of the event to local company Forres Coffee House.



Figure 15. Open Day in September 2023 with music, woodwork demonstrations and outdoor learning

Winter Gathering

This year we held our annual winter gathering in the Yurt as the weather was very wet and cold. Despite the weather, there was a great turnout, and the end of another year was celebrated with storytelling, holly wreath making, community singing and baked tatties.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Grants and Fundraising

This year, we have had the highest financial turnover since the establishment of the charity, with almost an increase of 67% over the last financial year. This is largely due to receiving several generous grants from various sources, in particular £26,000 from the Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund, organised by TSI Moray and Money for Moray. We also received £992 from the Moray Development Fund and £4,999 from the Moray Local Action Fund.

In addition, we were also working on spending the grants we received in the last two financial years, such as the Awards for All National Lottery Community Fund, The Money for Moray Fund, the Tesco Community Fund, the Moray Development Fund (2022), The Northern Meeting, and The Dandelion Trust 'Unexpected Gardens' funds.

This year, thanks to regular donations from our supporters, we have received a total of £2,180 in donations. The Open Day was also very successful with participants donating £316. Also, during the winter gathering and over Christmas time, we received £485 as a lovely warming Christmas gift.

How did we spend it?

Restricted Funds

The remaining £792.81 of The Awards for All National Lottery Community Fund, and the remaining £100 of the Dandelion Trust 'Unexpected Gardens Project' (both received in the last financial years) were combined to organise the 2023 Open Day. In this, the grants were spent on the payment of performers, equipment and to Mick Drury who led the organisation of the event.

The remaining £685 of the Money for Moray grant, the remaining £211,01 of the Tesco Community Fund, the remaining £1,500 of the Northern Meeting and the £4,000 of the Moray Development Fund (2022) (all four received in the last financial years) were spent on a deer and rabbit fence enclosing the Community Garden. There was a short delay in this expenditure due to a late addition of one feature of the fence, namely the rabbit netting, which was only put in in this financial year.

Furthermore, we received £992 from the Moray Development Fund again this year, with which we purchased various gardening tools and equipment. This includes an electric strimmer, secateurs, fleece and a seed sower amongst others.

One of our larger grants received this year is the £4,999 from the Moray Local Action Fund. With the aid of this fund, we were able to hire various garden help to establish 34 (7x1.2 m) no-dig vegetable beds, recover the Children's Garden, and purchase 18 tons of compost. For more detail, please see page 12.

Lastly, our largest project to date was the establishment of a potting shed with solar array and battery storage, the compost loo and the tool shed. This was accomplished through the generous Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund

which granted us £23,000 of capital fund and £3,000 of revenue fund. The three buildings were erected this financial year, though the potting shed still requires kitting out. The grant also provided us with funds to cover the extra buildings insurance. For more detail, please see pages 10-11.

Unrestricted Funds

We spent a total of £2,536 of the unrestricted funds, which are as followed. First, we spent £431 on seeds and other supplies for the community garden. Secondly, Furthermore, £1,120 was spent on the woodland project which included tasks like essential tree felling and tree safety works after a storm.

General administration and governance expenditure amounted to £513. This was spent on covering safeguarding training for all of the trustees, insurance costs for public liability insurance and buildings insurance.

On the 31st July 2024, the end of year balance accounted for £4,254.80 as unrestricted funds and £144 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, webpage management and ongoing gardening costs such as seeds and compost. Therefore, funds can be held at year end to cover such expenses, up to £500. Additionally, as of this financial year an additional £500 is held in reserve for the maintenance of the trees planted on Cluny Hill. Money in excess of this is subject to prioritisation by the Board in line with the charity's strategic plan.

Up to £50 can be spent without permission by the card holders (which is at the time of writing Lin Batten, Nick Molnar, and Mick Drury), if the costs are not part of the running costs, or the cost of a specific funded project within the agreed budget. Expenditure between £50 and £150 can be spent in case of emergency under the agreement of both the Chair and the Treasurer. Any expenditure over £150 must follow a proposal being put to the Trustees during a Trustee meeting and agreed on in a majority vote. Please see the Appendix 1. for the Receipt and Payments account (pg. 21).

Independent Examiners Report

In the Independent Examiners Report of the previous financial year, our independent examiner made several recommendations to our financial accounts which we largely implemented. In this, we implemented a secure accounting system for bookkeeping and we are always gather cash donations with two trustees present. We have made a structured table to organise the value of our assets, as well as elected specific project managers dedicated to particular projects. We are still in the process of creating a yearly budget. These changes have helped create a more financially secure, transparent and sound accounting system.

Appreciation

This charity only exists and has seen such success because of the continuous and enthusiastic support of the community in which it operates. The Board of Trustees merely guide the project; the community that comes to the garden, fields and woodlands tirelessly once or twice per week braving all weathers are the real heroes. It is an honour to be a part of such an empowered and active group of people.

We are grateful for the grants that we have received this year from the Money for Moray and Just Transition Participatory Budgeting funds

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 and George Paul, for their continuous dedication as volunteer leaders, sharing of their thoughts, wisdom and their time.

Warm Wishes,

Nick Molnar

Mick Drury

Lin Batten

Kerry McInnes

Olly Wilson

Tim Spencer

A. Receipts and Payments Accounts from 01-08-23 to 31-07-24

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total 2022/2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Grants	0	31,991	31,991	15,611
Donations	2,180	0	2,180	1,895
Sales of Goods and Services	2,725	0	2,725	635
Total Receipts	4,905	31,991	36,896	18,141
<u>Payments</u>				
Charitable Activities	(1,837)	(6,294)	(8,131)	(9,237)
Governance and Admin	(513)	(0)	(513)	(609)
Assets	(44)	(33,043)	(33,087)	(8,710)
Total payments	(2,394)	(39,337)	(41,731)	(18,556)
Net Receipts	2,511	(7,346)	(4,835)	(415)
Transfer	(202)	202	0	0
Surplus/Deficit for the year	<u>2,713</u>	<u>(7,548)</u>	(4,835)	(415)

The significant deficit of £7,434 of the unrestricted funds of this financial year is largely due to the liabilities of fencing payments which funds were received in the previous financial year.

B. Statement of Balances 1-08-23 to 31-07-24

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total 23/24</u>	<u>Total 22/23</u>
	£	£	£	£
Opening Balance for the year	1,946	7,288	9,234	9,649
Total receipts	4,905	31,991	36,896	18,141
Total available for year	6,851	39,279	46,130	27,790
Total of payments	(2,451)	(39,280)	(41,731)	(18,556)
Transfer	(145)	145	0	0
Balance at the end of year	<u>4,255</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>4,399</u>	<u>9,234</u>
Cash and bank balances at 31-07-24 as per bank statement				£4,399

Signature
Nick Molnar (Chair)

Date: 27/11/2024

Signature

Date: 27/11/2024

Kerry McInnes (Secretary)

Assets	Grant	Costs	Current Value	Last Year
		£	£	£
Fence	Money For Moray; Tesco Community Fund; Northern meetings, and Moray Council	6,453	6,453	0

	Development Fund 1; and additional match funding from unrestricted funds			
Potting Shed	Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund	9,959	9,959	0
Solar Array	Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund	12,278	12,278	0
Compost Loo	Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund	1,878	1,878	0
Tool Shed	Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund	1,545	1,545	0
Polytunnel	Berry Burn Community Fund and additional match funding from unrestricted funds	8,475	7,678	8,475
Tools	Various Funds	2,087	1,570	893

Liabilities

Amount

Fund Restrictions

£

1. Oliver Wilson- Receipt from Screwfix for the potting shed of in total £125.79	125.79	Restricted fund Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund - £125.79	Missed this refund when organisation the final budget report, but have sent the receipt to the funding body.
2. Nick Molnar – Receipt for Wolf Garten Multi Change Small Seed Sower of £16.95	16.95	Restricted Fund Moray Obligations Developers Fund - £13.98 Unrestricted funds £2.97	This payment was done on a personal card, and had not yet been refunded.

Total 23/24

142.74

C.

Notes to the Accounts

Nature and Purpose of Funds

Unrestricted Funds were/are to be used for the general furtherance of the aims of the charity. This includes administration cost, insurance and the purchase of tools, seeds, tree guards, compost, amongst others. It has also been used to match fund grant projects.

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

Receipts

In unrestricted funds, we are now receiving regular donations from our supporters, which totalled £2,180. Our Open Day in 2023 was a very successful day with participants donating £316.30, as well as over the Winter gathering and Christmas time where we received £485.96 in donations.

Summary of Grants (Restricted Funds)

Name	Total	Purpose
	£	
Moray Development Fund (2023)	992	Gardening tools and equipment.
Moray Local Action Fund	4,999	Garden works
Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund	26,000	Solar array, potting shed, tool shed and compost loo
Total	31,991	

Trustee Remuneration Details

M Drury

£300 for the organisation of the Open Day covered by two funds.

Payments

Unrestricted Funds

Type	Total
	£
Community Garden	(423)
Woodland Management	(1,120)
Miscellaneous Projects	(295)
Governance & Admin	(513)
Tools (Assets)	(44)
Total	(2,395)

Restricted Funds

Type	Total
	£
Deer and Rabbit Fencing	(6,453)
No-Dig Community Garden	(4,863)
Community Hub	(25,660)
Tools	(930)
Open Day 2023 and other miscellaneous expenditure	(1,431)
Total	(39,337)

TRUSTEES

Kim Emmerson resigned as a trustee and treasurer on the 17th of December 2023 due to difference of opinion on the direction of the charity. OSCR have not been informed separate to this report as they were not a Principal Contact.

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

Signature
Nick Molnar (Chair)

Date: 27/11/2024

Signature

Date: 27/11/2024

Kerry McInnes (Secretary)

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 2024 which are set out on pages 21 to 26.

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: 27 November 2024 Signed: