

BEN LEDI VIEW COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SCIO

(A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Annual Report & Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 March 2024



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

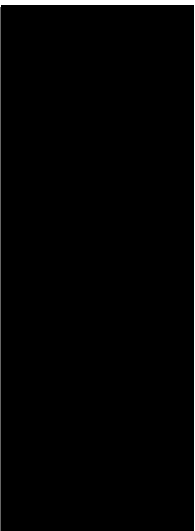
The trustees are pleased to present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

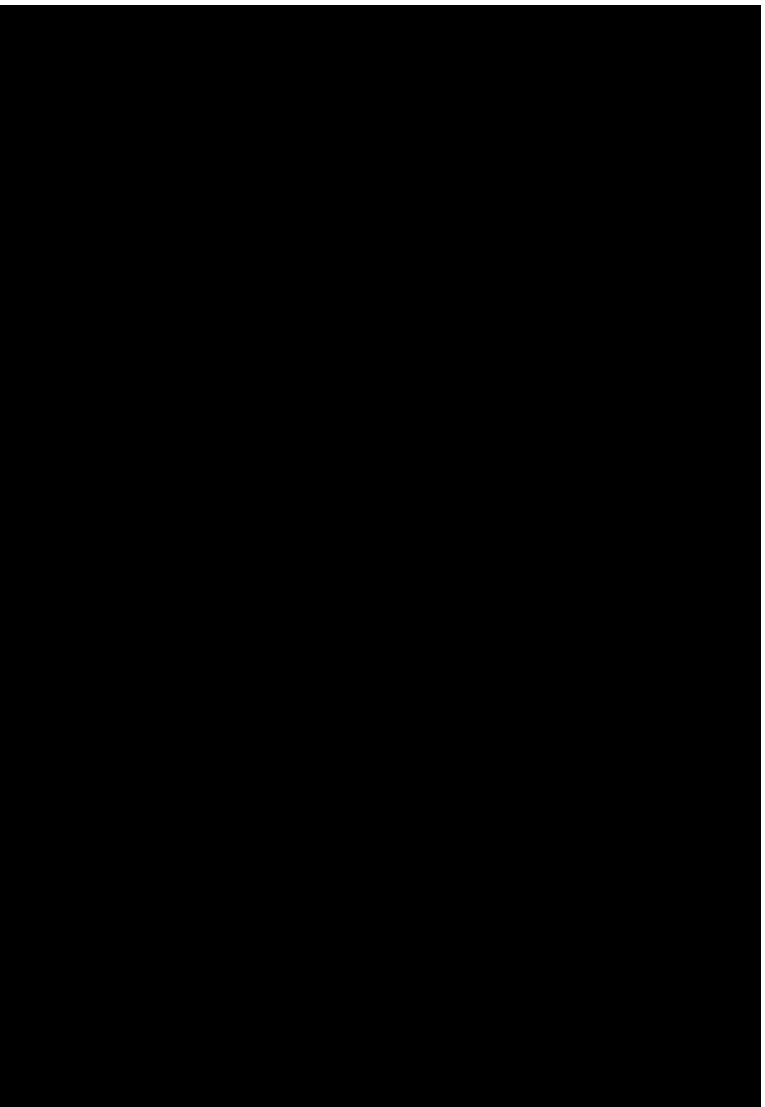
Charity Name Ben Ledi View Community Newspaper SCIO

Charity Number SC043744

Principal Address



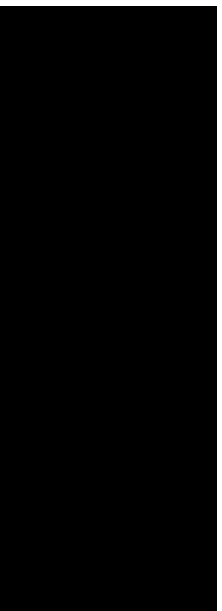
Website Address benlediview.org



Bankers

Bank of Scotland
Callander Branch
Main Street
Callander
FK17 8BD

Independent Examiner



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Ben Ledi View Community Newspaper SCIO is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) which was registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Register on 30th January 2013. It is a single tier SCIO with the Charity Trustees being the only members and comprise the organisation's Board.

Appointment of Trustees

Charity Trusteeship is open to any person aged 16 or over. Any person who wishes to become a trustee with the charity must sign a written application which will then be considered by the Board. The constitution allows for a minimum of six and a maximum of twelve trustees. The trustees are elected at the AGM and retire at the following AGM but are eligible for re-election.

OBJECTS & ACTIVITIES

The charity has been established to advance citizenship and community development within the area of Callander. The main activity to achieve this is the production of a free community newspaper by volunteers in the community, for the community. This newspaper informs readers of relevant local issues, facilities, services, voluntary organisations, and encourages participation in community affairs and events, and promotes a sense of community feeling and responsibility for the welfare of the community and its surrounding area.

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

During this financial year we have continued to publish an issue of the newspaper every 2 months as planned, producing a high quality, much valued magazine, delivered free of charge to all households in Callander and continue to get positive feedback from our readers and much appreciated regular support from our advertisers. This continued throughout the Covid-19 restrictions and subsequently as a result of the dedication of our volunteers and the newspaper continues to be welcomed by the community

The business model adopted by the Trustees remains that of retaining all the Editorial and Publishing aspects of the production of the newspaper and its Distribution in-house, with only the actual printing being outsourced. This model was adopted primarily because the Trustees believed and still believe that the reduced skill required if the publishing process was outsourced made volunteering for the BLV less attractive for a number of people. This approach continues to be kept under review.

Our ongoing campaign for volunteer recruitment produced a response during the year despite Covid restrictions; we had a number of new volunteers across the range of the organisation's activities, reinforcing and refreshing our existing team, including the editorial side. We held an event to attract new volunteers which produced a number of new recruits we were very pleased to be able to hold our annual distributors' buffet and quiz in September 2023, which was well received, as it provided an opportunity to thank the volunteer distribution team and for volunteers to meet each other, network and so to build the team. We will be holding another in September 2024.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

The income for the year was £12,539 (2023: £13,904) reflecting a reduction in advertising revenue due to financial pressure on businesses. Expenditure was £13,170 (2023: £12,180); the figure for the current year reflected higher print costs of £1,856 whilst the 2023 figure included Donations of £1,000. The overall result was a (Deficit)/Surplus of £(631), (2023: £1,724), which was deducted to the charity's Reserves.

Reserves Policy

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

As all the funds of the charity are unrestricted the reserves at the 31st March 2024 were £33,812, (2023: £34,443). The trustees have agreed that the Charity should hold Reserves of a minimum of 12 months normal Operating Costs, £12,000. Reserves are currently in excess of this figure but given the continuing financial uncertainties, the Trustees believe this to be an appropriately prudent approach.

FUTURE PLANS

The Trustees have and will continue to review if any actions are required to keep volunteers safe. The Business Plan is to be reviewed in the light of current economic conditions and a three year 2024/26 plan is to be produced during 2023/24 based on the current trading conditions.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the trustees on 3 December 2024

and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee

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

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Ben Ledi View Community Newspaper SCIO
I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

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.

Dated: 3 December 2024

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

	<u>Note</u>	Total 2024	Total 2023
Receipts		£	£
Donations		265	5
Interest Received		128	19
Advertising within Newspaper		11,861	13,670
Membership Subs		285	210
		<u>12,539</u>	<u>13,904</u>
Payments			
Charitable Activities	5	12,720	10,830
Governance Costs		350	350
		<u>13,070</u>	<u>11,180</u>
Purchase of Laptop Computer		-	-
Donations		100	1,000
		<u>13,170</u>	<u>12,180</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		<u>(631)</u>	<u>1,724</u>

All funds are unrestricted

The Notes on pages 9 form an integral part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF BALANCES
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Total 2024	Total 2023
Funds Reconciliation		
Balance as at 01 April 2023	£	£
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	34,443	32,719
Balance as at 31 March 2024	(631)	1,724
	33,812	34,443
Bank & Cash Balances		
Bank of Scotland – Treasurer’s Account	13,553	20,772
Bank of Scotland - Deposit Account	20,171	10,043
Pay Pal Account	28	3,568
Cash in Hand	60	60
	33,812	34,443
Other Assets		
Computer Equipment	2,599	2,599
Unpaid Invoices	1,578	1,578
	4,177	4,177
Liabilities		
Independent Examination Fee	350	350
	350	350

All funds are unrestricted.

The Notes on pages 9 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 3 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 basis 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) Designated funds are unrestricted funds that the trustees have set aside for particular purposes. The designation is administrative only and does not restrict the trustees' ability to apply the funds.
- (c) 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.
- (d) At the end of the financial year all of the charity's funds were unrestricted.

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 or any persons connected with them during the year (2023: £Nil).
- (b) No expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year (2023: £Nil).
- (c) The charity's insurance policy includes trustee indemnity insurance cover for all of its trustees.

5. Analysis of Payments

	Total	
	2024	2023
Printing Costs	£ 8,886	£ 7,030
Postage & Stationery	43	-
IT & Website	302	491
Bad Debt	90	-
Volunteer Expenses	567	469
Hall Hire	128	175
Insurance	453	456
Crossword Prizes	40	-
Software	2,157	2,158
Sundries	20	-
Bank Charges	34	51
	12,720	10,830