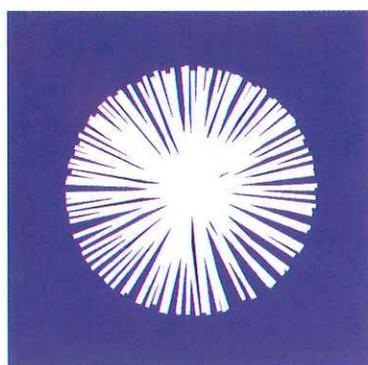


Scottish Environment LINK



The voice of
Scotland's
environment
movement



Annual Report 2004

Covering the year June 2003 to May 2004

Summary of Accounts for 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004

Publications

- *LINK Newsletter* (quarterly) for Members, Associates, Supporters and Subscribers, carrying reviews of recent work and information on initiatives by Members and guest contributors;
- *Holyrood Highlighter*, regular digest of Scottish Parliamentary news relating to environment;
- *Reports* on a range of issues (see publications list at www.scotlink.org)

Board of Trustees

Chair of Board	Lloyd Austin
Treasurer	David Downie
Members	John Mayhew Ian McCall Andrew Fairbairn Ian Findlay Ann-Marie Smout Bob Aitken
Honorary Fellows	R Drennan Watson David Minns

Staff

Chief Officer	Jen Anderson
Development Officer	Alice Walsh
Parliamentary Officer	Jessica Pepper
Information & Policy Support Administration	Rosalind Pearson Andrew Colledge
Fundraising	Steven Gardner
Parliamentary Administrator	Sam Murray
everyone Coordinator	Susan Warren

Further information

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Most LINK member bodies are signatories to the everyone campaign at www.everyonecan.org

LINK is a Scottish Company Limited by guarantee and without a share capital under Company No. SC 250899. LINK is a Scottish Charity under SC 000296.



This has been an unusual year for LINK — being without a Chair for its duration — so this is a Chair's Foreword and Board of Trustees' report combined.

That said, however, I am pleased to report that the Board's Chair Search Group, led by John Mayhew, has successfully completed its task — indeed, surpassed it by not only identifying a successor to Neil Rankin, but also altering the title and remit for the office. By the time this is published, Fred Edwards will be LINK's new President.

In the wider world, Scottish Environment LINK's reputation as the accepted and strong voice for Scotland's environment and for the role of NGOs (individually or collectively) in the environmental debate continues to grow.

This report illustrates the wide range of fields where LINK is bringing a powerful influence to bear and the many bodies with whom we engage but, undoubtedly, the high points of this past year was the extent to which the **everyone** campaign influenced the ambitions of political parties, and ultimately the Partnership Agreement. Since then, progress has been made on a number of fronts — the Nature Conservation Bill has been passed, the Executive has published a consultation on the marine environment (which, we hope, will presage legislation and policy changes), the implementation of the access legislation is progressing steadily, and the Common Agricultural Policy reform is becoming a reality.

This effort, over many years, was appreciated by Parliamentarians and warmly acknowledged by Committees and in the debating chamber. LINK and its member bodies are well recognised and established as credible sources of information on the environmental dimensions of developing policy and clear exponents of the public interest. The benefit to the public of an independent voice for the environment is unequivocal — LINK delivers excellent value for the small percentage of third sector funding that it receives.

No organisation is credible without its grass roots support and it is on this strength that our **everyone** campaign draws. Following its successes, around the Holyrood elections, the Steering Group has worked hard to plan a four-year strategy for the campaign which has begun successfully with projects targeted at the European elections. As Neil commented, last year, the **everyone** campaign represents LINK bodies working together on an entirely new level that subsumes individual agendas — from birds to bicycles — within the bigger picture, under the joint aspiration of raising the status of the environment in Scotland.

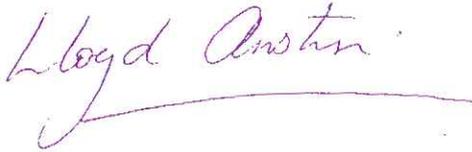
Once again in 2003, many people from across the movement joined together at the LINK Members' Congress for creative discussion and sociability. Kicked off with a 'question time' session, involving senior political and media figures, Congress underlined the enthusiasm and remarkable diversity of expertise that exists within LINK and its member bodies.

Task Forces continue to contribute to a range of environmental debates and bring strong influences to bear, safeguarding the present and shaping our future. Our parliamentary business grows and I am pleased to report that the highly respected team continues to provide a well-used and valuable service that is greatly appreciated by both members and Parliamentarians.

Following last year's mid-term review and conversion to company status, the Board has maintained a 'steady as she goes' approach to financial and institutional matters. While not complacent — especially given our continued reliance on a few large funders (other than subscriptions) — both income and expenditure budgets have been achieved, and modest growth planned for next year. We have, however, begun to plan for the more detailed and thorough strategic review that will be necessary to produce a new corporate strategy for 2006 and beyond.

We are also keeping an eye on succession planning for the Board and in particular for the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer, agreeing new ways of sharing responsibilities for staff, financial, representational and other areas.

Finally, I must thank all the other Trustees for their contributions on the Board and its various sub-groups, as well as LINK's very good staff for their hard work. Without this, none of the achievements I report above would have been possible. In particular, I would like to mention Andy and Steve, who moved on from LINK in the course of the past year — we wish them both well for the future.



Lloyd W Austin
Vice-Chair

LINK President

At the 2004 Annual General Meeting, LINK's Board of Trustees will be recommending **Fred Edwards** to LINK's member bodies for election as LINK's next President. Over recent months, LINK has been taking relevant opportunities to introduce Fred to LINK members and to involve him in our work. Fred was identified as the preferred candidate by a small search group chaired by Trustee John Mayhew, and the group's recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the Board.

Following an impressive career in industry, the probation service and social work, Fred has been exploring his joint enthusiasms of the environment, international development and social justice. This has already brought him into contact with several LINK member bodies, and he has served on the boards of a number of agencies, LINK bodies and other NGOs in the social justice sector. Fred is very personable, energetic, enthusiastic and keen both to support LINK's existing work and to open new doors for the movement. LINK is delighted that he has responded so positively to the approach and has agreed to offer his support and guidance over the coming years.



John Mayhew
LINK Trustee