



REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024



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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity.

Objects and Activities

The purposes of the Trust are:

- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement, in particular supporting organisations and individuals developing sustainable lifestyles and projects which take into account future resource availability and the desirability of a more equal society;
- The advancement of community development, in particular encouraging local communities to become stronger and more self-reliant through the adoption of sustainable lifestyles;
- The advancement of education and science, in particular carrying out research and education relating to the technical and social aspects of sustainable lifestyles; and
- Such other purposes as are charitable which enable the charitable objectives to be fulfilled.

The Trust makes grants to individuals or organisations seeking to further its purposes. Projects funded are expected to benefit the public through:

- A reduced resource intensity of lifestyles, thereby contributing to a more sustainable future;
- A contribution to individuals' awareness, and the technical knowledge required for sustainable lifestyles;
- Making results known, thereby disseminating and promulgating the results of funded projects.

The Trust supports projects in Scotland, and particularly in the Highlands & Islands, where all the Trustees are based. The Trust also allocates a small amount of funds to projects in the global south, recognising the importance of developments there.

In addition to making grants in this way, the Trust commissions work on its own projects where the Trustees identify an opportunity to advance the Trust's purposes.

Grant-making policy

The Trust offers grants of up to £10,000 per project. In assessing grant applications, the Trustees consider the following criteria:

- Extent to which application meets the Pebble Trust objectives;
- Credibility of applicant and project managers;
- Value for money;
- Lasting benefits arising from project;
- Extent of any negative implications against Pebble Trust objectives.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (*continued*)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

Achievements and Performance

Grants awarded

The following projects have been funded during the year:

Knoydart Tree Nursery: infrastructure for a tree nursery to supply trees grown from locally-collected seed, for expansion of the native woods on the Knoydart peninsula.

Carrbridge Community Orchard: the creation of a community orchard for the benefit of local people, visitors, and wildlife.

Ardnish Path Improvement: renovating a footpath connecting the townships of Upper and Lower Breakish and Waterloo on the Isle of Skye across the Ardnish peninsula, providing a safe, accessible active travel route to places of work, primary school and local services.

Connecting Communities: funding for a Community Transport Officer to work in partnership with Garve & District and Contin Communities, acting as project lead for the 'Connecting Communities' low carbon community transport proposal.

Mapping Future Food and Climate Change: an interactive digital game that will promote new ways of thinking about how land around rural Scottish communities is used and could be better used. The project is a collaboration between SEDA Land, the James Hutton Institute, Scotland's Rural College and Abertay University.

Funding a Just Transition to Zero Emissions Domestic Heat in Scotland: a research project to examine policy options to allocate costs and benefits of the heat transition, recommending a core just transition package.

Community Garden on the Plock: completing and managing a community garden situated within The Plock, a 60 acre site of amenity ground owned and managed by the Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust.

Lorn & Oban Reuse Initiative: funding was provided to allow the introduction of a Gift Aid scheme, to make improvements to the service, which helps individuals and households to reduce, reuse and recycle, by collecting and selling items of furniture that they no longer use.

Glengarry Community Woodlands for All: creating a social area in this community wood, including event shelter, tree nursery and polytunnel, community garden, willow beds, a wood-fired pizza oven and pathways.

Knoydart Community Farm Polytunnel: funding was awarded towards the purchase of a polytunnel, with the aim of producing healthy and affordable food for the community through a veg box scheme and sale of produce in the community owned shop.

Uibhist Community Market Garden: development and delivery on a business plan for a Uibhist Community Market Garden. As well as selling a wide range of produce, trees and plants, The Community Gardens will also offer a Refillery and veg box scheme and host monthly food markets for local producers.

Royal Countryside Fund Farm Resilience Programme: this programme provides small scale farms with the skills and knowledge needed to build financial and environmental sustainability through bespoke, locally-focussed workshops and one-to-one support.

Cùra Guardian – Roadshow: a story-based project including an exhibition, a dance-drama performance and an overseas connection with indigenous community partners, designed to inspire, educate and develop greater awareness/respect for the natural world.



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (*continued*) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Achievements and Performance (*continued*)

Tarbert Growing Project: developing a piece of overgrown land in Tarbert, North Harris, to offer outdoor allotments and indoor raised beds, giving residents the opportunity to grow fruit and vegetables. A small native tree nursery will also be developed.

Cycling Playbook for Rural Communities in Scotland: developing a 20 Minute Neighbourhood Cycling Playbook as an inspirational and technical resource to lead the debate around the potential of cycling to be at the heart of 20 minute neighbourhoods in small rural towns and villages in Scotland.

Common Ground Forum: helping the deer stalking community adapt positively to the coming changes in upland deer management, ensuring Deer Management Groups act as an effective forum for discussing land management issues in a constructive, respectful way, and carrying out collaborative advocacy to the Scottish Government by proposing positive actions and solutions.

Growing Media Propagation Blocks: research to support the elimination of peat and plastic from propagation using growing media blocks.

Rewilding Nation: a campaign for legislation to promote large-scale nature restoration across Scotland.

The Generation of Waste: a travelling exhibition to educate citizens, communities, students, young people, and businesses about the negative impacts of textile waste.

Pebble Trust projects

In addition to funding these grant applications, from time to time the Trust develops projects of its own.

The book, "Sustainable Renovation – Improving Homes for Energy, Health and Environment", designed to set out best practice in carrying out property renovation work to improve energy efficiency, was originally published by the Trust in 2018, and a second edition was published during 2023. It is available as a free pdf from the Trust's website, or a hard copy is available for a small charge. The book has been adopted by the Scottish Ecological Design Association as one of its series of guides to best practice in construction.

The Trust continued to fund the Highland Good Food Partnership, which aims to stimulate action to improve the Highland food system, for the benefit of the environment, the local residents, and for those working in the sector. The Partnership brings together representatives from the public, private and charitable/community sectors with an interest in the food system.

Future Plans and Activities

Since the year-end, the Trust has made a further 16 grants amounting to £120,509.

Financial Review

Grants made during the period amounted to £162,653 (2023: £95,433), and a further £37,047 (2023: £32,332) was spent on other charitable activities, mainly relating to the second edition of the Sustainable Renovation Guide (in 2023, mainly on research into the carbon impact of planting trees in organic soils). Investment management costs of £20,204 (2023: £20,805) were incurred.



**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

Financial Review (continued)

Investment conditions for ESG funds (i.e. those that screen investments based on environmental, social and governance criteria) continued to be difficult compared with other investments, but despite this there were net realised and unrealised investment gains of £200,971 (2023: losses of £122,776). Investment income during the period amounted to £16,580 of dividends and interest (2023: £5,483).

Total funds at the balance sheet date amounted to £2,869,725 (2023: £2,870,133).

Investment Policy

The Trust's policy is that a minimum of 60% of its investment portfolio should be held in ESG funds.

The Trust is a signatory to the Funder Commitment on Climate Change. All the Trust's charitable activities prioritise action to minimise the impact of client change, but the Commitment also requires the Trust to consider climate impacts in its investment policy.

The Trust's investment advisers have confirmed that 75% of the value of investments at 31st March 2024 was in 16 different ESG funds.

Reserves Policy

As the Trust's ongoing financial commitments are insignificant compared with its reserves and income, the Trustees do not consider it appropriate to adopt a formal reserves policy.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Pebble Trust is constituted under a trust deed dated 13th January 2014, was registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator on 17th January 2014 and commenced operations immediately after that. There are no formal requirements governing the appointment of Trustees.

Reference and Administrative Details

<i>Registered charity name:</i>	The Pebble Trust
<i>Charity registration number:</i>	SC044593
<i>Principal office:</i>	Stoneybank, Culbokie Dingwall IV7 8JH
<i>The Trustees:</i>	Sarah Allen (appointed 1 st February 2024) Jo Cumming (resigned 22 nd August 2023) Penny Edwards Nicholas Gubbins Arabella Kennard Catriona Mallows Sarah Nicholas Martin Sherring Neil Sutherland (resigned 14 th February 2024) Emma Whitham (resigned 3 rd July 2023)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Reference and Administrative Details *(continued)*

<i>Bankers:</i>	Triodos Bank UK Ltd Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AS
<i>Investment Advisers:</i>	Progeny Wealth Ltd 18 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, EH1 2BB
<i>Independent Examiner:</i>	Frame Kennedy Ltd Metropolitan House 31-33 High Street, Inverness, IV1 1HT

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

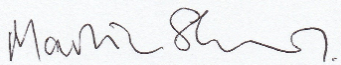
The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.



Martin Sherring
30th November 2024



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PEBBLE TRUST

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 set out on pages 8 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees 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's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) 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.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 seeking explanations from you as 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 connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (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 to 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.

Jillian Munro

Jillian Munro CA
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland
Frame Kennedy Ltd
4th Floor Metropolitan House
31-33 High Street
Inverness
IV1 1HT

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

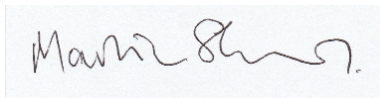
	Note	Year ended 31 March 2024			Year ended 31 March 2023		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
INCOME FROM:							
Donations and legacies	2	-	-	-	46	-	46
Charitable activities		1,945	-	1,945	1,277	-	1,277
Investments		16,580	-	16,580	5,483	-	5,483
TOTAL INCOME		18,525	-	18,525	6,806	-	6,806
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Raising funds		20,204	-	20,204	20,805	-	20,805
Charitable activities		199,700	-	199,700	127,765	-	127,765
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		219,904	-	219,904	148,570	-	148,570
Net gains (2023: losses) on investments		200,971	-	200,971	(122,776)	-	(122,766)
NET DEFICIT		(408)	-	(408)	(264,540)	-	(264,540)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		2,870,133	-	2,870,133	3,134,673	-	3,134,673
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		£2,869,725	-	£2,869,725	£2,870,133	-	£2,870,133

The notes on pages 11 and 12 form part of these financial statements

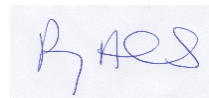
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	3	2,797,528	2,755,926
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		2,455	-
Debtors	4	1,600	838
Cash at bank and in hand	5	<u>71,959</u>	<u>117,996</u>
		76,014	118,834
CREDITORS: Amounts due within one year			
Accruals		<u>(3,817)</u>	<u>(4,627)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>72,197</u>	<u>114,207</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>2,869,725</u>	<u>2,870,133</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds		-	-
Unrestricted funds		<u>2,869,725</u>	<u>2,870,133</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>£2,869,725</u>	<u>£2,870,133</u>

These financial statements were approved by the trustees on 30th November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Martin Sherring



Penny Edwards

The notes on pages 11 and 12 form part of these financial statements.



**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net expenditure	(408)	(264,540)
Adjustments for:		
Gains (2023: losses) on investments	(200,971)	122,776
Dividends and interest from investments	(16,580)	(5,483)
Increase (2023: decrease) in stocks	(2,455)	511
Increase (2023: decrease) in debtors	(762)	76,534
Decrease (2023: increase) in creditors	(810)	3,317
Net cash used in operating activities	(221,986)	(66,885)
Cash flows from investment activities		
Dividends and interest from investments	16,580	5,483
Proceeds from the sale of investments	173,885	302,064
Purchases of investments	(14,516)	(283,912)
Net cash provided by investment activities	175,949	23,635
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(46,037)	(43,250)
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year	117,996	161,246
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	£71,959	£117,996

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024****1. Accounting Policies*****Basis of accounting***

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) in accordance with:

- (a) The Charities Act 2011
- (b) The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005
- (c) The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)
- (d) Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) (effective January 2019).

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity and the amounts are certain and measurable. Any incoming resources received in an accounting period that relate exclusively to future periods are deferred on the Balance Sheet.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objects of the Trust. In the case of unconditional grant offers the cost is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award. Where conditions are imposed on the offer of a grant the cost is recognised once the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled conditions are outside the control of the Trust.

Funds - Unrestricted Funds

These represent all funds held for the general purposes of the charity.

Fixed asset investments

Investments are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their market value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year. Cash held within the investment portfolio is recognised as a fixed asset unless the Trustees anticipate using the cash to fund imminent expenditure.

Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the statement of financial activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

2. Donations and legacies

	Year ended 31 March 2024			Year ended 31 March 2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Donations	-	-	-	46	-	46
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations and legacies	-	-	-	£46	-	£46

3. Fixed asset investments

	31 st March 2024	31 st March 2023
Market value at 31 March 2023	2,755,926	2,896,854
Cost of investments during the year	14,516	283,912
Disposals	(173,885)	(302,064)
Surplus (2023: deficit) on revaluation	200,971	(122,776)
Market value at 31 March 2024	£2,797,528	£2,755,926

All fixed asset investments are listed funds. Investment additions and disposals during the accounting period are stated at cost and disposal proceeds respectively and investments are re-valued at market value on the balance sheet date.

4. Debtors

	31 st March 2024	31 st March 2023
Trade debtors	175	96
Other debtors	1,425	742
Debtors	£1,600	£838

5. Cash at bank and in hand

	31 st March 2024	31 st March 2023
Investment platform cash account	8,362	4,658
Bank accounts	63,597	113,338
Cash at bank and in hand	£71,959	£117,996

6. Trustees and employees

None of the trustees received any remuneration for services to the Trust, and no trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the period. The Trust had no employees during the period.