

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
FOR
THE M.L. MACINTYRE BEGONIA TRUST**

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THE M.L. MACINTYRE BEGONIA TRUST
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For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

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THE M.L. MACINTYRE BEGONIA TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The Trust principally supports postgraduate scholars in research training towards the degree of PhD and the study of any aspect of the genus Begonia and its relatives.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

There were no calls for support of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens over this period. Following the 2024 AGM, the Trustees agreed to review options to change the Trust investment manager and widen the scope of the bequest to better support Begonia research in relation to climate change (to be discussed at 2025 AGM). The Trust continues to support a PhD student, [REDACTED], who is jointly supervised between members of the RBGE in Edinburgh and the Plant Science Group at Glasgow. A summer internship at the Glasgow Botanic Gardens was supported by the Trust in support of the Begonia collection.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The trustees approve the level of reserves held by the charity, and are satisfied that these will be sufficient for the charity to achieve its objectives in the following financial year. The major expenditure of the Trust relates to the Begonia Trust studentship, funded at the University of Glasgow and costed at the standard level of UK research council studentships. Occasional requests are made to the trustees for minor expenditure in relation to expeditionary travel and in support of the National Begonia Collection at the Glasgow Botanic Gardens. Thus, calls on the reserves can be anticipated with considerable accuracy year on year.

The end of year balance sheet is required 6 months prior to the main payment of each PhD grant (Aug/Sept). When this has just been paid, the cash in bank is then at its lowest then it builds up ¼ by ¼ until the next grant payment. If cash reserves are £35K at the end of the year then this reflects £25K when the grant is paid, therefore we need a minimum of £10K to deal with unforeseen elements. The need is to hold enough cash to pay one year of a student grant. If not, then we have the ability to transfer assets from capital to the current account or delay the start of a new studentship by one year. These are suggestions as we are not at this point yet. We have maintained this order of reserves in cash over the last few years year on year and it has worked well. It is recommended that we review this policy and carry this forward as an operational procedure.

FUTURE PLANS

The Trust discussed opportunities to expand its roles in support of the Begonia collections at the Glasgow Botanic Gardens and in support of education. It was agreed at the AGM to revisit these discussions at regular intervals. However, given the current state of the Trust funds, it was agreed that the present level of activity, with occasional overlaps between PhD students, is appropriate and sustainable for the Trust.

Under the guidance of MLMBT Trustee [REDACTED] The Chair, [REDACTED] and the Treasurer met to discuss a possible transfer of the Trust to another fund manager, which could offer more flexibility as regards ethical portfolio holdings and possible slight improvement in income generation. The team met with two investment management firms with charity expertise, and the summary of discussions prepared by David MacNeil will be included in the AGM papers.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Under the constitution, there are three ex-officio trustees, being the Curator and General Manager of the Botanic Gardens, Glasgow, the Regius Professor of Botany, University of Glasgow and the Director of the Department of Land Services (Parks and Recreation), City of Glasgow. The Trustees have power to appoint from time to time a further trustee or trustees. At present, there are seven such Trustees.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

SC007597

Principal address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Trustees

Ex-Officio Trustees

[REDACTED]

(Secretary)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Chairman)

Ex-Officio Trustee, Regius Professor of Botany and Head of Plant Science
(elected December 2013)

Ex-Officio Trustee, Parks & Environment, Glasgow City Council (elected May 2021)

Ex-Officio Trustee, Manager of Glasgow Botanic Gardens (elected May 2021)

Ex-Officio Trustee (elected November 2023)

Elected Trustees

[REDACTED]

(elected May 2015)

[REDACTED]

(elected May 2016)

[REDACTED]

(elected May 2018)

[REDACTED]

(elected September 2020)

[REDACTED] (Treasurer)

(elected May 2022)

[REDACTED]

(elected September 2022)

Independent Examiner

[REDACTED]

Benham Conway & Co
Chartered Accountants
16 Royal Crescent
Glasgow
G3 7SL

Stockbrokers

Barclays Wealth
1-4 Clyde Place Lane
Glasgow
G5 8DP

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 27 June 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE M.L. MACINTYRE BEGONIA TRUST**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages four to nine.

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's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) 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 the independent examiner's report

My examination was 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 seeking explanations from you as 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 connection with 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 to comply with Regulation 8 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.



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland



Benham Conway & Co
Chartered Accountants
16 Royal Crescent
Glasgow
G3 7SL

27 June 2025

THE M.L. MACINTYRE BEGONIA TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

		31.12.24 Unrestricted funds £	31.12.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes		
Investment income	2	<u>25,960</u>	<u>23,977</u>
EXPENDITURE ON Charitable activities			
Direct charitable expenditure		<u>28,721</u>	<u>48,987</u>
Net gains on investments		<u>32,125</u>	<u>45,898</u>
NET INCOME		29,364	20,888
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		841,488	820,600
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>870,852</u>	<u>841,488</u>

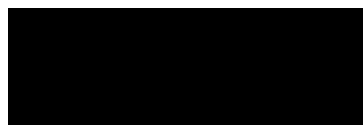
The notes form part of these financial statements

THE M.L. MACINTYRE BEGONIA TRUST

BALANCE SHEET
31 December 2024

		31.12.24	31.12.23
		Unrestricted	Total
		funds	funds
	Notes	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	5	837,505	807,878
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank		34,935	35,153
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(1,588)	(1,543)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		33,347	33,610
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		870,852	841,488
NET ASSETS		870,852	841,488
FUNDS	7		
Unrestricted funds		870,852	841,488
TOTAL FUNDS		870,852	841,488

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 27 June 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



 - Trustee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Fixed asset investments

Listed investment are held at market value.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Investment income	25,960	23,977
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE M.L. MACINTYRE BEGONIA TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Investment income	23,977
EXPENDITURE ON	
Charitable activities	
Direct charitable expenditure	48,987
Net gains on investments	45,898
NET INCOME	20,888
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	820,600
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	841,488

5. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 January 2024	807,878
Additions	29,627
At 31 December 2024	837,505
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2024	837,505
At 31 December 2023	807,878

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

THE M.L. MACINTYRE BEGONIA TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

5. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - continued

Cost or valuation at 31 December 2024 is represented by:

	Listed investments £
Valuation in 2024	176,980
Cost	660,525
	<u>837,505</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.24 £	31.12.23 £
Other creditors	1,588	1,543
	<u>1,588</u>	<u>1,543</u>

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	841,488	29,364	870,852
	<u>841,488</u>	<u>29,364</u>	<u>870,852</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>841,488</u>	<u>29,364</u>	<u>870,852</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	25,960	(28,721)	32,125	29,364
	<u>25,960</u>	<u>(28,721)</u>	<u>32,125</u>	<u>29,364</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>25,960</u>	<u>(28,721)</u>	<u>32,125</u>	<u>29,364</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	820,600	20,888	841,488
	<u>820,600</u>	<u>20,888</u>	<u>841,488</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>820,600</u>	<u>20,888</u>	<u>841,488</u>

THE M.L. MACINTYRE BEGONIA TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	23,977	(48,987)	45,898	20,888
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>23,977</u>	<u>(48,987)</u>	<u>45,898</u>	<u>20,888</u>

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2024.

THE M.L. MACINTYRE BEGONIA TRUST

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

	31.12.24 £	31.12.23 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Investment income		
Investment income	<u>25,960</u>	<u>23,977</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>25,960</u>	<u>23,977</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Research grants	24,986	45,473
Travel expenses	234	229
LEI registration fee	60	60
	<u>25,280</u>	<u>45,762</u>
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Accountancy	954	954
Stockbroker fees	2,487	2,271
	<u>3,441</u>	<u>3,225</u>
Total resources expended	<u>28,721</u>	<u>48,987</u>
Net expenditure before gains and losses	<u>(2,761)</u>	<u>(25,010)</u>
Realised recognised gains and losses		
Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	<u>32,125</u>	<u>45,898</u>
Net income	<u><u>29,364</u></u>	<u><u>20,888</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

M.L. MACINTYRE BEGONIA TRUST

*Registered office: M.L. MacIntyre Begonia Trust, Offices of the General Manager, Glasgow
Botanic Gardens, 730 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0UE
Scottish Charities no. SC007597*

Annual General Meeting
27th June 2025, 10 am, Teams.

NOTES

Apologies: [REDACTED]

	Action
Minutes of previous meeting approved (Appendix 1)	MJ
<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>[REDACTED] began by asking the trustees whether they would agree to support a modest extension for a PhD student in Prof. [REDACTED] lab (Appendix 2). The overarching aim of the project is to develop a tool for creating genetically modified Begonias, potentially paving the way for future research directions. [REDACTED] added that supporting postgraduate scholars falls within the terms of the bequest. After some discussion among the trustees and consideration of tax implications, the board decided to support this short-term postdoctoral position with funding of up to £12,500.</p>	MJ
<p>Treasurer Matters – [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] provided the board with an overview of the accounts and reports (Appendix 3), explaining that the accounts remain straightforward. First of all, [REDACTED] highlighted that the cash reserves are healthy, with £42,000 currently in the bank. However, due to increasing year on year uncertainty regarding the income of the Trust, [REDACTED] suggested that the board consider strategies to protect from downside, increase the Trust flexibility, and engage more proactively with the wealth managers.</p> <p>Thanks to the lack of complexity in the ways Barclays has managed the funds, the total funds carried forward are healthy, and there have been fewer calls on income this past year. Despite this, [REDACTED] commented that the Trust's core activities remained consistent year over year, with the exception of the student internship funded for £1,500 and any other calls on funds were made to</p>	

<p>maintain the operations of the Trust.</p> <p>██████████ concluded the overview noting that last year's direct charitable expenditure was nearly £29,000. ██████████ recommended to keep this figure in mind as the Trusts plans future support for both regular scholarships and exceptional research projects.</p> <p>██████████ asked the Trustees to accept the accounts and the board approved.</p>	<p>MJ/GV</p>
<p>Trustee Matters</p> <p>██████████ introduced the next agenda item reminding the Trustees that discussions had taken place the previous year regarding the potential transfer of the Trust's assets to a different fund manager. He emphasised that any such decision should align with the goals of the Charity, and therefore, avoiding investments in fossil fuels or any sectors that could threaten the existence of Begonias. Unfortunately, Barclays didn't offer any flexibility in terms of which sectors to invest in. ██████████ concluded explaining that a review of the wealth management provision has been carried out for the Trust, then asked ██████████ to illustrate these new options (Appendix 4).</p> <p>██████████ explained that four different wealth managers were originally considered, representing both large and small firms. However, only two were shortlisted for Trustees' decision: Rathbones and Whitman. ██████████ explained the board that Rathbones can avoid investing in environmentally harmful sectors, but the service they offer is quite similar to Barclays as the investments will be concentrated into one fund. ██████████ added that Rathbones does not offer potential for growth or increased income for the Trust.</p> <p>██████████ then introduced Whitman, highlighting that the firm is owned by its manager, a positive indicator in ██████████'s experience, of higher accountability. The proposal presented by this smaller firm was very flexible, offering a strong personal relationship with the manager and greater liquidity in the Trust's bank account, which could allow for reinvestment after capital growth. A summary of costs, dividend income, yield, and comparisons can be found on page 2 of Appendix 4. They cautioned that dividend yields and income are subject to market fluctuations. ██████████ concluded by noting that although Rathbones offers more competitive fees, their yield is the lowest and lacks growth potential. In contrast, Whitman's higher fees are offset by increased income and the added value of flexibility and personal service.</p> <p>██████████ raised a question about the security of the funds. ██████████ responded that a key advantage of a smaller firm like Whitman is the use of nominee companies to hold investors' assets, which are separate legal entities. This means that in the event of bankruptcy, the funds would remain accessible and could be transferred to another broker. ██████████ also proposed that, as a precaution, they would personally review the accounts of both the custodian and the wealth management firm.</p> <p>██████████ inquired about the costs associated with transferring the assets. ██████████ explained that Barclays will liquidate the investments with no charges. The cash will then be transferred and there is a small charge associated with investing the money. ██████████ proposed to assist ██████████ in this</p>	<p>DM</p>

<p>task, given their experience with asset transfers.</p> <p>██████████ then concluded the discussion stressing the flexible approach offered by Whitman and how the ethical considerations are addressed by choosing this wealth management firm. ██████████ called the Trustees to vote about transferring the Trust assets to Whitman. All Trustees agreed.</p> <p>██████████ noted that the Trust holding reports from Barclays had already been discussed and moved on to the last point on the Trustee matters: the possibility to expand the terms of the bequest. ██████████ explained that the current terms of the Trust are quite specific, supporting research projects based in Glasgow with a strong Begonia component. He then invited ██████████ to elaborate on the implications of expanding the remit, given her prior involvement in a similar process.</p> <p>██████████ clarified that while the information available is not official, it appears that many small and medium-sized trusts within the university are seeking to amend their terms. Due to the volume of requests, the University's legal team has passed the matter to the Finance Department, which has yet to provide guidance. ██████████ apologised for the lack of further information and invited the Trustees to discuss what they would like the Trust's remit to include.</p> <p>██████████ read the objectives and aims of the Trust as stated on the top section of the Annual Report (appendix 3). "The Trust principally supports postgraduate scholars in research training towards the degree of PhD and the study of any aspect of the genus Begonia and its relatives." ██████████ then added that there is a second objective, which is to support the collection at the Glasgow Botanic Gardens. (For reference to the full list of aims and objectives, please see the Constitution document attached with the notes)</p> <p>██████████ then asked whether the Trustees agreed with the interpretation that Begonia research could be supported anywhere in the UK. ██████████ agreed, while ██████████ clarified that the only stipulation is that the PhD student must be registered at the University of Glasgow, meaning at least one supervisor must be based there.</p> <p>██████████ then asked for views on expanding the remit to include related species. ██████████ explained that around 2008, the Trust's Constitution was amended to include all aspects of Begonias and their relatives, provided the research remains relevant to Begonias. Giovanna reminded the Trustees that the motivation for exploring a broader remit was to assess whether it could improve the quality and number of applicants. She also raised the possibility of supporting habitat and environmental studies that could impact Begonia species. ██████████ noted that the Trust has previously supported environmental studies in Malaysia, including the collection and documentation of Begonia habitats. ██████████ added that the previous broadening of the remit remains appropriate and that much of the work in Edinburgh focuses on habitat and conservation. He concluded that although the field is small, it remains a healthy area of research.</p> <p>██████████ concluded that, based on the discussion, there is no need to further amend the Trust's remit and moved on to the next agenda item.</p>	GV/DM
Student Matters	

