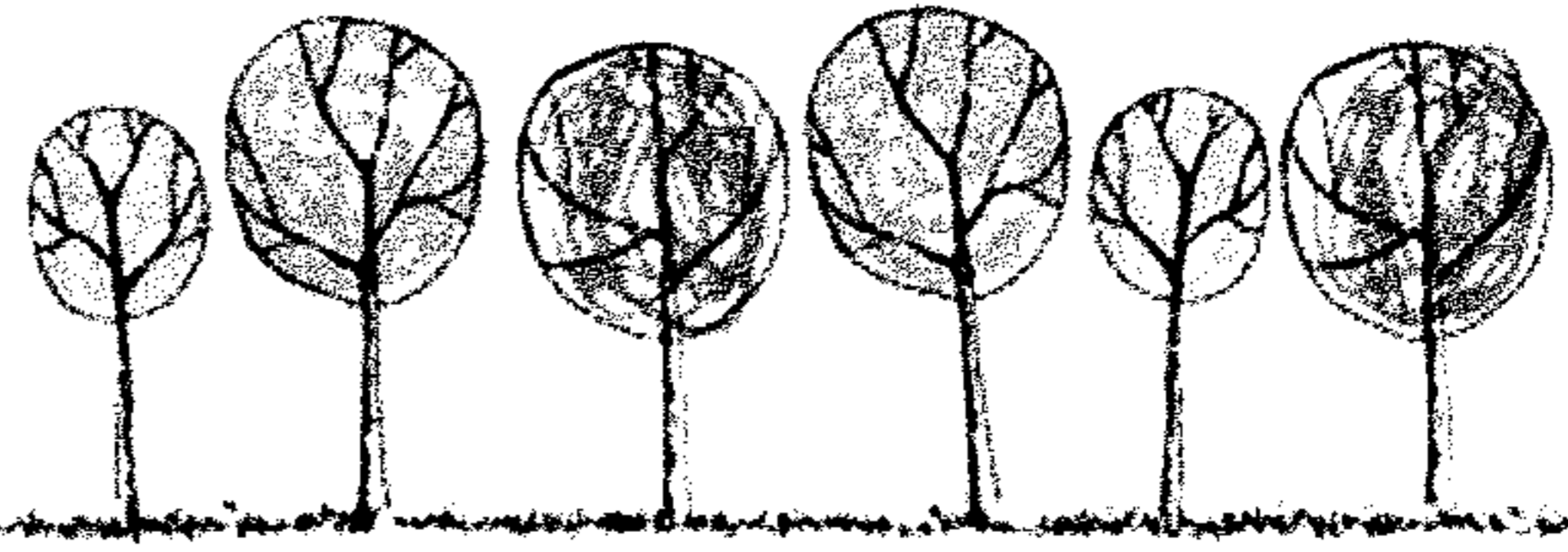


# The Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill



## **FRIENDS OF EASTER CRAIGLOCKHART HILL**

### **Annual Report & Financial Statements**

**For the year ended**

**31 March 2024**

**We are a SCIO regulated by OSCR**

**Scottish Charity No. SCO49086**

**ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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The trustees present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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**Charity Name** Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill (FECH)

**Charity Number** SCO49086

**Contact Address** C/o Jim Heath  
17 Craiglockhart Terrace  
Edinburgh  
EH14 1AJ

**Website Address**

<b>Current Trustees</b>	Jim Heath	Chair
	Iain McLeod	Secretary
	Bill Troup	Treasurer
	Simon Hart	
	David Knight	(Resigned 3/7/23)
	Bryce Morrison	
	Paul Duncanson	
	Daniela Polic	(Appointed 4/3/24)

**Bankers** Bank of Scotland

**Independent Examiner** Rob Moffat  
24 Lockharton Avenue  
Edinburgh  
EH14 1AZ

**STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

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**Governing Document**

FECH is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). It was incorporated on 27 February 2019 and is governed by its constitution effective from that date.

**Appointment of Trustees**

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the charity. The Board of Trustees may appoint other trustees at any time subject to there being a minimum of three and a maximum of 14 trustees.

## **Organisational Structure**

FECH consists of members and trustees. Membership is open to any individual aged 16 or over who is interested in helping the organisation achieve its aims and is willing to abide by the rules of the organisation.

The trustees are responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the charity.

## **PURPOSES**

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The purposes of FECH are:

- (a) Advancing environmental protection and improvement by preserving and protecting Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve for the enjoyment of members of the public and by conserving and enhancing wildlife and biodiversity
- (b) Advancing education by providing learning and educational materials and by organising educational events and activities
- (c) Promoting equality and diversity through specific initiatives to encourage people with additional needs to make greater use of the Local Nature Reserve
- (d) Advancing community development by providing and maintaining community and play space and by organising community events and activities.

In furtherance of the above charitable purposes, FECH will:

- Consult with and involve the members of the organisation and members of the local community in the management of Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve
- Raise and administer funds for maintenance, developments and improvements
- Recruit and support paid and volunteer workers
- Work closely with City of Edinburgh Council, the landowner, and with other relevant organisations whose interests include the protection and preservation of Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve or of the environment in general.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE**

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We continue to work alongside the Natural Heritage section of the City of Edinburgh Council. Their continued support is invaluable and very much appreciated. They, along with our management plan, guide all of the work we do on the hill.

Several repairs were completed by the council in 2024 – some broken steps on 'Poet's path' were replaced, some ash trees were trimmed because of die back and pathways were kept clear notably along the causeway. They react quickly to broken steps and fallen trees if deemed unsafe.

We've run several well attended events such as the plant sale, the easter egg hunt and the fungi walk. The swans provide further interest with their many antics and we've run some fun events to guess the hatching date for the next brood and latterly a naming competition for our new arrivals.

We've been awarded a green flag again this year and so have been the proud flyers of this flag since 2009. We have also maintained our 2<sup>nd</sup> place on the quality parks assessment for Edinburgh out of a list of over 140 sites across the city. The assessment covers access, cleanliness, signage, biodiversity and safety and is assessed by independent examiners during the early part of the year.

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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Our 'Call to Arms' initiative was very successful and now local people are engaged with more tasks on the hill such as the information boards, poet's post, social media and the newsletter. We are very grateful for all their help and hard work since we lost our community engagement worker in late 2023.

Our volunteers have been busy throughout the last 12 months. We've completed the Welcome Garden within budget: it has bloomed into a feast for bees and other pollinators during spring 2024 with the planters providing splashes of colour and structure, and the meadow areas treating us all to a succession of pink, yellow, white and purple flowers.

We've been able to plant species of tree and wildflowers on the hill which have not been seen here before, such as walnut, sweet chestnut, campion, rock rose (to name but a few). We've even managed to put in place some small terraces to prevent material rolling down the hill onto the paths thus reducing the amount of scraping we need to do in the winter.

Our communication team has been busy keeping us all updated online on social media, on the many clip frames and signposts and we've even received a bespoke poem this year for our poet's post.

There are so many people to thank for their hard work to keep the hill in good shape for nature to thrive and for people to enjoy. A special thanks to the Macbeth family for regularly keeping the lower 'zigzag' path clear of mud and overhanging trees – your hard work is much appreciated.

In the 12 months to 31 Mar 2024 we have spent 650 volunteer hours with Duke of Edinburgh students and local people. These sessions run every Sunday 2-4 pm and everyone is welcome.

Some of the other tasks carried out by the volunteers include:

- Top up of dead hedge to protect marshy area
- Repainting of bench, planters and wooden signage
- Creation of still water in marshy area. This work was carried out by Lothian Conservation Volunteers
- Path scraping and vegetation cut back
- Extreme litter picks - clearing decades old bottles and cans from hard to get at places. Unfortunately, there are still many dog poo bags discarded on the hill which we need to clear up too.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

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The accounts below detail our financial position.

Our largest income source this year was events, generating £1,607 (2023: £339). Events included our first Plant Sale as well as two successful Fungi Walks.

We received £817 (2023: £3,335) from donations during the year. Although we received no large single donation, as we had the previous year, we saw an increase in donations from users of the hill and members via the PayPal QR codes posted on the noticeboards. We are also seeing a growing number of monthly subscription donations via PayPal. We hosted our first corporate conservation day and we are keen to host paying corporate groups who want to help manage and conserve the local nature reserve.

We received a total of £242 (2023: £10,250) from grant funding during the year. This grant came from Action Earth to engage volunteers from the local community to help restore native heathland. These funds were spent during the year.

Most of our £13,617 spending on charitable activities (2023: £7,966) related to the creation of a Welcome Garden for the local nature reserve on the site of the old curling rink area at the end of Craiglockhart. The balance was spent

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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on tools and materials for projects, including our weekly DofE volunteer sessions, and the hosting of events as well as meeting the costs of a community engagement worker.

Our unrestricted funds reserve increased by £1,221 (2022: £636) to £5,508 during the year. All of our restricted funds were utilised during the year. The trustees consider £750 to £1,000 is an appropriate level of reserves to hold to meet the day-to-day running costs of the charity, excluding project costs which are largely grant funded.

**FUTURE PLANS**

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In the coming year, we want to:

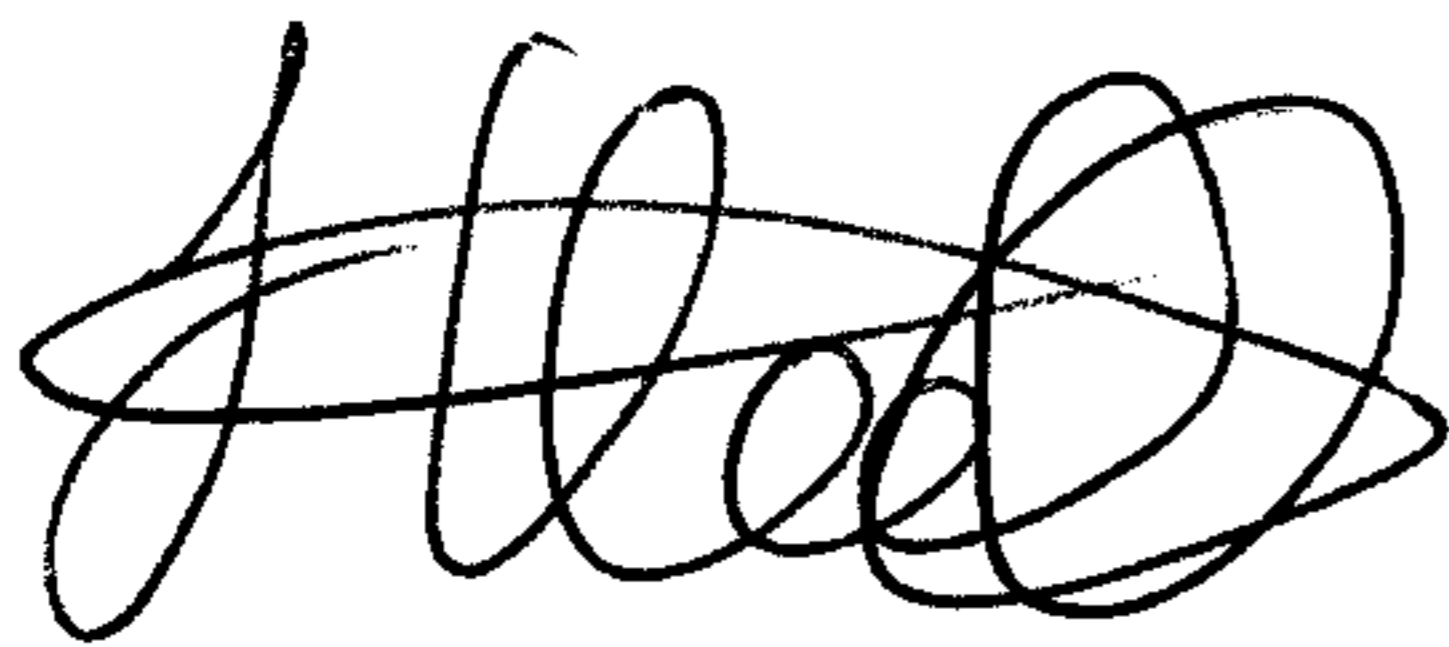
- Plant more wildflower species on the meadow areas
- Put lily pads into the pond (we used to have a good bloom of lilies, but they all perished some years ago)
- Continue our hedge planting – largely replacing trees removed by the council or replacing trees we've planted which have died
- Arrange events on the hill and support those who run events already, such as the easter egg hunt and the seven hills running race
- Encourage more local people to get involved with work on the hill – invasive species removal, tree maintenance, wildflower seed gathering and sowing and litter picking.

We will continue to do our best to protect and improve Easter Craiglockhart Hill for the benefit of both the local and the wider community.

**APPROVAL**

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This report was approved by the Trustees on *8<sup>th</sup> July 2024* and signed on their behalf by:



**Jim Heath**

Chair

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

**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 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation (10)(1)(a) to (d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 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 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 connection with my examination, no matter came 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(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 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.



**Rob Moffat, ACA**

24 Lockharton Avenue

Edinburgh

EH14 1AZ

8 July 2024

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS**

	<u>Note</u>	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Donations		817	-	817	3,335
Events		1,607	-	1,607	339
Grants		-	242	242	10,250
		<b>2,424</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>2,666</b>	<b>13,924</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Charitable Activities	[5]	1,498	12,005	13,503	7,966
Governance Costs					
AGM & members Meetings		114	-	114	-
		<b>1,612</b>	<b>12,005</b>	<b>13,617</b>	<b>7,966</b>
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>					
Transfers between funds		812	(11,763)	(10,951)	5,958
		409	(409)	-	-
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year</b>		<b>1,221</b>	<b>(12,172)</b>	<b>(10,951)</b>	<b>5,958</b>

The Notes on pages 10 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts.



**STATEMENT OF BALANCES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

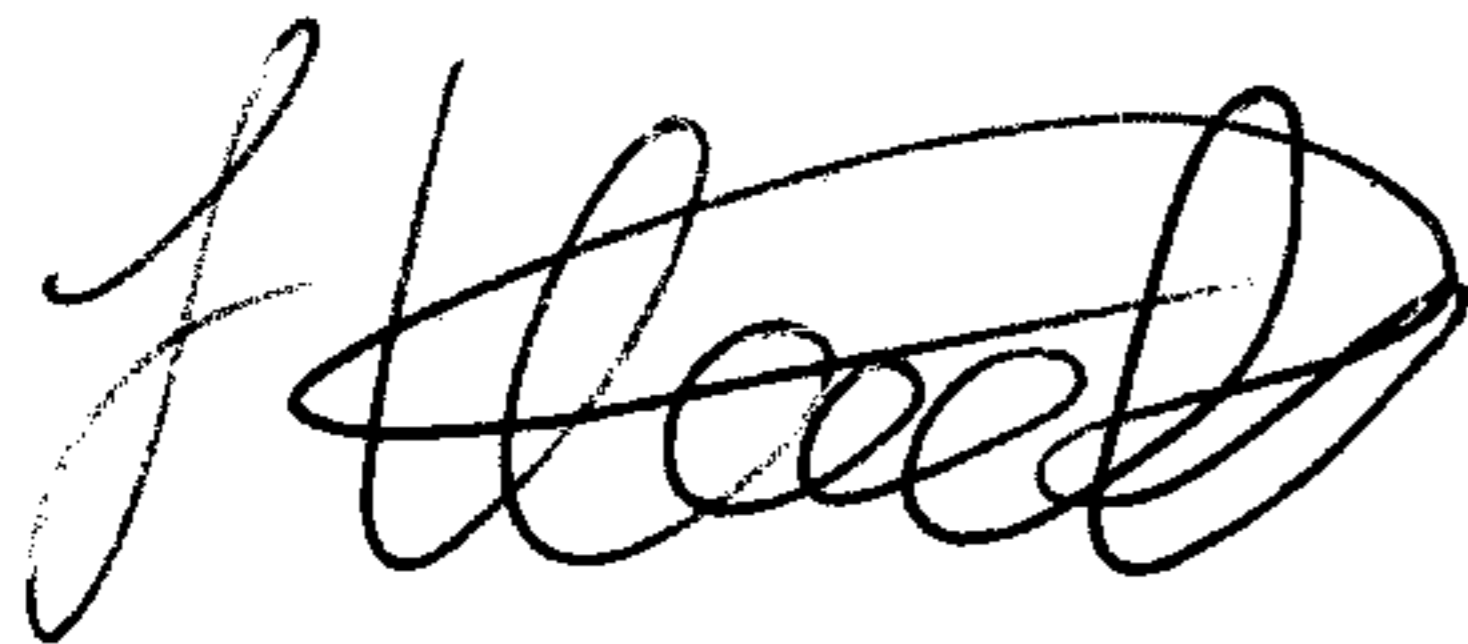
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**STATEMENT OF BALANCES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>				
Balance as at 1 April 2023	4,287	12,172	<b>16,459</b>	10,501
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	1,221	(12,172)	<b>(10,951)</b>	5,958
Balance as at 31 March 2024	<b>5,508</b>	-	<b>5,508</b>	16,459
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>				
Cash at Bank	5,508	-	<b>5,508</b>	16,399
Cash in Hand	-	-	-	60
	<b>5,508</b>	-	<b>5,508</b>	16,459

The Notes on pages 10 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on *8<sup>th</sup> July* 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



**Jim Heath**  
Chair



**Bill Troup**  
Treasurer

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**1. Basis of Preparation**

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts & payments basis in accordance with:

- a) The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005
- b) The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

There have been no changes to the bases of preparation or to the previous year's accounts.

**2. Fund Accounting**

- a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.
- b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.
- c) The purposes of funds are shown in Note 7.

**3. Taxation**

- a) The charity is not liable to corporation tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.
- b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.

**4. Transactions with trustees and related parties**

- a) No remuneration was paid to trustees during the year (2023: £Nil).
- b) No personal expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year (2023: £Nil).
- c) There were no transactions with related parties during the year (2023: £Nil).

**5. Payments for Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	-	7,256	<b>7,256</b>	5,805
Projects and Land Management	-	4,749	<b>4,749</b>	972
Insurance	-	-	-	300
Consumables	1,159	-	<b>1,159</b>	446
Other	453	-	<b>453</b>	443
	<b>1,612</b>	<b>12,005</b>	<b>13,617</b>	<b>7,966</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**6. Movements in Funds**

	As at 31/03/2023	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	As at 31/03/2024
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>					
General Fund	4,287	2,424	(1,612)	409	<b>5,508</b>
<u>Restricted Funds</u>					
Community Engagement Continuation	2,500	-	(2,091)	(409)	-
Welcome Garden Project	9,672	-	(9,672)	-	-
Heathland Habitat Restoration	-	242	(242)	-	-
	<b>12,172</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>(12,005)</b>	<b>(409)</b>	<b>-</b>
Total Funds	<b>16,459</b>	<b>2,666</b>	<b>(13,617)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,508</b>

**7. Purpose of Funds**

General Fund	An unrestricted fund that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.
Community Engagement Continuation	Donation received from a private donor to extend the period of employment of a Community Engagement Worker.
Welcome Garden Project	Grant funding received from The National Lottery Community Fund to create a Welcome Garden for the local nature reserve on the site of the old curling rink area at the end of Craiglockhart Terrace. This will include a serenity area, raised flower beds and a wildflower garden.
Heathland Habitat Restoration	Grant funding received from Action Earth to engage volunteers from the local community to cut and clear gorse from selected areas of the Local Nature Reserve and restore and enrich these areas by planting native heathland shrubs such as juniper, heather and blaeberry.