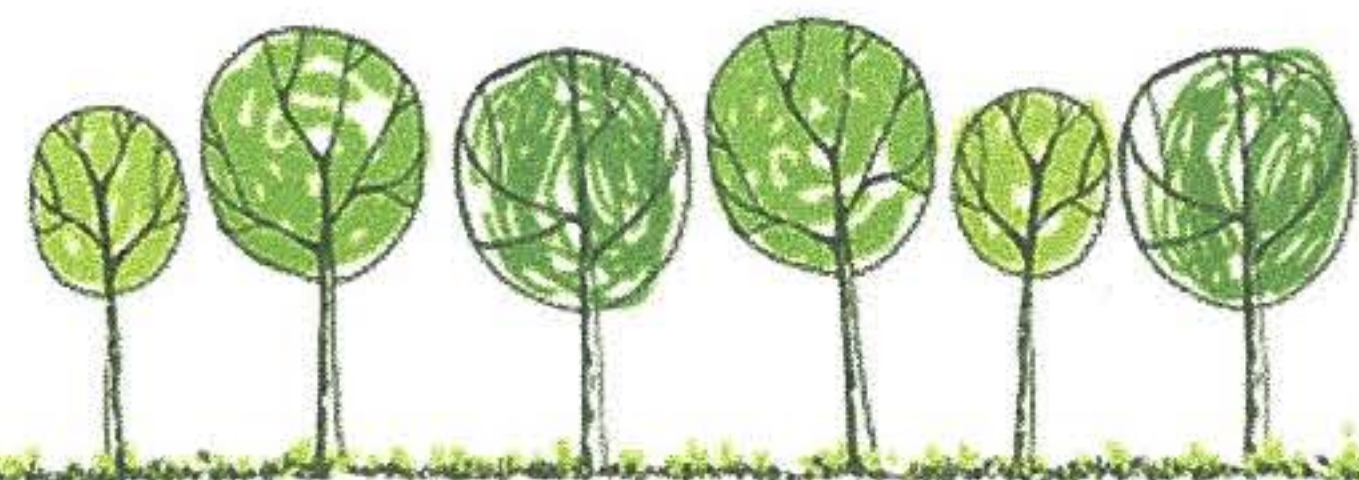


The Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill



FRIENDS OF EASTER CRAIGLOCKHART HILL

Annual Report & Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 March 2023

Scottish Charity No. SCO49086

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2023.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name	Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill (FECH)	
Charity Number	SCO49086	
Contact Address		
Website Address	www.eastercraiglockharthill.org	
Current Trustees	Jim Heath	Chair (Appointed 28/3/23)
	Ewan Davidson	Chair (Resigned 24/2/23)
	Iain McLeod	Secretary (Appointed 2/5/23)
	Hilda Henderson	Secretary (Resigned 28/2/23)
	Bill Troup	Treasurer
	Simon Hart	
	David Knight	
	Bryce Morrison	(Appointed 16/1/23)
	Paul Duncanson	(Appointed 27/2/23)
	Graeme Hastie	(Resigned 18/4/23)
	Alastair Macbeth	(Resigned 29/5/23)
Bankers	Bank of Scotland	
Independent Examiner	Rob Moffat 	

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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

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

We continue to work alongside the Natural Heritage section of the City of Edinburgh Council. Their continued support is invaluable and very much appreciated.

The long-awaited reopening of the Meadowspot path was a highlight of the winter. To celebrate the occasion on 11 December 2022 we all enjoyed a piper and a glass of refreshment as we witnessed the ceremonial re-opening.

The planned extension to the Hilltop Path was completed by the CEC in January 2023. This work was undertaken to address the muddy section at the top of the original path. Two new sections of steps were added, and a connecting section of path. The path now finishes on the hilltop meadow, and we hope this extension will improve access and address safety concerns.

Our resident swan population provided us all with a soap opera of drama. Unfortunately Siegfried lost out in a fight for territory and now we have a new pair of swans on the pond who produced their own cygnets in spring 2023.

The board of trustees lost two valuable, long-standing members in February when Ewan and Hilda resigned their posts. Both had been trustees for many years and have given a lot to the hill and the local community. Their enthusiasm and constant presence enabled many successful projects and they built close friendships with many

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

people involved in this charity. We, the trustees, thank them very much for their tireless work and their commitment to making the hill a safe and lovely place for us all to enjoy. Graeme Hastie and Alastair Macbeth also resigned from the board of trustees and we thank them for their valuable and committed contribution over the years.

The volunteers have had a very busy year planting on the hill with over 450 trees put into the ground with guidance from the CEC natural heritage officer, and around 1,000 wild flowers. The intention is to increase the biodiversity on the hill through planting and further habitat management according to our management plan.

We gathered 1,500 kg of scrap metal from the hill and sold it as scrap metal. The proceeds bought wildflowers (primroses and dog violets) and the scheme was dubbed 'metals for petals'. The hill is a safer place now that this scrap has been removed.

In 2023 (January 1st to Mar 31st) we have spent 140 volunteer hours in the local nature reserve. These sessions run every Sunday 2-4 pm and everyone is welcome.

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

- build of dead hedge to protect marshy area
- repainting of hilltop bench
- trimming of path vegetation
- path scraping
- tree rescues - taking saplings from the disused tennis court and from cliff edges
- extreme litter picks - clearing hard to get at places of decades old bottles and cans.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The accounts below detail our financial position.

We received a total of £10,250 (2022: £NIL) from grant funding during the year. The largest grant came from the National Lottery Community Fund to cover the costs of a planned new Welcome Hub in the area of the old curling rink at the Craiglockhart Terrace entrance to the Local Nature Reserve. These are restricted funds that can only be spent on the projects for which they were granted. These funds will reduce over the course of the coming year and eventually to zero.

We received £3,335 (2022: £786) from donations during the year, the largest of which was a restricted donation from a private donor to extend the contract of our community engagement worker. Other (unrestricted) donations were mostly from visitors to the Local Nature Reserve via the QR codes posted on notice boards around the hill and through the Donations Page on our website. These unrestricted funds are used to cover our core organisational costs and contribute to the projects we undertake.

The majority of our £7,966 spending on charitable activities (2022: £15,598) related to community engagement with most of the balance spread over our other live projects.

Our unrestricted funds reserve increased by £636 (2022: £149 decrease) to £4,287 during the course of the year. The trustees consider £750 - £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

In the coming year, we want to:

- complete the Installation of welcome hub at Craiglockhart Terrace entrance
- run a corporate volunteering pilot and further sessions if successful
- continue planting of lower meadow with variety of low lying species using volunteers
- liaise with council regarding twice annual mowing of all meadows
- continue with further tree planting of around 100-200 small native tree species using volunteers
- roll out guided walks for the local elderly residents
- create a variety of wildlife habitats across the hill including a dead hedge and wet open area
- organise an autumnal mushroom guided walk
- organise an Easter egg hunt in 2024.

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

This report was approved by the Trustees on *10th June 2023* and signed on their behalf by:



Jim Heath

Chair

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023, 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)(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



20 JUNE 2023

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts					
Donations		835	2,500	3,335	786
Events		339	-	339	160
Grants		-	10,250	10,250	-
		<u>1,174</u>	<u>12,750</u>	<u>13,924</u>	<u>946</u>
Payments					
Charitable Activities	[5]	525	7,441	7,966	15,598
Governance Costs		-	-	-	-
AGM & members Meetings		-	-	-	-
		<u>525</u>	<u>7,441</u>	<u>7,966</u>	<u>15,598</u>
Net Movement in Funds		649	5,309	5,958	(14,652)
Transfers between funds		(13)	13	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		<u>636</u>	<u>5,322</u>	<u>5,958</u>	<u>(14,652)</u>

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

STATEMENT OF BALANCES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Funds Reconciliation				
Balance as at 1 April 2022	3,651	6,850	10,501	25,153
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	636	5,322	5,958	(14,652)
Balance as at 31 March 2023	4,287	12,172	16,459	10,501
Bank & Cash Balances				
Cash at Bank	4,227	12,172	16,399	10,441
Cash in Hand	60	-	60	60
	4,287	12,172	16,459	10,501
Liabilities	-	-	-	147

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

These accounts were approved by the trustees on *10th June* 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Jim Heath
Chair

Bill Troup
Treasurer

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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 (2022: £Nil).
- b) No personal expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year (2022: £Nil).
- c) There were no transactions with related parties during the year (2022: £Nil).

5. Payments for Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	-	5,805	5,805	9,985
Projects and Land Management	-	972	972	4,895
Printing & Stationery	-	-	-	79
Insurance	-	300	300	300
Consumables	145	301	446	9
Other	380	63	443	330
	525	7,441	7,966	15,598

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6. Movements in Funds

	As at 31/03/2022	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	As at 31/03/2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	3,651	1,174	(525)	(13)	4,287
Restricted Funds					
Community Engagement	6,850	-	(6,850)	-	-
Community Engagement Continuation	-	2,500	-	-	2,500
Happy Valley Garden Project	-	10,000	(328)	-	9,672
Sowing the Seeds of Diversity	-	250	(263)	13	-
	6,850	12,750	(7,441)	13	12,172
Total Funds	10,501	13,924	(7,966)	-	16,459

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.
National Lottery Community Grants	Grant funding received from the National Lottery in 2018 to cover the cost of employing a Community Engagement Worker for a fixed period.
Community Engagement Continuation	Donation received from a private donor to extend the period of employment of a Community Engagement Worker.
Happy Valley Garden Project	Grant funding received from The National Lottery Community Fund to create a Welcome Hub 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.
Sowing the Seeds of Diversity	Grant funding received from Action Earth to engage volunteers from the local community in propagating and planting native wildflowers and trees for the Local Nature Reserve.