HELENSBURGH HERITAGE TRUST

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation – number SC024603

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting the report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name
Helensburgh Heritage Trust

Charity number
SC024603

Address
28 East Abercromby Street
Helensburgh G84 7SQ

Trustees

Robert Ryan	Chairman
Stewart Noble	Treasurer
Vivien Dance	(appointed at AGM, 30 September 2026)
Alison Gildea	(resigned 4 June 2026)
Deborah Hamilton	(resigned 2 September 2026)
Roddy MacRae	(co-opted 16 January 2026; died 7 August 2026)
Chris Packard	
Chris Sanders	
Charlie Smith	(co-opted 17 August 2026)

Honorary Members
Prof Malcolm Baird (President)
Michael Davis

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 18 May 2016, having previously been a company limited by guarantee (no SC16377). It has a single tier structure and as such the trustees are members of the charity.

Appointment of Trustees

The board, which normally meets several times each year, are the charity's trustees. Membership of

the board is open to all members.

Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting, and the board has the power to co-opt other trustees. There must be a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 trustees.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Purposes and Activities

The Trustees of the Helensburgh Heritage Trust continue to promote the objects of the Trust in a variety of ways and to build on the successes of previous years.
The Aims and Objects of the Trust are :

- Education of the public
- Preservation, restoration and enhancement of objects of local interest
- Promoting a wider appreciation of the heritage and history of the area.

To enable the Trust to fulfil its Objectives the Trustees meet regularly throughout the year to consider matters ranging from the stewardship of the Trust's finances and assets, the provision of a winter programme of speakers on a range of subjects, to the provision of visual displays highlighting aspects of local culture and heritage.

The Trust holds and maintains a wide collection of documents and artefacts, which are catalogued and stored in suitable lock-fast premises in Helensburgh Parish Church. Because of structural problems, the Trust has been asked to vacate this store, but finding new premises is proving extremely difficult.

For the most part documents and articles in the Trust's care have been donated or loaned to the Trust (appropriately recorded) while from time to time purchases are made of items which become available. Potential purchases are always discussed and agreed by Trustees in advance and funds are designated for such opportunities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

As autumn approaches, it is once again time to reflect on the work of the Trust over the past year. We have several significant challenges which threaten the very existence of the charity. Perhaps more acute challenges than we have faced in our history going back 30 years to our founding in 1996.

Storage. The hoped-for solution at Garelochhead station unfortunately did not progress to fruition. However, we have now entered a dialogue with Helensburgh Parish Church to occupy a space in their administration area. This will mean paying a much higher rental than the peppercorn rent of £100 we currently pay. The church faces its own financial challenges and the increase will reflect this. At the time of writing, there has not been agreement on the rent but we expect an agreement to be reached soon.

Recruitment of Trustees. Persuading members to volunteer to become trustees is proving increasingly difficult. Sadly, the last member to volunteer, namely Roddy McRae, died recently, within a year of volunteering. Since last year's AGM we have also lost Debs Hamilton and Alison Gildea who have both resigned. However with the co-option of Charlie Smith in August, we are down to five Trustees. This is the minimum that our constitution allows, so we desperately need more. It is not a particularly onerous task with four or so meetings a year.

For several years now Stewart Noble has been hoping that a younger member would volunteer to replace him as treasurer, but so far no-one has come forward. From time-to-time attempts have been made to identify members who we believe could be persuaded to become trustees, particularly if they have skills which the existing trustees lack, and occasionally these attempts prove successful.

The Website. Our webmaster, Jim Chestnut has been very active in transferring our website and that of the Helensburgh War Memorial to a new server. Because of the age of the websites, several vulnerabilities have developed and unfortunately this has made our current websites a target for all sorts of malware which exploits these things. We hope that we can save all the old material and transfer it to our new server soon. We thank Jim Chestnut for his tireless work over many years on this.

John Logie Baird TV Centenary. The Trust had a significant input to the JLB TV 100 exhibition in Helensburgh Town Centre in spring. It celebrated the 100 years since the first public demonstration of TV in 1926. The financial viability of the exhibition was in question as the time approached for it to begin. Fiona Baker of JLB TV 100 asked us to underwrite the costs of the exhibition pending the award of grant monies. Thankfully the funding materialised and the money from the Heritage Trust was not required.

External Exhibitions. The ongoing delays in the refurbishment of the Leisure Centre have had a knock-on effect to our external displays at the Library which remains in use as a gym. There is no obvious solution to this, and we have to await developments. However there is an exhibition in the reception area of the Civic Centre.

Winter Talks. We had another very successful series of talks in 2025/26 and we now have our series for 2026/27 drawn up. Talks take place on the last Wednesday of each month from September to March at 7pm, with the exclusion of December. This year's talks begin on September 30th with Paul Murdoch, talking about the Ancient History of Clyde and Lomond

Alistair McIntyre Memorial. Talks are ongoing about a suitable memorial for our Trustee, Alistair McIntyre, who died in 2025. The location is likely to be at Cove Conservation Park and will take the form of a dry-stone wall and bench.. Alistair was a member of many local groups and many of them are involved in the process. As seems to be the case with anything these days, there are significant hurdles to be negotiated before work can commence.

Use of monies received. This year there were two major changes to our income. Firstly, subscriptions were increased, probably for the first time since the Heritage Trust was established in 1996. Secondly, the majority of members started to pay their subscriptions by direct debit, whereas previously the majority had paid by standing order. The direct debits are collected on our behalf by GoCardless, to whom we are now paying a fee.

As usual the bulk of the income was used to pay for insurance, our website, and storage.

Policy on Reserves. It has always been the policy of the trustees to build up reserves in order to be able to meet unexpected expenses. It is however expected that we shall have to pay more for storage than we have in the past, but to date no figure has been agreed with Helensburgh Parish Church.

In addition, from time to time items appear for sale which we would like to buy for the Heritage Trust, and another reason for building up reserves is to be able to make such a purchase at short notice.

Regulatory Requirements. The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator tells all charities that they should report on the following:
1. Remuneration or expenses paid to trustees. None
2. Grants that have been paid out. None
3. Related party transactions. None

Robert Ryan

Chairman, on behalf or the Trustees.

September 2026

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ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

2024-25 Revenue Account

Ordinary Income

1,185.00	Subscriptions – Annual	1,630.
375.00	Subscriptions – Life	450.
512.99	Gift Aid	474.
79.50	Donations	120.
28.47	Book sales & royalties	38.
543.82	Meeting collections	419.
2,724.78	**Total Ordinary Income**	**3,132.**

Ordinary Expenses

0.00	GoCardless fees for direct debits	22.
586.30	Insurance	610.
14.64	Postage etc	32.
321.95	Storage	200.
665.93	Website	669.
47.00	Data Protection	47.
202.50	Meeting Room Hire	243.
13.49	Miscellaneous	0.
0.00	Alamy photo licence	80.
1,851.81	**Total Ordinary Expenses**	**1,904.**
872.97	**TOTAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)**	**1227.**

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS as at 31st March 2026

Fixed Assets

55,615.19	Fixed Assets as at 31 March 2025	55,615.
0.00	Plus: Minor purchases	3.
55,615.19	**Fixed Assets as at 31 March 2026**	**55,619.**

Current Assets – Bank Accounts

1,291.52	Unrestricted Funds as at 31 March 2025	2164.
872.97	plus / (less): Surplus / (Deficit) for year	1,227.
0.00	(less): Purchase of Fixed Assets	(3.5
2,164.49	**Unrestricted Funds as at 31 March 2026**	**3388.**
300.00	plus: Restricted Funds (Note 1)	300.
2,464.49	**Total Cash in Bank Accounts as at 31 March 2026**	**3,688.**

Represented by:

2,464.49	**Cash in Bank account as at 31 March 2026**	**3,688.**

NOTES 1. £300 received in 2015-16 for production of book by the late Patricia Drayton

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I have prepared the above Revenue Account, Statement of Assets and Notes

Stewart Noble – Treasurer (signed)

Michael Paterson – Examiner (signed)

Independent Examiner's report to the members of Helensburgh Heritage Trust on its accounts

Registered Charity number SC024603

Period of accounts: 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

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 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 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 [other than that disclosed on the attached page*] 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, 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 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
Signed:	**Date: 27 May 2026**
Name:	**Michael Stewart Paterson**
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body	**Retired chartered accountant**
Address:	**28 Suffolk Street** **Helensburgh G84 9PA**

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

Disclosure section

No material problems found by the examiner.