Charity No. SC050803

HARRIS TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

HARRIS TRUST

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The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

AIMS OF HARRIS TRUST

· To raise awareness and provide training around mental health and neurodiversity.

· To support the development of mentoring and peer support programmes for young people.

· To support the provision of music, sport and outdoor activities that would enhance the educational and social experience of young people with mental health and/or neurodiverse issues.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR

1. Engage with local community (Selkirkshire) and wider Education, Music, Youth and Sports communities across Scottish Borders.
2. Provide opportunities for creativity and support through Music Projects in Scottish Borders Schools.
3. Provide a Children's Rugby Programme which is autism friendly.
4. Provide primary and secondary students with the opportunity to gain Forest and Outdoor Learning Awards.
5. Pilot a 'Rural Skills at Riddell Estate' Level 4 course in collaboration with Borders College.
6. Engage with academic research around neurodiversity - continue to work with Professor Fletcher-Watson and her teams at the University of Edinburgh and the Salvesen Mindroom Research Centre.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACHIEVMENTS DURING THE YEAR

SPaRKs (Songwriting, Performance and Recording Kickstarter)

For the 2025-2026 academic year, we have held weekly sessions in Selkirk High School, Jedburgh Grammar and MacArts, Galashiels, with 13 sessions in the autumn term and 8 sessions in the spring term. The MacArts evening session has continued to be popular for older students from various schools. Mat Clements has continued to manage the project supervising the tutors Sam Johnston and Devin Casson. Erin Highton regularly attends the MacArts sessions to assist with tutoring but also provides an important 'pastoral role'. Zac Gray, who was a student for 2 years, took on the role as peer mentor this year and has played a significant role in the team.

There have been opportunities to discuss mental well-being issues with the students as well as the music and song-writing.

The annual showcase gig at MacArts on 24th March was a well attended and joyous evening helped by the Glasgow band 'Her Picture' headlining the event.

The feedback from the students has been generally positive and we have listened and acted on some constructive elements.

The book 'It Takes All Kinds of Minds – Neurodivergent Thriving in School' collated by Professor Sue Fletcher-Watson and Team at the University of Edinburgh, was published by Routledge in December 2025. This contains a chapter we have written about the experience of developing the SPaRKs programme.

Music with Erin

Erin Highton has continued to provide inclusive music sessions for students, with input to 4 high schools and 8 primary schools. Depending on the needs of the student, Erin provides 1:1 or small group sessions which are flexible in content and delivery. We have received excellent feedback from the schools about Erin's impact on the students.

Mini Rugby Programme – Autism Friendly

These Sunday sessions at Selkirk RFC, which have now been running since April 2023, continue to grow. Children aged 7-13 years old who enjoy physical activity, but find mainstream groups challenging, are encouraged to attend these free sessions and bring their siblings. There is no need to have a diagnosis e.g. autism or ADHD. The high coach: child ratio enables engagement and a high level of supervision. The session involves a series of short fun games with a little bit of rugby.

In August, we held a free 'Autism-friendly sports coach training' day at Selkirk RFC. There were 12 delegates, mostly from rugby but also from other sports. We ran this together with Strathmore Community Rugby Club and their trainers, Beth Morrison and James Kiely. The feedback evaluation was excellent.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACHIEVMENTS DURING THE YEAR (CONTD)

Mini Rugby Programme – Autism Friendly (Contd)

The young adult coaches have really developed their skills in managing the needs of the group. There is also a rota of adult helpers – always 2 available for every session, who provide refreshments and chat to parents/carers. We now have a full group of 12 registered children plus siblings. Sessions run throughout the year, and we were able to provide 35 sessions over this period. This consistency is excellent for the children who like routine and allows the coaches and helpers to really get to know the families. We have had a student from Selkirk High School join to do her Duke of Edinburgh Award – after completing this, she has stayed on to become one of our junior coaches.

Forest and Outdoor Learning Awards (FOLA)

The Youth Worker and Homeschool Link Worker that we funded to obtain the Level 8 FOLA have been leading outdoor learning groups for primary and secondary students in the Selkirk school's cluster.

We were approached by Hawick High School for information about how we have used FOLA. Since then, HHS have obtained funding from Scottish Borders Council which we have topped up to allow 2 Youth Workers to start their Level 8 training.

Selkirk High Tractor Project

This initiative is now in its second year. We have continued to fund Neil McLennan, Agricultural Technician's costs and the PPE personal protective equipment (boiler suits, boots, masks) for the 8 students.

Rural Skills Level 4 Course at Riddell Estate

This course has had a successful first year with 6 students from Selkirk High and Galashiels Academy. These are young people with an interest in farming who for different reasons have not engaged well with school. We have funded Borders College lecturer Leanne Minto to offer a Level 4 Rural Skills with practical sessions involving animal husbandry, farm machinery, fencing and other tasks around the estate. The students have attended on Friday mornings and through this opportunity staff and parents have seen a change in their confidence and engagement. They have developed meaningful friendships within the group.

Dr Joanne Riordan – Neurodiversity Training Events – March 2026

Dr Riordan is an acclaimed speaker on neurodiversity and Harris Trust approached her to deliver 2 events in the Scottish Borders. The first event held at Selkirk High School was for teachers and the second event at Kingsknowes Hotel was for parents. Dr Riordan is an educational psychologist and was previously a teacher. She is neurodivergent and has neurodivergent children. She was therefore a very credible person to talk on this subject, and we were thrilled to have her.

We were delighted that 200 teachers from over forty schools across the Scottish Borders attended an evening session to learn about how to create neuro-affirming classrooms and support neurodivergent young people in our schools. Dr Joanne's lively and interactive session was a huge success. Not only did it provoke some great thinking, it also provided a suite of practical solutions and options for staff to trial immediately.

The second event 'Creating a Neuro-affirming Family' was attended by 95 parents, evidence that this sort of opportunity is needed for parents to provide support and as an opportunity to meet others.

We are delighted that Scottish Borders Councillors have shown an interest in our work around neurodiversity and are seeking further development of this within Education.

Visit by Scottish Government – March 2026

Tom Arthur, Minister for Social Care and Mental Well-being along with Rachael Hamilton local MSP and Civil Servants visited Selkirk High School on the 24th March to meet tutors and coaches from the Harris Trust. The visitors were treated to musical entertainment from SPaRKS students. They had a chance to sit in the renovated tractor! We were able to talk about the benefits of outdoor learning and other ways to make schools more neuro-affirming.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACHIEVMENTS DURING THE YEAR (CONTD)

Fundraising

The Lilliesleaf 10k Run/Walk had its 10th anniversary this year (5th anniversary as a Harris Trust fundraiser). There were a record 136 runners and many walkers and dogs. The DJ and the Piper kept the crowd entertained and the village hall committee provided the usual excellent post-race homemade soup and bread. We are very grateful to individuals and groups who have fundraised in many ways for the Harris Trust over this past year – many celebrated on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We intend to continue running the following projects as per last year - Mini Rugby, SPaRKs, Music with Erin and Rural Skills at Riddell. We will continue to provide funding towards FOLA level 8 training for school youth workers and the Selkirk High School Tractor Project.

We are running an Autism Friendly sports coach training day on 5th July 2026.

We are collaborating with the VIBE music project of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra to run workshops for 11-18 year olds on 8-10th July 2026 at MacArts.

We are building an outdoor canopy classroom for Selkirk High School in June/July 2026.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our main source of income is from donations and fundraising. This year we were also grateful to receive a grant of £5,000 from The Hugh Fraser Foundation towards ours SPaRKs project. Total income was £85,108 (2025: £44,379) while total expenditure was £89,379 (2025: £61,784) leaving an overall deficit of £4,271 (2025: £17,405) which was met from reserves.

Reserves policy

In respect of reserves, the Trust has a policy of maintaining reserves to protect against unforeseen fluctuations in income. The policy is to maintain unrestricted funds at a level which would enable the Trust to continue its provision of services if its sources of income were to cease or be delayed significantly in their payment. The Trustees consider that it is prudent for them to aim to cover three months expenditure by way of reserve. Trustees consider that the balance on available unrestricted funds to be at a satisfactory level at 31 March 2026 in line with this policy.

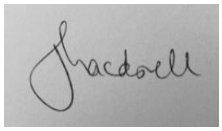
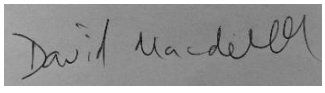
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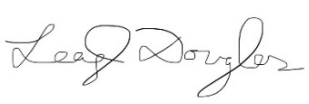
Harris Trust is an unincorporated charity governed by its Trust Deed. New Trustees can be proposed by existing Trustees. New Trustees receive appropriate induction and training.

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name	Harris Trust	
Registered charity number	SC050803	
Principal address	Lathallan Cottage, Back Road, Lilliesleaf, Melrose, TD6 9JD	
Current trustees	Jane Macdonell	Leagh Douglas
	David Macdonell	Kirstin Johnston
	Jamie Bryson	

Approved by the Trustees and signed on 2 June 2026:




Jane Macdonnell David Macdonell Jamie Bryson Leagh Douglas Kirstin Johnston

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

HARRIS TRUST

I report on the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out on pages 5 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees & independent examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The Trustees consider that the audit requirements of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Regulations (as amended) does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements as required under section 44(1) (c) of the 2005 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 Regulations (as amended). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented, with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, 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 view given by the financial statements.

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 Regulations (as amended), and
   - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations (as amended)

   have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Alison Gray
Chartered Accountant
Le Noyer, Ettrick Terrace
Selkirk
TD7 4LE

2 June 2026

HARRIS TRUST

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds 31/03/2026	Total funds 31/03/2025
	£	£	£	£
Receipts:				
Donations	57,609	-	57,609	38,329
Grant	-	5,000	5,000	-
Fundraising	22,398	-	22,398	5,700
Sundry income	101	-	101	350
Total receipts	80,108	5,000	85,108	44,379
Payments:				
Fundraising	4,554	-	4,554	1,388
Charitable activities	76,996	5,000	81,996	59,318
Admin and sundry	2,235	-	2,235	1,078
Governance costs: Independent Examiner fee	594	-	594	-
Total payments	84,379	5,000	89,379	61,784
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	(4,271)	-	(4,271)	(17,405)

The notes on page 7 form part of these financial statements.

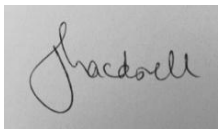
HARRIS TRUST **Charity No. SC050803**

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

As at 31 March 2026

	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
	£	£
Opening bank balance	55,470	72,875
Deficit for the year	(4,271)	(17,405)
Closing bank balance	**51,199**	**55,470**

The financial statements on pages 5 to 7 were approved by the Trustees on 2 June 2026 and were signed on their behalf by:



Jane Macdonell (Trustee)



Leagh Douglas (Trustee)

The notes on page 7 form part of these financial statements.

1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are those which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects of the Trust at the discretion of the Trustees. Unrestricted general funds are used for day-to-day running expenses. Restricted funds are those which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Trust. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. The Trust received a grant of £5,000 during the year from The Hugh Fraser Foundation restricted towards the costs of the SPaRKs project. The deficit in the year was funded by reserves.

3 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No Trustees were paid or received any other benefits from employment from the Trust in the year or previous year. No expenses were reimbursed to Trustees in the year or previous year.

4 Transactions with connected persons

There were no transactions with connected persons in the year or previous year.