Mountain Bothies Association

(A company limited by guarantee)



Annual Report

Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2017

A Scottish Charity, No. SC008685 Company Registration No.191425 (Scotland)

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

The trustees are pleased to present their annual trustees report together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2017 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a trustees report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Chairman's Report

The Association has had another very positive year in 2017. A significant amount of bothy maintenance work has been undertaken and three new bothies have been renovated and opened for use. The new bothies are Cae Amos – in North Wales; Flittingford – in Northumberland; and Abyssinia – in Argyll. In each case the landowners were very keen to see their buildings restored and put to good use. I should like to record our thanks to them and indeed to all the owners of our bothies.

The MBA is a volunteer-run organisation and large numbers of our Members have been involved in working parties and in running the Association. Finances continue to be healthy.

Simon Birch Chairman

Our Purpose and activities - the aim of the Association:

To maintain simple shelters in remote country for the use and benefit of all who love wild and lonely places.

What the Association does:

Scattered throughout the wilder parts of Scotland, England and Wales are old shepherds' cottages, huts and similar buildings many of which in the normal course of events might be allowed to fall derelict. Over the years, often with the tacit consent of the owners, these buildings have provided overnight shelter for walkers and other outdoor enthusiasts. The Mountain Bothies Association was founded in 1965 to organise the restoration and maintenance of these shelters.

The Association obtains the owners' permission to maintain these bothies and to make them available as open shelters for anyone to use. Its members have no priority of use and the buildings are left unlocked and may be used without charge by all who require shelter. Whilst the MBA pays for the materials and tools for the renovations, all the work is undertaken by its members and by other volunteers on a voluntary basis.

Bothies renovated by the Association are normally existing structures. As a minimum standard, the building is rendered structurally safe to provide a windproof and watertight shelter. A bothy would not normally be connected to the public utilities, and any amenities provided would be of a very basic standard. In locations where there is an appreciable fire hazard, or limited fuel, existing fireplaces may be replaced by a stove. Factors which may be considered in selecting a building for renovation include:

- · the likely demand for shelter in the area concerned
- the environmental impact
- the existence of other forms of shelter in the vicinity
- · the suitability of the site for use as an overnight base or emergency shelter
- accessibility from the highway and the likelihood of vandalism
- the nature of any restrictions imposed by the landowner on the use of the shelter
- the extent and cost of the renovations required and a value for money judgement

Where the Association maintains a bothy, and its use is affected by, or likely to affect the land surrounding the bothy, the Association may maintain or otherwise improve the land in the immediate vicinity of the bothy.

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Such work may include:

- · repairs and improvements to drainage
- repairs and improvements to access paths including to existing bridges and stiles
- prevention of land erosion where this might undermine the building's foundations
- tree planting (where possible using trees of local stock)
- the removal of litter and provision for hygienic disposal of human waste

The Association believes it has a duty to care for the quality of the experience enjoyed by those who visit bothies, and to ensure that all those who are involved in outdoor recreation understand the fragile nature of this resource, and the impact their behaviour can have on the bothy and its environment. The 'Bothy Code' is central to the Association's educational activities in promoting responsible behaviour among all who use bothies. Members' newsletters, our website and the briefing of volunteers at work parties are the principal methods of delivery of expected social and environmental standards.

In addition to the main activity of renovation and maintenance of bothies, the Association may provide funding to other properly constituted organisations, which share similar aims to the Association, for the maintenance of shelters available to the public.

Achievements and performance in 2017

The election results were announced at the Annual General Meeting which was held at Langwathby Village Hall in October 2017. Simon Birch was elected as Chairman for the next three years until the AGM in 2020. Simon was also elected as a trustee, together with Ian Hunter and Neil Reid to serve for a period of three years until the AGM in 2020. In addition, four members were elected to the Management Committee – Howard Ashton, Alan Sidaway, Jinty Smart and Beth Smith.

The AGM also appointed a new Returning Officer, Victoria Doran, who replaced Roderick Manson who had recently resigned. The AGM thanked Roderick for his positive contribution over many years.

The contribution of landowners

In general, the work of the Association continues to be a success - we are achieving our objective in maintaining simple shelters in remote country for the use and benefit of all who love wild and lonely places. We currently look after over 100 open bothies. We continue to be supported by the owners of these bothies and are very grateful to them for their co-operation and generosity without which we would not exist.

The contribution of volunteers

During 2017 we carried out an online survey of Members, yielding what Ian Furlong, who organised the survey, called "probably the most wide ranging feedback we've ever had". 3,200 surveys were sent out, 2,200 were opened and 1,450 returned. All but two thought the Association was doing a good job in managing bothies and almost all agreed we should work with other organisations.

Communication with our volunteers and the public

We continued to promote our work by issuing News Releases, arranging interviews with media organisations, providing information to the public and attending events. The Abyssinia restoration was filmed by the BBC's *Countryfile Diaries* programme and a work party at White Laggan was included in a BBC documentary about the Galloway forest. Many thanks to those members who volunteered to face the cameras to talk about the work that they were undertaking and the enjoyment that they got out of volunteering with the MBA.

We joined a number of other outdoor focused organisations in exhibiting at a major mountain safety event-Skills for the Hills- in Glasgow in April.

Our new website went live in October, along with a redesigned member database. The website has received a very positive response from both our members and from the public. The new on line shop proved to be

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extremely popular in the run up to the festive season and we are now considering how we can expand the range of MBA branded goods that we sell. The number of requests for information that we received continued to increase; interest in bothies and how they are maintained is at a higher level than ever. Increased usage can of course bring problems; there has been a marked increase in littering at some of the more popular bothies. At the end of the year, we were preparing a new set of information notices which will be posted in bothies, including some drawing attention to the need to remove litter as part of good bothying practice.

Our Facebook group has proved extremely successful and has contributed both to awareness of bothies, our work in maintaining them, the Bothy Code, and information about work parties. It has also proved to be an effective forum for discussion between our Maintenance Organisers. As a result, we took the decision to discontinue the monthly Members Bulletin which had the same purpose but which of course could not always provide information that needed to be brought to immediate attention.

Volunteers were also responsible for the preparation and distribution of our publications- the Annual Report and Review, the quarterly Newsletter, the 50th Anniversary book, and our Christmas cards and Calendars. They were also responsible for keeping our website up to date, an ever increasing task. The Association would have to incur considerable additional costs were it not for their efforts. We are very grateful to them all.

Overview of maintenance achievements

We have had an excellent year for maintenance and new projects in 2017. By the end of the year we have one hundred and three bothies and have undertaken maintenance at sixty five of them. Of this total three were newly opened during the year, an excellent result from all involved. We spent nearly £81,000 on our bothies and a few highlights are described below.

A major renovation was carried out at Flittingford, a new bothy in Northern England which was led by John Mitchell and Jim Burgess. A significant effort was made Tony Blackburn and his team in order to deliver the completion of Cae Amos in Wales. This was aided by the owner Ed Naish who gave considerable assistance. Most of the restoration work at Abyssinia has been done but issues arose with the fire and chimney and further work is now required in 2018 to finish the project. An excellent effort by Peter Rowell and his team.

North West Highlands and Islands has been without an Area Organiser for a few years but we are pleased to announce that we now have a new Area Organiser, Jason Francis. Jason has been an active member in Northern England for many years and felt it was time to move on and devote his time to an area. The area has been very proactive in planning for major work parties for 2018 including Craig, Taigh Thormoid Dhuibh and the Look Out. We wish Jason well in this new post and will do all we can to support him.

Other areas are actively looking at possible new projects and plans are moving on with the Red House and Garbh Coire in Eastern Highlands, the Lingy Hut in Northern England, Wills Bothy in Southern Scotland and Carrick in South West Highlands and Islands.

In delivering this maintenance there were 124 work parties notified or advertised in 2017. There were volunteer registers for 103 of these. Inevitably there were many more work parties, such as inspection visits, (maybe 200 of these) which were neither notified nor recorded. The 103 work parties where there were volunteer registers involved 59 of our bothies and the total number of volunteer days recorded was 1,289. The number of different people attending these 103 work parties was 261 which is an average of 5 days attendance for each of these 261 volunteers. 113 of these volunteers were at their first ever work party (43%). 184 people attended just one work party in 2017 and 77 people attended more than one.

Financial review 2017

Overview: Having planned for a deficit of about £70,000 in our budget this year, we are delighted to report that the Association ended the year with a surplus of nearly £50,000. This turnaround was due to an underspend of about £58,000, and to income being about £62,000 above the budgeted figure.

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Income: Total income in 2017 was well up at £181,565, compared to £157,335 the previous year, although there were some significant variations within this positive total. Income from subscriptions (£75,324) was down £5,495 on 2016, mainly due to the introduction of a 50% rate for members joining after 1 July. This caused a one-off dip in income which should be reversed in 2018 when these subscriptions are renewed. Unrestricted donations by members fell by £2,427 and those from non-members were also down £2,939. Income from sales, however, was up £1,792 at £10,098; this includes sales of the Anniversary Book, which continued to sell well in its fourth year. The big increases in 2017 were donations restricted to specified projects (up by £26,389 at £29,230) and income from legacies which was £6,164 higher than in 2016 at £29,148.

Expenditure: The total spending in 2017 was £132,068, about the same as last year. Spending on Member Services rose to £38,926 (£35,372 in 2016), mainly due to the cost of the new website. Governance and related costs fell for the second year running to £11,638 (£12,092 in 2016); as happened in 2016, uncontested elections again saved several thousands in postal and other costs. Spending on Bothy Maintenance at £81,504 fell back slightly on 2016's record figure of £85,415, but it was still significantly above the level before then. Whilst at first sight the proportion of planned project spending actually achieved (only 62%) looks very disappointing, this figure is distorted by a single new project (the Red House, budgeted cost £20,000) whose start had to be postponed. Without this, the percentage of planned maintenance spending achieved was 73%, similar to that in 2016. From 2018 onwards we will be reporting spending on such new projects separately from general maintenance, which should provide a more accurate picture of the trends.

All this work was only possible thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers, and the Area Organisers who look after them. If the time given by volunteers on work parties were to be valued (taking the UK average earning of £100 per day as an approximation) this would add nearly £130,000 to the amount "spent" on maintaining bothies.

Reserves Policy: The total funds and net assets at 31 December 2017 were £326,432 (£276,935 in 2016). Of this sum, about £27,000 is in fixed assets (including the website), £50,000 is allocated as 'self-insurance' against major fire or storm damage, £50,000 is set aside by Trustees as a prudent allocation against a potential major fall in income, and about £27,500 is in funds whose use is restricted in some way. Thus about £172,000 is available to be spent on general maintenance and other costs; this would cover the Association's operations for a number of years even if we ceased to receive income from external gifts and legacies. It is also significant that the 2018 budget includes plans for a 20% (£34,000) increase in spending on work on Bothies, which underlines the desire by Trustees to maintain the focus on the MBA's core purpose.

Investment Policy

Trustees' policy is to hold the Association's financial assets in a range of accounts in order to gain the best return possible whilst retaining sufficient funds with instant or short-notice access in order to meet likely expenditure.

Risks

The Trustees have identified three key risks to which the Association may be exposed:

Income shortfall – we depend on members' subscriptions, donations and legacies to pay for materials for bothy maintenance and renovation and for the administration of the Association. In order to mitigate the effect of unexpected income shortfall, we aim to carry a reserve of £50,000.

Risks to MBA volunteers and to the users of our bothies – we have developed robust systems to ensure the highest possible levels of safety at work parties, and we provide training for volunteers engaged in MBA activities. All renovation and maintenance is carried out with due regard to current legislation in respect of building work, fire risk, and health & safety in order to prevent accidents to volunteers and bothy users. In addition, the Association carries public liability insurance of £5 million.

Storm or fire damage to bothies – most of the owners of the bothies the Association maintains require the buildings to be insured, or at least require that we reinstate the building to their original condition in the event of storm or fire damage. We have reviewed the potential cost of insurance compared with the likely cost of reinstatement, taking into account the types of building, the use of volunteer labour and past history of fire

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and storm damage events, and have concluded that self-insurance is the most cost effective option. At current costs and risks, we aim to hold a reserve of £50,000 for self-insurance.

Donated facilities and services

By permission of the Forestry Commission the MBA has the use of a locked store in the Kielder Forest for the storage of equipment.

Plans for future years

The in-year responsibility for the Trustees is to ensure the ongoing maintenance of our current bothies. Proposals for new bothies are also evaluated and taken into maintenance if considered appropriate. We have no plans to move away from our reliance on volunteers. However, a key function of a board is also to determine the direction and scope of the organisation over the longer term. This is usually conducted on a periodic basis through strategic planning. This involves looking at the Association as an entity and is concerned with its long-term development. We will look at what the Association was set up to do and where it is now. We can then propose where we want to go before mapping out how to get there. We would hope to summarise the plan in a written document with clear aims and objectives which would take full account of our charity's core purpose of 'maintaining mountain shelters' and the public benefit requirement. The trustees have started the first discussions in respect of this necessary periodic review which will undoubtedly develop into broader conversations in due course.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of the Mountain Bothies Association for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Trustees are all volunteers and are paid up Members of the MBA.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing those statements the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Governing Document and how the Association is constituted

The governing documents are the Articles and Memorandum of Association. The Association is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland, and is recognised by the Office of the Scotlish Charity Regulator as a charity. We prepare fully accrued accounts, which are audited by a Registered Auditor in accordance with UK auditing standards.

Review of Governance

During 2017, Trustees determined that a thorough review of all aspects of the governance of the Association would be beneficial in order to ensure full compliance with both charity and company law and to ensure that the Association is being run to the best possible standards. Following a competitive bid J&H Mitchell,

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solicitors, were appointed and started work toward the end of the year. The outcome of the Review will be reported in a future Annual Report.

The Organisational Structure of the Association

The nine Trustees of the Association are elected by the members. The Chairman is co-opted as a Trustee (if not directly elected as a Trustee) in accordance with the Articles. The management of the Association is vested in the Trustees, who are responsible for all financial activities, appointments of volunteer officers and matters of policy. The Trustees may approve any expenditure on behalf of the Association, provided that the annual expenditure committed on any one bothy or project may not exceed £20,000 without first being approved in principle at a General Meeting of the Association.

The approval of new projects and appointment of Maintenance Organisers is delegated to the Management Committee, which consists of volunteer officers of the Association together with elected members and delegates from the Maintenance Areas. Responsibility for the planning and implementation of work on bothies is devolved to nine Area Committees each led by its Area Organiser and consisting of the Maintenance Organisers and other active members in that geographical area. Each Area is allocated an annual budget managed by its Area Organiser for the maintenance of its bothies.

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Reference and administrative details

Name

The charity is called the Mountain Bothies Association, and is also known as the MBA.

Numbers

The charity's Scottish Charity Number is SC008685. Company Registration Number SC191425.

Address

The address of the principal office of the charity is: Mountain Bothies Association
C/o Henderson Black & Co
Chartered Accountants
Edenbank House
22 Crossgate
Cupar
Fife
KY15 5HW

Bank

The charity's bank is: Bank of Scotland plc 2-6 Eastgate Inverness IV2 3NA

Auditor

The charity's auditor is:
Stables Thompson & Briscoe Ltd
Lowther House
Lowther Street
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4DX

Trustees

The following have held office since 1 January 2017:

Liz Bibby Simon Birch

Trevor Cotton - until October 2017

Piers Coutts

Ian Furlong

Roger Hammond

Ian Hunter - from October 2017

Peter King

Roger Muhl - until October 2017

Neil Reid - from October 2017

Richard Spencer

Neil Stewart – until October 2017

Major office bearers

The following have held office since 1 January 2017:

Chairman Simon Birch
Company Secretary Richard Spencer
Director of Projects Roger Hammond
General Secretary John Arnott
Treasurer Piers Coutts

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Relationships to other Bodies

The MBA is independent of all other bodies

Appointment of trustees

There are nine Trustees. In addition, the Chairman was co-opted as a trustee until being elected as a trustee in October 2017. Members of the Association can be nominated for election as Trustee by other members of the Association. Trustees are elected for three year terms of office, so each year prior to the Annual General Meeting a postal ballot of all members is held (if the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies) in order to replace the three Trustees whose terms of office are due to expire. No external bodies are entitled to appoint Trustees of the MBA. The Trustees may at any time co-opt any persons duly qualified to be appointed as Trustees to fill a vacancy in their number or as additional Trustees, particularly to ensure coverage of the necessary skills and experience for governance of the Association. A co-opted Trustee holds office only until the next AGM.

Trustee Induction and training

The Association recognises the importance of training both for new Trustees and those holding office. All newly appointed Trustees are issued with a 'Trustees Pack'.

Trustees are also directed to our website as an important source of information. In addition, newly appointed Trustees are provided with such personal guidance as may be appropriate, taking into account the individual's service and experience within the Association, by the Chairman, Company Secretary and General Secretary. All Trustees are given updates and training on all aspects of their responsibilities as required including charity legislation and regulation, health and safety, media relations and legislation pertinent to the function and governance of the charity. Delivery of training is through specific training events, meetings of Trustees, post and email.

Statement of disclosure to auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware;
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Signed by order of the Trustees, as agreed on 17th March 2018

Simon Birch (Chairman)

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

We have audited the financial statements of Mountain Bothies Association for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities and the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, Cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company, the charitable company's members as a body and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2017, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that
 may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going
 concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial
 statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out in the Annual Report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to
 fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit
 evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting
 a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud
 may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal
 control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures
 that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the
 effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit

Helen Holmes BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Stables Thompson & Briscoe, Statutory Auditor
Lowther House, Lowther Street, Kendal LA9 4DX

Stables Thompson & Briscoe is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds	Total funds
		2017	2017	2017	2016
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies					
Membership fees and donations		96,084	-	96,084	103,327
Donations and gifts		44,310	29,230	73,540	43,926
Charitable activities		10,098	-	10,098	8,306
Investments					
Bank Interest		1,822	8	1,830	1,769
Other Interest		13	-	13	7
Total income	16	152,327	29,238	181,565	157,335
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		10,269	-	10,269	9,743
Charitable activities		117,632	4,167	121,799	123,137
Total expenditure	16	127,901	4,167	132,068	132,880
Net income/(expenditure)		24,426	25,071	49,497	24,455
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		24,426	25,071	49,497	24,455
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		274,642	2,293	276,935	252,480
Total funds carried forward		299,068	27,364	326,432	276,935
				====	====

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Uı	nrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
				2017	2016
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	6	17,630	-	17,630	14,496
Tangible assets	7	9,132	-	9,132	9,383
		26,762		26,762	23,879
Current assets					
Stocks		156	-	156	725
Debtors	8	15,678	-	15,678	18,343
Investments – fixed term bank deposit	9	220,913	-	220,913	140,000
Cash at bank and in hand		43,268	27,364	70,632	105,791
		280,015	27,364	307,379	264,859
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(7,709)	-	(7,709)	(11,803)
Net current assets		272,306	27,364	299,670	253,056
Total assets less current liabilities		299,068	27,364	326,432	276,935
Capital and reserves					
Restricted funds	4	-	27,364	27,364	2,293
Unrestricted funds		299,068		299,068	274,642
Members' funds - equity interests		299,068	27,364	326,432	276,935

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 17 March 2018

S Birch (Chairman) P Coutts (Treasurer)

Company Registration No. SC191425 (Scotland)

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	£	2017 £	£	2016 £
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	14		52,102		25,663
Cash flows from Investing activities Interest received Purchase of fixed assets Current asset Investments Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities		1,843 (8,191) (80,913)	(87,261)	1,776 (17,526) (40,000)	(55,750)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year Cash and cash equivalents b/f			(35,159) 105,791		(30,087) 135,878
Cash and cash equivalents c/f			70,632		105,791
Analysis of Cash and cash equivalents					
Cash at bank and in hand Notice deposits (less than 3 months)			40,632 30,000		55,791 50,000
. ,			70,632		105,791

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of Accounting

a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties that would lead them to question the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity and the amounts reported are rounded to the nearest £.

Funds

Funds treated as restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed a legally binding restriction on the use of the funds, or where the trustees and the donor have together agreed that the funds be used for a specified purpose.

Unrestricted funds consist of funds which the charity may use for its purpose at its discretion.

1.2 Income and expenditure

- (a) Subscriptions from new members and life members are recognised when received and the renewal of subscriptions of existing members are recognised in the accounting period to which they relate.
- (b) Gift Aid donations, together with the associated income tax are recognised as income when the donation is received.
- (c) Legacies are included in income when receivable.
- (d) Grants are credited to income upon entitlement.
- (e) Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. The company is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

1.3 Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets include expenditure on the development of the new website. The website was completed in August 2017 and is being amortised on a straight line basis over its useful economic life of 4 years.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets include land and buildings valued at market value. Tangible fixed assets, other than land and buildings, are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Bothy maintenance plant and equipment 25% per annum on a straight line basis Office equipment 25% per annum on a straight line basis

No depreciation is provided in respect of buildings, which are expected to be maintained in such a condition and the useful life is expected to be so great as to make any charges immaterial.

1.5 Maintenance and improvement of bothies

The company does not own the majority of bothies it maintains. Expenditure on small tools costing less than £100, maintenance and improvements to bothies is written off to the Income and Expenditure account as and when incurred. Items installed as permanent fixtures in bothies (e.g. stoves) are likewise written off at the time of installation. The work of maintaining the bothies is undertaken by the members of the Association on a voluntary basis and is therefore not assigned a monetary value in these accounts.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.6 Investments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

1.7 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

2	Expenditure	2017	2016
		£	£
	Expenditure includes:		
	Amortisation of intangible assets	2,002	-
	Depreciation of tangible assets	3,305	2,880
	Loss on disposal of tangible assets	1	2
	Bothy rent - operating lease rentals	120	120
	Trustees expenses - paid to 8 trustees (2016: 9) for travel,		
	subsistence, post, stationery and telephone	2,902	3,144

No remuneration was paid to trustees in the year.

Indemnity insurance was provided for trustees as part of the charity's insurance package. No separate cost can be identified.

There were no employees during the year.

3 Trustee and office bearer expenses

	2017	2016
	£	£
Chairman	775	621
Director of projects	653	579
General secretary	-	92
Treasurer	365	527
Company secretary	-	-
Other trustees	1,109	1,713
	2,902	3,532

During the year a total of £230 (2016: £305) was donated to the charity by the trustees.

The Mountain Bothies Association is a company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have a share capital. The liability of each member is limited to a maximum of £5.

4 Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2017	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 December 2017
	£	£	£	£
Andrew Jenson Memorial	470	77	47	500
Nicholas Randall	820	3	33	790
Pennine Way Association	1,003	3	916	90
Kevin Richardson	-	180	180	-
James A H Henderson Funeral Collection	-	210	210	-
Simon Strachan	-	100	100	-
Clwb Dringo Porthmadog	-	50	50	-
Simon Adaway	-	5,000	-	5,000
Ramblers Holiday Charitable Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-
Susan Hawkins	-	915	-	915
Hilda Eastwood	-	100	100	-
Kay Harman	-	500	431	69
Jim Curtis Fund	-	20,000	-	20,000
Robin Hampton	-	100	100	-
	2,293	29,238	4,167	27,364

The nature and purpose of these funds is as follows:

Andrew Jenson Memorial Fund - For the upkeep of Gameshope Bothy, failing which the upkeep of other bothies (2017 allocation, £47 to Gameshope).

Nicholas Randall - To be spent on bothy maintenance subject to consultation with the donors (2017 allocation, £33 to Gleann Dubh-Lighe).

Pennine Way Association - Donated for use at Greg's Hut - New floor in Blacksmith's Shop (2017 allocation, £916).

Kevin Richardson - Donated for the upkeep of Greensykes Bothy (2017 allocation, £180).

James A H Henderson Funeral Collection - Donated for use at Glenpean Bothy and a plaque for his remembrance (2017 allocation, £210).

Simon Strachan - To be spent on tree planting at Abyssinia Bothy (2017 allocation, £100).

Clwb Dringo Porthmadog - Donated for use at Cae Amos Bothy (2017 allocation, £50).

Simon Adaway - Donated in memory of the late Hugh Smith for use at The Red House Bothy.

Ramblers Holiday Charitable Trust - Grant for re-roofing Dubs Hut (2017 allocation, £2,000).

Susan Hawkins - Donated in memory of the late Brian Hawkins for the upkeep of Callater Stables Bothy.

Hilda Eastwood - Donated for the upkeep of Dubs Hut (2017 allocation, £100).

Kay Harman - Donated for the upkeep of Uags bothy (2017 allocation, £431).

Jim Curtis Fund - To be spent on specific projects and can be spread over a few years. (Please inform Jim's sister Sarah Manning).

Robin Hampton - Donated in memory of the late Lyn Hampton for the upkeep of Greensykes Bothy (2017 allocation, £100).

5 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and, as such, is exempt from taxation on any surplus.

6 Intangible fixe	d assets
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	Computer software £
Cost At 1 January 2017 Additions	14,496 5,136
At 31 December 2017	19,632
Amortisation At 1 January 2017 Charge for the year	2,002
At 31 December 2017	2,002
Net book value At 31 December 2017	17,630
At 31 December 2016	14,496

7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangano mon accord	Land and buildings	Bothy maintenance plant and equipment	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 January 2017	3,040	31,316	136	34,492
Additions	-	3,055	-	3,055
Disposals	-	-	(136)	(136)
At 31 December 2017	3,040	34,371		37,411
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2017	-	24,974	135	25,109
On disposals	-	-	(135)	(135)
Charge for the year	-	3,305	-	3,305
At 31 December 2017		28,279		28,279
Net book value				
At 31 December 2017	3,040	6,092	-	9,132
At 31 December 2016	3,040	6,342	1	9,383
	===			====

8	Debtors	2017	2016
		£	£
	Trade debtors	3,770	6,852
	Other taxes - Gift aid	10,367	10,290
	Prepayments	1,541	1,201
		15,678	18,343
			
9	Current asset investments	2017	2016
		£	£
	Fixed term bank deposit	220,913	140,000
10	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2017	2016
		£	£
	Trade creditors	3,327	4,317
	Income in advance - subscription renewals	165	3,280
	Accruals	4,217	4,206
		7,709	11,803

11 Contingent assets

The Trustees have been advised that Mountain Bothies Association are one of fifteen residual beneficiary charities named in the Will of the late Mr Bernard Cole. Two houses and other assets are required to be sold before a distribution of the estate can be made. The value of the Mountain Bothies Association share (1/15) according to the probate values is £26,000 but this is subject to professional fees and any difference between probate value and the actual sales proceeds.

12 Financial commitments

Written agreements exist for some bothies, whereby the rent shall not exceed £1, payable only if required. Historically landlords have not collected the £1 rents and no landlords requested payment during the year.

The Association has an agreement for the use of Lluest Cwmbach Bothy. The rent is £100 per annum and the agreement may be brought to an end in less than twelve months by either party.

13 Allocation of costs

	Raising funds	Charitable activities	Other costs		Total 2016
	£	£	£	£	£
Finance and members administration	8,050	13,334	-	21,384	20,981
Website costs and amortisation	412	3,702	-	4,114	296

Finance and members administration has been allocated on the basis of time spent in the administration of each activity.

Website costs have been allocated on the basis of relevant usage.

14	Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities	2017	2016	
		£	£	
	Net movement in funds	49,497	24,455	
	Add back depreciation charge	3,305	2,880	
	Deduct interest income	(1,843)	(1,776)	
	Add back amortisation of intangible assets	2,002	-	
	Loss on disposal of fixed assets	1	2	
	Decrease in stocks	569	1,454	
	Decrease in debtors	2,665	1,156	
	(Decrease) in creditors within one year	(4,094)	(2,508)	
	Net cash generated by operating activities	52,102	25,663	

Bothy maintenance costs	2017	2
		_
Bothies where expenditure is over £400	£	
North Highlands		
Strathchailleach	-	
North West Highlands and Islands		
Camasunary	-	2
Uags	431	
Western Highlands and Islands		
A'Chuil	467	
Guirdil	471	3
Invermallie	-	1
Oban	1,583	
South West Highlands and Islands		
Abyssinia	10,273	
Cadderlie	444	
Glengarrisdale	-	
Rowchoish	-	
Tomsleibhe	-	6
Central Highlands		
Gorton	-	1,
Luib Chonnal	-	
Meanach	1,275	
Eastern Highlands		
Callater Stable	-	
Corrour	1,752	
Tarf Hotel	1,036	1
Southern Scotland		
Brattleburn	988	
Burleywhag	486	5
Greensykes	2,412	2
Over Phawhope	4,027	9
Tunskeen	936	
White Laggan	3,177	
Northern England and Borders		
Cross Fell	916	
Dubs Hut	5,636	
Flittingford	2,275	3
Mosedale Cottage	426	
Wainhope	1,165	
Warnscale Head	-	1
Wales		
Cae Amos	534	3
Dulyn	-	1
Moel Prysgau	-	
Other bothies	.=	_
where expenditure is under £400 - total	17,134	14
	57,844	65

16 Detailed statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2017 £	Restricted Funds 2017	Total Funds 2017 £	Unrestricted Funds 2016 £	Restricted Funds 2016 £	Total Funds 2016 £
Income from:	~	۲	4	۲	~	~
Donations and legacies						
Member annual subscriptions Vouchers for member	75,324	-	75,324	80,819	-	80,819
subscriptions	605	-	605	-	-	-
Members donations Tax recovered on Gift Aid	9,756	-	9,756	12,183	-	12,183
donations	10,399	-	10,399	10,325	-	10,325
Donations and gifts	44,310	29,230	73,540	41,084	2,842	43,926
	140,394	29,230	169,624	144,411	2,842	147,253
Charitable activities						
Calendars	3,439	-	3,439	2,809	-	2,809
Christmas cards	3,619	-	3,619	2,703	-	2,703
Leisurewear and badges	254	-	254	113	-	113
Car stickers and coasters	118	-	118			
Anniversary book	2,668		2,668	2,681		2,681
las contra out o	10,098	-	10,098	8,306	-	8,306
Investments	4 000	0	4 000	4.700	7	4 700
Bank interest	1,822	8	1,830	1,762	7	1,769
Other interest	13		13	7		7
	1,835	8	1,843	1,769	7	1,776
Total Income	152,327	29,238	181,565	154,486	2,849	157,335
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Finance & members	2 2 2 2		0.050	7.000		7.000
administration	8,050	-	8,050	7,888	-	7,888
Bank and paypal charges	1,194	-	1,194	1,161	-	1,161
Direct debit bureau	613	-	613	664	-	664
Website costs	211	-	211	30	-	30
Amortisation	201		201			
	10,269	-	10,269	9,743	-	9,743

16 Detailed statement of financial activities

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds 2017 £	Restricted Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2017 £	Unrestricted Funds 2016 £	Restricted Funds 2016 £	Total Funds 2016 £
Charitable activities						
Bothy maintenance & area						
meetings	53,677	4,167	57,844	62,042	3,087	65,129
Bothy rent	120	-	120	120	-	120
Newsletters	10,531	-	10,531	10,389	-	10,389
Other publications	111	-	111	-	-	-
Distribution costs	11,142	-	11,142	10,625	-	10,625
Exhibitions	20	-	20	20	_	20
Website costs	1,901	-	1,901	266	-	266
Trustee post, stat & phone	413	-	413	333	-	333
Non Trustee post, stat & phone	-	-	-	217	-	217
Trustee travel & subsistence	1,783	-	1,783	1,971	-	1,971
Non trustee travel & subsistence	1,547	-	1,547	2,835	-	2,835
Meeting expenses - hall hire etc	1,409	-	1,409	1,753	-	1,753
Calendars	1,764	-	1,764	1,692	-	1,692
Christmas cards	1,843	-	1,843	1,561	-	1,561
Car stickers and coasters	63	-	63	-	-	-
Leisurewear and badges	381	_	381	-	_	-
Anniversary book	569	-	569	644	-	644
Anniversary book P&P	534	-	534	434	-	434
Satellite phone	1,666	_	1,666	1,075	_	1,075
Members bulletin	1,219	_	1,219	870	_	870
Health and Safety	947	_	947	1,156	_	1,156
Standards group	-	_	-	28	_	28
Insurance	1,065	_	1,065	1,062	-	1,062
Donations to other charities	1,850	_	1,850	350	-	350
Annual report	2,210	_	2,210	2,210	-	2,210
Affiliation fees	55	_	55	100	-	100
Finance & members						
administration	13,334	-	13,334	13,093	-	13,093
Auditors' fees	2,371	-	2,371	2,322	-	2,322
Depreciation	3,305	-	3,305	2,880	-	2,880
Amortisation	1,801	-	1,801	-	_	-
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	1	-	1	2	-	2
	117,632	4,167	121,799	120,050	3,087	123,137
Total expenditure	127,901	4,167	132,068	129,793	3,087	132,880
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	24,426	25,071	49,497	24,693	(238)	24,455