

Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods

(CIO Number:1169599)

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ending

31st December 2024

The logo for 'outsource' is displayed in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are black and have a slightly irregular, hand-drawn appearance.

Charity accounts preparation &
independent examination service

Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods

(CIO Number:1169599)

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Trustees' Annual Report

From: 01/01/2024

To: 31/12/2024

Charity's full name *Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods*

Registered Charity number **1169599**

Objectives and activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity set out in its governing document

1) To promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of the physical and natural environment of the area known as Gledhow Valley Woods in north Leeds ("the Woods") for the benefit of the general public, including in particular by:

- (a) protecting the natural beauty of the Woods,
- (b) maintaining and improving facilities within the Woods, such as paths and seating,
- (c) promoting biodiversity in the Woods,
- (d) increasing public awareness of the Woods and their conservation, protection and enhancement, and reflecting the opinions and concerns of the wider community in relation to the Woods,
- (e) acting to prevent development in the Woods where such development may be considered damaging the Woods, its flora and fauna or its value as a community amenity,
- (f) working with other groups that have an interest in, control over or responsibility for the Woods in furtherance of the objects of FGVW, including relevant public authorities and other local community groups.

2) To engage in any activities which in the reasonable opinion of the Trustees are conducive, ancillary or incidental to any of the above.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts

- a) FGVW have continued to work with the main landowners, Leeds City Council and the Wades Charity to implement the management plan and remove litter and fly tips.
- b) FGVW own a field in the Woods, called Beck Pasture, and we are managing it as a wild flower meadow to improve biodiversity.
- c) FGVW hold monthly action mornings, doing a range of activities from footpath repairs to meadow management.
- d) The FGVW management plan aims to improve biodiversity in the woods. FGVW manage 6 wild flower meadows and work to eradicate/control invasive species.
- e) The 17th century Bath House, though not owned by FGVW, is opened each year on the national Heritage Open weekend in September.
- f) FGVW liaise with the private landowners where necessary.
- g) The Trustees, Steering group and any project teams liaise with various public bodies, including the main landowners the Wades Charity and Leeds City Council. We are in regular contact with council sectors, Parks and Countryside, Forestry, Land Drainage and Flood Risk Management.
- h) FGVW also consults with outside bodies, including Yorkshire Water, the Woodland Trust, The River Stewardship Company, Groundwork UK.
- i) The FGVW also have ongoing community engagement programmes linking with local primary schools, arts organisations, TCV, a local community centre and numerous other community groups.

The trustees consider that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

The FGVW trustees are pleased to report on another year of progress. 2024 saw the conclusion of a major project to address the silting up of Gledhow lake.

The £130,000 project was made possible thanks to various grant providers, with over half the money provided by Veolia.

The project aimed to manage the flow of silt into Gledhow lake through contouring, altering the flow of the two entry channels, planting of appropriate wetland plants and measures to prevent silt from entering the beck and lake directly. The bulk of the work was completed in 2023 and finished in 2024.

Many thanks to David Miles for steering the project from idea to fruition to completion. FGVW finished in the top 2 for the prestigious Ashden award, as a result of the success of this project.

The monthly action mornings have been well attended and volunteers have undertaken tasks such as dead hedge maintenance, the planting of more hedges along the sides of the woodland, pond clearing, wild flower planting and the annual cutting and raking of David Miles continued to lead the Citizen Science project to monitor water quality, using volunteers to take samples for analysis. The results should help us to understand and hopefully to improve the water quality. After more than the usual number of trees falling dramatically in 2023, the Council Woodlands Officer Lucy Clarke has marked up failing trees with a view to felling in 2025. This action is very welcome as it also creates new habitats as well as making the woodland safer.

FGVW once again attended the Chapel Allerton Arts Festival and we opened the Bath House for one of the Heritage Open Weekends. Thanks to the generosity of Wendy Jones Blackett Ltd in donating discontinued greetings cards, we were able to raise funds at these events. Thanks to all the volunteers for manning the FGVW stall. Also another thank you to WJB Ltd for printing small runs of FGVW Christmas cards at a competitive price. They have proved to be extremely popular and thanks to Steve Jones Blackett for his work in producing these cards.

We still face challenges in trying to manage the woodland. Japanese Knotweed is still with us, despite being on the Leeds City council knotweed map for many years. It still flourishes in places where we had hoped for its eradication. The large area of Bamboo that has spread alarmingly over the last 20 years has been the subject of a standalone project to address this in 2024/25. The Project involved eradication of bamboo where possible and spraying of other areas, along with removal of some trees. The result has been a new open area, with a pond and will hopefully provide much improved biodiversity.

Overall, 2024 was a year of maintenance of existing assets, such as paths, hedges and meadows, along with the Bamboo project. A hearty thank you to all the folk that enable FGVW to function. Adam and Carol Bull for their website and secretarial work, Adrian Coltman and Theresa Williams for enabling the action mornings to take place successfully and safely, Adrian Coltman and Mike Brown and David Lumb for their maintenance work and to Claire Johnson and Emily Wilde for making scrumptious action morning refreshments.

The trustees would like to finish this report by placing on record our grateful thanks to thank Mervyn and Joan Clayton and Trevor and Diane Kitto for their sterling work for FGVW over many years. You will be missed.

Financial review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

The majority of the restricted funds were spent this year, leaving a balance of £1,019. A small surplus was made on the general reserves increasing them slightly to £14,666.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held

The purpose of the Reserves Policy for FGVW is to ensure stability of the ongoing operations of the charity. Reserves are intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in expenses, one-time unbudgeted expenses, unanticipated loss in funding or uninsured losses. The reserves may also be used for one-time, non-recurring expenses that will build long-term capacity, such as investment in infrastructure.

Reserves are not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds or eliminate an ongoing budget gap. It is the intention of FGVW for reserves to be used and replenished within a short period of time. The Reserves Policy will be implemented in concert with other governance and financial policies of FGVW and is intended to support the goals and strategies determined by the Trustees.

The target Minimum Operating reserve has been set at £1000, being equal to one years insurance premium and likely legal fees to deal with any transfer of the land asset on winding up. At this stage, the charity does not have set or predictable operating expenses and financial commitments which need to be accounted for in the Operating Reserve.

An additional sum will be held as part of the Operating reserve to account for costs incurred should a major event such as the Fun day be cancelled. This will be calculated as the average costs of the three preceding Fun days.

Reasons for holding zero reserves

N/A

Funds materially in deficit

None

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern

None

Structure, governance and management**Description of the charity's trusts****Type of governing document** Constitution**How the charity is constituted** CIO

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees Trustees must be drawn from the membership of the CIO

Other names the charity is known by FGVW

Charity's principal address 83, Gledhow Park Avenue
Leeds

Yorkshire
Postcode LS7 4JL

Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Martin Calvert	Chair		
Steve Jones-Blackett	Treasurer		
Naomi Watts-Kitto			
Adrian Coltman	Secretary		

Names and addresses of advisers

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Karen Wood ACMA	Outsource Accounting Services & IE's 2 Galligap Lane Osbalwick, York YO10 3NR
Bankers	HSBC UK Bank PLC	PO Box 105 33 Park Row, Leeds LS1 1LD

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature *MartinPCalvert*

Full Name Martin Calvert
Position Chair
Date 18th April 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods

I report on the accounts of: **Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods**
for the period ended: **31st December 2024** which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Karen Wood (ACMA)

Outsource independent examination
service
2 Galligap Lane
Osbalwick
York YO10 3NR



Date:

Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods
(CIO Number:1169599)

Receipts & payments accounts for the year ending:	31st December 2024
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	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Grants received	-	21,587	21,587	57,500
Donations	600	200	800	338
Events	111	-	111	886
Merchandise sales	2,008	-	2,008	50
Member subscriptions	5	-	5	30
Awards	1,000	-	1,000	-
Total receipts	3,724	21,787	25,511	58,804
Payments				
Groundwork, trees & grass cutting	-	43,354	43,354	38,025
Workshops , events & exhibitions	133	4,461	4,594	66
Signage & information	-	-	-	700
Bat boxes	-	2,450	2,450	-
Water test kits & analysis	-	691	691	-
Materials & action mornings	36	-	36	337
Tools & equipment	60	168	228	1,911
Insurance , subs & licence fees	470	-	470	432
Administration costs	50	-	50	-
Volunteer expenses	120	35	155	-
Merchandise costs	308	-	308	84
Website, advertising & publicity	-	269	269	50
Independent examination	330	-	330	300
Bank charges	67	-	67	68
Total payments	1,574	51,428	53,002	41,973
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,150	(29,641)	(27,491)	16,831
Transfer between funds	318	(318)	-	-
Balance brought forward	12,198	30,978	43,176	26,345
Balance carried forward	14,666	1,019	15,685	43,176

Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods
(CIO Number:1169599)

Statement of assets and liabilities at:		31st December 2024		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Assets				
Cash at bank and in hand				
Current bank account	13,664	1,019	14,683	42,678
Petty cash	1,002	-	1,002	498
	14,666	1,019	15,685	43,176
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Liabilities				
Independent examination fee	350	-	350	330
	350	-	350	330

Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods
(CIO Number:1169599)

Notes to the accounts for the period ended:

31st December 2023

1. Basis of accounts

The Trustees have taken advantage of section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

2. Restricted income funds

Fund name	Purpose
Lakes/ Wetland Phase 2	Groundwork to prepare the Phase 2 plans
Lakes / Wetland Phase 3	Groundwork to prepare the Phase 3 plans
Thriving Communities	Funding to be used in conjunction with volunteer-based input in Gledhow Valley associated with Bushcraft Session for vulnerable men.
NHLF	Funding for the physical work used to create the wetland beds/ponds along Gledhow Valley.
Postcode Lottery	Funding for improvements to water quality in Gledhow Beck,
West Yorkshire Bat Group Conservation	Funding to purchase Bat Boxes.
Climate Action Leeds	Funding for the closure of Gledhow Valley Road and Green Fair to be held Sunday July 14th 2024.
Water monitoring	Ongoing community project to monitor the water quality of Gledhow Beck
Tree Council	Branching Out grant for purchase of trees
LCC Inner NE Leeds Community Committee	Leeds City Council Wellbeing fund

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers btw funds £	Balance c/fwd £
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	12,198	2,724	1,574	318	13,666
Designated for lake/wetland planting	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
	<u>12,198</u>	<u>3,724</u>	<u>1,574</u>	<u>318</u>	<u>14,666</u>
Restricted Funds					
Lakes/ Wetland Phase 2	2,193	-	2,193	-	-
Wades	4,514	-	4,514	-	-
Yorkshire Water	<u>6,707</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,707</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Lakes / Wetland Phase 3					
Wades	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Yorkshire Water	-	6,307	6,307	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>11,307</u>	<u>11,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Thriving Communities					
Space2 Leeds	<u>1,538</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80</u>
NHLF	<u>2,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Postcode Lottery	<u>14,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,206</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>594</u>
West Yorkshire Bat Group Conservation	<u>-</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,450</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50</u>
Climate Action Leeds					

Community Foundation	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,682</u>	<u>(318)</u>	<u>-</u>
Water monitoring					
Voluntary Action Leeds	283	-	283	-	-
ChangeX	150	-	150	-	-
Donation	-	200	-	-	200
	<u>433</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200</u>
Tree Council	<u>-</u>	<u>2,780</u>	<u>2,780</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
LCC Inner NE Leeds Community Committee	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>4,905</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95</u>
Total Restricted Funds	<u>30,978</u>	<u>21,787</u>	<u>51,428</u>	<u>(318)</u>	<u>1,019</u>
Total Funds	<u>43,176</u>	<u>25,511</u>	<u>53,002</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,685</u>


The underspend of funds from Climate Action Leeds of £318 was transferred to general funds to contribute towards the Action Mornings at Gledhow Valley Wopds.

Approval of accounts for the year ended:

31st December 2024

The report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the Trustees held on:

Date



Signed for and on behalf of the trustees

Date

Steven Jones-Blackett

Print name

Treasurer

Position (e.g. Chair etc)