

Bathgate Hills Venture SCIO

Scottish Charity No – SC051425

**Annual Report and Financial Statements For the
year ended 31 March 2023**

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name

Bathgate Hills Venture SCIO

Charity no

SC051425

Address

Mill Cottage, 4 Ballencrieff Mill, Bathgate, West Lothian, EH48 4LL

Current Trustees

Rosslyn Barr	Chair
Vanessa Cordner	Secretary
Ruby Beattie	Treasurer
Debbie Worden	Trustee
Emma Clark	Trustee

Structure, Governance and Management Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 25 November 2021. It has a single tier structure and as such the trustees are the members of the charity.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting which is held in Q1 each year. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of thirteen trustees.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable purposes

- The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture and science
- The advancement of education
- The advancement of citizenship or community development
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement

In furtherance of these purposes Bathgate Hills Venture SCIO will:

celebrate, protect and enhance the natural beauty and heritage of the Bathgate hills, with projects for, led by and driven by the local communities that surround the hills. This will be undertaken through community engagement and periodic collaboration with other appropriate organisations and charities on targeted projects.

Activities

During our first year being constituted, we focused on two main projects:

Stories of the Bathgate Hills: A Celebration of the Voices of People and Place

This project focused round a day-long event, which took place on 9th October 2022, it sought to promote & encourage stories & storytelling in the Bathgate Hills in West Lothian.

During this day-long celebration, we travelled through time, from the voices of the present, respecting the voices of our elders, then onto the old stories of our past. This involved local people of all ages.

The whole day evolved around stories from Bathgate Hills, and involved:

- An exhibition of stories, written by local school pupils about their own memories and experiences of the Bathgate Hills. This exhibition was the culmination of a school and online competition, with winners from various categories announced on the day, and live readings of the stories included in the evening event.
- A morning guided Plant Walk with local herbalist and forager, who told the story of the flora of the hills.
- An afternoon storytelling workshop – ‘Voices of the People’ allowing the opportunity for people of all ages to talk about their experiences of the Bathgate Hills, providing us the opportunity to record some of the voices of participants.
- An evening of live storytelling with local actors and musicians telling stories of the local legends of the area, interspersed with music and dance.
- An additional week long exhibition held in Bathgate in December to allow more time for people to view the children’s stories.



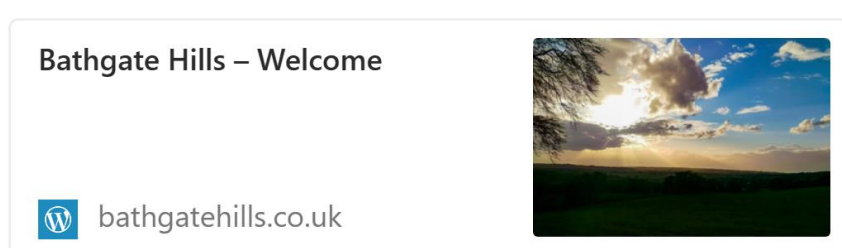
In terms of local engagement we were delighted to see huge interest and support:

- Our children's story competition attracted 460 entries rather than the 40-50 we expected.
- The foraging walk we offered was sold out within 24 hours.
- The afternoon and evening events were well attended (~50 in the afternoon and over 100 in the evening) and involved fantastic collaboration with other local groups: The Reconnect Regal Theatre, Bathgate Youth Band, DanceWorld, Knightly Gaming, Napiers the Herbalist, local schools and the local council.
- Our online sharing of material attracted over 33,000 hits with a lot of positive feedback.

'It was a great day with storytellers young and old sharing their stories of the hills. A local teacher told us the children don't get as many opportunities now as they used to for creative writing so this was an excellent way to explore their creativity.'

The project was supported by the Year of Stories 2022 Community Stories Fund. This fund was delivered in partnership between VisitScotland, Museums Galleries Scotland with support from National Lottery Heritage Fund thanks to National Lottery plc.

Development of the informational Bathgate Hills website:



As we formed as a group and talked about what we knew of the Bathgate Hills it was clear that any existing information online was very difficult to find and was held in a very fragmented way.

Covid related restrictions were still in place when we started, so we thought it may be useful to share information online for people to self learn and self explore. We also thought that the website would allow people to explore virtually, particularly if they were not able to explore physically.

The bathgatehills.co.uk website name was purchased early in 2022 and creation and sharing of informational pages continued throughout 2022.

2022 website view and visitor summary

Views	Visitors
5,663	2,677

Posts & pages

Views

Home	1,665
Cairnpapple	594
Ravencraig	514
Relive the hills incredible history	265
The Knock	244
Explore the Hills	137
Knock Stone Circle & Persephone's Rest	136
Galabraes Standing Stone	132
Cockleroy	124
We have won funding for a Storytelling Day in October!	120

Other activities

We successfully proposed and won funding for enhancements to a local community garden, Bathgate Well Garden, which the local council teams will take forward. This includes enhancement of two historical features, a provost's lamppost and an original water well that served the town. We also included creation of more sensory plant beds to attract people of all interests and abilities. The project is currently in the tender phase, and is expected to implement in 2023.



We supported Historic Environment Scotland (HES) with Rosebay Willow Herb thinning at Cairnpapple Henge to help give more space to natural plants like heathers, which enhance the biodiversity mix of plants and animals.



- We joined Bathgate Together, a collaboration of local organisations, aiming to help promote and enhance the local town.
- We held a number of meetings with local Councillors and West Lothian Council to get their input and ideas in terms of our focus.

Achievements and Performance

As a group of volunteers, with day jobs, we are delighted with what we have achieved in our first year together. We appreciate the amazing support we have received from the local community and we look forward to the future projects we will drive forward.

We are pleased to be engaging with many people in our local community through our information sharing and projects. This is evidenced by us having almost 900 members in our Facebook group, over 33,000 hits on our social media, over 400 children getting involved writing stories of the hills and over 5000 views on our new website. We feel this is a promising start.

It is clear that we stretched ourselves to achieve the projects we did in 2022, and we are aware that we will need to include the cost of employing people on a temporary basis in future funding applications. This will help transfer skills and grow local knowledge and interest.

Financial review

We initiated, managed and delivered one funded project during our first constituted year. This was solely funded by Museums and Galleries Scotland as part of the 2022 Year of Storytelling. The project was completed with a small budget surplus.

Reserves policy

Bathgate Hills Venture SCIO does not have premises and does not currently employ staff, and therefore does not have any operating costs. Also, the charity has very few / no ongoing financial commitments. For prudence, we will hold a reserve of £200 to cover small unforeseen expenses.

Plans for future period

The major focus for the next year will be to continue to promote the Bathgate Hills from a health and wellbeing perspective as well as a conservation / informational perspective.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds		Year ended 31/03/2023	Period ended 31/03/2022
Receipts					
Donations	£334			£334	N/A
Grants (Museums and Galleries Scotland)		£4,377		£4,377	N/A
Fundraising					N/A
Bank interest					N/A
Receipts from charitable activities – Membership fees					N/A
Total receipts	£334	£4377		£4,711	N/A
Payments					
Theatre hire, Actors & Production		£2,370		£2,370	N/A
Host compere		£300		£300	N/A
Video production		£1000		£1000	N/A
Prizes & materials		£312		£312	N/A
Exhibition Donation		£200		£200	N/A
Total payments		£4182		£4182	N/A
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year				529	N/A

Statement of Balances - As at 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Opening cash at bank and in hand	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	529			-
Closing cash at bank and in hand	<u>529</u>		<u>529</u>	<u>-</u>

Bank and Cash Balances

Business account	529	-	529	-
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>			

Other assets - unrestricted fund

None

Liabilities (unrestricted fund)

None

Notes to the accounts
- for the year to 31st March 2023

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

2 Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3 Related party transactions

No remuneration was paid to the trustees or any connected persons during the year.

4 Donations

Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
334	-	334	-
		334	-

5 Grants received

Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	<u>4377</u>	<u>4377</u>	-

APPROVAL OF THE TRUSTEES' REPORT

At the time of approving this report, the Trustees are aware of no relevant audit information of which the group and charity's independent examiner is unaware. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, as trustees, in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the group and charitable charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

The report was approved by the Board on 28-03-2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rosslyn G. Barr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a distinct 'G'.

Rosslyn Barr (Chair)

Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Bathgate Hills Venture SCIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 9 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 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.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than disclosed below*]

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
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts 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.

Name: Lesley McGiffen

Relevant Professional qualification/professional body: N/A

Date: 29 March 2023