

Report of the Trustees and Financial statements

For the year ended 28 February 2026

For

Forfar Open Garden

M. Wells, CHAIR 27/8/26

Helen Robbie Treasurer 27/8/26

Forfar Open Garden (Registered Charity SC045844)

Trustees Annual Report

For the year ended February 2026

The Trustees have the pleasure in presenting their report and the Financial Statements for year ended 28 February 2026

Reference and administrative information

Charity name	Forfar Open Garden
Charity number.	SC045844
Address.	Forfar Open Garden 36 Lochside Road Forfar Angus DD8 3JD
Trustees (as at 01/03/2025)	Maureen Wedderburn (Chair) Elizabeth McLaren (Secretary) Helen Robbie (Treasurer) Kathryn Roskell Anne Callander Sophie Rolfe Robin Wardhaugh

Alan Fraser

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

Forfar Open Garden is a Scottish Charitable incorporated organisation (SCIO) it was registered as a charity from 28 July 2015

Appointment of Trustees

At general meeting February 2026, the following Trustees change was made:

Alan Fraser joined as trustee

There is a minimum requirement for 3 Trustees

M. Wedderburn CHAIR 27/8/26

Helen Robbie Treasurer 27/8/26

Forfar Open Garden (registered charity SC045844)

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 CHAIR, 27/8/26

Helen Robbie Treasurer 27/8/26

Forfar Open Garden 2025/2026



Purpose

Forfar Open Garden (FOG) charity was set up to provide the Forfar and surrounding area in Angus, with a community garden. Our aim is to positively impact socially isolated individuals, those with a physical, mental health disability, those with special needs or conditions such as neurodiversity and dementia, through involvement in the therapeutic benefits of gardening and nature-based activities. Anyone with a passion for Gardening and supporting those less fortunate are encouraged to get involved.

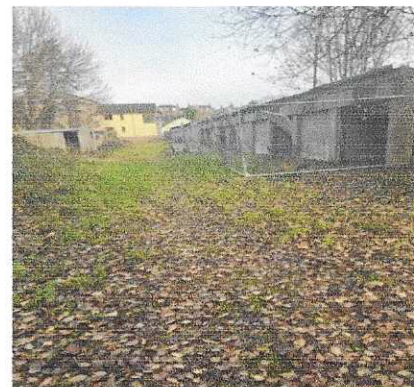
Chairpersons Report 2025-2026

I am delighted to report that with the support of grants, our community and our amazing trustees, volunteers and gardening team led by Richard, we have been able to save our much-loved garden charity and relocate to a new garden site at 63 Lochside Road. As a result, we continue the valued support services we offer for all ages and abilities in the Community.

Following notice terminating the lease of our garden site, the trustees pulled together with our volunteers to form Project Keep FOG to secure a new site, funding and local support for the move and to relocate the garden. We secured the new site in January 2025 with a lease from Angus Council and started work the very next day to transform the problematic brownfield site to create a beautiful green space. The picture shows the size of our challenge.

We took 7 months to convert the space to a safe place with basic facilities and accessible pathways so volunteers could start to plant and work in our new garden location. We were able to do all of this while retaining our volunteering services to the community at our current garden.

We successfully moved our volunteer services to the new garden on 8 September 2025 and exited our original site by end October 2025. We announced public open days in the local paper 'the courier' which were held in early December to promote our new location and even made the STV 6 o'clock news on Friday 6 November 2025.



Community engagement continues to be at the heart of our charity and was instrumental in making our move a success. Our volunteers ranging in age from 5-87 continued to get involvement in the therapeutic benefits of gardening and nature-based activities. Together they helped us dig up and repot almost every plant, shrub and tree in the garden

(over 6000), setting up and using rainwater to keep them watered over the hot summer. They lifted and dried bulbs, lifted slabs, dismantled paths and helped us save every aspect of the garden that we possibly could, to help us recreate our garden sanctuary in the new location. Each job was tailored to support individuals' needs and volunteer support remained high during this period.



M. Well CHAIR, 27/8/26

Helen Sebbie Treasurer 27/8/26

Forfar Open Garden 2025/2026



We put a call out to community volunteers to support special move days when we moved every plant, brick, sleeper and eventually all 5 buildings piece by piece to the new site. So many people helped make our move possible, a special shout out should go to the local Air Cadets who were magnificent, working tirelessly to lift pots and barrow to the new site (approx. 500m away) and lift heavier items into volunteer's cars to make the move. The rotary members dismantled our greenhouse pane by pane. The

frame was walked in 1 piece by the rugby club to the new site (a video that went viral on social media in the summer) The local school children who are creating a timelapse video of our move and new garden transformation and the wonderful Christine who made soup, sandwiches and savouries have kept us all going thought. Our guiding principle was to save and reuse as much as possible and thanks to the amazing support from our community we were able to achieve the...

The input from our community has also been key in shaping the design of our new site, and all ideas have been welcome. We plan to incorporate as many as we can while continuing to improve the soil with environmentally friendly techniques. Our priority areas have been a new composting area and raised vegetable beds, so we can continue to plant without chemical use while the soil improves. We have also started to lay out the new beds, further pathways for disability access and have designed in a wildlife corridor to encourage wildlife biodiversity and support existing local wildlife such as red squirrels.



After the months of uncertainty our staff and volunteers are beginning to enjoy the new garden. Together we are starting the journey to evolve, our garden is already unrecognisable from where we started. A mature garden takes years to develop; we have many exciting plans moving forward to date to attract even more volunteers and public visitors in the future.

Our move would not have been possible without grants and donations to cover the costs involved, details can be found in our treasurer's report.

Our garden is sustained through the generosity of numerous individuals (you know who you are) and local donors (The original Factory Shop, Asda). Core Grant funding has been secured again from the Mental Health and Wellbeing fund and the McDonald's Foundation.

We are delighted to retain our existing trustees and welcome Alan Fraser who joins us an additional trustee with a wealth of garden and community engagement experience. I would also like to thank everyone who funds, donates and contributes to our Forfar Open Garden for their generosity and continued support.

Thank you.

Maureen Wedderburn Chair, Forfar Open Garden

M. Wedderburn 27/8/26

Helena Lebbie Treasurer 27/8/26

Treasurer's Report on 2025-26 accounts

The total income for the year was £210,645 broken down as follows:

	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Keep FOG	£140,108	£122,130	£17,978
Core.	£70,537.	£68,309	£2,228

Leaving a total surplus of £20,206

Bank balance as at 28/02/2026 £53,368

Wages

Annual staff wages was £67,345

Wages has increased by £15,323 including end of year bonus of £1,800. The increase of approximately 29,5% and is mainly due additional staff, to increased hours worked for KeepFOG.

Grants and Donations

We would like to thank the following parties for their support and grant funding.

Essential to cover our core running costs for the year:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing – £13,500
- McDonalds foundation - £10,000
- Wm Thomson - £8,831
- Stafford Trust - £3,250

For the support to achieve project Keep FOG and Grow:

- **National Lottery – Community Fund (2024-2026)** (£45,000 Capital and £65,000 Revenue) this significant grant will cover the main contractor cost on Project Keep FOG. Capital project complete March 2025. The revenue element largely covering costs for Project Keep FOG – Move as well as some of our running cost for the year.
- **Angus Council Community Capital Fund** - this Project Keep Fog Secure and Pave has received £35,000 capital grant from the UK Government through the Angus Council Community Capital Fund has largely covered the materials and contractors to support securing our premises and creating disability pathways including our spectacular new gates.
- **Postcode Lottery** (£18,000) has supplemented some core staff and contractors' costs to allow us to manage the transition while keeping the current garden open.
- **Northwood Charitable Trust** – this grant funded £5,000 in 2024 and 2025 for our social media set up, new logo and signage as well as community engagement activities.
- **Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) 2025/26** – this Project Keep FOG and Grow has received £162,581 grant from the Scottish Government with the support from Angus Council Vibrant Community. This project will fund two new facilities for our garden: a new Forest School Nature Learning area and a Winter Workroom.

M. McDonald
Chair
27/8/26

Helen Pebbie Treasurer
27/8/26

We would also like to thank the following individuals and companies for volunteering their expertise and support:

- **David Wren** for volunteering his Architect Services to support our planning applications in Project Keep FOG Plan
- **Mark Guild** of Guild Homes for their generous donation of 360 tons of topsoil
- **Ramsey Ladders** for ramps to allow disability access to our buildings
- **LH Gillian & Sons** for their groundwork at mates rates
- **Williamina McLaren Trust** for the plants for a flowerbed in new garden
- **Forfar Rotary** for the wishing well and donation.
- **Inverarity and Forfar East Church** for the donation towards plants and materials.

We have had help and donations from far and wide to support our charity and thank all of those who have provided their time, skills, help or dropped in with materials, plants and donations.

Thank you
Helen Robbie
Treasurer, Forfar Open Garden



Funded by
UK Government

M. Waller chair, 27/8/26

Helen Robbie Treasurer
27/8/26

**Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Forfar Open Garden
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC045844**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 28th February 2026, which are set out on the accompanying pages.

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) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Account 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 Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 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, and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

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

David Baker
20 Ivanhoe Place
Dundee
DD4 6LQ



18th June 2026

M. Will [signature] CHAIR, 27/8/26

Aden Sebbie Treasurer 27/8/26

**Forfar Open Garden
Scottish Charity SC045844**

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 28 February 2026

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2026	Total Funds 2025
	Note			£	£
Receipts					
Donations		10,400	3,000	13,400	1,345
Grants	2	51,750	141,200	192,950	75,812
Fundraising		22		22	17
Charitable Trading		4,086		4,086	4929
Bank interest		187		187	31
Total Receipts		66,445	144,200	210,645	82,133
Payments					
Charitable Activities	2	10,375	110,426	120,801	1,607
Utilities and Internet		1,413		1,413	-
Trading Activities		654		654	195
Staff Costs		65,060	2,285	67,345	52,022
Expenses		174		174	15,570
Governance		50		50	-
Total Payments		77,727	112,712	190,438	69,394
Excess of receipts/(payments) over (payments/receipts in the year		- 11,282	31,488	20,206	12,739

M. Wollan Chair, 27/8/26

Helen Robb Treasurer 27/8/26

Forfar Open Garden
Scottish Charity SC045844

Notes to the financial statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 Grants and Donations Received	Balance Brought Forward at 1/3/25	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 28/2/26
Restricted				
Angus Council		32,600	54,389	- 21,789
Northwood	5,000		1,159	3,841
VAA	5,000		3,600	1,400
Essentia Foundation	2,511		2,285	225
National Lottery Fund		107,508	60,697	46,811
Change for Good	1,000			1,000
				-
Unrestricted				
Postcode Lottery	13,325		13,325	-
Foundation Scotland		13,500	12,313	1,187
William Thompson	-	8,831	3,831	5,000
Stafford Trust		3,250		3,250
Tayside Health Board	6,240		6,240	-
Asda		3,000	958	2,042
VAA		30,000	30,000	-
General Funds	87	11,956	1,642	10,400
				-
	33,162	210,645	190,438	53,368

M. Waller CHAIR, 27/8/26

Helen Pebbie Treasurer 27/8/26

**Forfar Open Garden
Scottish Charity SC045844**

Statement of Balances as at 28 February 2026

			Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Cash at Bank and in hand				
Bank and Deposit balances brought forward	-	8,840	42,002	33,162
				20,423
Movement in year				
Excess of receipts over payments for the year	-	11,282	31,488	20,206
				12,739
 Bank and Deposit balances carried forward	-	20,122	73,490	53,368
				33,162
 Represented By:	Bank		13,350	23,332
	Interest a/c		40,018	9,831
			53,368	33,162

M. Well CHAIR, 27/2/26

Helen Pebbie Treasurer 27/8/26