

Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) SC045955, www.fombl.org.uk



Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Scottish Charity No – SC045955

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026**

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Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2026

The trustees take pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Structure, Governance and Management

Charity Address

c/o 25/2 Roseneath Place, Edinburgh EH9 1JD

Constitution and Trustees

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered with OSCR on 3rd September 2015. It has a two-tier structure with membership open to the public and a board of elected trustees who are also members of the charity.

Trustees are elected or re-elected at the annual general meeting and additional trustees may be elected at any time during the year. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of fifteen trustees. We are always interested in expressions of interest from members who wish to become trustees.

Current Trustees

Iain Black	Trustee
Joan Carter	Vice-Chair
Jim Orr	Chair
Maureen Parnell	Newsletter Editor
Neil Roger	Projects Manager
Alison Service	Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Bridget Stevens	Trustee
Neill Walker	Secretary

All of the trustees were in position for the entire year.

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Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

The organisation was established for charitable purposes only. From our constitution these are:

- Advancement of Arts, Heritage, Culture or Science. To promote the historical value of the area, its scenic, architectural, landscape and ecological qualities for the enjoyment of people living in and visiting the area.
- Advancement of Environmental Protection or Improvement. To encourage conservation, protect, enhance and improve the landscape, biodiversity and sustainable use for the benefit of people and wildlife.
- Advancement of Citizenship or Community Development. To engage and involve the local community in environmental issues and action through information exchange, educational and practical activities.

Activities

Once again, members of Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links have worked hard all year to protect the historic meadows and links. We are very fortunate to have so many active members and local residents owe them a debt of gratitude. Our trustees are also very active in terms of managing our finances, membership, newsletters, projects and more.

As at March 2026 we had 104 active members plus 6 organisations such as community councils, student groups and the Bruntsfield Short Hole Golf Course. This compares to 103 active members last year.

The tree group have continued to water and maintain the thousands of new native trees and bushes which were planted across several areas of the meadows and links in recent years. The volunteer group also met throughout the year to collect litter and leaves and remove weeds and graffiti among other tasks.

Extensive areas of wildflower meadow have also been maintained and improved during the year with thousands of new bulbs and wildflowers planted or seeded. Local ecologist Charles McQueen has been supporting us with this. Scottish Water's extensive former compound area off Marchmont Road was restored at their expense in the summer of 2025 but the area will need time and attention for full restoration to occur. We continue to encourage the council to adopt a relaxed policy towards mowing grassy areas to encourage biodiversity.

For many years FoMBL worked hard, along with councillors and officials, to achieve a comprehensive upgrade of the Links playground. Local families will be pleased to see four new pieces of equipment among other improvements there.

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Our main way of communicating with members is through our excellent regular newsletters and project reports which are always full of great photos and updates. These are available to read on the FoMBL website. We also maintain a FoMBL Facebook group with 6,700 members.

Artist and historian Andy Arthur was the main speaker for our AGM at the German Church in September 2025. We also had a very enjoyable Christmas social event in the Black Ivy. The Lowe family who own it have been very supportive of, and generous towards, FoMBL over the years.

Sadly our webmaster Philip McDowell will retire from this post this year and we are very grateful for his many years of assistance as well as designing numerous posters for FoMBL talks over the years. His dedication and efficiency over many years will be greatly missed.

Financial summary

The charity remains in a healthy financial position with £17,367 in the bank at the end of March. We have very few fixed costs and a substantial regular subscription income.

In terms of restricted expenditure, £3,463 was the main item carried over from the prior year for the long delayed information panel project in association with Edinburgh World Heritage. £3164 was also received from the Community Grant Fund during the year to go towards a new table tennis table. This was added to £1395 from the Black Ivy and £750 from JR Construction brought forward from the prior year. Only planning fees of £691 were offset during the financial year. This project is scheduled to be completed in June 2026.

At the end of the year, £8,081 was carried forward restricted and £9,286 unrestricted.

With all the above income taken into account and relatively little project spend recently, we made a surplus of £3,638 for the year.

Jim Orr, Chair of Trustees, 29th May 2026

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Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year to 31st March 2026

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year to 31/03/2026	31/03/2025
Receipts				
Donations	1212	0	1212	4544
Membership subs	1106	0	1106	1171
Grants	0	3164	3164	0
Sundry in Gift Aid	1022	0	1022	30
Total receipts	3340	3164	6504	5745
Payments				
Meetings/social events	926	0	926	843
Project expenditure	300	691	991	0
Membermojo	95	0	95	95
Website	0	0	0	60
Volunteer equipment/trees	506	143	649	910
Stripe charges (no longer reported)	0	0	0	36
Trustee Insurance	120	0	120	155
Overpayment	0	0	0	0
Sundry	116	0	116	8
Total payments	2063	834	2897	2107
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1277	2330	3607	3638
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1277	2330	3607	3638

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Statement of Balances - As at 31 March 2026

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year to 31/03/26	Year to 31/03/25
Opening cash at bank and in hand	8009	5751	13760	10122
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1277	2330	3607	3638
Closing cash at bank and in hand	9286	8081	17367	13760

Bank and Cash Balances

Bank deposit account	9286	8081	17367	13760
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Orr".

Jim Orr

FoMBL Convenor, 29th May 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Service".

Alison Service

FoMBL Treasurer, 29th May 2026

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Notes to the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the charity's constitution.

2 Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3 Related party transactions

No remuneration or personal expenses were paid to any trustees or connected persons during the year (2024/25: Nil)

4 Governance costs

	Total 25/26	Total 24/25
Independent examiner's fee	50	0

5 Transfers between funds

There were no transfers of funds between restricted and unrestricted funds during the period.

6 Note on expenditure

Most of the volunteer equipment was for small sundry items. The largest item was £110 for expenses for a volunteer group from Edinburgh University. We also spent £300 on bench refurbishments during the year and £691 on planning fees for the table tennis table. As with last year we had a Christmas Social event at the Black Ivy which cost £434. Sundry costs increased due to independent examiner costs and the purchase of a "cardnet" machine for taking virtual payments such as donations.

7 Note on income

Our only grant income during the year was £3164 from the Community Grant Fund for a second table tennis table. This new one will be on Bruntsfield Links and will follow one installed near the East toilets some years ago. We were pleased to receive £1000 in donations from High and Ruddy and £1022 in Gift Aid rebate from HMRC.

8 Assets held by the charity

The charity owns several gardening tools and similar "assets", the most valuable of which are two water bowsers on wheels.

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield links

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2026 which are set out in pages 1 to 7 above.

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 trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 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 independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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 seeks explanations from the 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 the course of 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
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

1. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Mr Gordon Miln

29/05/26

Address: 94/6 Dinmont Drive, Edinburgh, EH16 5RY.