

Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) SC045955, www.fombl.org.uk



Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Scottish Charity No – SC045955

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025**

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Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees take pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

Charity Address

c/o 25/2 Roseneath Place, Edinburgh EH9 1JD

Constitution and Trustees

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered with OSCR on 3rd September 2015. It has a two-tier structure with membership open to the public and a board of elected trustees who are also members of the charity.

Trustees are elected or re-elected at the annual general meeting and additional trustees may be elected at any time during the year. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of fifteen trustees. We are always interested in expressions of interest from members who wish to become trustees.

Current Trustees

Iain Black	Trustee
Joan Carter	Vice-Chair
Jim Orr	Chair
Maureen Parnell	Newsletter Editor
Neil Roger	Projects Manager
Alison Service	Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Bridget Stevens	Trustee
Neill Walker	Secretary

All of the trustees were in position for the entire year.

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Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

The organisation was established for charitable purposes only. From our constitution these are:

- Advancement of Arts, Heritage, Culture or Science. To promote the historical value of the area, its scenic, architectural, landscape and ecological qualities for the enjoyment of people living in and visiting the area.
- Advancement of Environmental Protection or Improvement. To encourage conservation, protect, enhance and improve the landscape, biodiversity and sustainable use for the benefit of people and wildlife.
- Advancement of Citizenship or Community Development. To engage and involve the local community in environmental issues and action through information exchange, educational and practical activities.

Activities

Once again, members of Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links have worked hard all year to protect the historic meadows and links. We are very fortunate to have so many active members and local residents owe them a huge debt of gratitude. As at March 2025 we had 112 members compared to 103 last year. These members are mainly individuals but also include community councils and student groups.

The tree group have planted thousands of new native trees and bushes across several areas of the meadows and links in recent years, notably the Southwest area of the links, with help from dozens of local school pupils, and also around the tennis courts and the east playground. The group and volunteers have also continued to water and mulch them. The volunteer group also met throughout the year to collect litter and leaves and remove weeds and graffiti among other tasks. Two of our volunteers from the above groups, Neil Roger and Alison Carr, received a Community Hero award from local MP Ian Murray during the year.

Extensive areas of wildflower meadow have also been maintained and improved during the year with thousands of new bulbs and flowers planted or seeded. Now that their work is done, Scottish Water's extensive former compound area off Marchmont Road is being restored at their expense this summer. We continue to encourage the council to adopt a relaxed policy towards mowing grassy areas to encourage biodiversity.

Our project activity this year was less extensive than usual with no significant equipment installation projects unlike the previous year when the log cabin was installed. The new toilet block at the corner of Middle Meadow Walk and Melville Drive opened in late summer. This is very welcome as a new toilet has been one of the primary objectives of FoMBL for many

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years.

Our main way of communicating with members is through our excellent regular newsletters which are always full of great photos and updates. These are available to read on the FoMBL website. We also maintain a FoMBL Facebook group with 4,500 members.

All three of our public meetings were very successful during the year. Local historian Eric Melvin gave a talk in April 2024 entitled "Tales of The Southside - A Misadventure; an eccentric judge; an afternoon tea party and some childhood memories". At our AGM in late June Professor David Purdie gave a wonderful illustrated talk on "The Burns, father & son, and the Meadows" (the son being our national poet Robert Burns). The focus of our Autumn 2024 meeting was a talk from David Kyles from the local Parks and Greenspaces Office. David outlined the council's partnerships and plans such as the place of the Meadows in the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2027. We also had a very enjoyable Christmas social event in the Black Ivy. The Lowe family who own it have been very supportive of, and generous towards, FoMBL over the years.

Finally, it was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Heather Goodare in June 2025. Heather was a driving force within FoMBL for decades and a fascinating person. We will all miss her greatly.

Financial summary and reserves policy

The charity remains in a healthy financial position with £13,760 in the bank at the end of March. We have very few fixed costs and a substantial regular income and so there is little need to monitor our reserves.

In terms of restricted expenditure, £3,763 was carried over from the prior year and comprised of £300 for new play equipment and £3,463 for (long delayed) information panels in association with Edinburgh World Heritage. During the year, £2,145 was pledged towards a new table tennis table on the Links (from the Black Ivy and JR Construction). After deducting some spending, the total restricted funds balance at the year-end was £5,751. Further details are in the notes to the accounts.

With all the above income taken into account and relatively little project spend recently, we made a surplus of £3,638 for the year.

Jim Orr

Jim Orr, Chair of Trustees, 23rd September 2025

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Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year to 31st March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year to 31/03/2025	31/03/2024
Receipts				
Donations	1649	2895	4544	1479
Membership subs	1171	0	1171	934
Grants	0	0	0	0
Sundry	30	0	30	0
Total receipts	2850	2895	5745	2413
Payments				
Meetings/social events	843	0	843	150
Grants expenditure	0	0	0	9306
Membermojo	95	0	95	170
Website	60	0	60	0
Volunteer equipment/trees	303	607	910	761
Stripe charges	36	0	36	12
Trustee Insurance	155	0	155	157
Overpayment	0	0	0	0
Sundry	8	0	8	0
Total payments	1500	607	2107	10,556
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1350	2288	3638	(8143)
Transfers between funds	300	(300)	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1650	1988	3638	(8143)

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Statement of Balances - As at 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year to 31/03/25	Year to 31/03/24
Opening cash at bank and in hand	6359	3763	10122	18,265
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1650	1988	3638	(8143)
Closing cash at bank and in hand	8009	5751	13760	10122

Bank and Cash Balances

Bank deposit account	8009	5751	13760	10,122
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Jim Orr

Jim Orr

FoMBL Convenor, 23rd September 2025

Alison Service

Alison Service

FoMBL Treasurer, 23rd September 2025

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Notes to the accounts for the year ending 31st March 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, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the charity's constitution.

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. 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 Related party transactions

No remuneration or personal expenses were paid to any trustees or connected persons during the year (2023/24: Nil)

4 Governance costs

	Total 24/25	Total 23/24
Independent examiner's fee	0	0

5 Transfers between funds

There was one transfer between restricted and unrestricted funds during the period. £300 of restricted income was left unspent on the 2023/24 log house project. We were permitted to retain this balance and allocate it to other projects and so it has been carried forward as an unrestricted balance.

6 Note on expenditure

The main item of volunteer equipment was for a second water bowser for £399. With thousands of small trees and bushes planted in recent years we have more and more watering to do. Meeting expenses were increased as we had a Christmas Social event which cost £362. The rest of the cost was for room hire, catering and speaker expenses for the three open meetings we had during the year.

7 Note on income

We have had no grant income at all in the last two years. The last significant installation project which we were involved in was the children's log house on the Links which we installed in 2023/24, and which cost £7.7k.

We received £500 from Foundation Scotland during the year, all of which was spent on planting equipment. We also received £250 from Texaport for planting and spent £107 of this. We received £1000 from Heather Goodare for the "Barclay Corner" but the council improved the area and so the £1000 was de-restricted. We received £1385 from the Black Ivy and £750 from JR Construction to go towards a new table tennis table. This was carried over at the year end.

8 Assets held by the charity

The charity owns several gardening tools and similar "assets", the most valuable of which are two water bowsers on wheels.

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield links

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025 which are set out in pages 1 to 7 above.

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 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 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 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

1. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Mr Gordon Miln

Gordon Miln

25/09/25

Address: 94/6 Dinmont Drive, Edinburgh, EH16 5RY.