

Lake District Mobility



Annual Report 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021

The Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Trustees of Lake District Mobility,
a charitable incorporated organisation.

A Charity registered with the Charities Commission in England and Wales.
Registered Charity no: 1172739.

Ground Floor, Derwent House, Wakefield Road, Cockermouth, CA13 0HS
Tel: 07843 754239 Email: info@lakedistrictmobility.org

Charity Development Manager: Julia Walker

Trustees (current): Adrian Jones (Chair), Lorraine Smyth, Karen Smith and Nick
Lancaster



Letter from the Chairman, Aidie Jones

With the last twelve months of the pandemic being some of the most difficult times for all charities, businesses and individuals, it is no surprise that Lake District Mobility has been faced with numerous challenges. Despite the numerous lockdowns and periods of being closed with staff on furlough, we have been able to open up again to serve our beneficiaries.

It is all due to the strength and focus of our staff, trustees and volunteers who have shown amazing commitment to the charity and its mission. Since opening up, the operational side of the charity has developed with the aim of improving our members' experience and, using funding raised for new Trampers, progressed towards the opening of a new hire site at the Grizedale Forest.

Our fundraising achievements in the midst of the pandemic have been exceptional, both funds for new Trampers and funds to support the core costs of operating the charity as we move towards full sustainability.

With more hire sites in the pipeline, our dedicated Trustee Board, our skilled Manager and a team of talented staff and volunteers I am confident that Lake District Mobility will continue to grow and serve our beneficiaries through 2022 and beyond no matter what the future holds.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Aidie Jones'. The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Making Amazing Places Accessible

Our Plan

Lake District Mobility exists for the public benefit to break down the barriers that prevent people with limited mobility enjoying the great outdoors either independently or with their friends and family.

We do this by:

- providing and leasing all-terrain mobility scooters, Trampers, at outdoor attractions and businesses
- helping to raise awareness of barriers to accessibility and advocate for better access for all

How we do this:

- Recruit hire sites to host Trampers
- Audit trails and advise on accessibility and safety
- Train and support hire sites to host and hire out Trampers
- Offer taster or annual memberships to people with limited mobility to allow them to hire out all our Trampers, wherever placed
- Publicise available hire sites
- Arrange the maintenance and servicing of Trampers
- Raise awareness of the barriers facing people with limited mobility
- Work with Accessible Cumbria
- Ensure all our staff are encouraged to fulfil their potential with training, flexible working and regular supervision and appraisal.
- Support the campaign for more Changing Places
- Champion radical improvements to accessibility by influencing key organisations such as Cumbria Tourism and the Lake District National Park Authority
- Work with our affiliate North York Moors Mobility to make Trampers available at sites in the North York Moors National Park.
- Raise funds to buy Trampers
- Provide insurance for all users



Impact of Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on all aspects of life and work since the spring of 2020. According to Charity Commission's Covid-19 survey 2021, nearly all charities in the UK have experienced some negative impact due to Covid-19, with the pandemic predominantly impacting charities' services and delivery (85%), alongside their financial position (72%).

Suspending Trampler hire and temporary office closure

Lake District Mobility needed to respond appropriately, as all non-essential office-based work was curtailed, travel and leisure activities were restricted, and all our partner hire-sites closed their public facing services, including suspending Trampler hire. Under these circumstances the trustees took the decision to close Lake District Mobility as a temporary measure to ensure safety of its staff and to secure the Charity's long-term financial sustainability. This was achieved with the help of the Government's furlough scheme. All staff were furloughed from March 2020 to July 2021 with the Charity bridging the gap left by furlough funding to ensure all staff remained on full pay during this time.



Returning to work and outdoors in the summer/autumn of 2020

Lockdown restrictions relaxed over the summer months and hire-sites resumed their public facing services. Lake District Mobility staff also returned to work at this point, working partially from home and partially in the office. The Charity's key aims at this point were twofold:

1. Supporting sites to resume Trampler hire in a way that kept staff, Trampler users and other visitors safe.
2. Reaching out to Lake District Mobility's members and supporters, offering reassurance that Trampers were available again in a safe way, and encouraging the public to enjoy the outdoors on Trampers again.

How we achieved this:

- Carried out Trampler hire risk assessments for sites with a focus on the risks posed by Covid-19 and how to mitigate them
- Agreed hire procedures with sites, that minimised the risk of transmission for staff and Trampler visitors
- Supported the sites in recovering from loss of business by extending their Trampler lease agreements with no extra cost
- Gave members an extra 6 months free membership to make up for the time they lost during lockdown
- Used blog and social media to engage with the public, telling them about how we were making Trampler hire safe and encouraging their use
- Created videos on returning to Trampler hire to engage a wider group of people.



Winter 2020/21

From December 2020 through to April/May 2021 the social distancing restrictions meant that hire-sites were once again closed. Lake District Mobility staff were again on furlough, initially full-time and then on a part-time basis, as sites began re-opening. Since May, Lake District Mobility has been working full time with all hire-sites offering Trampler hire.

Looking ahead:

Our return to full capacity since the summer of 2021 has been very positive. Trampers have been in great demand, we have set up a new Trampler hire scheme at Grizedale Forest and were gifted a second Trampler to meet high demand at Whinlatter. Work is underway with other sites to further expand the Trampler provision and we have developed a new website, providing on-line membership and bookings.

Our aim to be self-sustaining is now delayed by 18-24 months due to Covid-19 and hire-sites' new financial restrictions. We are extremely grateful that, thanks to the help of our supporters, Lake District Mobility has returned from the pandemic on a strong footing and with confidence in our work to achieve our aims.

Our Team: Volunteers, Trustees, Staff

Julia Walker has remained as the Charity Development Manager and Penny Swann as the Charity Fundraising Officer. Trella Javanainen's role has evolved into that of a Charity Operations Officer.

Aidie Jones has remained in his role as the Chair of the Trustees. The rest of the trustee board during 2020-2021 was made up of Chris MacLeod (Retired December 2021), Anna Scamans (Retired July 2021), Lorraine Smyth and Karen Smith. No volunteer activity took place during this reporting year, but communication with our volunteers was maintained.

What Lake District Mobility Members Say

The feedback we received showed that members experienced high levels of satisfaction in using the Trampers, and particularly enjoyed:

“...being able to enjoy the fresh air and the views without worry” and
“...being able to get out to places I love”.

Ease of use of the Trampler and ability to book in advance were also appreciated. One of the respondents asked if we could open another Trampler route, for example at Grizedale, which we have since then achieved.



Working with others to improve access

We have maintained close working relationships with the partners we had at the beginning of the financial year 2020/2021.

Working with Countryside Mobility

Lake District Mobility and Countryside Mobility collaborated closely in planning a safe return to Trampler hire in the summer of 2020. As we have a reciprocal arrangement with Countryside Mobility, whereby our members can access Countryside Mobility's Trampler scheme and vice versa, we made sure that standards of safety remained the same across both charities.

Publicising What We Do

Lake District Mobility publishes a blog post on most weeks and engages regularly with the public on social media. This activity was on hold during the furlough period. When work resumed in the summer, our communications focussed on encouraging members to use Trampers and communicating how we were protecting the public and staff at hire sites from Covid-19.

Our Supporters

Once again, Lake District Mobility has been fortunate in having wonderful supporters, whose generosity helped us through a very challenging period. Specifically, our office landlady, Emma Harris of Health and Holistic, adjusted our office rental costs during lockdown to reflect the fact that we simply could not go to the office. This was made possible by the generosity of Paul Rowlands of Derwent Dental Care in whose building our office is situated. Furthermore, our insurers Zurich gave us a 6-month extension on all our policies free of charge. We were also nominated for a generous donation from Jacobs by their employee, Gemma Goulding. This was an acknowledgement of her voluntary work in co-ordinating support for the vulnerable in her local community during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. This money has gone towards developing our new website, which gives our members and partners on-line membership management and Trumper booking facilities.

We would like to thank all our supporters, including those who make a donation to us on a monthly basis. Some of our supporters include:

- Allerdale Borough Council Covid Grant: £4,000
- The Nineveh Trust: £2,500
- Jacobs, as nominated by their employee, Gemma Goulding: £1,800
- Peter Todd: £1,000
- Sarah Gerrish: £570 through her record-breaking achievement of The Bay Limestone Round challenge
- Emma Harris: £130 from her combined pony trek and run challenge
- Accessible Conference donation £969.26



Financial Statement

Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31st March 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2020 Total
RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£
Government Grants	13,560		13,560	28,700
Grants		2,500	2,500	(all grants)
Donations & Legacies	25,032		25,032	3,570
Gift Aid			-	66
Site Assessments			-	1,400
Lease Agreements	3,972		3,972	3,775
Membership Fees	248		248	1,242
Interest			-	27
Travel reimbursement	221		221	63
Total Receipts	<u>43,033</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>45,533</u>	38,843
PAYMENTS				
Assessment Costs				1,180
Bank Charges	69		69	40
Insurances	697		697	697
Office Equipment plus other costs and expenses	277		277	990
Partnership Agreements	39		39	209
Pay and Pensions	21,809		21,809	21,764
Printing, Postage & Stationery	353		353	874
Rent	1,050		1,050	1,700
Repairs	1,311		1,311	652
Subscriptions	147		147	
Telephone	40		40	

Travel and Accommodation	484	484	1,714
Website Costs	770	770	770
Total Payments	<u>27,046</u>	<u>27,046</u>	30,590

Year-end summary to 31 March 2021	2021 Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
NET	15,987	2,500	18,487	8,253
Cash Funds B/F	33,294	3,700	36,994	28,741
Cash Funds C/F	49,281	6,200	55,481	36,994

Grants & Restricted Donations – received & held in 20/21 carried forward to 21/22: 27,215

Kept as reserves, as per reserves policy: 15,680

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Assets	£
Vehicles	30,334
Office equipment	1,045
Bank Account	55,471
Petty Cash	10
Gift Aid Reclaim (estimate)	467
Total Assets	87,327
 Liabilities	 0

Reserves Policy

In the opinion of the trustees the reserves are satisfactory for the forthcoming year. We intend to maintain our unrestricted funds (reserves) at a level, which, is at least equivalent to six (6) months to provide financial stability for our principal activities and are considered sufficient to fulfil our continuing obligations (running costs, wages) and to respond to emergency needs which arise from time to time. We continue to monitor the needs of the charity and of our partners and have utilised the Government furlough scheme where appropriate, to reserve revenue for the future.

We also continue to find and assess new sites in which to situate Trampers and to make regular applications to potential funders.

Restricted Funds relate to Trumper purchase

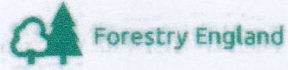
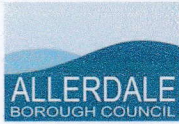
Signed on behalf of the board:



Aidie Jones
Chair of the Trustees



Lake District
National Park



Jacobs

LANGDALE



THE DOWAGER COUNTESS
ELEANOR PEEL TRUST

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Lake District Mobility

Charity number 1172739

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Lake District Mobility (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 8-9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

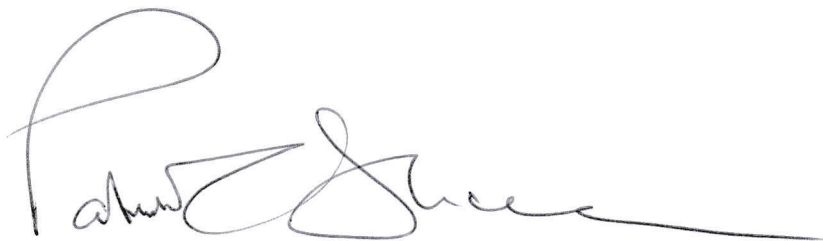
Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick M Sharman', written over a horizontal line.

Patrick M Sharman

Chartered Accountant

Yew Tree House Pardshaw

Cockermouth CA13 0SP

Date 26 January 2022