



**AGM Treasurer's Report Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**By Helen Wood, Treasurer**

The annual accounts have been referred to our appointed Accountants, G O Thomson & Co, Chartered Accountants, 85 High Street, Biggar, ML12 6DL. Due to the income for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 exceeding £500k an audit is required and therefore prolonging the final reports.

Our trusted Accountants are progressing with our audit with our annual accounts due to be submitted to both Companies House and OSCR by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Thus, G O Thomson & Co will submit on our behalf.

I was appointed as Treasurer in May 2021 taking over the role from Christine Parker. Christine had worked endlessly as our treasurer for many years, handing over the accounts in tip top shape for me to take forward in my new role. I would like to thank Christine on behalf of past and present board members for her commitment and dedication over the years and she remains an invaluable asset with her wealth of knowledge and my 'go to' for any queries.

On my appointment we registered with HMRC to become VAT registered, this was effective from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 with VAT returns being submitted monthly to assist cash flow. (VAT Registration 380 115525) We adopted an online accountancy software 'Free Agent' to allow us to manage our finances, upload invoices, reconcile bank statements and submit our VAT returns online through 'Making Tax Digital' and allows our Accountants instant access to our Accounts.

Covid-19 has provided challenges to us financially with no fundraising events able to go ahead and concerns over when the build would break ground. With the demolition finally under way in February 2021 the project was now moving, in the background research was being drawn up to support our community with a reliable database and website for collating, filing, storing and capturing the history of 'Tweedsmuir' through the efforts of our Community Development Officer, Lesley Mason, and the expertise of Environ IT managed and run by Andrew Mason. With the demolition completed it was hands on with the decluttering of 'The Wee Crook' and many hours undertaken by Doug Roper and his helpers to prepare the site ready for the build. Lawrie Construction commenced works in July 2021 with the project overseen by WT Architects, CFA Archaeology, SEPA and Scottish Power. By the end of financial year the project was well underway and being impeccably managed by James Welch and Jamie Bateman.

We must thank the continued support from our grant funders SSE Clyde Windfarm, Foundation Scotland, Garfield Weston, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Scottish Government and Scottish Borders Council. Without their continued support and further funding for the current financial year this project build would not be possible. We must also thank the smaller grants such as Paths For All, Southern Uplands, Rural Communities, Fallago Environment and Tweedsmuir Council who have all played a vital role throughout this current year to support many behind the scenes projects and awareness campaigns.

Finally, to all the board members and local volunteers who each play a vital role in the development of 'The Wee Crook' and the greater community of Tweedsmuir. From volunteering their time, offering the use of tractors and machinery, digging and planting, organising and promoting, delegating and managing, form filling and consulting, on site meetings or catering for visitors, it would not be possible without you. Thank you.