

Wester Hailes Growing Communities

Scotland · Charity number SC047594

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	2017-07-19
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	The Healthy Living Centre 30 Harvesters Way Edinburgh EH14 3JF
Website	https://westerhailesgrowing.org

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of citizenship or community development', 'the advancement of environmental protection or improvement'

What the charity does: Our organisation is set up to support the residents of Council estates and other communities in the boundaries of Wester Hailes area of Edinburgh. We work together with the neighbours to instigate and develop community green space projects.

Beneficiaries: 'Children or young people', 'Older People', 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community'

Objectives: The organisation's main purpose is consistent with furthering the achievement of sustainable development. The organisations purposes are: The advancement of community development (including the advancement of urban regeneration) within the Community.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** City of Edinburgh
- **Geographical spread:** A specific local point, community or neighbourhood

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£130,993	£131,609	-	5
2024-03-31	£170,760	£145,304	-	9
2023-03-31	£223,357	£240,123	-	8
2022-03-31	£193,403	£211,622	-	11
2021-03-31	£208,053	£189,364	-	9


Wester Hailes Growing Communities

Scotland - Charity number SC047594

Accounts

**WESTER HAILES
GROWING
COMMUNITIES**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 31 March 2025**



Charity No: SC047594

**Wester Hailes Growing Communities
Year ended 31 March 2025**

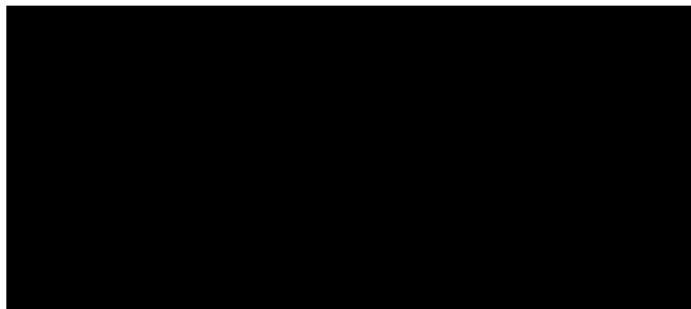
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**Wester Hailes Growing Communities
Trustees' Annual Report
For the year ended 31 March 2025**


Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Wester Hailes Growing Communities
Charity Number: SC047594
Address: The Healthy Living Centre
30 Harvesters Way
EDINBURGH
EH14 3JF

Trustees:



Independent Examiner:


Hollis Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
3 Melville Crescent
Edinburgh
EH3 7HW

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 17 July 2017. The Charity is administered in accordance with the terms of its constitution..

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Upon incorporation the individuals who signed the Charity Trustee declaration forms which accompanied the application were deemed to have been appointed as Trustees. The constitution requires that there should be at least three Trustees and not more than 10. Other Trustees were sought and appointed recently based on the representation required and the skills of the Trustees. All Trustees are given a copy of the constitution and suggested to review the guidance issued by OSCR on their role and responsibilities.

Objectives and Activities

Wester Hailes Growing Communities (WHGC) was incorporated in 17th July 2017 to support residents of Council estates and other communities in the South West of Edinburgh to work together with their neighbours to instigate and develop community greenspace projects. We have found that participation in community greenspace supports individual and community health and wellbeing. This is particularly important in disadvantaged communities within council estates.

ACTIVITIES – WHO DO WE HELP

In October 2023, we updated our constitution to reduce our target community to Wester Hailes and the Calders. Previously, our target community was all council estates in the south west of Edinburgh. We made this decision for several reasons, however, it primarily resulted from a request from the Scottish Land Fund relating to our bid to take ownership of a site in Wester Hailes through a community asset transfer. It also reflected the reality of the communities within which we had started the organisation and where we had been focusing our support. When appropriate, we will still undertake projects outwith Wester Hailes if it supports the objectives of the organisation, but we will not seek representation of communities outside Wester Hailes and the Calders on our board of trust.

**Wester Hailes Growing Communities
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025**

COMMUNITY GARDENS

This year has been remarkable for our gardens. The beautiful weather brought both joy and challenges—especially the prolonged dry spells—but our growing community has thrived. Membership has continued to rise, with more than 90 families and individuals now active across our three garden sites.

With this growth came new opportunities to review and strengthen our garden policies, ensuring consistency and fairness across all sites. We were also delighted to host Anissa's research with new and some long-standing Scots, exploring barriers to participation and ways to make our gardens even more inclusive and welcoming.

Greenway Gardens

The Greenway Garden has flourished this year, with membership climbing to over 50 people and families. The size of the garden makes it a challenge to manage, so having most beds allocated to local growers has been a real help.

Our volunteers have once again been incredible, contributing more than 1,600 hours of time and energy. Their work has transformed the garden—installing solar panels, benches, planters, windmills, a wormery, compost sieve swing, ponds, pergola, cold frames, and improved storage in both sheds. We are deeply grateful for their commitment.

We've welcomed more referrals this year, and it's been rewarding to introduce new members to seed sowing, crop care, watering—and, of course, coffee drinking! Wester Hailes High School students continue to visit on Thursday afternoons, and we hope they will soon begin the Forest & Outdoor Learning Award (FOLA) programme, building on the success already seen at School Farm.

Summer brought one of our busiest community parties yet, with outstanding food from growers Ruvimbo and [REDACTED] from the Health Agency. Our bees also produced an excellent harvest of honey, which was shared with everyone at the event.

The Wester Hailes Herbal Clinic celebrated its 10th anniversary at Greenway with live music, great food, herbal remedies, and a vibrant crowd. We've since created a new medicinal plant section, featuring a beautiful rose variety [REDACTED] in memory of our much-loved former chair, [REDACTED]—a fitting tribute that reflects her warmth and dedication to her community.

Clovenstone Community Garden

Under Richard's guidance, the Clovenstone Garden continues to thrive, building on last year's strong foundations. The raised beds have been highly productive, and the wildflower and wildlife area at the garden's lower end has been a real highlight.

In March, we hosted a community litter pick with support from local [REDACTED] Volunteers tackled the Greenway path from Clovenstone downwards, making a visible difference to the local environment. We've continued to send surplus produce to the Sunflower Pantry, with contributions from member [REDACTED], whose floral veg arrangements were worthy of an award! Some of this produce also goes into the weekly community meals at the Health Agency.

Looking ahead, we need to plan for bed repairs, improved water harvesting, and better tool storage during the winter months to prepare for another productive season.

Calders Greenshoots Garden

Gaby has provided outstanding support to the Calders garden and its members, helping maintain a strong sense of community during a year of change. The main community shed was rebuilt—causing some disruption—and the lack of water harvesting during the drought made things especially difficult. Thanks to [REDACTED] and the growers' dedication, the garden continued to flourish despite the challenges.

The new shed is now fully functional, and further improvements are planned over winter. A City of Edinburgh Council community grant will enable the installation of a solar power system, allowing the garden to power an irrigation pump, small electrical appliances, LED lighting, and battery chargers—greatly improving facilities for everyone.

The garden also supported a Wester Hailes Community Trust engagement event in late spring and hosted its own well-attended summer celebration for members and local families. [REDACTED] has organised several workshops on pruning and composting, and more themed sessions will be planned for the coming year.

**Wester Hailes Growing Communities
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025**

SCHOOL FARM

Our School Farm Leader team, [REDACTED] continued to deliver a fantastic service delivering the school farm project at Canal View and Sighthill primary schools.

Canal View Primary

The School Farm has continued to grow and develop with children from across the school, from primary 1 to primary 7 attending regular weekly sessions. Following the trial of working with small groups of children this model has been adopted as the preferred approach, with notable positive outcomes for all children who attended sessions.

The School Farm Leaders worked closely with the Principal Teacher who identified children who would benefit the most from regular farm sessions. The school have identified that regular time spent on the School Farm supports confidence, outdoor physical activity, develops skills (fine and gross motor) along with the benefit from improved well-being of spending time outdoors – improved concentration and self-confidence. Some children attend every week and others for blocks of 5 weeks. A number of children have attended School farm for 2 years.

April to June the focus was on horticulture activities of sowing seeds, caring for plants, garden maintenance, soil science/health and the connection to the seasons. Children enjoyed the tasks of watering, digging, weeding, raking, clearing and mulching beds. The wheelbarrows are a favourite with Julie devising a wheelbarrow driving test that was great fun. Children harvested from their own individual plots as well as sharing the salad crops, herbs and soft fruits from shared beds (Due to a rodent issue, we could not use the polytunnel).

A regular lunchtime gardening group was supported by 6 primary 7 children who took great care and pride in sharing gardening skills and encouraging younger children. This young leadership was celebrated with an end of term tea party for the primary 7 children who had been active in School Farm for several years. We also said a fond farewell to Julie who after 3 years retired her role as an inspirational School Farm Leader. Her approach and belief in the lifetime lasting benefits to children gardening and growing food underpin the philosophy of the School Farm. Celebrations of nature are important through the farm year, be it the seasons or harvest Comments from the children include 'Digging is the best thing ever' 'I love growing vegetables' 'I wish every day was school farm' 'I love being outside' Regular garden maintenance was carried out over the school summer break. Canal View welcomed Shona bringing her enthusiasm and laughter.

Great fun was had harvesting potatoes (digging for treasure as the children call it) and harvesting the fruit trees. Autumn provided the opportunity for outdoor cooking over a fire, using vegetables and fruits harvested at the school. This makes the circular connection of where food comes from and encourages healthy food choices, trying new things. Children enjoyed wood craft activities, making bird boxes and planters for spring. A group of children from primary 7 designed and created two living willow shelters.

The storm in February lifted the cover of the polytunnel. Not deterred children took action to gather up the torn cover and we replaced it in April, ready for the summer term.

Each week there was an average of 30 children participating in school farm activities.

Sighthill Primary

It's been another busy year at Sighthill Primary and the School Farm has continued to thrive and grow.

Previously we've worked with whole classes but this year the school changed the groups to young people who needed a bit more support for example confidence, language or working with others and as a reward for doing well in class. As a result I'm working with smaller groups from P2 to P7 and I'm also working more closely with the teachers to support the young people.

This year we've planted potatoes, broccoli, pumpkins, Jerusalem artichokes (did you know they are part of the sunflower family?), peas, broad beans, Brussel sprouts, carrots, onions, edible flowers, salad, herbs, fruit and our bulb lasagnas give beautiful displays that make us all smile.

As ever we've had some mighty disasters and wonderful successes with our crops but every minute spent in the farm has been worth while especially when you hear someone say 'I've tried it before'..... then they do or they love the progress of their plants so much they start to measure them every week which exactly what Mason did with the rhubarb!

We've continued to stay connected to the Calder Community Garden with regular visits and for those who don't get a chance at the moment to attend school farm we have seasonal visits to look at the changes in the garden.

GREENWAY HUB

The greenway hub project continues as noted below in future plans.

**Wester Hailes Growing Communities
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025**

WEBSITE

We received funding from the Clothworkers Foundation to develop a website for WHGC - www.westerhailesgrowing.org.

Financial Review

Income of £130,993 came from grant funding, contract income, donations and sale of assets as shown in note 4 of the accounts. Expenditure was £131,609 which was mainly staff and contractor costs but also costs relating to tools and equipment, construction and materials and overheads. The charity had a deficit of £616 for the year (2024: surplus of £39,643). The bank balance as at 31 March 2025 was £43,080 and as these accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis does not include expenditure totalling a further £2,920 (2024: £2,775) which was due but not yet paid at that date as noted on the statement of balances on page 7 and income due to the charity at that date of £600 (2024: £8,235).

Reserves Policy

The reserves (being the bank balance as above) at 31 March 2025 are £43,080 (2024: £43,696). The current level of reserves held is for use by the organisation in forthcoming years in order to meet its objectives. The level of reserves the trustees would like to maintain is 3 months of expenditure which would equate to £33k for this current year. The reserves are necessary to protect the staff team and may be needed should there be a drop in funding. The majority of projects are funded directly and so we would be able to reduce expenses in the absence of funding but with a staff team in place this is more difficult.

Plans for Future Periods

Greenway Hub

We continued to work with the Council to bring forward the development of the Greenway Hub. After the rejection of the bid to the RCGF in 2023/24, we worked to raise the £30k funds that would be required to develop detailed drawings to submit a planning application; we found this very difficult. We decided to take a two stage approach whereby we would develop first a "Greenway Microhub", then move on to the creation of the larger Greenway Hub in subsequent years. In 2024/25 we finally raised the funds for a design study for the Greenway Microhub.

The community asset transfer dragged on through 2024/25 with no outcome, but we do hope to see the CAT completed before the end of 2025.

Adventure Playground

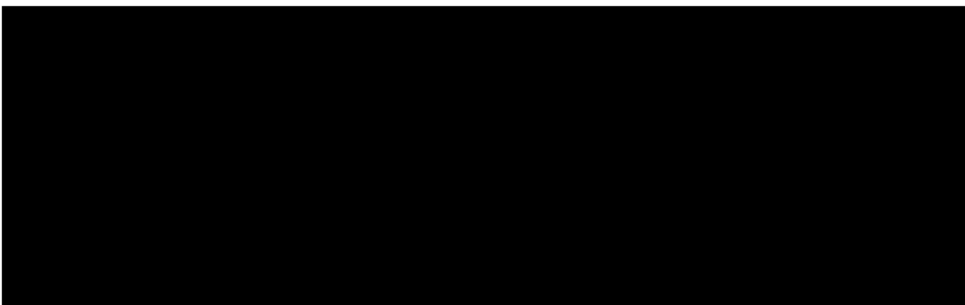
In 2024, we submitted an application for £234k to the Place Based Investment Fund for the construction of an adventure playground in the Greenway between Murrayburn and Hailesland. This was granted in July 2025, and as we write this annual report we are working hard to put things in place to build the adventure playground by March 2026.

Nature Restoration

We raised funds from the Nature Restoration Fund to commission a feasibility study to investigate nature restoration and sustainable urban drainage in Murrayburn Place. This was delivered between May and July. Looking forward, we will be looking for ways to incorporate it's findings into our work with the Council to improve the public realm in Wester Hailes.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the Charity during the financial year. The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which, on request, must reflect the financial position of the Charity at that time. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and / or detection of fraud and other irregularities.



Independent Examiner's Report to Wester Hailes Growing Communities

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

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 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.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

An 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:
 - o to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - o 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.



Hollis Accounting Limited
3 Melville Crescent
Edinburgh
EH3 7HW

Date:

4/12/25

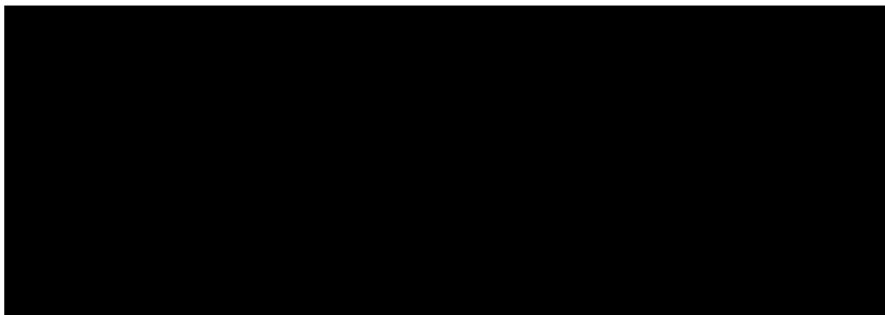
**Wester Hailes Growing Communities
Receipts and Payments Accounts
Year ending 31 March 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts	4				
Donations		-	-	-	2,187
Activities for generating funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		39,012	87,210	126,222	170,760
Sale of Containers		-	-	-	12,000
Other income		104	-	104	-
Insurance Claim		4,667	-	4,667	-
Total Receipts		43,783	87,210	130,993	184,947
Payments	5				
Cost of charitable activities		48,195	83,414	131,609	145,304
Total Payments		48,195	83,414	131,609	145,304
Net receipts/(payments)		(4,412)	3,796	(616)	39,643
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(4,412)	3,796	(616)	39,643

Wester Hailes Growing Communities
Statement of Balances
as at 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Opening cash at bank and in hand	6,518	37,178	43,696	4,053
Movement in Year:				
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(4,412)	3,796	(616)	39,643
Balances carried forward	<u>2,106</u>	<u>40,974</u>	<u>43,080</u>	<u>43,696</u>
Bank & Deposit Balances				
Current Accounts	2,106	40,974	43,080	43,696
Balances at 31 March 2025	<u><u>2,106</u></u>	<u><u>40,974</u></u>	<u><u>43,080</u></u>	<u><u>43,696</u></u>
Other assets				
Debtors	600	-	600	8,235
Balances at 31 March 2025	<u><u>600</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>600</u></u>	<u><u>8,235</u></u>
Liabilities				
PAYE/NIC and Pension	-	1,600	1,600	1,635
Construction costs	-	-	-	-
Subcontractors	-	-	-	-
Independent Examiner's Fee	-	1,320	1,320	1,140
Balances at 31 March 2025	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>2,920</u></u>	<u><u>2,920</u></u>	<u><u>2,775</u></u>

The Accounts were approved by the Charity on... 3/122025



Wester Hailes Growing Communities
Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025

1. Accounting Policy

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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 are funds subject to specific requirements as to their use which may be declared by the donor or with their authority or created through legal processes, but still within the objects of the charity.

3. Related party transactions

No remuneration was paid to the trustees or any connected persons during the year (2024: £Nil).

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
4. Analysis of Receipts				
Donations		-	-	2,187
Charitable activities				
Contract fee income	38,262	-	38,262	66,104
Grants	750	87,210	87,960	104,656
	39,012	87,210	126,222	170,760
Activities for generating funds				
Other income	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Other receipts				
Sale of Containers	-	-	-	12,000
Other income	104	-	104	-
Insurance claim	4,667	-	4,667	-
	4,771	-	4,771	12,000
Total Receipts	43,783	87,210	130,993	184,947

Wester Hailes Growing Communities
Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025 (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
5. Analysis of Payments				
Charitable Activities				
Staff payroll	23,785	51,150	74,935	105,176
Contractors/Sessional	18,350	13,712	32,062	26,562
Construction	216	3,487	3,703	1,428
Project costs	1,459	8,079	9,538	5,845
Workshop materials	1,760	233	1,993	-
Office costs/Overheads	2,625	5,433	8,058	5,153
Independent examination	-	1,320	1,320	1,140
Total cost of Charitable activities	48,195	83,414	131,609	145,304
Total Payments	48,195	83,414	131,609	145,304

6. Movements in Funds

	At 1 April 2024 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	At 31 Mar 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	6,518	43,783	48,195	-	2,106
	6,518	43,783	48,195	-	2,106
Restricted funds					
Big Lottery	10,625	42,451	33,629	-	19,447
Cost of Living	26,553	5,000	31,553	-	-
VSAF	-	10,488	10,488	-	-
Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund	-	13,429	-	-	13,429
Greenway Hub	-	10,518	2,920	-	7,598
Dr Guthrie Association SCIO	-	500	-	-	500
Clothworkers Foundation	-	3,300	3,300	-	-
Pentland Community Fund	-	1,524	1,524	-	-
	37,178	87,210	83,414	-	40,974
Total funds	43,696	130,993	131,609	-	43,080

Big Lottery	:	The National Lottery Community Led fund is a three year fund to assist with the three community gardens that WHGC has established.
Cost of Living	:	The Cost of Living grant was to support community gardening and the overhead costs of the organisation as a whole.
VSAF	:	Restricted fund to support volunteers, covering salary costs for supporting and encouraging volunteers.
Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund	:	Restricted fund administered by Inspiring Scotland for the costs of a feasibility to investigate nature restoration and sustainable urban drainage in Murrayburn. This was done after the year end.
Greenway Hub	:	Funds from Community Ownership Support Service and National Lottery Awards for All for the costs of planning for Greenway Hub. This work continued after the year end.
Dr Guthrie Association SCIO	:	Restricted fund to support growing youth projects. Paid for part of rebuild of shed. This cost was paid in May 2025 covered by insurance claim and grants.
Clothworkers Foundation	:	Clothworkers Foundation gave a grant for the development of the website.
Pentland Community Fund	:	Funds administered by council provided for the purchase of a solar kit at Primary School site.