Edinburgh Garden Partners

Annual report and accounts

Year end: 31st March 2026

Edinburgh Garden Partners
Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2026

Board of trustees and administration details

Edinburgh Garden Partners (EGP) was established as a company limited by guarantee and recognised as a charity in Scotland (No. SCO42164) on 11th March 2011. It converted to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 14th December 2015 and is governed by its constitution. The address of the principal office of the charity is Causewayside House, 160 Causewayside, Edinburgh, EH9 1PR.

The structure of the charity consists of the charity trustees, who are also the organisation's only members and comprise the organisation's board. The current charity trustees are Bela Gor (appointed 5/5/26), Elaine Mowat, Halley Cummings (appointed 5/5/26), Lorna Spence, Mike Birch, Murray Talbot, Nick Herbert (appointed 5/5/26) and Zoe Stephens. Ben Thurman (resigned 12/8/25), Ben Parker (resigned 30/4/26), Eleanor Saunders White (resigned 3/2/26) and Fiona Boyle (resigned 3/2/26) also served as charity trustees during the year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

The board may at any time appoint new trustees and at each AGM trustees stand down but may be re-elected.

The objects of the charity

The charity's objectives, as set out in its constitution are:

- to advance the health of the community through promoting and enabling gardening activities in the local area and the growing and consumption of local and organic food.
- to advance citizenship and community development through volunteer gardening and other volunteer opportunities in line with our objectives.
- to promote environmental protection and improvement through the promotion of sustainable and environmentally friendly methods of gardening.
- to relieve those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability or other disadvantage, through helping them to maintain and cultivate their gardens, and/or enabling them to participate in and gain from the therapeutic benefits of gardening, and,
- to advance the education of the public in horticulture and related environmental issues.

Our strategy

EGP has a clear vision, which was reaffirmed in a strategy review held in October 2025: "We strive for sustainable, connected communities, where everyone lives well and has space to grow". Our work aims to strengthen communities by creating relationships between people who want a space to grow and those who have garden space to share. We connect people of different ages, abilities, and backgrounds to build a shared gardening movement through the exchange of skills, knowledge, and life experience.

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Our strategy is guided by our values:

- We are **inclusive** and strive to bring people together in a spirit of shared endeavour.
- We are **nurturing** of gardens, of relationships and of ourselves.
- We are **open** to new ideas, new ways of working, and in the way we communicate.
- We are **collaborative** and believe that our organisation, partnerships and communities are stronger when we work together.
- We are **resourceful** in our gardens and in our organisation, making the most of what we have and sharing our time, knowledge and skills.
- We **care about the environment** and are committed to promoting sustainable practices and respect for our planet.

The strategy review held in October 2025 involved all the trustees at the time along with the EGP staff. This review not only confirmed that while the vision, strategy and values were still appropriate, it was agreed that our work should be structured around five revised key workstreams which are set out below together with highlights of the activities we have undertaken against each workstream.

Summary of activities from the year

EGP continues to be motivated by strengthening our connections to each other and enhancing our relationship with food and nature. This year we have delivered activity across five separate workstreams which have helped us to deliver our mission.

1. **Sustain our garden partnerships, nurturing the breadth and quality of relationships between owners and volunteers within these.**

   Sustaining and nurturing our garden partnerships is the core of our work at EGP. Over the year, we have seen a slight increase in the level of partnerships with around 45 active partnerships in place at any one time. This increase has resulted from successful targeted efforts to recruit more garden owners willing to share their gardens with volunteers living nearby in areas where we were short of gardens. Over the course of the year, we have supported 60 volunteers and 49 garden owners.

   Our annual volunteer survey shows that people value being part of EGP, and are positive about the work we do:

   "[EGP are] always open to new ideas, which is great."

   "I've enjoyed all the opportunities for training at the Botanics & the Christmas wreath making which helps foster a sense of belonging and of being valued as a volunteer."

"I feel very well supported by the EGP team, they were very understanding and supportive about the breakdown of my garden partnership and continue to be lovely at EGP events I've been to since."

"It's been really nice to have regular contact with someone who is in a different age group with me - there aren't many opportunities for this in other parts of my life and I really appreciate it."

"Sharing the successes (and laughing about the failures) of the attempted veg growing with the garden owner is a great feeling that really makes you feel good about yourself"

"We are constantly laughing together - much more than getting work done. We've seen each other through some tough times and it's really a joy."

Similarly, the feedback from garden owners was again overwhelmingly positive with 100% of respondents stating that they would recommend a garden sharing partnership to a friend. Some quotes from their responses are as follows:

"[it makes] such a big difference, the garden was just nothing before and it was such a shame. so happy that things are being done in the space. So much happens in the space now."

"Having a volunteer has meant I can try growing things again and is the highlight of my week."

"Nice to have different conversations."

"I'm not much of a gardener, I find it physically difficult. I feel more encouraged to participate when [my volunteer] is there. I enjoy the times when she is there."

"When my husband died, I knew I couldn't deal with the garden on my own and thought I would have to sell my house but now I can stay where I am. Thank you EGP."

"I fully trust her and really value this. It's very important to me."

2. **Develop new ways for people to contribute to and collaborate with EGP, increasing the breadth of volunteers and strengthening partnerships.**

We have continued to organise an additional programme of activities for volunteers to be involved with over the course of the year. This has included:

- Organising multiple "SOS days" where teams of volunteers clear a particularly problematic garden space together
- Seed swaps to mark the beginning of the growing season.
- A flower arranging event at Granton Walled Garden with Ochre Botanicals
- Training sessions delivered by the Royal Botanic Gardens (Edinburgh) for EGP volunteers on Composting, Growing for Biodiversity, Planning your Plot and Organic Pest Control
- A seed saving workshop at Lauriston Farm
- Foraging walk on Blackford Hill
- Wreath making workshop (annual end of the growing season event)
- Several volunteers and staff attended a Garden Futures exhibition at Dundee V&A museum

By arranging additional activities, we have built new connections with a number of groups across the city and, following positive feedback from attendees, we hope to repeat these events in the next year. We have also had some big success on social media this year, reaching new audiences on Instagram with over 1500 followers already, far beyond our usual reach.

3. **Prioritise making our work more accessible and inclusive by creating ways for people of all different ages, abilities and backgrounds to get involved with our work.**

EGP is working across a number of areas to reduce barriers to inclusion in our work and to increase diversity in our garden sharing community. This year we have developed our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy and updated our budget to include an "access fund" for any volunteer who needs support for basic gardening equipment to get involved in our work. We have also seen the first year of our "EDI commitment" being built into our volunteer and garden owner induction processes – this has been met with positive feedback.

As part of our EGP Garden Owner recruitment drive, we collaborated with Housing Association Harbour Homes to find more gardens in Leith where we have a large number of volunteers. This has resulted in an ongoing relationship with their Placemaking & Employability Officer and EGP being included in their newsletter this summer. As a consequence, we have received some referrals and notes of interest and hope to develop this relationship going forward.

4. **Share and promote the work of EGP to strengthen our presence within the political, policy and statutory environments in Edinburgh as well as across the volunteer and community gardening sector.**

It has been a busy year for EGP in terms of sharing and promoting the EGP model. We have offered support for organisations interested in setting up garden sharing in their local area, and also built further connections with other local organisations which have flexed the scope of our work in new and interesting ways. This has included:

- Had a stall at the Volunteer Edinburgh Fair which allowed us to network with around 150 attendees including potential volunteers, garden owners and collaborators
- Attended Dalry Community Forum which allowed us to network other community organisations in this area of Edinburgh including Gorgie City Farm and Garvald Edinburgh
- Made a presentation to a monthly Sight Scotland staff meeting on our work and to encourage referrals from this community.
- Hosted a delegation from Estonia who had requested this meeting to learn more about the EGP model
- Supporting 6 organisations across the UK at different stages setting up garden sharing schemes - sharing the information pack that we created about the EGP garden sharing model and providing bespoke support where required.
- We also received updates from the MAXwell Centre in Dundee and Truro Community Patchwork Farm that their garden sharing projects were thriving and continuing to develop - these are projects we have supported from their infancy.
- We were very pleased to learn that one of our volunteers was selected for a Special Recognition Award at the Inspiring Volunteer Awards Ceremony
- Piloted a EGP Roadshow (with support from Banzai Bikes) at various locations around Edinburgh
- Had a stall at the 2025 Edinburgh Climate Festival which was staffed by EGP staff, trustees and volunteers which resulted in very positive engagement with attendees

Over the next year we hope to continue to grow these connections and see how new projects can develop, in line with our key values and mission.

5. Build further resilience into EGP, including the background processes, governance structures and finances.

We know that the continuing success of EGP is built on the people we have involved – staff, volunteers and trustees. This year our Project Coordinator was on maternity leave for much of the year during which time we successfully covered her absence through the recruitment of a new temporary member of staff who brought new skills, connections and ideas to our team. Our Volunteering Development Coordinator was also able to step up and successfully take on additional responsibilities.

With the return of our Project Coordinator in late 2025, we reviewed both roles and updated them to better reflect the skills and experience required to effectively meet our current needs and future challenges. These changes were fully implemented in 2026 and provide a flexible basis for the management of our organisation.

In addition to changes to the staff team, we have also recruited a further three new trustees to ensure effective oversight of our activities and broaden the diversity of the board. Each appointment has brought new ideas and energy into the EGP community, further strengthening the organisation.

As a result of the discussions at our Strategy Review event, we have decided to establish a new sub-committee of Trustees to further examine the current governance processes and to develop recommendations for any changes to meet the changing regulatory environment and the future demands of the organisation.

We are grateful to our funders who make our work possible including Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, Foundation Scotland, Vegware Community Fund, Christina Mary Hendrie Trust, People's Postcode Trust (including an additional donation selected by their staff) and the Nancie Massie Charitable Trust.

Investment in the staff and trustee team is critical for our success and this year we have been pleased to support training for staff, volunteers and trustees in Dementia (Age Scotland), Bereavement in Befriending (Befriending Network), First Aid (Grassroot Remedies).

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Accounts

The accounts have been compiled on a receipts and payments basis. At the year-end, cash reserves stood at £59,052, which were unrestricted funds. It is the trustees' policy to maintain sufficient reserves to meet future planned activity and to cover administrative costs. At the end of the year this had been achieved.

Approved by the Trustees on .....3/9/26.....and signed on their behalf by Murray Talbot (Treasurer):

Signature: 

Independent Examiner's Report to the Board of Trustees of Edinburgh Garden Partners

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2026, set out on pages 10 to 13.

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) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The 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 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 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

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 [redacted] Date .....8 Sept 2026.....

Suzanne Graham FCCA
Hollis Accounting Limited
3 Melville Crescent
Edinburgh EH3 7HW

Edinburgh Garden Partners
Receipts and Payments Account
Year ending 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2026	Restricted Funds 2026	Total Funds 2026	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025
Receipts		£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations, grants & legacies							
Donations		163	-	163	401	-	401
Grant Funding		35,730	5,393	41,123	43,300	21,571	64,871
Total donations		35,893	5,393	41,286	43,701	21,571	65,272
Total Receipts		35,893	5,393	41,286	43,701	21,571	65,272
Payments	3						
Costs of generating funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		42,136	16,133	58,269	1,470	57,809	59,279
Governance costs		918	42	960	-	800	800
		43,054	16,175	59,229	1,470	58,609	60,079
Other costs		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments		43,054	16,175	59,229	1,470	58,609	60,079
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		(7,161)	(10,782)	(17,943)	42,231	(37,038)	5,193
Transfers	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		(7,161)	(10,782)	(17,943)	42,231	(37,038)	5,193

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Statement of Balances

At 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Restricted Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Bank & Cash Balances							
Bank & deposit balances brought forward		66,213	10,782	76,995	23,982	47,820	71,802
Movement in year:							
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		(7,161)	(10,782)	(17,943)	42,231	(37,038)	5,193
Bank & Cash balances carried forward	5	59,052	-	59,052	66,213	10,782	76,995
Fixed Assets							
	4	715	-	715	808	-	808
Other Assets							
Debtors - SMP due		4,165	-	4,165	-	-	-
Liabilities							
Payroll costs		-	-	-	206	-	206
Independent examination		960	-	960	960	-	960
		960	-	960	1,166	-	1,166

The notes on pages 12 and 13 form an integral part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the trustees on ..... 3/9/26 .....

For and on behalf of all the trustees

[redacted] ..... Murray Talbot (Treasurer)

Edinburgh Garden Partners
Notes to the Accounts
Year ending 31 March 2026

Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance wih the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

1. **Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions**
The members of the board of trustees did not receive any remuneration in either year or reimbursement of expenses.

2. **Fund movement**

	At 01.04.25 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.03.26 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	66,213	35,893	(43,054)	-	59,052
Total unrestricted funds	66,213	35,893	(43,054)	-	59,052
Restricted Funds					
Edinburgh Integration Joint Board	10,782	5,393	(16,175)	-	-
Total restricted funds	10,782	5,393	(16,175)	-	-
Total funds	76,995	41,286	(59,229)	-	59,052

Fund Purposes

Restricted Funds
Restricted funds are those which are required to be used for a specific purpose.
Edinburgh Integration Board *- funding to develop and run a project with BAME communities in partnership with Networking Key Services and othe relevant organisations.*
Unrestricted General Funds
These funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

There were no transfers in the year.

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Year ending 31 March 2026

3. Analysis of Payments

	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Restricted Funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Cost of Generating Funds						
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities						
Staff costs	36,863	14,536	51,399	240	52,526	52,766
Project support costs	-	-	-	-	43	43
Volunteer costs	194	6	200	-	582	582
Events	951	25	976	-	594	594
Materials and equipment	164	278	442	-	238	238
Office costs and subscriptions	1,225	6	1,231	58	1,226	1,284
Insurance	614	-	614	-	614	614
Telephone	288	-	288	56	516	572
Travel and subsistence	218	218	436	-	513	513
Legal and professional	-	776	776	-	419	419
IT and website	931	288	1,219	592	-	592
Other expenses	688	-	688	-	314	314
	42,136	16,133	58,269	946	57,585	58,531
Governance Costs						
Trustee recruitment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Independent Examination	918	42	960	-	800	800
	918	42	960	-	800	800
Other costs						
Purchase of equipment	-	-	-	524	224	748
Total Payments	43,054	16,175	59,229	1,470	58,609	60,079

4. Fixed Assets

The charity had equipment valued at approximately £527 (2025: £808)

5. Bank and Cash Balances

	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £	Restricted Funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Bank	59,052	-	59,052	66,213	10,782	76,995
Petty cash	-	-	-		-	-
	59,052	-	59,052	66,213	10,782	76,995