

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024

A BEAR
NAMED
BUTT.  NY

MORE THAN JUST A BEAR

30TH NOVEMBER 2024





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A BEAR
NAMED
BUTTONY



Our Report & Inspiration

This is the fifth annual report produced by A Bear Named Buttony. We are delighted to share an update on what has been achieved in 2024 and our plans for 2025.

Everyone in the Buttony family continues to work hard on our core aim of supporting children and young people who have a stoma. We remain a small, volunteer-led charity working to help those who need us across the UK. The charity continues to grow in profile and awareness which enables us to reach more who need the Buttony touch.

Please refer to our annual accounts for governance, objectives and trustee details.

The
inspiration
behind
Buttony



Our Resources

We highlighted in our report last year the resources that we use to support children and young people. These remain at the heart of what we do and the feedback we receive helps us to develop the charity as well as creating ideas for future projects.

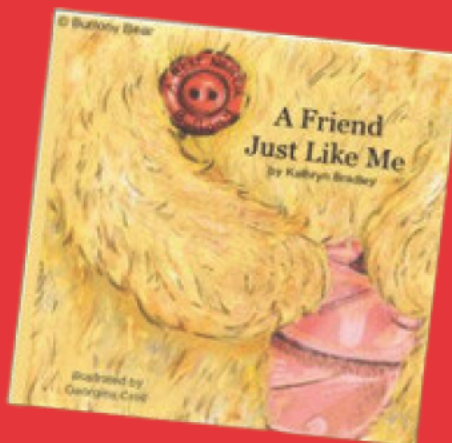
The numbers attached to each resource shows our distribution numbers for the year up to 30th November 2024.

Buttony Bear – 933



“What an extraordinary creation Buttony is. He has been immediately promoted to “top of the bed” and was cuddled all night and first thing this morning”.

A Friend Just Like Me – 2,571



“He loves the book. He gets me to read him and bear the book at least five times a day”.

Buttony Colouring Book – 5,058



“I received Buttony bear and the lovely books today. The tears I cried. Thank you so much”.



Our Resources

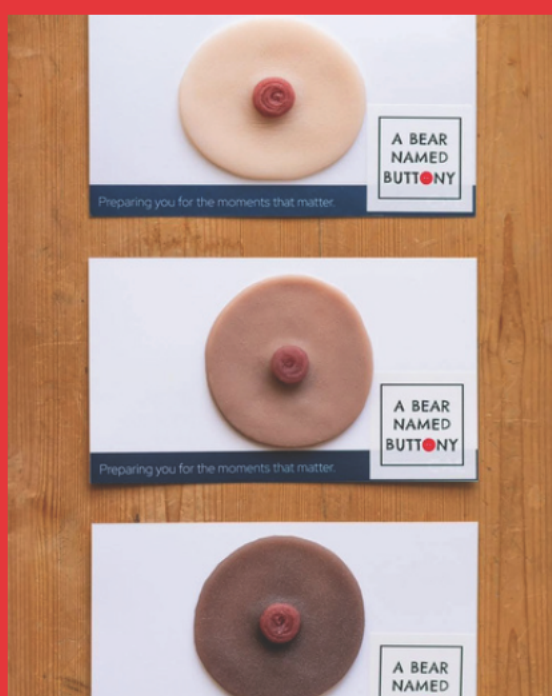
Young Adult Packs – 313

“My amazing son received a fantastic kit bag from you...it was just brilliant”.



Our resources - Young Adult Packs

- Support for teenagers and young adults aged 14-25 identified as a “gap”
- Developed in consultation with stoma nurses, and young people, across the UK



Stoma Models – 41

“Love, love, love the new stoma models. Could we have more please?”.



Our Achievements

Everyone in the Buttony team contributes their time, skills and expertise on a purely voluntary basis. This allows us to keep our costs to a minimum so that we can maximise the benefits of our income for those who need our support.

Our achievements continued to grow in 2024, with some of the highlights being:



Our core aim of sending Buttony Bear and our other resources to families continues to flourish and expand.



We are investing even more trustee and volunteer time in attending events to raise awareness of the Buttony brand.



The educational pack for primary schools was further developed in 2024, with the aim of launching this in 2025.



Development work started in 2024 on the second Buttony storybook which will become available in 2025.



The Buttony team continues to grow with the recruitment of new volunteers.



Our relationship with stoma nurses across the UK is a key priority to ensure we reach families who need our support.



The Board continues to strengthen the efficient and safe running of the charity and this includes the development of policies and best practice ways of working. Please see our annual accounts for more details.

"Many thanks, as always, for your generosity and for making such a positive difference to our stoma children's lives!"





Our Buttony Calendar

We were kept busy in 2024, including an increased attendance at local and national events. The calendar included:



- Ileostomy Association Conference in London in April.
- Society of Health Play Specialist Conference at UCLH in June.
- Aberdeen Stoma Information Day in August.
- Buttony was on the telly in September as part of the BBC2 Saving Lives in Cardiff. Thank you to the Buttony friend and his family who beautifully demonstrated the positive impact Buttony has had.
- Max's Trust Conference in Warwick in September.
- Association of Stoma Nurse Conference in Glasgow in September.
- Scottish Motor Trade Association event in October.
- Glasgow Ileostomy Association conference held in Stirling in October.
- Attendance throughout the year at Young People's Initiative events at local schools.
- The Buttony costume was created this year and has already proven to be very popular at events. Thanks to Canterbury Bears for creating this.



Our Future Plans

Buttoney Bear will be 10 years old in 2025 and we plan to have fun! A series of events will be organised for our anniversary year, with the focus being celebratory and information sharing rather than active fundraising. These events will include:

- ◆ The launch of the second Buttoney storybook.
- ◆ Fun events and activities for children and families to participate in e.g. Buttoney Bear Drive.
- ◆ Events in our local home base of Ballater, Aberdeenshire, to show appreciation for the support of the community where most of our volunteers are based. A ceilidh and Buttery morning are under development.

Other plans include:

- ◆ Increasing participation in national stoma forums e.g. National Neonatal Surgical Interest Group.
- ◆ Development of flash cards for children with additional needs and a stoma pouch.
- ◆ Continuing to work with young people and stoma nurses.
- ◆ Our research project is progressing with the appointment of a research fellow.





Thank you to our Buttony families. It remains a pleasure to see the impact Buttony continues to have and we are grateful to all who give us feedback on what we do.

Our continued gratitude to the teams of stoma nurses across the country who are our main connection to the families who need us.

Thank you to our Buttony team of volunteers. You are the driving force behind the charity and each and every one of you should continue to be proud of what is achieved.

We would like to acknowledge the support of Pelican who provide us with Buttony's pouches free of charge.

An honorary mention must also go to Amber Computing who have supported Buttony from the start with digital support and expertise.

"Together with the book the bear is the perfect tool to explain to my daughter. Thank you from the absolute bottom of my heart. You have helped make an absolutely awful week bearable and I will never forget that".





**Signed on
behalf of the
charity trustees:**

Print Name:



Designation:

Chair

Date:

01/07/2025



Declaration



A BEAR
NAMED
BUTTONY



www.buttonybear.org.uk



A Bear Named Buttony SCIO

Scottish Charity No – SC049781

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 November 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 30 November 2024

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 30 November 2024.

Charity name

A Bear Named Buttony SCIO

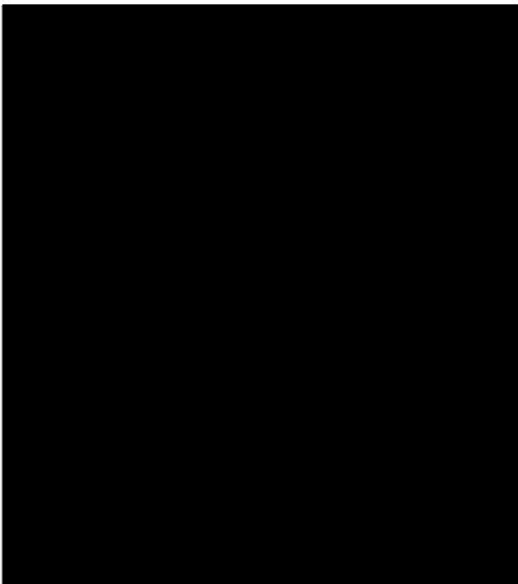
Charity no

SC049781

Address

c/o Amber Computing Limited, Tillyneuk, 28 Pannanich Road, Ballater, Aberdeenshire AB35 5PA

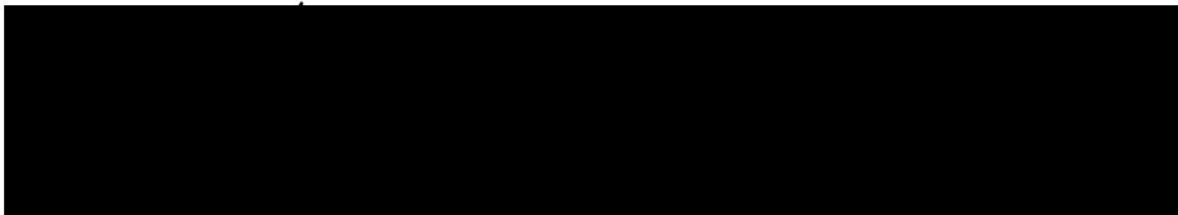
Trustees on Date Annual Report Approved



Other trustees during the year to 30 November 2024



Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Structure Governance and Management

Governing Document

A Bear Named Buttony was first registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) on 26 November 2019 and has a written constitution.

Changes to the original constitution have been made as follows:

Amendment to permit virtual Board meetings and virtual AGM, notified to OSCR 20 November 2020

Amendment to charitable purposes, approved by OSCR 21 February 2024

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees. The roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are clearly defined; these office bearers are elected by Board members. Members retire and may be re-appointed in accordance with the constitution. The maximum number of the charity's trustees is 12. The Board consider that the current cohort of 10 members have the requisite skills and experience to support the charity in achieving its stated purposes.

Trustees comprises a mixture of individuals with personal, specific interest in stomas, bowel disease, business knowledge and clinical expertise. Trustees who apply, or are approached, to join the Board attend an interview, sign the statutory declaration and are provided with a Trustee Pack. New Trustees are supported by existing Board members as they familiarise themselves with the charity's operations and projects.

At the AGM on 21 January 2024, the Board resolved, under the terms of the constitution, to create the following additional office bearers:

- Vice Chair, who will deputise for/ share duties of the Chair as required.
- Founder; to be held by [REDACTED] until she ceases to be a Trustee, or gives signed notice of resignation from that office.

The 2024 AGM was held on 21 January 2024 followed by regular Board meetings throughout the year:

- 21 January 2024
- 24 March 2024
- 26 May 2024
- 14 July 2024
- 6 October 2024

Charitable purposes

A Bear Named Buttony has the following purposes as set out at paragraph 4 of our constitution:

- 4.1 To support children and young people with a stoma, by providing a specially created teddy bear, "A Bear Named Buttony". The bear is a CE approved toy, adapted by volunteers, with a button stoma in the same position as the child's own stoma. Buttony Bear has proved to bring instant friendship, support and comfort to a child and their family. This makes the transition from undergoing surgery to living with a stoma less traumatic.
- 4.2 To support, educate and raise public awareness about life with a stoma. There is a stigma attached to living with a stoma. We aim to reduce that stigma by giving presentations about our work to interested groups and health professionals. We intend to develop and distribute an educational pack created specifically for nursery and primary school children.
- 4.3 To support the work of paediatric stoma nurses by supplying appropriate resources. We shall develop initiatives to support and enhance the lives of children, young people and their families living with a stoma.

At the AGM of 21 January 2024, the Board agreed unanimously not to pursue the establishment of a dedicated online forum to support parents and carers. A revised purpose 4.3 (see above) was drafted and subsequently approved by OSCR.

Main activities and achievements of the charity

These are detailed in our Trustees Report and Annual review 2024 available on our website <https://www.buttonybear.com/>

Policy on Reserves

The Board calculate that reserves equal to 6 months of the previous year's unrestricted expenditure (adjusted for inflation) are required to allow the charity to maintain a continuous service to the children and young people who are supported by the charity.

Reserves for 2025 are £60,000.

Details of any deficit

The accounts for the year show a total surplus of £13,495.

Donated services and facilities

Volunteer hours

The trustees are grateful to over 70 volunteers who give freely of their time and play a vital role in the running of the charity. This helps to keep costs and overheads to a minimum and allows us to respond quickly and effectively to requests for support from children, young people, their families and stoma nurses.

Storage and premises

A Bear Named Buttony has no permanent or leased premises. Trustees and volunteers donate space in their homes to store products ready for dispatch. Assembling young adult packs, sewing and postal preparations, amongst other tasks, are all undertaken in the houses of volunteers. We are extremely appreciative of the volunteers and families who accommodate our work in this way.

IT support

All IT services and support are provided pro-bono by Amber Computing Ltd. The Board thank the Directors and staff at Amber for their continued and generous support.

Stoma pouches

A Bear Named Buttony supports children and young people with a stoma by providing a specially created teddy bear. The bear is a UKCE approved toy, adapted by volunteers, with a button stoma in the same position as the child's own stoma.

Buttony's stoma pouches are specially manufactured to comply with UKCA regulations and donated by Pelican Healthcare Ltd. The Board are very grateful to Pelican Healthcare Ltd for meeting the costs of this key element in the production of our bears.

Amazon Wish-list

Our supporters gifted items to the value of £1,197 from our Amazon Wish List. Products on the list, such as fabric, stationery, and small items for our young adult or urostomy packs are essential to our operation. We are indebted to everyone who purchased these items and helped to cover our costs.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 November 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 30/11/2024	Period ended 30/11/2023
Receipts				
Donations (<i>Note 8</i>)	88,839	2,750	91,589	67,958
Fundraising	-	-	-	-
Transfer of funds from Breakaway Charity	-	-	-	-
Receipts from charitable activities	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	<u>88,839</u>	<u>2,750</u>	<u>91,589</u>	<u>67,958</u>
Payments				
Fundraising costs	-	-	-	-
Cost of charitable Activities (<i>Notes 5 & 9</i>)	74,227	2,052	76,279	58,543
Governance costs	570	-	570	450
Purchase of equipment	1,245	-	1,245	-
Total payments	<u>76,042</u>	<u>2,052</u>	<u>78,094</u>	<u>58,993</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	12,797	698	13,495	8,965
Transfers between funds (<i>Note 7</i>)	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>12,797</u>	<u>698</u>	<u>13,495</u>	<u>8,965</u>

Statement of Balances - As at 30 November 2024

	Unrestricted Funds (Note 2)	Restricted Funds (Note 2)	Total 2024	Total 2023
Opening cash at bank and in hand	64,844	4,399	69,243	60,278
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	12,797	698	13,495	8,965
Closing cash at bank and in hand	<u>77,641</u>	<u>5,097</u>	<u>82,738</u>	<u>69,243</u>

Bank and Cash Balances

Bank account	77,641	5,097	82,738	69,243
	<u>77,641</u>	<u>5,097</u>	<u>82,738</u>	<u>69,243</u>

Other assets - unrestricted fund

Assets – Laptop	883	883
Assets - Shed	1,245	-
	<u>2,128</u>	<u>883</u>

Liabilities (unrestricted fund)

Creditors	<u>570</u>	<u>570</u>
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Included in creditors is £570 relating to the governance cost relates to the independent examiner's fee.

**Notes to the accounts - for the year ended 30
November 2024**

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

2 Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the charity.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. During the year the Charity received £1,000 from the Jellie Foundation, which was a restricted fund to be allocated to the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire areas. The Charity also received £750 from the Yorkshire Bank, which was a restricted fund to be allocated to the Aberdeen area.

In addition, during the year the Charity received £500 from Country Pursuits Lodge of West Lancashire, Kirkham Lodge and £500 from Cleveleys. Both these Charity donations were restricted funds to be allocated to the Blackpool area.

3 Grants payable

No grants were paid during the year.

4 Trustee remuneration

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee, or person connected to a Trustee.

5 Trustee expenses

During the year travel expenses totalling £2,629 were repaid for four of the Charity Trustees and one volunteer to attend conferences throughout the year – WCET, ERIC, IA Open Day, Play Specialists Conference & Max's Trust.

6 Related party transactions

During the year there were no transactions incurred between the Charity and any Charity Trustee or person connected to a Charity Trustee.

7 Transfer between funds

There were no transfers between unrestricted and restricted funds during the year.

8 Donations

Income increased by 34% compared to the previous year. Donations totalling £13,650 were made up by four corporate donors. The balance represents fundraising, donations and sponsorship from many individuals and regular supporters.

9 Cost of charitable activities

Expenses remained stable, despite the cost-of-living pressures.

Main areas of spending (to nearest £100) were:

Bears	£37,500
Stoma Training Models	£17,200
Young Adult Packs	£3,800
Colouring Books & Sheets	£2,700
New Book Illustration	£2,500
Postage	£3,900

Costs represent the amounts paid in the year and includes payments for stock to be used in our first quarter of operations in 2025.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of A Bear Named Buttony

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 November 2024.

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.

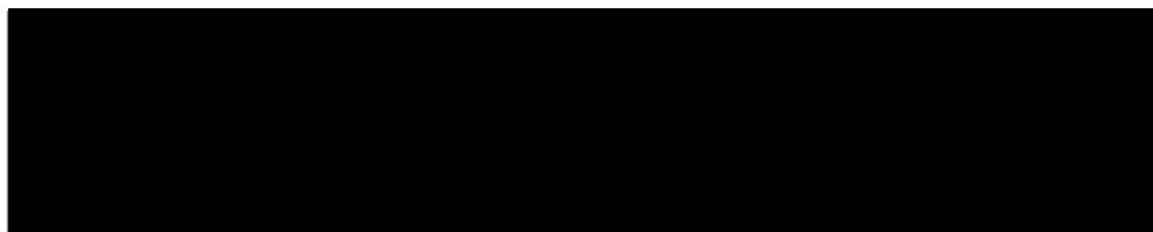
Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 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.



4 August 2025