Friends of Edinburgh University Library

Scottish Charity No: SC001518

Annual Report & Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 July 2026

Friends of Edinburgh University Library is a Scottish Charity, SC001518, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

Friends of Edinburgh University Library

Annual Report & Statement of Account
For the year ended 31 July 2026

Contents **Page**

Trustees' Annual Report	3 - 6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Statement of Receipts and Payments	8
Statement of Balances	9
Notes to the Accounts	10 – 11

Friends of Edinburgh University Library

Trustees' Annual Report
For the year ended 31 July 2026

The charity trustees present their report together with the financial statements and the Independent Examiner's report for the year 31 July 2026.

Reference & Administrative Information

Charity Name:	Friends of Edinburgh University Library
Charity Number:	SC001518
Principal Office:	The University of Edinburgh, Main Library, George Square Edinburgh EH8 9LJ

Trustees:

*The Friends of Edinburgh University Library (*hereafter *The Friends)* is managed by its' Committee, the members of which are the charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. The people who served as Committee members during the period from the start of the year reported on to the date of approval of this report are as follows. They served for the whole of that period unless indicated otherwise opposite their names.

Elected members	
Mrs Louise Gardiner	*President*
Mr Richard Battersby	*Treasurer*
Vacant	*Secretary*
Dr Kit Baston	*Web Editor*
Dr Simon Burton	
Dr Lucinda Byatt	*Piper Editor*
Ms Rachel Cadell	
Professor John Cairns	
Mr John Scott Moncrieff	
Dr Shenxiao Tong	
Co-opted members	
Ms Antonia Clark	
Professor Lesley McAra	(Until 31 March 2026)
Dr Gerard McKeever	(From 20 Nov 2025)
Professor Alex Thomson	(Until 20 Nov 2025)

Members ex officio
Mr Daryl Green, Associate Director Heritage Collections (Research & Curatorial), University of Edinburgh
Mr Gavin McLachlan, Chief Information Officer and Librarian, University of Edinburgh
Mr Jeremy Upton, Director of Library & University Collections, University of Edinburgh

Other attendees
Ms Alason Roberts *Administrator of the Friends*

Independent Examiner: Chris Smith BSc (Hons) FCIE

Structure, Governance & Management

The *Friends* is a charitable unincorporated association with a Constitution that sets out its purposes and administration arrangements. The Constitution was revised on 15 November 2022.

The Constitution specifies that elected members of the Committee are to be elected at Annual General Meetings, makes provision for three ex-officio members of the Committee, and gives the Committee power to co-opt no more than two additional members, to invite individuals to attend meetings, and to fill Committee vacancies until the next AGM. Elected members, other than office-bearers and ex officio members, are elected for three-year periods and can be re-elected for a further three-year period. On completion of two consecutive periods, they are not eligible for election for one year.

Objectives & Activities

To bring together persons with an interest in the Library of the University of Edinburgh; to act as a channel for gifts to the Library; to receive subscriptions and gifts of money for the purchase of rare or valuable books, collections of papers, manuscripts, documents, photographs or other rare or valuable items for the Library; to enhance the resources and reputation of the Library; and to do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objects or any of them.

In pursuance of the foregoing objects the *Friends* will aim to support the Library in the development of its activities, in particular by:

(i) contributing to the acquisition or preservation of materials for the Library through a financial contribution.

(ii) producing a programme of talks and events of interest to the membership of the *Friends*.

(iii) producing a newsletter.

(iv) supporting the programme of exhibitions in the Library.

(v) being advocates of and supporters for the work of the Library.

(vi) encouraging donations and bequests to the Library.

(vii) maintaining an online presence, especially by a website.

Achievements & Performance

A number of wide-ranging talks were held during the year in the Main Library.

At the AGM in November, the *Friends'* former President, Lady Joyce Caplan was made an Honorary Member. After the formalities, there were presentations on the Library & University Collections' annual report.

A very welcome donation of £500 was received during the year from the relative of a former member of the *Friends.*

Dr Lucinda Byatt took on the role of Editor of *The Piper* and two issues were circulated to members. Back issues of *The Piper*, dating from 2008, can be found on the *Friends'* website

Dr Kit Baston undertook a much-needed refresh of the *Friends'* website during the year. https://friendsofeul.co.uk

The Trustees remain keen to fill the vacant posts of Honorary Secretary and Events Coordinator and are always happy to hear from anyone interested in becoming a Trustee.

The Trustees continued to discuss ways of increasing membership, which is considered a priority. At the start of 2026 the University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association was wound up after 100 years and its members were invited to join the *Friends* and several did so. There have been discussions with the *Friends of St Cecilia's Hall and Museum* with a view to arranging joint events. The first of these will be held in September 2026.

Ms Alason Roberts served this year on the judging panel for the David Laing Student Book Collecting Prize. This prize is intended to encourage collecting by undergraduate and postgraduate students of the University by recognising a collection formed by a student. Once again, the Trustees contributed £250, allowing the prize winner to choose a book for the Library's Heritage Collections. A winner and two runners-up were duly selected and given free *Friends'* membership for a year. Presentations from three of the finalists, including the overall winner, were given at a *Friends'* event in May.

The Trustees agreed to contribute funding towards the Library's purchase of two items:

- Arrian of Nicomedia. *Epicteti Philosophi, Praeceptoris Sui, Dissertationibus Libri IIII … Enchiridion* (Basel, per Joannem Oporinum, 1554)
- Eleven autograph letters from Colin MacLaurin to James Stirling, 1728–1738

Financial Review

At the end of the year there were reserves of £31,627 in bank accounts and cash and £82,301 of investments, all of which are available to support future Library purchases and the work of the *Friends* generally. The *Friends* had a deficit of £7,696 this year. There was a sustained increase in the value of the *Friends'* investments as the year progressed, resulting in a significant increase at the year-end compared to July 2025.

As mentioned in previous annual reports, the *Friends'* Reserves Policy sets out the following financial strategy. The Trustees are actively trying to boost income so that income from all sources (including investment income) is in balance with expenditure of all kinds (including funding Library purchases). Current expenditure, excluding Library purchases and funding for internships, is normally more or less in balance with income, which means that Library purchases and funding for internships result in a deficit. In these circumstances the Trustees will permit an annual deficit of up to £2,000 resulting from funding Library purchases, and if an exceptionally important purchase presents itself then an annual deficit of up to £5,000 is permissible.

The deficit of £7,442 last year and deficit of £7,696 this year are a consequence of the unexpected receipt of the two bequests received in 2021/22 and 2022/23, as noted in previous reports. Expenditure on Library purchases and funding for internships has followed in subsequent years. The Trustees took the decision to spend a significant amount of the bequest funding rather than simply investing it. This approach will continue in a prudent and responsible manner, whilst recognising the need to ensure that there continues to be sufficient funding for the annual running costs of the *Friends*.

Approved by the charity trustees on 30 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Richard Battersby

.....

Richard Battersby - Trustee

Friends of Edinburgh University Library

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of Friends of Edinburgh University Library for the year ended 31 July 2026, which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 ("the 2006 Regulations").

I have satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under Regulation (10)(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations and is eligible for independent examination. I have therefore examined the charity's accounts as required under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. In carrying out my examination I have followed the guidance issued to independent examiners by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe that:

1. the accounting records were not kept as required by section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations; or
4. there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and I have no concerns in respect of any of the above and I have found no other matters that require drawing to your attention.



Chris Smith BSc (Hons) FCIE
Glascairn Cottage
Aytounhill
Cupar
Fife KY14 6JH

Date: 5/10/26

Friends of Edinburgh University Library

Statement of Receipts & Payments
For the year ended 31 July 2026

Receipts	Note	2026 Total	2025 Total
		£	£
Donations	3	748	283
Subscriptions	3	1,970	2,270
Gift Aid: tax reclaimed	4	510	462
Interest and dividends		4,327	4,028
Total receipts		7,555	7,043
Payments			
Purchases of books and manuscripts for Edinburgh University Library		8,250	5,886
Internships		-	903
The Piper: designing and editing		2,100	2,100
The Piper: printing		370	432
Postage	5	123	523
Stationery		-	15
Advertising and promotion	6	-	330
Website subscription	7	101	-
Fee for Administrator		4,000	4,000
Bank charges		46	46
Misc.		11	-
Independent examination		250	250
Total payments		15,251	14,485
Surplus/(deficit)		(7,696)	(7,442)

All funds are unrestricted.

Friends of Edinburgh University Library

Statement of Balances
At 31 July 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2026 Total	2025 Total
		£	£	£	£
Opening bank & cash balances		39,323	-	39,323	46,765
Surplus/(deficit)		(7,696)	-	(7,696)	(7,442)
Closing bank and cash balances	8	31,627	-	31,627	39,323

Assets		2026 Total	2025 Total
		£	£
Gift Aid claim	4	417	510

Investments	Purchase cost	Market value 31/07/2026	Market value 31/07/2025
	£	£	£
M&G Charifund (4263 units)	20,800	82,301	68,583

All funds are unrestricted

Approved by the charity trustees on 30 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Richard Battersby

Richard Battersby
Trustee

1. Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with:-

(a) The Charities & Trustee Investment Act (Scotland) Act 2005, and
(b) The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Income and expenditure is recognised when received or disbursed.

The Charity maintains:-

(a) A general unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the charity which is expendable at the discretion of the management committee in furtherance of the charity's objects, and

(b) A restricted fund that consists of monies received from donors which relate to a specific project and are donated to fund a particular purpose.

During the year no restricted funds were held and all funds were unrestricted.

2. Trustee Remuneration & Expenses

Dr Lucinda Byatt, who is a Trustee, received payments totaling £1,200 for her professional services as Editor of The Piper. The Trustees have complied with the terms of Section 67 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 in respect of these payments which are not prohibited by the constitution.

No other Trustee or person connected to a Trustee received remuneration or expenses during the year.

No out-of-pocket expenses were paid to the trustees during the year.

3. Subscriptions and donations

Membership of the Friends is available as an annual membership or life membership, with new life memberships restricted to people aged 60 or over. Life members currently constitute approximately 68% of the total membership. Annual and life membership subscriptions are recorded in full as receipts in the year in which they are received. A number of annual and life members make payments to the Friends additional to their subscriptions. Such additional payments are recorded as donations in the year in which they are received.

4. Gift Aid claim

The previous year's gift aid debtor of £510 was received during the 2025/26 financial year and appears in the Statement of Receipts and Payments on page 8. A debtor of £417 has been included on the Statement of Balances on Page 9 for the gift aid to be claimed on donations received during 2025/26.

5. Postage

Increase in 2025 was due to purchasing a supply of stamps before price increases came into effect.

6. Advertising and promotion

Cost of reprinting membership leaflet in 2025

7. Website subscription. Trustees decided to pay for the advert-free version of Wordpress

8. Analysis of bank and cash balances at end of year.

	31/07/2026	31/07/2025
	£	£
Bank current account	8,768	20,792
Bank savings account	22,832	18,504
Cash in hand	27	27
Total	31,627	39,323