



Annual report and accounts

Year end: 31st March 2025

Edinburgh Garden Partners

Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2025

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

also served as charity trustees during the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

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 in 2022: "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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Work to underpin the 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.

A strategy review is planned for the Autumn of 2025.

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, and build a bank of evidence for this.**

Sustaining and nurturing our garden partnerships is the core of our work at EGP. Over the year, we have seen a steady level of partnerships maintained with c.40 active partnerships in place at any one time. Over the course of the year, we have supported 50 volunteers and 42 garden owners.

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

"It can be a difficult task to approach partnerships with both care, kindness and an awareness of the necessity of boundaries. I feel that EGP support and guidance is exemplary in this regard, both deeply considerate and professional";

"The garden is a growing space but also a meeting of worlds. Without the garden, it would be much more difficult for me (a foreigner with a funny accent) to establish a meaningful connection with the community our garden is a part of. In summer, it makes me smile to see people admiring the flowering garden when smoking out of their flat window - it's the small things I value most.";

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"I enjoy hearing my garden owner's stories of her past and about the local area. It makes me feel more connected to the area, even though I'm not originally from there"

2) Develop further opportunities for people to contribute to and collaborate with EGP, increasing volunteer capacity 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 sketching day at Granton Walled Garden with artist [REDACTED]
- 5 training sessions delivered by the Royal Botanic Gardens (Edinburgh) for EGP volunteers
- A kombucha making workshop hosted by one of our volunteers
- Group visits to community gardens or public gardens around the city including Saughton Park, Lauriston Farm, [REDACTED] garden and [REDACTED] garden
- Wreath making workshop (annual end of the growing season event)
- "How to build your own planter" session with Edinburgh Tool Library
- Tour of the National Galleries of Scotland looking at plants and gardens in Scottish painting with curator [REDACTED]

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 events in the next year. We have also had some big success on social media this year, reaching new audiences on Facebook and LinkedIn, far beyond our usual reach.

3) Prioritise building diversity in our community and encouraging 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.

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From a project perspective, updates from the year have included:

- Delivering a project with Milan, an organisation who work with older members of the South Asian community, to develop a growing space at their centre. EGP volunteers built raised beds alongside Milan service users and staff and volunteers from SRUC. We also ran a planning and planting session with their lunch club.
- Meeting with Feniks to explore how we can share our volunteer programme with Polish speakers. Feniks have kindly translated our leaflets into Polish and shared them in their monthly newsletter. We have already connected with one volunteer through this outreach.

4) Share and promote the EGP model with others, and develop ideas for expanding the scope of our work, in line with our key values and mission.

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:

- Hosting multiple skill sharing sessions with interested organisations across Scotland, the rest of the UK (and beyond!). Our support for the MAXwell Centre in Dundee has been particularly fruitful as the team there has had a successful first year, supporting 5 garden partnerships.
- Sending out our information pack about the EGP garden sharing model to interested parties.
- Receiving referrals from Community Link Workers based in different GP practices across the city, and from Senior Housing Officers at different housing associations too.
- Attending the ECCAN Spring Assembly and joining the network as a member.

In 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 - to ensure the organisation is equipped to deal with change.

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 is on maternity leave and we have successfully recruited for maternity cover with a new Assistant Community Coordinator starting in November 2024. We are delighted how our Community Coordinator has stepped up to fill parts of the Project Coordinator role, and how the new team are working together. In addition to changes to the staff team, we have also

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recruited a new trustee. Each appointment has brought new ideas and energy into the EGP community, further strengthening the organisation.

We are grateful to our funders who make our work possible including the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, Vegware Community Fund, Christina Mary Hendrie Trust, People's Postcode Trust and R25 Fund, administered by Foundation Scotland. Our fundraising committee has also had a successful year, securing funds from 3 new funders, and we were also grateful to receive donations from a launch event for a publication about Scottish poet and gardener, [REDACTED] hosted by an EGP volunteer and ECA lecturer.

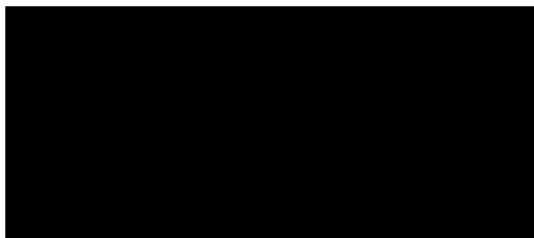
Investment in the staff and trustee team is critical for our success and this year we have been pleased to support training for staff and trustees in safeguarding, first aid and befriending. We have also made changes to our volunteer induction processes in advance of forthcoming changes to the PVG scheme in Scotland.

Accounts

The accounts have been compiled on a receipts and payments basis. At the year-end cash reserves stood at £76,995, of which £66,213 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 12th August 2025 and signed on their behalf by Ben Parker (Convener)

Signature:

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Ben Parker.

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 2025, set out on pages 7 to 10.

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 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 (as amended). 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 (as amended), and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended) 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.



Date: 10/9/25

Edinburgh Garden Partners
Receipts and Payments Account
Year ending 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	Note	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>							
Donations, grants & legacies							
Donations		401	-	401	74	-	74
Grant Funding		43,300	21,571	64,871	1,800	53,368	55,168
Total donations		43,701	21,571	65,272	1,874	53,368	55,242
Total Receipts		43,701	21,571	65,272	1,874	53,368	55,242
<u>Payments</u>							
	3						
Costs of generating funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		1,470	57,809	59,279	540	45,957	46,497
Governance costs		-	800	800	-	968	968
		1,470	58,609	60,079	540	46,925	47,465
Other costs		-	-	-	-	198	198
Total Payments		1,470	58,609	60,079	540	47,123	47,663
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year before transfers		42,231	(37,038)	5,193	1,334	6,245	7,579
Transfers	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		42,231	(37,038)	5,193	1,334	6,245	7,579

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Statement of Balances
At 31 March 2025

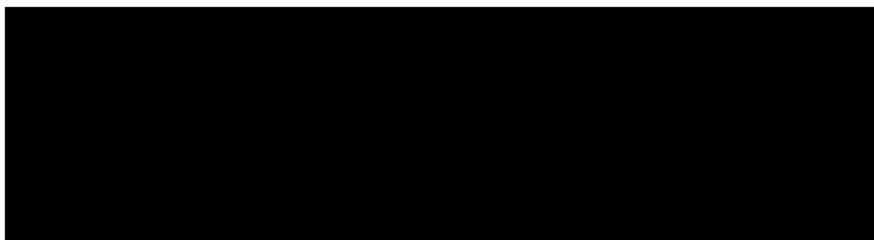
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		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
		2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Bank & Cash Balances</u>							
Bank & deposit balances brought forward		23,982	47,820	71,802	22,648	41,575	64,223
Movement in year:							
Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year		42,231	(37,038)	5,193	1,334	6,245	7,579
Bank & Cash balances carried forward	5	66,213	10,782	76,995	23,982	47,820	71,802
<u>Fixed Assets</u>							
	4	808	-	808	468	-	468
<u>Other Assets</u>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Liabilities</u>							
Payroll costs		206	-	206	-	-	-
Independent examination		960	-	960	800	-	800
		1,166	-	1,166	800	-	800

The notes on pages 9 and 10 form an integral part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the trustees on **12th August 2025**

For and on behalf of all the trustees



Edinburgh Garden Partners
Notes to the Accounts
Year ending 31 March 2025

Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with 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 (2024: £20 - one trustee for conference fee).

2. Fund movement

	At 01.04.24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.03.25 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	23,982	43,701	(1,470)	-	66,213
Total unrestricted funds	23,982	43,701	(1,470)	-	66,213
Restricted Funds					
Edinburgh Integration Joint					
Board	6,747	21,571	(17,536)	-	10,782
National Lottery	41,073	-	(41,073)	-	-
Total restricted funds	47,820	21,571	(58,609)	-	10,782
Total funds	71,802	65,272	(60,079)	-	76,995

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 other relevant organisations.*

***The National Lottery Community Fund - Improving Lives:** Funding to allow the charity to continue working towards the key mission to reduce loneliness and social isolation in Edinburgh through building relationships between garden owners and volunteers who are looking for space to grow.*

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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Notes to the Accounts
Year ending 31 March 2025

3. Analysis of Payments

	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of Generating Funds						
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities						
Staff costs	240	52,526	52,766	230	41,019	41,249
Project support costs	-	43	43	-	941	941
Volunteer costs	-	582	582	310	163	473
Events	-	594	594	-	497	497
Materials and equipment	-	238	238	-	63	63
Office costs and subscriptions	58	1,226	1,284	-	1,261	1,261
Insurance	-	614	614	-	734	734
Telephone	56	516	572	-	301	301
Travel and subsistence	-	513	513	-	232	232
Legal and professional	-	419	419	-	377	377
IT and website	592	-	592	-	264	264
Other expenses	-	314	314	-	105	105
	946	57,585	58,531	540	45,957	46,497
Governance Costs						
Trustee recruitment	-	-	-	-	168	168
Independent Examination	-	800	800	-	800	800
	-	800	800	-	968	968
Other costs						
Purchase of equipment	524	224	748	-	198	198
Total Payments	1,470	58,609	60,079	540	47,123	47,663

4. Fixed Assets

The charity had equipment valued at approximately £808 (2024: £468)

5. Bank and Cash Balances

	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank	66,213	10,782	76,995	23,982	47,820	71,802
Petty cash	-	-	-	-	-	-
	66,213	10,782	76,995	23,982	47,820	71,802