THE FRIENDS OF THE BIBLICAL GARDEN

AGM

Tuesday, 26th May, 2026

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31ST March 2026.

Registered Scottish Charity No SC035997

Environmental Body Scotland SLCF/AB001/104

1. In Attendance

Nick Chambers - Chair, Jill Stringer - Vice Chairperson, Monika Jakiel - Treasurer, Maggie Sharp - Membership Secretary, Lea Bernard – Secretary.

Davie Sharp, Gordon Forsyth, Anne Rodda, Caireall Parsons, John Sherry, Angela Innes, Leslie Duroe, Julie-Ann and Olivia Henderson, Lisa Harbottle, Shirley Jeffrey, Jane Stewart, Jacqueline Cattan

Apologies
Julie McIntosh, Karen McArthur

2. Opening Remarks.

The Chair underlined the good turn up and opened the meeting thanking everyone for attending.

3. Minutes

A discussion on the minutes of the AGM from 2025 was had, minutes of the previous AGM, held on 27th May, 2025, were discussed and accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Maggie Sharp and seconded by Anne Roda.

4. Chairman's Update

The Chair discussed the academic year at college, stating that courses have been reduced in teaching time at the Garden and the student numbers were low in the 25/26 year, but top-quality students have maintained The Gardens well. The Chair went on to address a number of significant points from the last year.

"A very busy year"

- The constitution was updated.

- Lea is now in charge of maintaining the website, which is now fully updated with recent pictures and information regarding all current and upcoming events. The subscription with 123reg still needs changing from John Sherry to Nick Chambers.

- The year has been a focus on fundraising for the paving project, the plan to renew all the slabs that make up the central pathways in the garden. It is an expensive project and a discussion was had about the need to retain our £17000 contribution to cover any costs to maintain the Garden if College was moving out. But rather than pausing the project, it was suggested that we have the option to only relay the old slabs and this would make the project cheaper. We are waiting for the common good fund and Baxter's to get back to us on their decision on funding and then go from there.

- The surprise announcement that Moray College management are considering moving away from the Biblical Gardens shook us all and the threat was discussed at length during the meeting. We are sitting in uncertain times, but Nick is fully expecting college to remain here at the gardens for the next academic year. The current wording from management is that 'no decision has been made'; It was felt that the letters written by The Friends may have had an impact. HNC students have invited management from college and other HNC students from the whole network to spend the day at the Biblical Garden to show the quality of our facilities for teaching horticulture.

- The 30th anniversary of the garden was discussed. It will be a wonderful opportunity to raise public awareness about the gardens' history and show the importance of our partnership with Moray College and the local Council. The Friends wish to have a successful family orientated community event, with important civic leaders, publicized widely so that the partnership that cares for the gardens is highlighted to all involved and the gardens has its profile raised.

<u>Review of work done during this year</u>

The steps have been finished, and the handrail is ready to be installed.
Ying Yang bed was filled with white stones and dark mulch/bark.
New shrubs planted for winter pruning training.
Donation box vandalised, but fixed and painted.

<u>Plans for year ahead</u>

30th Anniversary event on the 12th September 2026.
Paving re-laid across the garden along with improvements to the garden's entrance.
Gate and enclosure to secure work yard from visitors will be completed.
The level 6 students have designed ideas for the bottom half of the garden; it would be good to invest some time to reshape it now that the hedge is open and the new steps completed. Members of the AGM were invited to view the students' work.

5. Treasurer's Report

Finance report for May 2026 showing a bank balance of £25,601.58.

Monika is still looking for a new accountant in an effort to reduce our accountancy costs.

6. Election of Office Bearers and Trustees for 2026/2027

Nominations were then proposed and seconded for all positions

Chairperson	Nick Chambers	Nominated by Jill Stringer seconded by Maggie Sharp
Vice -Chairperson	Jill Stringer	Nominated by Davie Sharp and seconded by Jacqueline Cattan
Treasurer	Lisa Harbottle	Nominated by Nick Chambers seconded by Jill Stringer
Secretary	Lea Bernard	Nominated by Shirley Jeffrey and seconded by Julie-Ann Henderson
Membership Secretary	Maggie Sharp	Nominated by Nick Chambers seconded by Jill Stringer

It was recorded that Monika Jakiel stepped down from her role as Treasurer at this AGM. We thank Monika for her hard work as treasurer and welcome Lisa to the role. Monika and Lisa will work with the Chair to ensure a smooth handover of financial records.

Commitee as of April 2026

Trustees	Committee Members	
Nick Chambers, Chairperson	Davie Sharp	
Jill Stringer, Vice Chairperson	Shirley Jeffrey	
Monika Jakiel, Treasurer	Gordon Forsyth	Karen McArthur
Lea Bernard, Secretary	Jacqueline Cattan	
Maggie Sharp, Membership Secretary	Cairall Parsons	

The trustees did not receive any remuneration or expenses during the year 2025/2026.

Committee meetings of The Friends have been held monthly throughout the year. Minutes of these meetings have been circulated and copies are available on request. Next committee meeting will be held on **Tuesday 25th August 2026 at 6.30** in the portacabin in the biblical gardens.

AOCB

A plant sale is organised by the students on the 4th of June 2026.

The weeding sessions will start on the 16th of June 2026.

The June Midsummer service will be held on 24th June 2026 at 6.30pm.

The garden received a donation of tools from Stewart Hay.

The anniversary event is set to the 12th of September 2026.

We yet must find a project to use the donation from Donald McDonald.

Linkwood hydroponics created by students were gifted to the Biblical Garden.

Nick sent the picture of the King's Oak tree to the Lord Lieutenant who planted it (Seymore Monroe)

The Friends of the Biblical Garden, Elgin is a charitable unincorporated association, and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in the constitution.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by Office Bearers

Nick Chambers
Chairman

Signed Nicholas Chambers …….. Date 26th May 2026 ……..