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**FRIENDS OF GRANTON CASTLE WALLED GARDEN SCIO**

**Scottish Charity No. SC048884**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

## FRIENDS OF GRANTON CASTLE WALLED GARDEN

### Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

for the year to 31 December 2025

Scottish Charity number SC048884

|                  |                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Current Trustees | Mariana Forsyth - Chair from 26.6.2026             |
|                  | Marion Sandwith - Secretary                        |
|                  | Isabella Browning - Treasurer                      |
|                  | Ingsay Balfour                                     |
|                  | Jonathan Paterson                                  |
|                  | Christina Thayers                                  |
|                  | Gino Abdul-Jabbar - stood down 23.4.25             |
|                  | Julie Cook                                         |
|                  | Paul Grassick - appointed 18.8.25                  |
|                  | Beata Brzozowska - appointed 26.6.2026             |
|                  | Mariusz Brzozowski - appointed 26.6.2026           |
|                  | Gillean Paterson - stood down as trustee 24.6.2026 |

Contact Address: 40 Speirs Bruce Way, Edinburgh, EH5 1TH

Website: [grantoncastlewalledgarden.org.uk](http://grantoncastlewalledgarden.org.uk)

Email : [grantongarden@gmail.com](mailto:grantongarden@gmail.com)

#### Governing Document

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation incorporated on 4 December 2018 and governed by a constitution effective from that date and approved by the Trustees.

#### Charitable Purposes

The organisation's purposes are

- a. The advancement of citizenship and community development by opening up the Granton Castle Walled Garden to community use, developing initiatives in the garden and producing local food, encouraging volunteering on site, whilst working together in a safe and inclusive environment by encouraging participation of all residents in the area regardless of age, ethnic origin, ability, sex, gender identity, career status, disability, sexual orientation, belief or political affiliation.
- b. The promotion and advancement of heritage by protecting and utilising this heritage asset
- c. The advancement of education by developing horticulture and other learning and training
- d. The provision of recreational facilities in the development of greenspace and ancillary facilities on the site

#### Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The maximum number of trustees is 12 and minimum is 4. Trustees are appointed each year at the AGM. In addition, the Board of Trustees may appoint other trustees at any time.

## Activities and Achievements

### a. Gardener and Administrator

The gardener managed volunteers until May 2025 after which she took maternity leave for the remainder of the year. The administrator continued to work 7 hours per week throughout the year.

### b. Volunteering

Regular volunteer sessions were supervised by the gardener on 2 weekdays per week until May after which Trustees managed the ongoing work. The garden was also open for volunteers at weekends during visitor opening hours. On Sundays in February and November a large group of students (Dirty Weekenders) carried out work at the garden. In June a group of around 38 students from Mary Erskine Stewarts Melville college enjoyed a day at the garden. Some carried out gardening work whilst others painted the new gatehouse shed that had recently been erected.

Over the year, 2178 workdays were carried out by volunteers, a similar number to 2024.

### c. Visitors and Events

The garden was open for visitors on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Students from Edinburgh University visited for guided tours on three occasions.

Over the year 2684 visitors signed in at the gate, compared with 1443 in 2024.

A very enjoyable wassailing event took place on 26<sup>th</sup> January led by Penny Stone, a local song leader. Around 40 people attended, many with children. After singing and toasting the apple trees they enjoyed apple juice and cakes.

Children from the local Waterfront Nursery regularly visited the garden on Thursdays. They loved picking brambles, sowing seeds and harvesting potatoes and were very excited to win an RHS gardening award in April 2025.

A group of 23 visitors from Ravenscraig Walled Garden (Kirkcaldy) visited on 23 May.

In June two local walking groups enjoyed visiting the garden.

A midsummer picnic held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June was well attended and was accompanied by music from Nigel's Allstars band.

On Doors Open weekend in September two guided Walks and Talks took place each day and 200 people visited the garden between 2-4pm.

### d. Workshops

Ochre Botanical Studios carried out two flower arranging workshops and a wreath making workshop during the year which were all well attended and enjoyed.

Mycobee Mushrooms carried out 29 workshops on fungi and mushroom growing including 4 which focussed on teaching children. They also presented their work at open days.

e. Kitchen Garden, Orchard and Forest Garden

A wide range of vegetables including potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, leeks, courgettes, beans, kale, beetroot and carrots was grown. Some were donated to Pilton Community Health Project and to Empty Kitchens Full Hearts which prepares free meals for people in need. Some produce was also given to Granton Community Gardeners for preparation of lunches. As well as the wide range of vegetables from the garden, apples, plums and quince from the orchard and strawberries, blackcurrants, blueberries and redcurrants from the kitchen garden were available for visitors and volunteers.

Additional plants and bushes were added to the Forest Garden.

f. Work was carried out on additional roofs to enable more water harvesting to be carried out.

g. Biodiversity

In February two Volunteers built bird boxes which were erected at several locations in the garden.

Wildflower seeds attractive to pollinators were sown in plots in the spring provided an attractive display in the summer.

h. Other developments

Biochar is a stable form of charcoal produced by burning organic material such as wood in a low-oxygen environment. It adsorbs nutrients so can be used as a soil amendment to improve fertility. The carbon produced will remain in the soil for centuries and thus is an excellent means of combatting climate change. A small kiln for producing biochar was purchased and we have produced some successfully.

i. Award from Keep Scotland Beautiful

The Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden received a Certificate of Distinction (Level 4-Thriving) for the year 2025.

Future Plans

We will continue to promote volunteering at the garden and arrange workshops and activities for people to enjoy. The garden is a source of local fruit and vegetables which will be available to visitors and volunteers and donated to outlets within the community. We will continue to develop the Forest Garden and other areas of the garden. We will work towards increasing biodiversity. A new project aimed at growing plants attractive to butterflies and moths is planned. We will promote a Citizen Science project and carry out surveys. We will continue with water harvesting. As we gain more experience of the procedure, we aim to produce a greater quantity of biochar using larger kilns. Areas will be developed for relaxation, for peace and calm and mental wellbeing. The Walled Garden is owned by the City of Edinburgh Council, and we will work with them to ensure that the Heritage of the site is maintained.

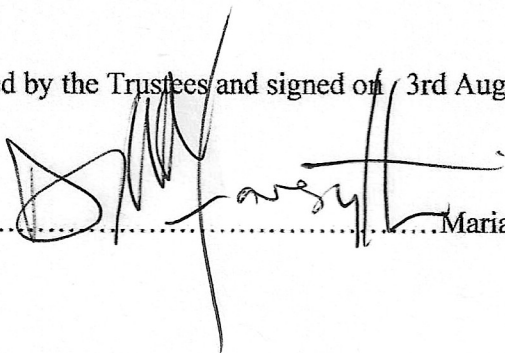
**Trustee Remuneration and Expenses**

No Trustee received any remuneration or expenses in the year.

**Financial Review**

The income is from donations and grants, in addition to the benefit in kind of the labour of volunteers and fruit and vegetable production. To funds of £28,556 brought forward from the previous year, grants of £1,470 were added, plus other receipts of £3,883. Out of £33,909 thus at our disposal, £20,762 was spent, leaving funds of £13,147 in the bank to carry forward.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on 3rd August 2026 on their behalf by

  
..... Mariana Forsyth, Chair

# Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden - SCIO

## Statement of Receipts and Payments Account

For the year to 31 December 2025

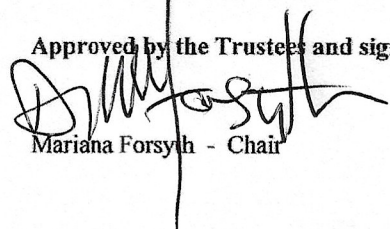
|                                                         | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Total Funds     | 2024 Total Funds |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
|                                                         | £                  | £                | £               | £                |
| <b>Receipts</b>                                         |                    |                  |                 |                  |
| Donations in respect of charitable gardening activities | 3,749              |                  | 3,749           | 2,621            |
| Gift Aid                                                | 134                |                  | 134             | 76               |
| Donations, total                                        | 3,883              | -                | 3,883           | 2,697            |
| Grants                                                  | -                  | 1,470            | 1,470           | 20,590           |
| Open days, workshops, and sale of produce               | -                  | -                | -               | 311              |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                                   | <b>3,883</b>       | <b>1,470</b>     | <b>5,353</b>    | <b>23,598</b>    |
| <b>Payments</b>                                         | <b>£</b>           | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>        | <b>£</b>         |
| Cost of charitable activities                           | 8,834              | 11,778           | 20,612          | 23,522           |
| Governance costs - independent examiner                 | 150                |                  | 150             | 120              |
| <b>Total payments</b>                                   | <b>8,984</b>       | <b>11,778</b>    | <b>20,762</b>   | <b>23,642</b>    |
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year                        | (5,101)            | (10,308)         | (15,409)        | (44)             |
| Transfers between funds                                 | 793                | (793)            | -               | -                |
| <b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the year</b>                 | <b>(4,308)</b>     | <b>(11,101)</b>  | <b>(15,409)</b> | <b>(44)</b>      |

## Statement of Balances - As at 31 December 2025

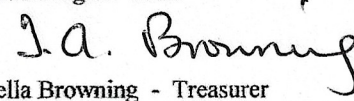
|                                  | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Total Funds | Total Funds |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                  | £                  | £                | £           | £           |
| Opening cash at bank and in hand | 4,308              | 24,248           | 28,556      | 28,600      |
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year | (4,308)            | (11,101)         | (15,409)    | (44)        |
| Closing cash at bank and in hand | -                  | 13,147           | 13,147      | 28,556      |
| <b>Bank and Cash Balances</b>    |                    |                  |             |             |
| Bank current account             | -                  | 13,147           | 13,147      | 28,556      |
| Cash in hand                     | -                  | -                | -           | -           |
|                                  | -                  | 13,147           | 13,147      | 28,556      |

|                                                      |              |              |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Other assets: - revalued after 33% write-down</b> | <b>£</b>     | <b>£</b>     |
| Green Gym - £4,901 addition 2022                     | 968          | 1,452        |
| Polytunnel - £1,749 addition 2021                    | 230          | 345          |
| Computer - £ 667 addition 2021                       | 88           | 132          |
| 2023 small additions: generator + strimmer £526      | 159          | 238          |
| Shed - £2,477 addition 2024                          | 1,101        | 1,651        |
| Shed - £4,071 addition 2025                          | 2,714        |              |
| Pruning ladder - £512 addition 2024                  | 227          | 341          |
| Barrows - £191 additions 2024                        | 85           | 127          |
| Lawnmower - £538 addition 2025                       | 359          |              |
| Greenhouse and Asgard shed                           | 178          | 267          |
| Compost toilet and accessories                       | 102          | 153          |
| Small tools and equipment under £130 per item        | 131          | 196          |
|                                                      | <b>6,341</b> | <b>4,902</b> |

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on

  
Mariana Forsyth - Chair

3rd August 2026

  
Isabella Browning - Treasurer

**Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden****Notes to the Accounts****For the year to 31 December 2025****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 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

**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. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the garden.

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. Detailed Statement of Receipts and Payments - per page 7.**

**Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden - SCIO**  
**Notes to the accounts - for the year ended 31 December 2025**

|                                      | Unrestricted   | Restricted      | Total           | 2024          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                                      | Funds          | Funds           | Funds           |               |
| Receipts                             | £              | £               | £               | £             |
| Re charitable gardening activities:  |                |                 |                 |               |
| Donations general                    | 2,191          | -               | 2,191           | 2,313         |
| Donations : Edinburgh University     | 317            |                 | 317             | 308           |
| Donations:                           | 1,241          |                 | 1,241           | 311           |
|                                      | 3,749          |                 | 3,749           | 2,932         |
| Gift Aid                             | 134            |                 | 134             | 76            |
| <b>Grants:</b>                       |                |                 |                 |               |
| Robertson Trust                      |                | -               | -               | 10,000        |
| Awards for All                       |                | -               | -               | 10,000        |
| Edinburgh Council                    |                | 540             | 540             | 590           |
| ECCAN                                |                | 530             | 530             | -             |
| Waterharvesting grant                | -              | 400             | 400             | -             |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                | <b>3,883</b>   | <b>1,470</b>    | <b>5,353</b>    | <b>23,598</b> |
| <b>Payments</b>                      | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>        | <b>£</b>        | <b>£</b>      |
| <b>Cost of Charitable Activities</b> |                |                 |                 |               |
| Labour cost: gardener                |                | 2,737           | 2,737           | 7,987         |
| Labour cost: administrator           |                | 8,162           | 8,162           | 4,712         |
| Lawn mower payment                   |                | 539             | 539             | -             |
| Cost: RHS community project          |                | -               | -               | 4,887         |
| Garden sundries + roofing materials  | 2,301          |                 | 2,301           | 634           |
| Compost                              | 189            | -               | 189             | 349           |
| Shed, accessories and flooring       | 4,071          | 300             | 4,371           | 2,477         |
| Water container                      |                | 40              | 40              |               |
| Tree surgery                         | 1,650          |                 | 1,650           | 750           |
| Pruning ladder and wood removal      | -              |                 | -               | 723           |
| Seeds and plants                     | 452            | -               | 452             | 331           |
| Key-cutting and barrow               | -              |                 | -               | 307           |
| Volunteer Edinburgh Stall etc        | -              |                 | -               | 135           |
| Public Liability Insurance           | 155            |                 | 155             | 155           |
| Honorarium: independent examiner     | 150            |                 | 150             | 120           |
| Bank charges                         | 16             |                 | 16              | 75            |
| <b>Total payments</b>                | <b>8,984</b>   | <b>11,778</b>   | <b>20,762</b>   | <b>23,642</b> |
| <b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>  | <b>(5,101)</b> | <b>(10,308)</b> | <b>(15,409)</b> | <b>(44)</b>   |
| <b>transfers between funds</b>       | <b>793</b>     | <b>(793)</b>    |                 |               |
| <b>Opening fund balances</b>         | <b>4,308</b>   | <b>24,248</b>   | <b>28,556</b>   | <b>28,600</b> |
|                                      | -              | -               | -               | -             |
| <b>Closing fund balances</b>         | <b>-</b>       | <b>13,147</b>   | <b>13,147</b>   | <b>28,556</b> |
| <b>Bank Balance</b>                  |                |                 |                 |               |
| <b>Bank Current account</b>          | <b>-</b>       | <b>13,147</b>   | <b>13,147</b>   | <b>28,556</b> |
|                                      | -              | 13,147          | 13,147          | 28,556        |

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
FRIENDS OF GRANTON CASTLE WALLED GARDEN SCIO**

Registered Scottish Charity number : SC048884

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 7.

**Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the independent examiner**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirements of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements 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 was 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 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:

- 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 Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 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.

Eric Wishart

*Eric Wishart*

12~~th~~ July 2026

Accountant  
69 Promenade  
Edinburgh  
EH15 2DX