

# OSCr

**Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	04	2023	To	31	03	2024

Charity name

## West Fife Woodlands Group

Other names charity is known by

WFWG

Registered charity number

SC048093

**Charity's principal address**

**Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1				
2				
3				
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**Reference and administration details**

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name

Date of resignation

**Structure, governance and management**

Type of governing document

Constitution of West Fife Woodlands Group SCIO

Trustee recruitment and appointment

See Clauses 58 to 63 of the above constitution

**Objectives and activities**



## Charitable purposes

- 1) The Charity will be non-profit distributing which aims to conserve, preserve, and protect the woodland areas of West Fife for the benefit of the general public and in particular, but without prejudice to the foregoing generality throughout Fife. The charity's principal objectives are a) The advancement of citizenship and community development through participation and inclusion for the persons for whom the West Fife Woodlands preservation are primarily intended. b) The provision, in the interests of social welfare, facilities for recreational or other leisure-time occupations with a view to improving quality of life. c) The advancement of environmental protection or improvement and relevant activity that furthers the overall purposes.

In furtherance of these purposes the charity seeks to:

- 1.1 Do all lawful things which are deemed to further the purposes of the group.

## Summary of the main activities In relation to these objectives

- a) Weekly workouts for volunteer members,
- b) Maintenance and construction of paths in West Fife,
- c) Maintenance of hedgerows, woodlands, orchards, and meadows
- d) Management of events that engage with the West Fife community typically walks and the annual Snowdrop Festival.
- e) Habitat enhancement for the flora and fauna with guidance from expert bodies e.g. British Dragonfly Society.

## APPENDIX 1

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## Achievements and performance



Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period. See separate file (Report on achievements).

Financial review



**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

West Fife Woodlands Group will retain in reserves sufficient funds to cover basic running costs of the group for one financial year.

Basic running costs shall include:

- 1) Administration, accommodation and meetings,
- 2) Fuel for machinery,
- 3) Repair and maintenance of machines,

 WFWG Treasurer

(For the financial year 2024/2025 this estimated to be £2,000.)

**Details of any deficit**

None

**Donated facilities and services (if any)**

None

**APPENDIX 1**

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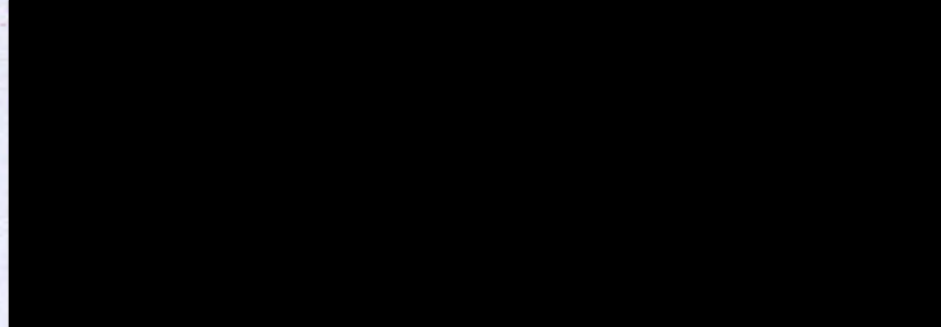
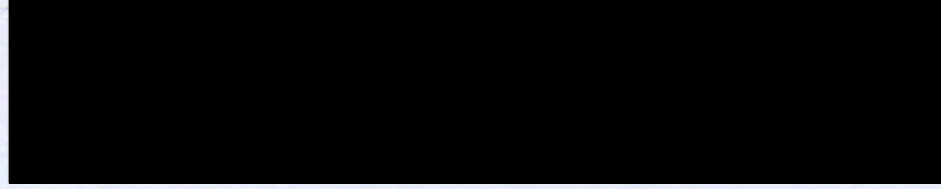
**Other optional information**



## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)		
Position (e.g. Chair)	CHAIR	
Date	11 DEC 2024	



## **Report on WFWG achievements during the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.**

During 2023/2024 WFWG undertook more than 2,426 hours of volunteer work. This was mainly undertaken on Forestry and Land Scotland (F&LS) Balgownie Wood, F&LS Muirside, Valleyfield Woodland Park (VWP), the Fife Council Bing sites, a water meadow and on private land. It also undertook work to support local community councils by utilising the skills we possess.

This volunteer work was usually undertaken on Monday mornings from 09:30 to 12:30. Additional work was undertaken when circumstances required. Some of the additional works have required the hire of machinery and its utilisation for a few days at a time. Well done to the team of volunteers who put in the extra hours.

During the spring, summer and autumn the vegetation and grass on the path network, plus the grass in the orchard grow continuously resulting in multiple visits to maintain control. All of this means that our machinery and tools require regular maintenance by some of our dedicated volunteers with the aptitude and enthusiasm to undertake this work.

So, we are delighted that our "band" of volunteers keeps expanding. New blood reduces the age profile of the group and gives us additional experience, skills, and enthusiasm.

WFWG has a highly active Facebook page where members of the group and local people record their wildlife sightings, and experiences in the West Fife area. The site has more than 11,000+ Followers.

## **Regular activities and events:**

- The annual Snowdrop Walks were held in February and early March. The numbers were disappointing, and this was mainly due to the poor weather but those who came enjoyed their guided tour and gave generous donations. The volunteers at the Shiresmill Therapy Riding Centre (STRC) provided hot drinks and snacks for the walk participants. A large number of visitors follow the trail independently using the leaflets available at the STRC car park. After the Snowdrops die back the group replanted some of them to improve the display for the following years. Promotion of the walks is essential for their success and word of mouth is considered to be one of the best ways to facilitate this.
- The West Fife Woodland Way continued to be used by both local and regional visitors to West Fife. Another 1000 trifold leaflets had to be printed to cope with demand. Users of the WFWW always comment on how it is well maintained and waymarked. During the year work has been undertaken adjacent to the Walled Garden and the Plague Graves to improve the quality of the route.
- The "WhatsApp" group was divided into two groups: one for trustees and the other for group members. Both are well used.
- The Ness by the side of the Forth at Torryburn was tidied up by cutting back foliage and encroaching trees.
- Benches and picnic tables were installed at various sites in West Fife, as were pedestrian gates and dismounting blocks for the use of horse riders.
- Bird, Bat, Owl, and Pine Marten boxes were installed and sometimes re positioned in local woodlands.
- Regular litter picks took place and fallen trees blocking paths removed as required.



- Volunteers from outside organisations have also helped with the ongoing maintenance of various sites. These have included volunteers from Amazon, Sky and the Scouts.
- We were once again able to hold a Christmas meal for the group's volunteers. Thanks to [REDACTED] for organising this event at the Adamson Hotel in Cairneyhill.

## Purchases:

- With funding from Forward West Fife we were able to purchase clothing for volunteers to wear at workout sessions.
- With funding from Forward West Fife we were able to purchase tools to replace existing ones that were beginning to show their age.
- With funding from Fife Housing Group of £1,500 we were able to purchase a new container to house our growing collection of mechanised tools.
- With monies from a Fife Council grant we purchased two mechanised flails, two mechanised, tracked barrows and a mini-digger, chipper and pressure washer.
- The large trailer used by the group to transport equipment has been completely refurbished. Thanks to the volunteers who undertook this work.

## Projects:

- A meeting was held in 2023 with Kate Fuller of Inner Forth Futures and [REDACTED] the Fife Council Archaeologist to discuss the work and funding required to stabilise the ruined property known as Tam's Cottage. It is located within Valleyfield Woodland Park. We have cleared the ground surrounding the cottage and stone that was lying within the cottage. Stabilisation work by a council approved contractor is expected to start in 2025. This work is to be funded by Inner Forth Futures.
- Eventually permissions and funding for the construction of a footbridge over the Bluthernburn on the F&LS Muirside site near Saline were obtained. The timber, metal work (provided by F&LS), and fixings were quickly obtained. In September 2023 the bridge was completed by WFWG volunteers supported by local contractors and F&LS bridge engineer [REDACTED]. Funding was provided by Fife Environment Trust (FET) and the Scottish Mines Restoration Trust (SMRT). This has been a difficult project to progress and has taken at least 3 years from conception until delivery. We believe that WFWG has been instrumental in making this project happen.
- Scottish Mines Restoration Trust (SMRT) awarded Saline and Steel-end Community Development Trust (S&SCDT) £60,000 to undertake path works in the locality. A meeting between woodland group trustees, SMRT, and S&SCDT at which funding was agreed for the woodland group to upgrade the path between Saline and Comrie. Consultation with Comrie Opencast and F&LS will be required to progress this project during the 2024/2025 financial year.
- Work to improve paths in VWP continued and the metal bridge over the Bluthernburn was renovated and made more in keeping with its surroundings.

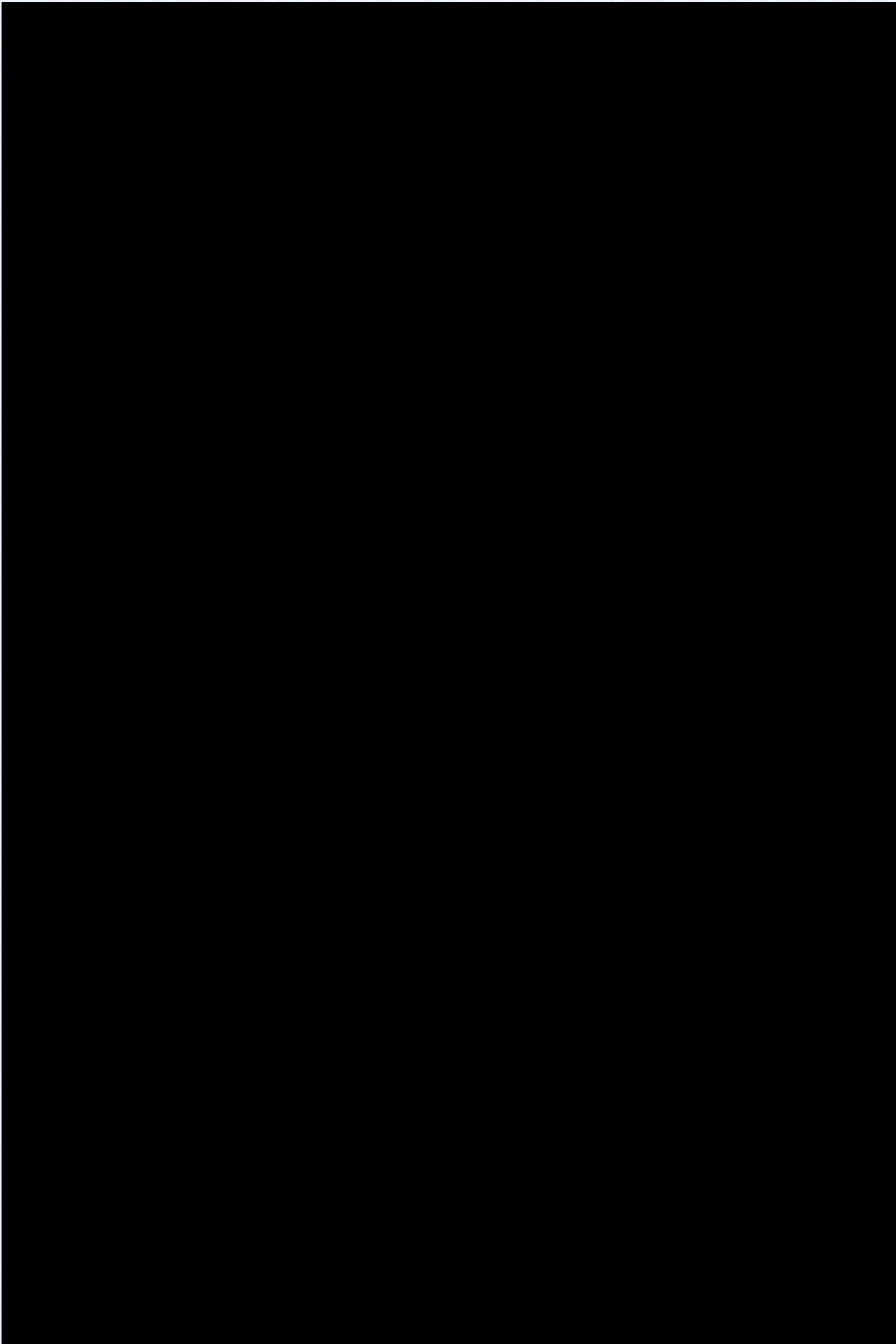


- Work was undertaken to improve the presentation of the walled garden by scaping and grading the sloping ground. This was followed by planting cherry trees, crab apples, azaleas, and daffodils.
- Fifteen fruit trees in the orchard were replaced.
- In October 2023 we held our first "Juicing Day". We used equipment and expertise from Steven Hope a local brewer to slice and crush apples from the VWP orchard plus apples provided by local growers. We were impressed by both the quantity and the quality of the apple juice we produced. Coffee and cake were provided by the STRC and we were well supported by the Scottish Ladies Walking Group who were undertaking the West Fife Woodlands Way. Thanks are due to volunteers from the woodland group and the STRC who provided a site, water and electricity for the event.
- With funds provided by Crossford Community Council the group made major improvements to the footpath running from the main road through the village towards the Keavil House Hotel.

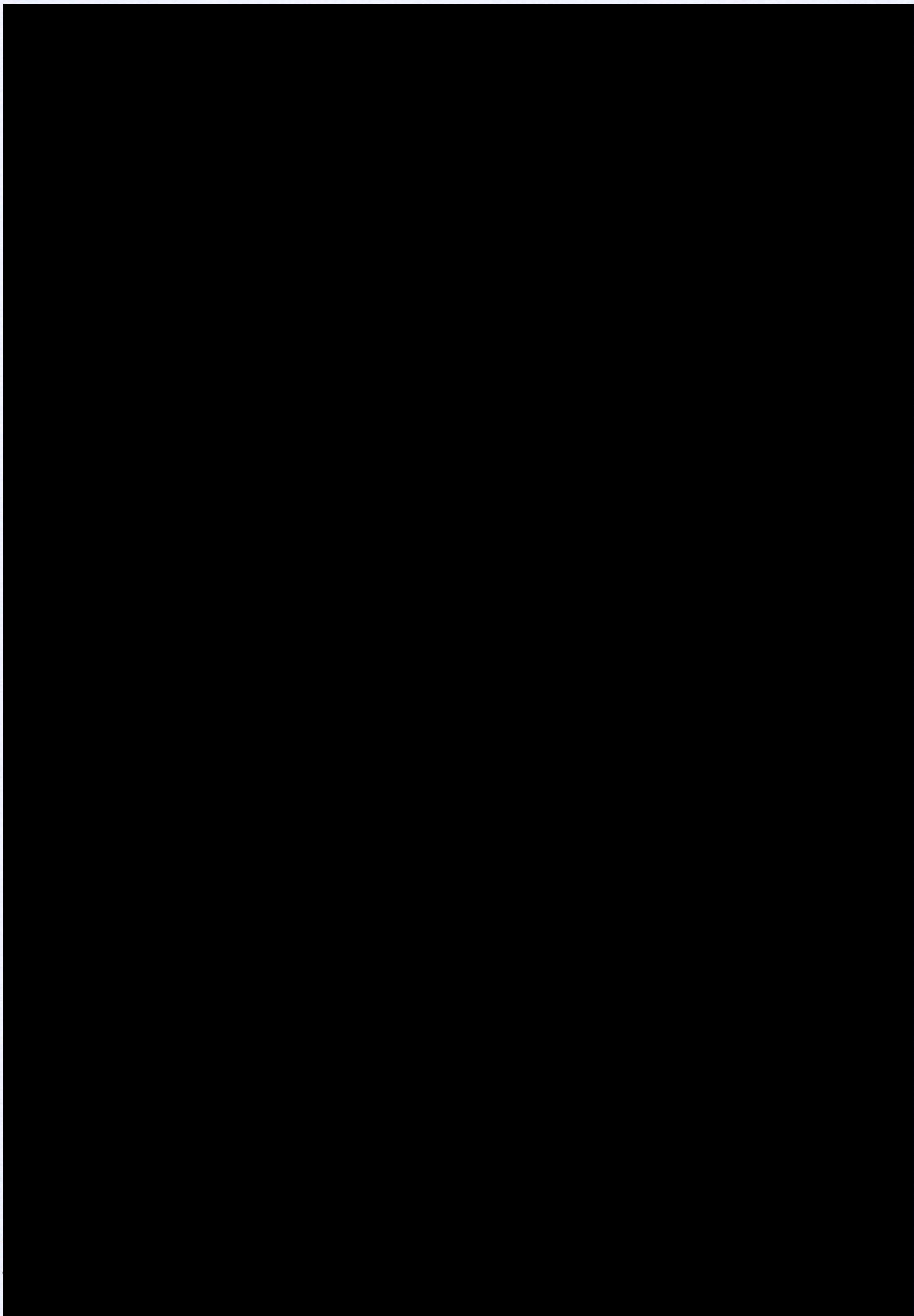
We are a group of 20 to 30 enthusiastic volunteers with a wide assortment of skills and expertise. We get very positive feedback from the local community and hope to continue our works in years to come.

WFWG Trustees.

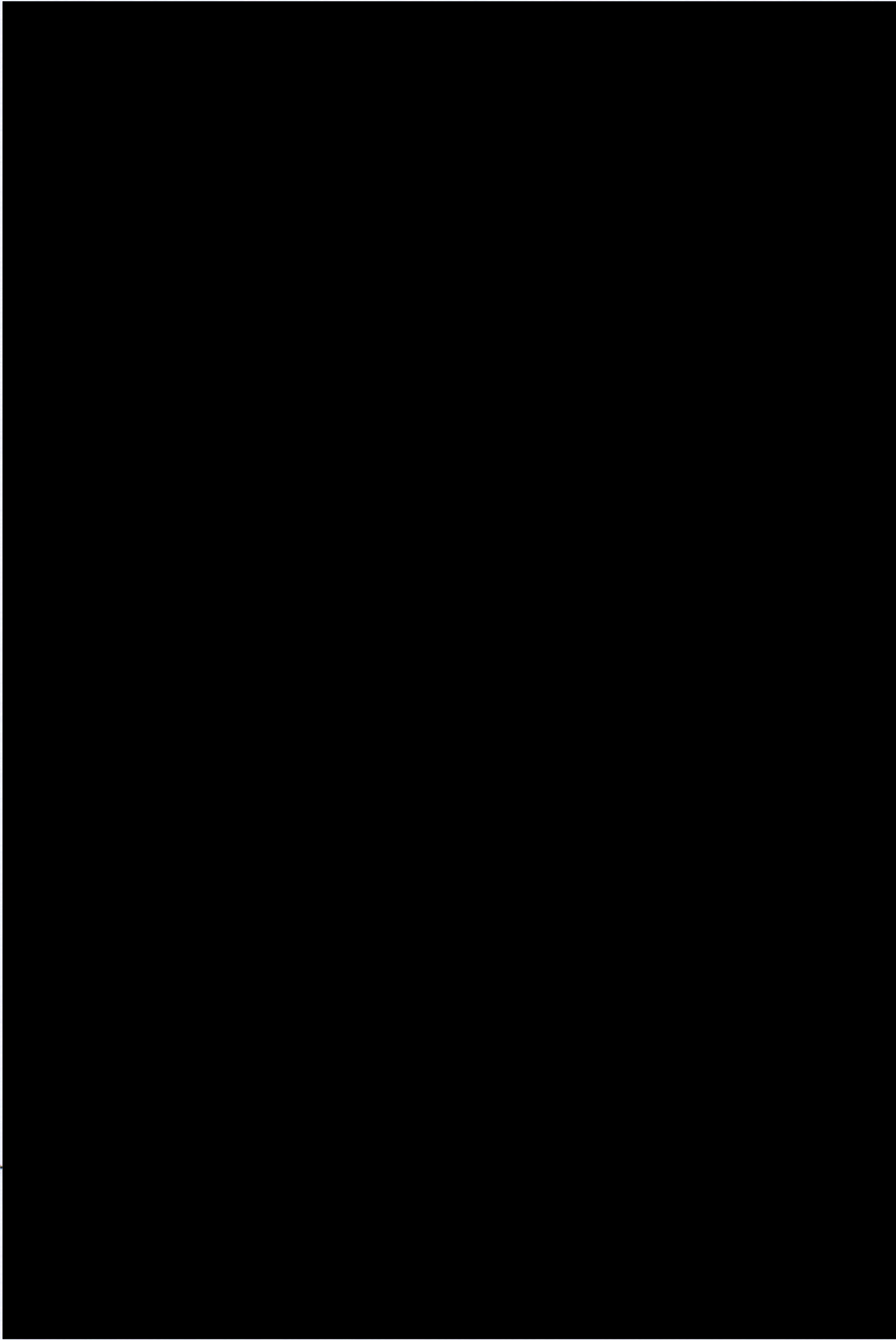




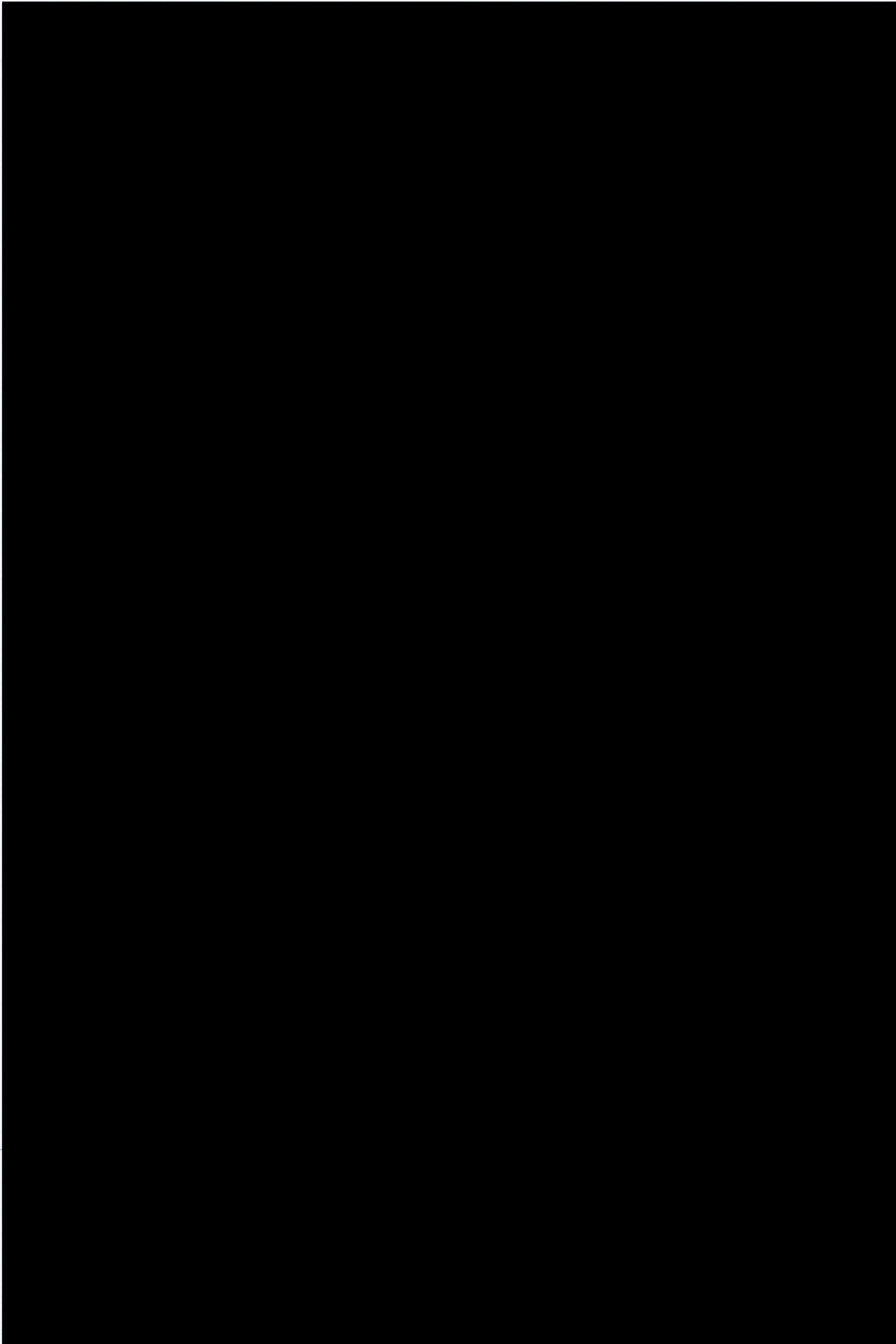




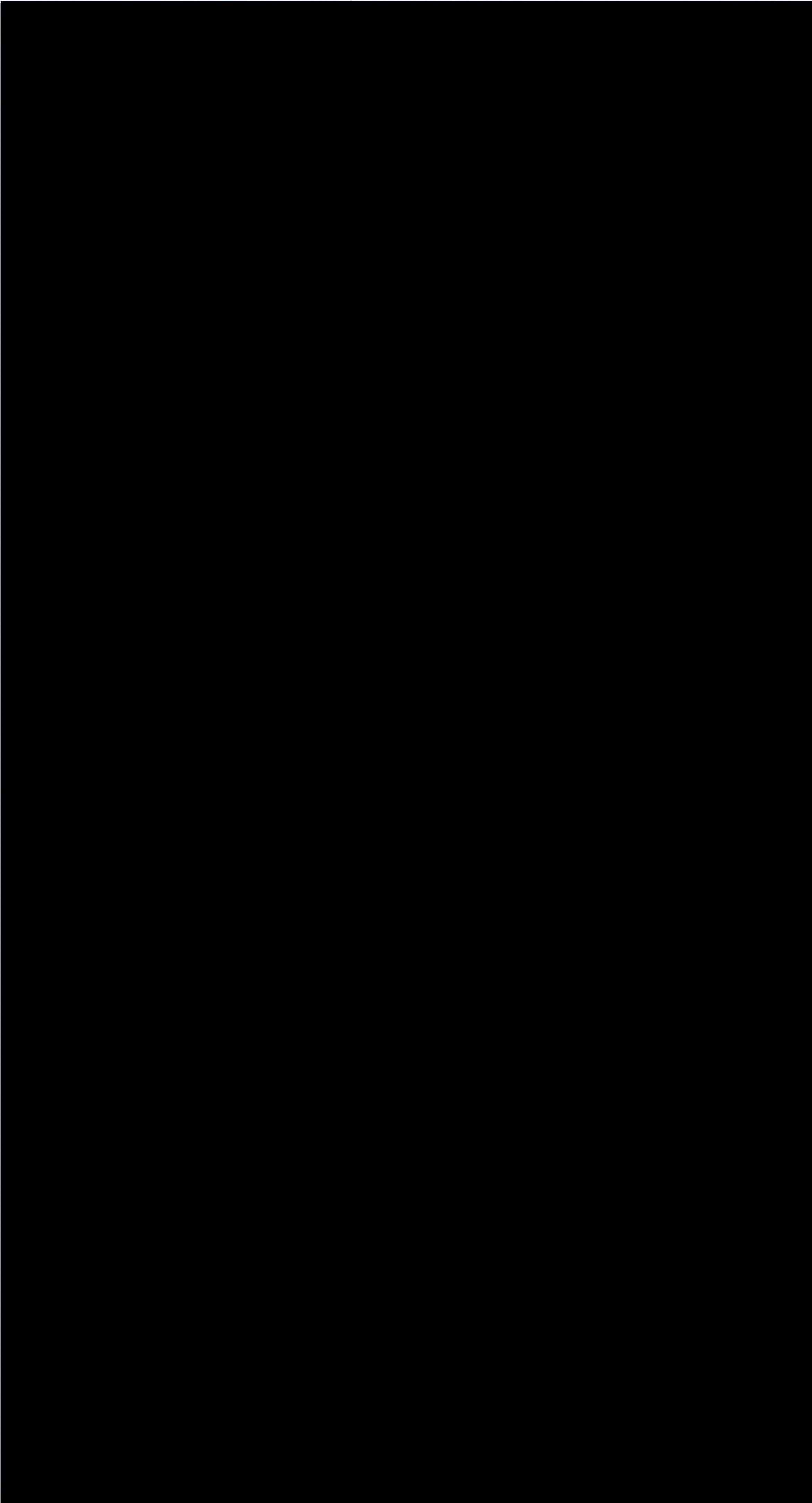














# West Fife Woodlands - Management Accounts

1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024  
Financial Statement

<b>Income</b>	
Opening Balance	£29,212.84
Donations	
Gifts and Donations	£2,678.14
<b>Sales and Services</b>	
Grass cutting at Daley Gardens	£50.00
Sale of Sickie Cutter	£40.00
<b>Subtotal for Sales and Services</b>	£90.00
<b>Grant Income</b>	
Bluthern Burn Bridge Expenditure Reimbursed by S&SCDT	£10,384.92
Fife Housing Group Grant for a new Shipping container	£1,500.00
Climate Action Fife Grants	£1,500.00
Ramblers Worldwide Trust funding for Owl boxes	£1,500.00
Fife Council grant payment via WFW account. Machinery and rainbow bridge grants	£28,650.00
Crossford Community Council for pathworks	£2,500.00
Saline and Steelend CC payment for railway fencing. SMRT monies.	£12,694.80
<b>Subtotal for Grant income</b>	£58,729.72
<b>Total Income</b>	£61,497.86

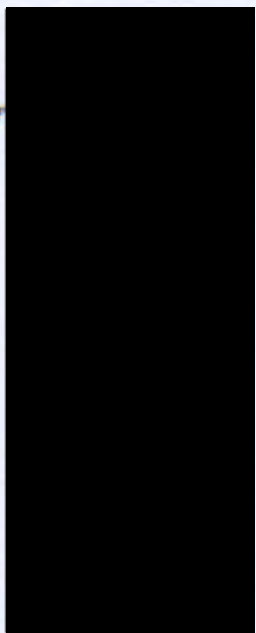


<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>Projects and path works Construction Materials</b>	
Blutherburn Bridge project works	£8,365.86
Forward West Fife Funding for Pine Marten Boxes, Tools, VWP improvements.	£11,373.37
Climate Action Fife	£1,180.00
[REDACTED] Fencing for Old Railway Line	12,694.80
[REDACTED] Bird/Owl Boxes	£1,500.00
Crossford Community Council Pathworks	£998.05
<b>Sub Total for Project Construction Materials</b>	<b>£36,112.08</b>
<b>Tools for projects</b>	
Forward West Fife Funding	£2,897.99
Shipping Containers	£5,933.00
Fife Council Diggers, Flails, Motorised barrows	£15,748.00
<b>Subtotal for Tools for Projects</b>	<b>£24,578.99</b>
<b>Clothing Forward West Fife Funded</b>	<b>£1,580.69</b>
<b>Running Costs</b>	
Fuel	£270.30
Tools Maintenance	£883.80
Safety Equipment	£66.57
<b>Sub Total for Running Costs</b>	<b>£1,220.67</b>
<b>Administrative Items</b>	
Insurance	£501.29
Room rental	£37.60



Donation to STRC	£40.00
Stationery	£142.39
West Fife Woodlands Way Leaflets	£466.00
Sub Total for Administrative items	£1,187.28
Total Expenditure	£64,679.71
Balance Carried Forward	£26,030.99

Balance in accounts at 31/03/2023



16 DEC 2024.



OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

Ordinary section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems

Give more detail of

Examiner's statement to

disclosure

Report to the  
trustees/members ofRegistered charity  
numberOn the accounts of the  
charity for the period

Set out on pages

Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examinerBasis of independent  
examiner's statementIndependent examiner's  
statementIndependent examiner's report on the accounts v2

Charity name

WEST FIFE WOODLANDS GROUP.

SC

048093

Period start date

Day

Month

Year

01

04

2023

to

Period end date

Day

Month

Year

31

03

2024

(remember to include the page  
numbers of additional sheets)

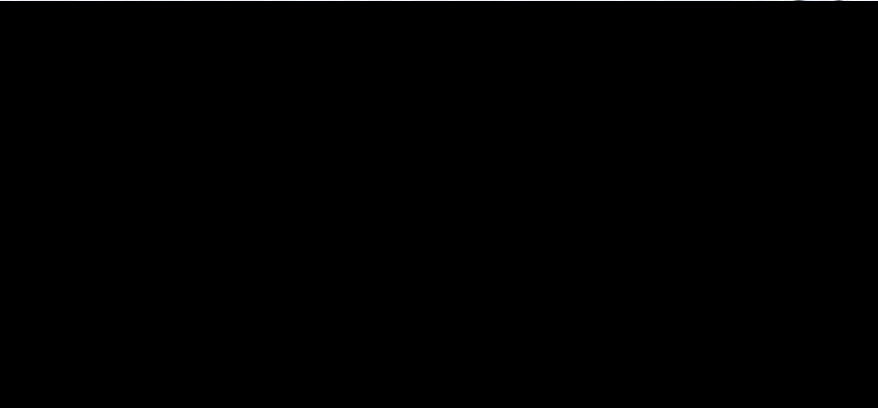
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 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.

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.

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page\*]

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 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2.  should be drawn in order to enable a proper  
be reached.

Signed:

Name:

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Address:

Date:

9/12/24

\*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.



## Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

Report to the trustees of the charity for the period

Set out on pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement

Signed:  
Name:  
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):  
Address: