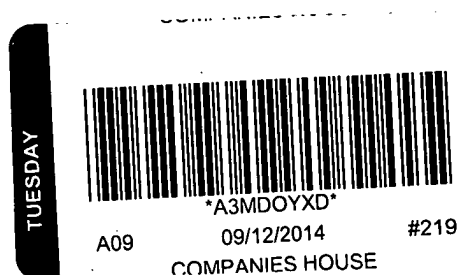


FRIENDS OF NIDDERDALE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014



FRIENDS OF NIDDERDALE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

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Registered Office:

King Street
Pateley Bridge
HARROGATE
HG3 5LE

Tel: 01423 712950

E: friendsofnidderdaleAONB@harrogate.gov.uk

Registered in England and Wales

Company Number 05383414

Charity Number 1118228

FRIENDS OF NIDDERDALE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 March 2014

Aims

Friends of Nidderdale AONB aims are as follows:

1. To promote, enhance and conserve the physical and natural environment and its natural beauty for the public benefit within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Nidderdale AONB)
2. To advance the knowledge and understanding of the public in the physical and natural environment including but not limited to the management of natural resources and local economic development that is environmentally sustainable

Governance

Friends of Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a Charitable Company limited by guarantee and without share capital.

The Directors of the Company since 1 April 2013 have been:

Heather Garnett	(Appointed Chairman 1 July 2013)
Louise McManus	(Former Chairman – resigned 1 July 2013)
Michael Astrop	(Resigned 5 February 2014)
Sophie Badrick	(Resigned 6 April 2014)
Susan Briggs	(Resigned 4 November 2013)
Peter Harling	(Company Secretary)
David Portlock	(Deputy Chair & Finance Director)
Pru Robertson	(Appointed 4 November 2013)
Victoria Sauron	(Resigned 16 April 2013)
Colin Slator	(Appointed 1 October 2013)
Neal Topham	(Appointed 7 July 2014)
Simon Ward	(Resigned 10 April 2013)
Sally Wilson	(Appointed 8 April 2014)

All of the Directors of the company are Trustees and Members.

Trustees are appointed by a vote at a meeting of Directors/Trustees according to their willingness to contribute effectively to the Company's aims working harmoniously within the corporate team.

During the year, and following legal advice, the Trustees updated the Articles of the Company to reflect the Companies Act 2006.

Friends and Firm Friends membership

All new individual and family subscribers pay an annual minimum donation of £15 individual, £20 double and £25 family in order to receive their membership benefits. However, recognising their loyalty to the organisation, existing individual member subscriptions remain at £10 per annum. Trustees and other volunteers who are registered as such by the AONB are entitled to free membership of Friends.

Regarding Firm Friends, our business membership scheme, the England Rural Development Program (ERDP) funded Leader project has reached a successful conclusion. The business membership scheme is based on Corporate Social Responsibility and it will be continued with the help of a consultant for a transitional year after which the project will be managed by Trustees.

At 31 March 2014 22 businesses were members and we continue to attract new business members.

Finance

Income from donations, Firm Friends' Subscriptions and bank interest totalled £11,691. A reclaim for Gift Aid on donations is calculated to return approximately £500. We have also accessed funding of £3,661 for small Hydro Schemes and Tree Planting.

Reserves

The Company does not have a policy of accumulating reserves and expects to distribute its funds according to its aims. However, funds will be accumulated from time to time so that larger projects can be supported.

Communication

During the year, we had good press coverage and we produced a Newsletter for subscribers and Firm Friends. A url www.niddaonbfriends.org.uk has been created opening up Friends webpages on the Nidderdale AONB website, www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk.

The Firm Friends website: www.nidderdalefirmfriends.co.uk remains active as do our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The Annual Meeting of Friends was held on 10 June 2013.

Direction and Strategy

As was flagged in last year's annual report, it was the Trustees intention to work more closely with the AONB to help it to achieve its business plan in a period of reduced public funding. For instance, the AONB found it could no longer run a small grants scheme. In order to fill this gap Trustees have agreed to set up a *Countryside Fund* to attract donations and from which it they will provide grants of up to £2,000 to support landscape, heritage and educational projects within the AONB. The *Countryside Fund* became operational in the Summer of 2014.

As a registered charity, Friends is able to apply for funding which publicly funded bodies, including the AONB, are not eligible. Trustees will actively pursue such opportunities whenever possible.

The AONB has been successful in obtaining Heritage Lottery Funding for an Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership Scheme and for a WW1 Commemoration Scheme. As a partner organisation the Trustees have committed match funding to both these schemes and over the next few years we will work closely with the AONB towards their successful completion.

Events

- AONB events – the Trustees have successfully negotiated with the AONB for subscribers to have half price entry to AONB events
- Talk by Iain Mann of the AONB about the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership Scheme – June 2013
- Talk by Professor John Altringham of Leeds University about the Yorkshire Dales Bat Research project – November 2013

Activities

Our members and trustees have been active volunteers throughout the year helping at events, on steering groups and committees and with research, amongst them are:

- The HLF funded WW1 project including the Commemorative Walk
- Nidderdale Heritage Forum
- The HLF funded Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership Scheme
- Attendance at local Shows
- Masham Sheep Fair
- AONB Joint Advisory Committee
- Development of the next EDRP Leader program
- NYCC Family History Day
- Organising Rotary Tree planting days
- As volunteers in many other capacities

Projects supported

Support for small hydro schemes is ongoing. In addition, support has been given to tree planting, Bio Blitz Day and the AONB's Volunteer Programme.

As mentioned above, since the year end the Trustees have created a *Countryside Fund* to provide grants up to £2,000. At the date of this report several projects have already been supported and others applications are under consideration. More detail will be provided in the Trustees' Report for the year ending 31 March 2015.

Directors' Meetings

The Directors of the company met in committee on six occasions during the year ended 31 March 2014:

20 May 2013, 1 July 2013, 2 September 2013, 4 November 2013, 6 January 2014 and 3 March 2014.

In addition, the Directors held a number of meetings to discuss future strategy and plans.

Public Benefit

The Charity's aims are set out on page 1 of this report.

In planning their activities for the year the Trustees confirm that they have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit and believe that all of their activities (as summarised in this Report) fulfil the requirement to provide Public Benefit.

Future Plans


The Friends is currently in a period of development and realignment. Over the next year it will continue to build capacity by continuing with its:

- Recruitment Campaign of Friends and Firm Friends (including updating recruitment literature)
- Fundraising Campaign
- Publicity Campaign
- Complete its review of publicity material and administrative processes

Acknowledgements

The Directors wish to acknowledge the generous support of DEFRA, Harrogate Borough Council, Nidderdale AONB and all individuals and Firm Friends who made donations towards the development of Friends of Nidderdale AONB.

Approved by the Directors on 19 November 2014.



Heather Garnett – Chairman

FRIENDS OF NIDDERDALE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2014

	Notes	2014 £	2013 £
Income	1(b)		
Friends' Donations		2,988	3,112
Other Donations		3,331	0
Firm Friends Subscriptions		5,350	5,625
Interest received		22	2
Gift Aid tax repayment		500	548
Support from AONB	8	0	2,500
Project funding:			
Hydro Schemes		2,179	2,330
Tree Planting		1,482	0
Awards' Sponsorship		0	500
Total Income		£15,852	£14,617
Expenditure	1(c)		
Projects: Hydro Schemes		2,179	2,330
Tree Planting		1,482	442
Bio Blitz Day		172	0
Bat Research Project		0	2,821
AONB Volunteer Programme		0	640
Firm Friends programme (net of LEADER grant)		4,620	5,256
Awards' Prizes, Gifts & Plaques		0	616
Newsletter		2,178	3,502
Updating Friends recruitment leaflets		0	400
Administration & governance	9	1,372	766
Total Expenditure		£12,003	£16,773
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		£3,849	-£2,156

FRIENDS OF NIDDERDALE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2014

	Notes	2014 £	2013 £
Reconciliation of accumulated surplus			
Balance 1 April 2013		21,521	23,677
Surplus/(Deficit) for year to 31 March 2014		3,849	-2,156
Accumulated surplus at 31 March 2014		<u><u>£25,370</u></u>	<u><u>£21,521</u></u>
Represented by:			
Funding and subscriptions receivable		1,271	2,775
Gift Aid tax repayable	7	1,000	500
Bank balance HSBC		26,694	25,051
		<u>28,965</u>	<u>28,326</u>
Less creditors	6	3,595	6,805
		<u><u>£25,370</u></u>	<u><u>£21,521</u></u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

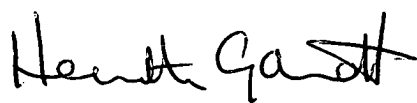
For the year ended 31 March 2014 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477(1) of the Companies Act 2006.

Members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

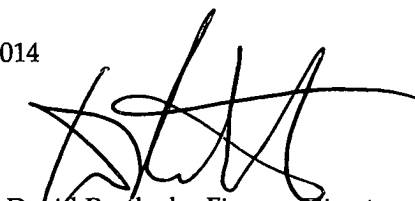
The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for:

- (i) ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and
- (ii) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

Approved by the Directors on 19 November 2014



Heather Garnett - Chairman



David Portlock - Finance Director

FRIENDS OF NIDDERDALE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

1) Accounting Policies:

The principal accounting policies are summarised below.

a) Accounting convention

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). In preparing the financial statements the charity follows best practice as laid down in the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2005).

b) Income

Income is recognised in the period to which it relates.

There is no recognition of the financial value of pledges freely contributed by Friends.

c) Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT.

d) Cash flow statement

The company has taken advantage of the exemption available under FRS 1 'Cash Flow Statements' not to present a Cash Flow Statement.

2) Income and Expenditure Account:

All recognised gains and losses are reflected in the Income and Expenditure Account, and no separate Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is presented.

3) Share Capital:

The company is a charitable company limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. In the event of the company being wound up, the maximum amount which each member is liable to contribute is limited to a guarantee of £10.

4) Capital commitments:

There were no capital commitments at 31 March 2014 (2013: Nil).

5) Taxation:

HM Revenue & Customs have accepted that the company's income and gains are either exempt from tax or have been, or will be, applied for charitable purposes only, and accordingly no taxation is payable.

6) Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:

	2014	2013
Grant funding received in advance	1,956	4,045
Tree Planting	1,482	0
Newsletter production costs	0	1,778
Firm Friends programme	0	857
Administration & governance	157	125
	<u>3,595</u>	<u>6,805</u>

FRIENDS OF NIDDERDALE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

7) Gift Aid tax repayable:

The amount repayable represents the estimate of the tax repayable in respect of the year.

8) Support from Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty:

In addition to the direct financial contribution reflected in these Financial Statements, the AONB provides office and administrative support to the Friends.

9) Administration & Governance:

	2014	2013
Insurance & BTCV Network membership	256	256
Web hosting & domain name	115	0
Banner	0	317
New Articles	888	0
Annual Meeting costs and Room Hire	96	95
Other	17	98
	<u>1,372</u>	<u>766</u>

10) Directors and Members:

The Directors and Members of the company since 1 April 2013 have been:

Heather Garnett	(Appointed Chairman 1 July 2013)
Louise McManus	(Former Chairman - resigned 1 July 2013))
Michael Astrop	(Resigned 5 February 2014)
Sophie Badrick	(Resigned 6 April 2014)
Susan Briggs	(Resigned 4 November 2013)
Peter Harling	(Company Secretary)
David Portlock	(Deputy Chair & Finance Director)
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Victoria Sauron	(Resigned 16 April 2013)
Colin Slator	(Appointed 1 October 2013)
Neal Topham	(Appointed 7 July 2014)
Simon Ward	(Resigned 10 April 2013)
Sally Wilson	(Appointed 8 April 2014)

All of the Directors of the company are also Trustees.

No Director was paid remuneration in respect of the year (2013: Nil)

11) Future Committed Grants:

As indicated in the Directors' & Trustees' Report, the Directors have agreed in principle to provide funding to the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership and the WW1 Commemoration Schemes.