

James M MacLaren Society (SCIO)

SC053994

Trustees' Annual Report

and Financial Statements

for the period 20 February 2025 to 31 March 2026

being the first accounts presented since the Society gained charitable status

The Report also contains the final Financial Statements

for the unincorporated association James M MacLaren Society

for the period 1 December 2024 to 19 February 2025

**and includes the value of the balance of funds held in the Society's bank
account when the Society gained charitable status**

These funds will be gifted to the James M MacLaren Society (SCIO)

James M MacLaren Society (SCIO)

SC053994

Principal Address: 13 Braid Avenue, Edinburgh, EH10 4SL

Trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report:

Paul Holden
Neil Hooper
Miriam Lahage
Ian Muir
David Pitts
Jennifer Rees
Victoria Taylor

Governing document: Constitution

Recruitment & appointment of trustees:

Members of the Society are encouraged at each AGM to consider standing for election as a trustee. The Society may also appoint any non-member on the basis of specialist experience or skills. The Trustee Board uses a skills matrix to support balance in the contributions of trustees. The maximum number of trustees is ten, the minimum three. The Constitution gives full details regarding election, retiral, re-election, period of office, and appointment of co-opted charity trustees.

Charitable purposes:

To encourage the development of interest in the work of James Marjoribanks MacLaren, Arts & Crafts architect, and promote the advancement of study and appreciation of his influence and impact on the Arts & Crafts and Scottish vernacular movement.

To protect the architectural and social heritage of the work of James M MacLaren

Main activities:

The annual Trustees' Report describes the activities undertaken each year and those planned for future years.

James M MacLaren Society
Accounts for the period 1 December 2024 to 19 February 2025
Final accounts for James M MacLaren Society
And for the period 20 February 2025 – 31 March 2026
First accounts for James M MacLaren Society (SCIO)

		Accounts for period 20 February 2025 - 31 March 2026 13 months +9 days	Accounts for period 1 December 2024 - 19 February 2025 2 months + 19 days	Accounts 2023/24 1 October 2023 – 30 November 2024 14 months
Opening balance		£1927.24	£1836.91	£1536.64
Income				
	Subscriptions	£690.00	£60.00	£720
	Donations	£593.00	£20.00	£125.35
	Donations for Chairs	£450.00		
	Books & Journals	£67.50	£6.00	£34.50
	Interest	£33.64	£6.43	£29.97
	TOTAL	£1834.14	£92.43	£909.82
Expenditure				
	Postage/ stationery	£33.05	-	£40.19
	Printing of Journal 20	-	-	£384.56
	Printing Journal 21	£382.57	-	-
	Website hosting & domain name	£19.20	-	£79.20
	Membership software: membermojo	£95.00	-	£95.00
	Trustees' Insurance	£105.92		
	Stripe fees (credit card payments)	25.64	£2.10	£10.60
	Commission	5.55		
	TOTAL	666.93	£2.10	£609.55
	NET INCOME	£1167.21	£90.33	£300.27
Closing balance		£3094.45	£1927.24	£1836.91

Signature of Neil Hooper, trustee of the James M MacLaren Society (SCIO)

Signature *Neil Hooper* **Date:** 15 June 2026

Trustees' Report

The James M MacLaren Society was established in 2004 to promote and encourage the development of interest in, and protection of, works by James Marjoribanks MacLaren, Arts & Crafts architect, and his associates, by any appropriate means the Society shall decide. At our last AGM on 17 December 2024, the Society agreed to apply to become a charity, and on February 20 2025, we were delighted to learn that we had been successful in the application, becoming the James M MacLaren Society (SCIO) SC053944.

Becoming a charity allows the Society to continue with its mission to increase the knowledge about and interest in James M MacLaren and his influence on the Arts and Craft movement and Scottish vernacular and seek important contacts with related organisations and charities. We propose to finalise the transition to SCIO at the AGM on May 15 2026.

MEMBERSHIP AND FEES

With SCIO status achieved, the Society has implemented its earlier decision to raise its subscriptions to £15 per person or £20 for two people at the same address or £150 for life membership or £200 for two people at the same address. The subscription year has been standardised to a calendar year. The previous subscription period was extended slightly on this first occasion with subscription reminders going out in December 2025 for calendar year 2026.

There are currently 68 members, 33 life members 35 annual members. There are 10 households with joint membership, 6 life and 4 annual. The records have been reorganised so that individuals rather than households are members. The Society has applied successfully to HMRC to be recognised as a charity for tax purposes. This means that from now on, Gift Aid can be reclaimed on subscriptions and donations, increasing the Society's income.

We hope to increase our membership, and would ask everyone who can to pass on information about the Society to potential new members.

All Members have the right to participate in members' meetings and have important powers under the constitution; for example, the members elect people to serve on the board.

TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees holds regular meetings, and generally controls the activities of the organisation; for example, the Board is responsible for monitoring and controlling the financial position of the organisation.

The SCIO application required three founder trustees and we put forward Miriam Lahage, Vicky Taylor and Jenny Rees. This group then appointed four further trustees, Neil Hooper, Paul Holden, who was Honorary President, David Pitts and Ian Muir. The Society and its trustees are listed on the Scottish Charity

Register: <https://www.oscr.org.uk/search/register-search?Keyword=>

The trustees recognised that across the seven of us, there is depth of knowledge of James M MacLaren and his work and legacy in Scotland and elsewhere, including his place in Arts & Crafts heritage and culture. In relation to skills relevant to running the Society we bring variously current architectural practice; breadth of contacts; creative ideas to further the aims of the Society; editorial expertise; media and communication skills; governance, accounting and administrative knowledge. Under the Constitution, the Board retains the option to co-opt three further trustees, to bring in professional or specialist expertise not otherwise available.

The charity is required to elect from among its trustees a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. It may have other office-bearers. The founder trustees decided to invite Neil Hooper to take on the office of Chair, recognising his role in founding and supporting the Society over 20 years following from Rosie Hooper's many years in the chair. He has accepted this post. Jenny Rees was appointed as Treasurer. Vicky Taylor will continue to edit the Journal. The post of Secretary will also be taken on by Vicky Taylor. We will discuss approval of these roles at the AGM.

FINANCE

The Society's accounts will be presented from now on in a format recommended by OSCR and we will require an independent examination of the accounts before they are approved for submission after the AGM. We have appointed an independent examiner; an honorarium payment will be made for their work. The accounts are presented in payment and receipts format.

The old James M MacLaren Society has to be wound up at the AGM on May 15 2026, at which its final accounts for the period from 1 December 2024 will be considered and approved. It will then be decided to close down the Society and gift its funds to the James M MacLaren Society (SCIO) as a body with identical objectives.

There is an opportunity to review the current bank account held with the Royal Bank of Scotland, a Treasurers Account. As a SCIO we should now be eligible for an account that supports outgoing BACS payments, a major deficiency of the present account. A resolution will be required to update the signatories on the Society's bank account.

Under Charity Law, the James M MacLaren Society (SCIO) must hold its first AGM by the 20th May, being fifteen months since its date of incorporation. Its first set of accounts covering the period from 20 February 2025 to 31 March 2026 will be presented at the AGM as this is the financial year end in its SCIO application. The approved accounts are the basis for the Society's annual submission to OSCR which must first be made within 9 months of 31/3/26. Jenny Rees has been leading on the financial and Miriam Lahage on governance issues.

FUTURE PLANS

The Trustees have met three times since the last AGM to come up with an exciting programme of events and a publicity schedule which will promote and celebrate the work of James MacLaren. We will talk about these plans further at the AGM, but in summary:

- a) Paul Holden suggested and is working on plans to celebrate the 175th anniversary of James M MacLaren's birth (in 2028) at the Art Workers' Guild in London, where JMM was a member. Such an event would give us widespread recognition and press interest. All members would be invited.
- b) We hope to hold a lecture event in MacLaren Room of the Fortingall Hotel (the new owners of the Fortingall Hotel intend to refurbish the Yew Room at the back of the hotel and rename it). We welcome any suggestions for lecture topics.
- c) Actively creating links and extending membership through reaching out to other architectural and conservation societies or those interested in Arts & Crafts more generally. Ian Muir has been leading on this and has made excellent progress with contacts in relevant influential Scottish societies. The collaborations would be an important showcase for MacLaren's legacy in Scotland. More information will be presented at the AGM.
- d) Distribution and sale of Molteno Hall chairs – approximately 70 seats, bought for the Molteno Hall when it opened in 1935 have been stored since the Hall bought new stackable chairs about ten years ago. They have now been gifted to the Society and are currently in temporary storage. They are oak tip-up chairs, singles, doubles and trebles, all in good condition and capable of being restored to a high standard. These have been offered to members of the Society and others in return for a donation to Society funds (and a clear expectation that they are collected). Donations of £10 for a single; £18 for a double and £25 for a triple were encouraged. Some of the seats will be retained for use at Society AGMs and other events. Some £450 in donations has been received so far for chairs.
- e) The fire that ravaged the Kirkton Cottages on 21 March 2025 was a great shock to those in the village of Fortingall and to members and others. The plans for reinstatement of the cottages are presently being considered by Perth & Kinross Council, including the Conservation Officer as these are B-listed properties and must be restored in accordance with the guidelines of Historic Environment Scotland. It is hoped that stonework repairs, replacement of roof timbers and windows and thatching can all be completed this year with interior fit-out taking place in the first quarter of 2027. A report on progress will feature in the next edition of the Journal and we will encourage press coverage of the restoration of these magnificent properties.
- f) Plans to publish an information leaflet for distribution to visitors to Fortingall and install information boards highlighting MacLaren's work in the village. Vicky Taylor will report more on these plans at the AGM.

Signature of Neil Hooper, trustee of the James M MacLaren Society

Signature: *Neil Hooper*

Date: 15 June 2026