

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	April	2024	To	31	March	2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Blackthorn Allotments Association
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number	SC 1044883
Charity's principal address	83 Holm Farm Road
	Inverness
	Postcode IV2 6BF

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1		Chair	FY 24/25	Association
2		Treasurer	FY 24/25	Association
3		Committee Member	FY 24/25	Association
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Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Blackthorn Allotments Association Constitution

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Volunteers, elected at Annual General Meeting

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

1. To provide allotment plots for lease to residents for the cultivation and growing of vegetables, fruit and flowers.
2. To enable people to improve their physical and mental health through outdoor exercise attributed to horticultural activities and social engagement. Encouraging healthy eating by enabling the growing of fresh vegetables/fruit for the consumption of plot holders and their families.
3. To try and reduce the carbon footprint by providing the opportunity to reduce food miles whilst assisting in promoting a healthier environment; for example – rain water collection & composting.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The Blackthorn Allotments site has 34 individual plots leased on an annual basis by named members of the local community. There are also 6 large raised beds for use by those on the waiting list until such time a plot becomes available. There are also two communal polytunnels for members wishing to extend the growing season or cultivate more exotic vegetables/fruit. The site has several dedicated community plots of various sizes for use by local residents/groups, an orchard, a soft fruit patch and dedicated wildlife areas. Our occupancy is at 100% and there is a healthy waiting list of people wishing to lease a plot.

APPENDIX 1

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

100% occupancy of the allocated plots.

Functional rainwater collection and distribution system on site for irrigation purposes, particularly during lengthy dry spells

Production of varied types and quantities of fruit, vegetables and flowers both in individual members plots and community areas.

Dedicated wildlife areas providing sanctuary and food sources for insects, birds and small mammals. On site ponds also support frogs, toads and newts.

Visits by members of the local community who wish to walk around the site to enjoy the scenes we have to offer or chat with our members.

Social events on site to foster good relations amongst the plot holders.

Contribution to improved mental health through gardening or being in a quiet rural environment.

Use of WhatsApp social media to relay information and maintain strong links between plot holders.

Purchase and installation of effluent tank to enable a new toilet to be installed on site.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We must retain a minimum of £200 in reserve for our annual rent and a further £200 to cover Public Liability Insurance. However, for financial 'comfort', the charity maintains a minimum reserve of £1000.

Details of any deficit

None

Donated facilities and services (if any)

We are fortunate to receive occasional donations of gardening hand tools, wood chips and topsoil. Some members provide specific trade skills to support the function of the allotments. We were grateful for the Inverness Mens Shed who installed kitchen units and a worktop into our Welfare Cabin.

APPENDIX 1

Other optional information

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) <i>OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures</i>		
Full name(s)		
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chair	Committee Member
Date	10 June 2025	10 June 2025

Blackthorn Allotment Association

Accounts as at 31 March 2025

Income and Expenditure

	2025	2024
Income		
Bank Interest	£0.00	£0.00
Funding	£0.00	£0.00
Rent	£3,241.00 ✓	£1,655.00
Fundraising + Donations	£0.00	£154.00
Total Income	<u>£3,241.00 ✓</u>	<u>£1,809.00</u>
Expenditure		
Site Preparation Work (inc tools/plantation)	£2,252.66 ✓	£371.38
Insurance	£114.54 ✓	£88.12
Legal Fees (Rent)	£200.00 ✓	£200.00
Room Hire	£70.00 ✓	£0.00
General Expenses	£236.29 ✓	£225.18
Total Expenditure	<u>£2,873.49 ✓</u>	<u>£884.68</u>
Net of receipts/(payments)	<u>£367.51 ✓</u>	<u>£924.32</u>

Balance Sheet

Bank Balance	£7,879.02 ✓	£7,511.51
Total Assets	<u>£7,879.02 ✓</u>	<u>£7,511.51</u>
Reserves B/fwd	£7,511.51 ✓	£6,587.19
Reserves this year	£367.51 ✓	£924.32
	<u>£7,879.02 ✓</u>	<u>£7,511.51</u>

APPENDIX 3



Report to the trustees/members of

Registered charity number

On the accounts of the charity for the period

Set out on pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement

Signed**:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

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Charity name Blackthorn Allotments Association							
SC							
Period start date				Period end date			
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	
01	04	2024	to	31	03	2025	
1 of 2						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)	

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity 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.

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.

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]

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.

Date:

4-09-25

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

** OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

Nothing of note to disclose.