

Trustees' Annual Report

for the period 3rd September 2013 to 31st March 2014

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the Independent Examiner's report for the above mentioned period.

Reference & Administrative Information

Charity Name:

Skye and Lochalsh Environment Form

Charity No:

SC040820

Address of Principal Office:

The Old Police Station, Isleornsay, Isle of Skye IV43 8QR

Current Trustees (elected on 18th November 2013):

David Ashford

Judith Bullivant

Roger Cottis

Louise Love - co-opted

James Merryweather

John Phillips

Mike Taylor

Eileen Armstrong - co-opted

Trustees who served during the period:

David Ashford

Judith Bullivant

Roger Cottis

James Merryweather

John Phillips

Babs Macritchie

Annabel Pendlebury - co-opted

Mike Taylor

Iain Turnbull - resigned 18th November 2013

Sarah Stephenson - resigned 18th November 2013

Structure Governance & Management

Constitution:

The Charity became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 4th September 2013. It is governed by its constitution which was adopted on 18th November 2013.

Appointment of Trustees:

The Board of Trustees, which normally meets on a bi-monthly basis, consists of the charity's Trustees and membership of the Board is open to all Members of in the charity.

Trustees are elected at the Annual Members' Meeting which is normally held in November. Under the constitution, there must be a minimum of three and not more than nine elected Trustees. The Trustees may co-opt a further three Trustees if they consider it would be in the interests of the charity to do so.

Management:

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the charity, whilst day-to-day running is delegated to the Secretary.

Objectives & Activities

Charitable purposes:

To be a forum for members of the public and organisations in or associated with Skye and Lochalsh in order to promote and care for the landscape and biological diversity of natural and cultural habitats throughout for the benefit of present and future generations and to promote awareness, enjoyment, research, understanding and sustainable use of the Area's natural and cultural environment and biodiversity.

Activities:

Throughout the period 3rd September 2013 to 31st March 2014, SLEF was busy and productive with a wide variety of activities leading up to the end of the 2 year Community Outreach Project in December 2013. The level of activity dropped in 2014 due to pressure of time on a voluntary management team following the end of the Project Officer's contract.

The Outreach Project aimed to engage with communities and individuals from throughout the area and to encourage them to explore, enjoy, understanding and ultimately care more for their local environment.

Working with a number of recognised experts in their field, we offered training events looking at specific species including mini-beasts, reptiles and amphibians and slugs; survey techniques e.g. farm and croft land birds; land management techniques such as 'lever & mulch' rhododendron control; and practical rural skills e.g. drystone dyking. We also hosted 'Shearwater' - an interactive workshop and performance - as part of their Islands tour in 2013 and gave a presentation to a group of sustainable development students.

SLEF worked in partnership with other local and national organisations in delivering environmental education activities to a number of local schools. We have developed a resource library of books, materials and equipment available on request to schools, community groups and individuals to enable them to study, monitor and record local wildlife.

We estimate that around 300 people took part in walks, talks and training sessions during the 2014 period, with a further 300 attending the 'Family Fun Day' Conference on 28th September 2013.

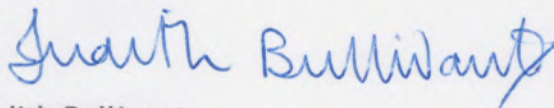
The last few weeks of 2013 were taken up with writing up reports and finalising accounts for Highland Leader and Heritage Lottery Fund as the main sponsors of the Outreach Project.

Membership stood at 64 during the year with Members from throughout the Skye & Lochalsh area.

Plans for Future Periods

The Trustees intend to continue developing the SLEF's Charitable Purposes particularly through enhancing awareness of the ever increasing risks to sustainability being taken by aquaculture operators. The need to up-date the Local Biodiversity Plan will be addressed and the concerns of children and young people failing to benefit from connecting with nature will be debated at the next Annual Members' Meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 16th December 2014 and signed on their behalf by:



Judith Bullivant
Chair