

FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH DOWNS
REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity Registration Number 230329
Company Number 319437

Annual Report of Trustees and Directors 2023

Registered Office: 5, Swan Court, Station Road, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1RL

Telephone: 01798 875073 **Email:** enquiries@friendsofthesouthdowns.org.uk

Website: www.friendsofthesouthdowns.org.uk

President: Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

Vice-Presidents Peter Harris, Lord Lloyd of Berwick PC, Richard Reed, and Gerard Ryan QC.

Patrons Lord Sawyer of Darlington, Lord Egremont

Corporate Sponsors Albourne Estate & Nyetimber Vineyard, Landmark Systems, Langhams Brewery and The Pulborough Exchange

Members of Council during 2023 (The Charity Trustees and Directors of the Company) *

David Sawyer	Chairman		4/4
Patrick Haworth			4/4
David Coldwell		Resigned May 23	1/1
Glynn Jones		Resigned May 23	0/1
Andrew Lovett	Treasurer		4/4
Nick Isaac			3/4
Caroline Douglas			3/4
Richard Reed		Resigned May 23	1/1
Chris Steibelt		Resigned May 23	1/1
David Green			4/4
Paul Wilkinson			4/4
Janet Goody		Elected May 22	3/4
Martin Small		Elected May 22	4/4

* Indicates actual and possible number of Council meetings attended.

Staff at 31st December 2023:

Office Manager	Alison Isaac
Marketing Manager	Gill Linturn
Social Media Coordinator	Laura Libricz

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Mailing, Kent ME19 4JQ PO Box 358

Barclays Bank plc, North Street, Brighton BN1 1SF

Independent Examiner of the accounts

David Wheeler, Cheeld Wheeler & Co, Redhill Chambers, 2d High Street, Redhill, RH1 1RJ

Investment Managers: Cazenove Capital Management, 12 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DA

Representatives on significant external bodies as at 31 December 2023

Campaign for National Parks:	Martin Small
South Downs Network:	Martin Small

The trustees, who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report. The financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 are available on the Companies House website at www.companieshouse.gov.uk. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and reporting by Charities' issued in 2019.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Friends of the South Downs is a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Acts (number 319437) and a registered charity (number 230329). The name of the company and charity changed from South Downs Society during 2022. The Articles of Association were revised at the Annual General Meeting 7th November 2020.

Membership of the Friends is open to all. Membership on 31/12/23 was 1,425. The Council is responsible for the management of the Friends and for setting its strategic direction. Its membership consists of the Treasurer and up to 12 ordinary members who are elected at an AGM.

The Treasurer is elected annually but may be re-elected whilst ordinary members are elected for three years after which they may be re-elected. Members are invited to become trustees, by the Chairman, in the Downsman magazine and in the monthly e-news. Applicants are interviewed by the Chairman and one other trustee. The names of members of the Council serving in 2023 are shown on page 2. New members of Council are provided with relevant Charity Commission publications and offered a one-to-one briefing.

The Friends have three committees which are appointed annually. These are the Planning and Conservation Committee which co-ordinates the work of District Officers in advising on developments in their area; the Access and Rights of Way Committee which provides guidance to the team of Area Access Officers in considering access and rights of way issues currently in the process of reinstatement; and the Membership and Marketing Committee which aims to increase the membership of the Friends and is responsible for fund raising and member events.

A large team of volunteers perform a variety of tasks including being committee members, District Officers, Area Access Officers, walks leaders and providing administrative support.

Objectives and Activities

The Friends's objective is to conserve and enhance for the public benefit the beauty and amenities of the South Downs in and within the vicinity of the South Downs National Park. We are the only membership organisation dedicated to conserving and enhancing the beauty and amenities of the South Downs National Park. We work hard to improve access to the park and take an informed interest in planning policy and planning applications.

As well as providing a comprehensive programme of walks and strolls we take a special interest in access, rights of way and other park initiatives both in the Park and in the immediate area.

The Monday Group, based in Ditchling, are replacing stiles with gates which the Friends are funding, 58 of which have been completed. A project to provide seats made of oak and with various designs at regular intervals along the South Downs Way has achieved seven seats to date.

We also run projects to encourage the interest of children in the South Downs. For the first time this year we have worked closely with Brighton University, providing encouragement for environmental students with prizes and an M.Sc project.

The trustees believe that all these activities ensure that we fulfil our duty in section 4 of the 2006 Charities Act to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Achievements and Performance

2023 was the 100th anniversary of the creation of our organisation. An enthusiastic and knowledgeable group of Trustees led the Friends to a successful and active centenary year, with many special projects arranged to recognise the achievement.

During the year we:

- Continued to respond to planning, transport and access issues (see below)
- Provided a full walks and strolls programme. This programme continues to be well supported by members, encouraging many onto and around the Downs on walks and strolls that provide a warm welcome to newcomers and regulars alike.
- Our project to fund stiles on paths within and around the park with kissing gates has continued. We were fortunate to find the Monday Group who are an enthusiastic group of men who have undertaken to provide gates alongside their existing work refurbishing stiles. This project enables very many less mobile walkers to use popular paths that have been impossible for them to use because they cannot climb over stiles.
- Continued to run projects encouraging children to learn about the Downs
- Progress continues with the provision of oak seats on the South Downs Way. Seven seats have been fitted: a new supplier has also been engaged who is fitting seats faster than has hitherto been possible.

Our staff have continued to provide support to Trustees and members. All three current members of staff work part time, giving a full-time equivalent staff level of 1.3.

Our office manager Alison Jones with her team Gill Linturn and Laura Libricz managed all finances, membership records, attendance at local shows etc. We have significantly increased our presence on social media thanks to the expertise of our staff.

Planning and Conservation

The Planning and Conservation Committee is tasked with monitoring all planning activity across the National Park (NP). This is done through a network of District Officers (DOs), all

members of the Friends and volunteers and each covering a group of about 6/7 parishes across the 170 odd parishes in the NP.

Each week the NP Authority (NPA) issues separate lists of new applications received and validated, decisions made and appeals determined. This year there has been no noticeable slowdown in the number of applications coming in.

We would only reckon to comment on a very small proportion of these, those identified by DOs as of significance to the NP, or to local communities within it. That is where the local knowledge of DOs is so vital.

Probably the single most important application for the NP in the last few years has been that for the Phoenix Causeway, North Street development in Lewes. It is a bold, exciting, even visionary mixed-use scheme. It would provide 685 new homes, but much more. It had our support and has now been passed.

The other major application of late has been the Towner Gallery led scheme for the change of use of the Black Robin Farm complex off Beachy Head Road just outside Eastbourne into a cultural and education centre. Our view was that the scheme involved a conflict between the two primary purposes of the NP, conservation and access for the public. In those circumstances, it is clearly established that the NPA has to attach greater weight to the conservation purpose. We did speak against the Officer's recommendation to grant permission, but it was passed by a margin of 5 to 4.

Access and Rights of Way

The SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY have said that they will no longer be conducting audits of a representative sample of PROWs in the Park just the SDW. It is also looking at streamlining the process for monitoring the maintenance of the SDW.

Car parking at Whiteways is now free again, but currently closes at 4pm..We will continue to monitor the introduction of car parking charges, but to be realistic the objective must be to keep charges at an acceptable level rather than to oppose all together.

The Environmental Land Management Scheme continues to be rolled out.

The Labour Party has withdrawn the Right to Roam as a Manifesto Pledge but will continue to pursue the extension of CROW. An open letter drafted by CNP and signed on behalf of nine Friends organisations including ourselves has been sent to the leader of political parties with an MP in England as to policies CNP would like to see adopted in manifesto pledges and plans. There is a campaign to resolve the issue of Access Land created without access.

The Darwall case relating to the right to wild camp on Dartmoor is to go to the Supreme Court.

Membership and Marketing

The purpose of the M&M Committee is to increase our membership, to organise member events, and to raise funds - so that we can continue to achieve our charitable objectives. Our membership did grow during 2023, at a time when other National Park Societies have struggled to maintain their membership numbers. On events, our focus this year has been on celebrating our Centenary. This included publishing Richard Reed's excellent history of the FSD, talks by high-profile speakers, and a reception in the House of Lords generously hosted by our President, Baroness Jones. Plus, we established a relationship with the University of Brighton, adding another link with young people to the work with schools

mentioned elsewhere in this Report. This resulted in the award to top University students of prizes in honour of our founder Robert Thurston-Hopkins and of our thrice Chairman, Richard Reed.

Walks and Strolls

We are pleased to report that, during 2023, we provided our members with 172 walks and strolls across the whole length of the South Downs, ranging from 3 to 27 miles in length. Obviously, this included a number of Centenary-themed events. For example, at the more challenging end we retraced the route described by Hilaire Belloc in his novel 'The Four Men', covering 96 miles over 6 days. We also organized a well-attended stroll which included lunch and 100th birthday cake at our Pulborough office. Such a successful programme was only possible because of the dedication of Walks Coordinator Ian Lancaster and Strolls Coordinator Mick Heywood, assisted by many gallant members volunteering to be leaders.

Education and Understanding

The trustees have agreed that one of the key ways in which the Friends can safeguard the Downs in the future is to encourage the interest of children in the hope that they will get to know the landscape and culture and look after it when they grow up.

The Friends have set up the projects described below with that objective.

South Downs Generations was a two-year project largely funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We worked with four primary schools to encourage children to learn about South Downs history and culture. The project finished in 2021, but we have continued to maintain a wonderful website <https://southdownsgenerations.org.uk/>. The website is a great resource for everyone interested in the Downs, especially schools. We have sent a leaflet to all schools encouraging them to use the site.

South Downs for All is our current two-year centenary project, also largely funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We are involving eight schools and taking children on fieldtrips on the Downs. The schools have higher than average numbers of the less well-off and ethnic minorities: groups seen less in the natural environment. The children's resulting work will be featured in a book and some heritage trail leaflets. We will contribute £10k of a total cost of about £55k. We have completed the greater part of this project. A website carries the content of the project: <https://southdownsforall.org.uk/>

Explorers of the South Downs is a project financed from a recent legacy. We have donated £10k to the South Downs National Park Authority who arranged an experienced company called So Sussex to run about 30 fieldtrips for children during the summer term of 2023. Again the focus was on schools with children less likely to know the Downs. We plan to extend the project into future years, including both Hampshire and Sussex schools.

No child left behind is a Youth Hostels Association scheme to enable children who don't normally visit to the countryside to stay overnight in a youth hostel. We donated £5k to enable a school to enjoy this experience on the South Downs.

Services for members

The Downsman magazine and the monthly E-News keep members informed of the Society's activities and concerns. 2022 saw us further increase our social media presence with a greater use of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Our team of staff are assisted by many volunteers who ensure the smooth running of the society.

Financial review and reserves policy

The Friends uses its financial resources to help achieve its charitable objective of conserving and enhancing for the public benefit the beauty and amenities of the South Downs in and around the South Downs National Park.

During 2023 expenditure exceeded income by £28,058 (2022: surplus £145,749). The market value of investments rose by £17,761 (2022: fall of £79,111), resulting in an overall reduction in funds of £10,297 (2022: increase of £66,638). During the year legacies received amounted to £47,205 (2022: £150,120). At the year-end total funds stood at £859,912 (2022: £870,209).

The Friends maintains its funds at a level to provide income to support activities which would not otherwise be affordable and to fund projects which are consistent with its objectives.

The Friends on occasions make grants to other bodies for purposes which achieve the Friends' charitable objective.

Conclusion

We celebrated our Centenary in 2023 and produced a comprehensive program of activities to mark the year. We used the year to increase our exposure on print and electronic media with the aim of furthering our objectives, and to especially increase awareness of the National Park and our role in protecting it. We are the third largest National Park Society and compare well with those in other National Parks in our contribution to current policy issues and provision for its members. Our professional approach in responses to issues continues to achieve a good relationship with the National Park Authority, the Campaign for National Parks and other public bodies.

Statement of Member's Responsibilities

The members of Council are required to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of the Friends's affairs at the end of the

financial year and of net incoming resources for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; and make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

Trustees are responsible for:-

- a) keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time financial position of the Friends and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the relevant statute;
- b) Safeguarding the assets of the Friends and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities; and
- c) Preparing the financial statements on a going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Friends will continue to operate.

Approved by the Council on April 8th 2024 and signed on their behalf by

David Sawyer - Chairman

**Friends of the South Downs
Independent examiner's report
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends of the South Downs ('the Charitable Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102)).

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.

David Wheeler

David Wheeler FCCA
Independent Examiner
Cheeld Wheeler & Co
Chartered Certified Accountants
Redhill Chambers
2d High Street
Redhill
Surrey
RH1 1RJ

Date: *15 April 2024*

Friends of the South Downs

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

		2023	2022
		£	£
	Notes	Total	Total
Income from:	3		
Subscriptions, donations and legacies		87,933	198,263
Charitable activities		19,638	27,987
Other trading activities		715	756
Investments and interest		33,647	29,640
Total		<u>141,933</u>	<u>256,646</u>
Expenditure on:	4		
Raising funds		16,174	17,869
Charitable activities		153,817	93,028
Total		<u>169,991</u>	<u>110,897</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>(28,058)</u>	<u>145,749</u>
Other recognised gains/(losses)	9		
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets		17,761	(79,111)
Net movement in funds		<u>(10,297)</u>	<u>66,638</u>
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		870,209	803,571
Total funds carried forward		<u>859,912</u>	<u>870,209</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.
All funds are unrestricted.

Friends of the South Downs

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Charity registration number: 230329
Company number: 319437

Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2023

	Notes	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	9		734,743		691,982
Current assets					
Debtors	11	6,000		5,500	
Cash at bank and in hand	10	134,132	140,132	182,592	188,092
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12		14,963		9,865
Net current assets			125,169		178,227
Net assets			<u>859,912</u>		<u>870,209</u>
Funds	13				
Unrestricted funds			859,912		870,209
Total funds			<u>859,912</u>		<u>870,209</u>

The company is exempt from the requirements relating to preparing audited accounts in accordance with section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors/trustees have prepared accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

1. Ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006
2. Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as they are applicable to the charitable company.


David Sawyer


Andrew Lovett

08 April 2024

Friends of the South Downs

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees are of the view that the Society is a going concern.

c) Income recognition policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:

- The Society has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the Society;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Grant income is credited in proportion to the amount of relevant and eligible expenditure incurred in the period.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of:

- the date on which the Society is aware that probate has been granted;
- the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Society that a distribution will be made; or
- when a distribution is received from the estate.

Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the Society has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

Income received in advance of the provision of specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated services or facilities are recognised as income when the Society has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the Society of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Society which is the amount the Society would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Society; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the holding institution.

f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the Society. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the Society which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular purposes.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds include membership services and purchasing merchandise.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the Society and their associated support costs

• Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Society but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the Society's charitable purposes. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 7.

i) Operating leases

The rent on Society's office at Swan Court Pulborough is charged at a fixed amount per year.

j) Tangible fixed assets

Any individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis over their useful lives. Any office equipment above the £1,000 threshold is depreciated over four years.

k) Investments

Investments are valued at market value at the year end.

l) Stock

Any stock is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Any donated items of stock are recognised on receipt at fair value which is the amount the Society would have been willing to pay for the items on the open market.

m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

n) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

o) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Society has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

p) Financial instruments

The Society only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

- 2 **Legal status of charity**
The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The company is registered in England and Wales. The registered address of the company is 5 Swan Court, Station Road, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1RL. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to 50p. The authorised number of members is unlimited. All members of the Council are also directors of the company. The charity is a public benefit charity. The charitable company is exempt from income and corporation tax.

3 **Analysis of Income**

		2023	2022
		£	£
Donations and legacies	Subscriptions	33,296	30,136
	Donations	7,432	18,007
	Legacies	47,205	150,120
	Total	87,933	198,263
Charitable activities	Grants	19,186	25,057
	Events	452	2,930
	Total	19,638	27,987
Other trading activities		715	756
Investments and interest		33,647	29,640
Other			
Total		141,933	256,646

4 **Analysis of expenditure**

		2023	2022
		£	£
Raising funds	Support costs (note 7)	8,502	11,042
	Merchandise and other marketing	5,569	4,684
	Investment Management Fees	2,103	2,143
	Total	16,174	17,869
Charitable activities	Activities and publications for members	15,860	8,404
	Planning and national park purposes	2,621	1,366
	Grant to South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) for Seven Sisters barn	43,172	
	Provision of seats on South Downs Way	2,700	130
	Conversion of stiles to gates	1,050	
	South Downs Schools Living History project		4,372
	South Downs for All project for children	22,078	24,844
	Grant to SDNPA for children's project	10,000	
	Grant to Youth Hostels Association for children's project	5,000	
	Grant to Brighton University for prize	1,000	
	Contribution to Four Men production	5,000	
	Production of book on Friends centenary	3,824	
	Support costs (note 7)	41,512	53,912
	Total	153,817	93,028
Total		169,991	110,897

5 **Details of certain items of expenditure**

5.1 **Payments to trustees**

	2023	2022
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	2	4
Nature of the expenses: travel and charity activities		
Total amount paid £	82	291

5.2 **Fees for examination of the accounts**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	720	720
Other fees (for example: advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner	nil	nil

6 **Paid employees**

6.1 **Staff Costs**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross salaries	30,057	36,603
National Insurance and Pension Costs	1,041	2,137
Total staff costs	31,098	38,740

6.2 **Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year**

		2023	2022
		Number	Number
The parts of the charity in which the employees work	Fundraising	0.2	0.3
	Charitable Activities	1.1	1.0
	Total	1.3	1.3

No employees received emoluments of more than £60,000.

7 Analysis of support costs			
	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Total £
Staff	5,287	25,811	31,098
Office costs	3,093	15,103	18,196
Governance	122	598	720
Total	8,502	41,512	50,014

Support costs are allocated to activities in the proportion that staff time is spent on those activities.

8 Grants made to Institutions		£
To South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) for Seven Sisters pump barn		43,172
To SDNPA for children's project		10,000
To Youth Hostels Association for children's project		5,000
To Brighton University for academic prize		1,000

9 Investment assets

9.1 Fixed assets investments

	£
Market value at beginning of year	691,982
Add: additions to investments at cost	25,000
Less: disposals at carrying value	
Add/(deduct): net gain/(loss) on revaluation	17,761
Market value at end of year	734,743

Analysis of Investments

	9.2 Market value at year end £	9.3 Income for the year £
Investments held in investment funds	734,743	
Dividend and interest		33,647
less management fee		(2,103)
Total	734,743	31,544

9.4 Material investment holdings

Cazenove Charity Sustainable Multi-Asset Fund	734,743
Total Market Value	734,743

10 Movement In Cash at Bank and in Hand

	£
Opening Balance	182,592
Incoming resources	141,933
Outgoing resources	(169,991)
Transfer to investments	(25,000)
Increase in money owed to the Friends	(500)
Increase in money owed by the Friends	5,098
Closing Balance	134,132

Analysis of cash balance

	£
CAF Cash	20,668
CAF Gold	40,394
Barclays Bank plc	70,874
Paypal	2,109
Petty Cash	87
Total	134,132

Debtors and prepayments

11 Analysis of debtors			
	Amounts falling due within one year		
	2023	2022	
	£	£	
Trade debtors			
Other debtors	6,000	5,000	
Prepayments and accrued income		500	
Grant due			
Total	6,000	5,500	

Other debtors represent an estimate of gift aid due for both years.
In 2022 a prepayment of £500 was made for an event in 2023

Creditors and accruals

12			
	Amounts falling due within one year		
	2023	2022	
	£	£	
Loans and overdrafts			
Trade creditors	1,740	1,356	
Other Creditors			
Deferred grant income	13,223	8,509	
Total	14,963	9,865	

Trade creditors of £1,740 in 2023 are amounts due for gate expenditure, investment management fee and independent

examination fee. Trade creditors of £1,356 in 2022 are amounts due for investment management fee, national insurance and independent examination fee.
 Deferred grant income of £13,223 (£8,509 in 2022) represents grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in respect of the South Downs for All project.

Endowment and restricted income funds

13

13.1 Funds held

Fund Name	Type	Purpose and Restrictions
General Fund	Unrestricted	In pursuance of the Friends objects

13.2 Movements of funds

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£		£	£
General Fund	870,209	141,933	169,991		17,761	859,912

Grants received

14

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has agreed to pay a grant for 85% of the costs of the South Downs for All project. At 31 December 2023 grant received in cash amounted to £53,775. Expenditure on the project to the same date was £47,154.

South Downs Network

15

During 2022 and part of 2023 the Friends managed the funds of the South Downs Network, on that body's behalf. That arrangement came to an end during 2023. At 31 December 2022 an amount of £50 was due from the SDN to the Friends.

Related parties

16

There were no transactions with any related parties such as trustees during the year.

General volunteers

17

The Friends relies on the contribution of general unpaid volunteers in carrying out its activities. The contribution of such volunteers is not included as income in the financial statements as the Friends would not otherwise pay for the services provided and it is impracticable to measure reliably the value of the contribution.