

**Report of the Trustees and  
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025  
for  
Scotland's Gardens Scheme SCIO**

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for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

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**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

The Trustees of the charity, present their report and the accounts of Scotland's Gardens Scheme for the year to 31 December 2025.

**MISSION**

Scotland's Gardens Scheme is Scotland's growing, giving and inspiring community of garden-lovers. Our mission is to raise funds for charity by encouraging, promoting and supporting garden openings, whilst making the experience inspiring, rewarding and enjoyable for all. We aim to inspire people from all walks of life to connect, support and join in with what we do throughout the year and for generations to come.

We aim to be the partner of choice to open gardens for charity, ensuring inspiring, rewarding and enjoyable experiences for all.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Nurture our garden opening community**

- Ensure we have a good base of gardens of all types and sizes, with new gardens flowing through
- Ensure we have a strong and well-supported District Volunteer structure, with new volunteers joining
- Be welcoming and inclusive, encouraging people of all ages and backgrounds to get involved

**Ensure a resilient & sustainable organisation**

- Ensure good governance with an effective and active governing body
- Ensure financial sustainability with strong garden income and additional sources of revenue
- Ensure our IT systems are robust and well maintained
- Support and develop our staff team
- Seek to reduce our environmental impact and communicate good gardening practice

**Communicate our story**

- Raise awareness of Scotland's Gardens Scheme's:
  - Open days
  - Opportunities to get involved
  - Opportunities to support our charity's beneficial impact
- Satisfy our existing audiences and reach new audiences
- Sustain partnerships with organisations aligned with our vision, including beneficiaries, charities and partners

**Understand & celebrate our charitable giving and impact**

- Ensure our role as a fundraising charity is at front and centre of our work, maximising funds raised for charity
- Improve our understanding of how our work benefits:
  - Our core beneficiaries
  - The garden owner charities we fund
  - The people involved through volunteering
- Work with our core beneficiaries and partners to share our values of wellbeing and horticulture

**CHARITABLE PURPOSES**

The Charitable Purposes of the SCIO are, through the opening of gardens throughout Scotland to the public and other projects:

- To advance health and well-being
- To advance heritage and culture
- To advance community development through the promotion of volunteering
- To advance education
- To support community projects and provide funding to charities, clubs and organisations in order to enable them to implement, or assist in the implementation of, their own projects, the purposes of which promote any charitable purpose as set out in section 7(2) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW**

Scotland's Gardens Scheme was established in 1931 to raise funds for the Queens' Nursing Institute of Scotland (QNIS), supporting pensions and training opportunities for district nurses prior to the formation of the NHS. Today, we support three core beneficiary charities.

In 2025 these were:

- The Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland (QNIS)
- Perennial (Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society)
- Maggie's Cancer Care Centres

Those charities are chosen to align with our core values, supporting wellbeing and horticultural benefit.

Since 2018, 60% of garden gate takings have been designated for a charity nominated by the Garden Owner and are distributed directly by the local district branch of the Scheme, with the remaining 40% returning to Head Office to support core costs of the charity and our main beneficiary charities.

The charity has a small team of two full-time and two part-time members of staff equating to 3 full-time equivalent posts. The team supports 21 Districts and around 220 regular volunteers to develop, promote and support our annual programme of garden openings, as well as our network of garden openers. Each year, our programme includes approximately 475 listings and during 2025 we distributed funds to over 250 individual charities and good causes.

The Patron of our charity is Her Majesty Queen Camilla, and we thank Her Majesty for her continued support.

**2025 ACTIVITY**

Thanks to a year that was, in the main, an exceptionally warm and dry year, and the hard work and dedication of our community of garden openers and volunteers, we had an excellent year with record numbers in terms of garden visitors and income. Despite the challenges presented by the ongoing cost of living crisis and a disturbing geopolitical climate, visiting open gardens represents a value-for-money and joyful experience, with the additional benefit of raising funds for many charities and good causes around Scotland and beyond. We have an enthusiastic and loyal network of garden visitors who support our garden openings, and we are delighted to have been able to welcome them to many garden openings around Scotland, both new gardens and old favourites.

We continued to support our network of volunteers, which remains engaged and enthusiastic, and we value our wonderful family of volunteers around Scotland. Through the year, they have shown their dedication to our charity, working extremely hard to organise, support, promote and deliver our programme of garden openings. Our staff team is committed to providing the best possible support for our volunteers and garden openers and we are so grateful for all that they do in sharing gardens to raise funds for so many charities and good causes each year. We were pleased to welcome new volunteers and garden openers into our network again this year.

**SUPPORTING OUR VOLUNTEERS AND GARDEN OPENERS**

We are committed to supporting our volunteers and garden openers, as the lifeblood and driving force of our charity, and this is the priority of our small staff team. To achieve this, we have a number of different engagement methods:

- **Regional Meetings**

In 2025, we started our season with a programme of 5 Regional Meetings with the following aims:

- To share resources and materials to support the season ahead
- To share ideas and knowledge around garden-opening best practice
- To create connections between volunteers and garden openers across the country

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**SUPPORTING OUR VOLUNTEERS AND GARDEN OPENERS continued**

Our meetings were held mainly in gardens, in environments conducive to our core values of gardens and wellbeing, and to provide opportunities to relax and enjoy meeting in an inspirational setting. Our meetings were held in the following locations:

- **Loch Arthur Community near Dumfries;** a working community with an emphasis on regenerative food production, involving men and women with learning disabilities.
- **Aigas Field Centre** near Inverness
- **Glamis Castle** near Dundee
- **The Hidden Gardens,** charitable garden with community links in Glasgow
- **Newliston House** near Edinburgh

We also provided the opportunity for two groups of volunteers to visit the developing gardens at **Balmoral** for a tour guided by the Head of Gardens, a fascinating visit enjoyed by all who attended.

- **Online Training & Support Sessions**
  - Induction welcome session for those new to our charity
  - Online training opportunities for volunteers to support them in their roles
  - Winter Garden Club session on Pests & Diseases.
- **Annual Conference**

We held our conference at Hospitalfield House in Arbroath, welcoming around 115 garden openers, volunteers and supporters of our charity. The day included hands-on workshops, consultation sessions to help shape the future of our charity and talks from industry experts.
- **Practical Support**

We provided day-to-day support for our volunteers and garden openers which included:

  - Advice on a range of topics and a quick response to queries and needs, in person, on the phone and online
  - Insurance for garden open days
  - Fundraising materials and signage to support garden open days
  - Technical support including cashless payment system options

**PROMOTING OUR GARDEN OPEN DAYS AND CHARITABLE MESSAGING**

This is a key part of our work to ensure that garden open days are well promoted and thus well attended. Our promotional work aims to:

- Raise awareness of charity open days to maximise attendance and fundraising
- Share the good gardening practices of our garden openers and inspire others to learn new gardening skills
- Raise awareness of the impact of funds raised and the work of our core charities and garden owner charities
- Share what motivates our garden openers to choose the charities they care about.

Our tactics to promote our garden openings and charitable messaging, and to inspire visits and engagement, achieved the following in 2025:

- Creation of print guidebook and leaflet with national reach
- Generation of effective web content yielding 162,000 sessions
- 62 e-news sent
- 15,187 e-news subscribers
- 12,000 Facebook followers with 2.4 million views
- 7900 Instagram followers with 300,000 views
- 40 blog posts including user-generated content from volunteers and garden openers on educational and charity topics to broaden our reach and interest.

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**CHARITABLE IMPACT**

Through the dedication and hard work of our community of volunteers, garden openers, staff and supporters, we achieved the following:

- Involvement from around 220 regular volunteers from our district teams and a further network of some 720 occasional event volunteers and garden openers, who gave their skills, time, enthusiasm and generosity to open private gardens to the public and raise funds for charity.
- We estimated around 77,000 visitors visited gardens and/or made donations to support open days.
- We raised £424,320 through garden open days, with £235,805 going to charities and causes chosen by our garden openers.
- £24,000 each was allocated to our core charities: the Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland, Perennial and Maggie's, based on 2025 garden income generated.
- We supported 9 professional horticulturists through our Cattanach Bursary scheme, awarding £5,698 for training and development for people working in horticulture in Scotland, funding a diverse range of courses and professional development opportunities.
- We donated £5,000 to a guest charity, Trellis, a therapeutic horticulture charity to support the work of their team to deliver a range of projects, including the delivery of online training modules and the development of a Professional Development Award in therapeutic horticulture.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

What a difference a year makes. Our 2024 Report described weather conditions as "very challenging" but after a patchy start to 2025, the sun was shining for large parts of the summer. That good weather, together with the amazing effort of our staff, garden owners and volunteers produced record garden gate takings of £424,320. This was achieved despite our traditionally highest revenue earning garden, Portrack, being unable to open due to essential work being carried out on the estate. Gift aid totalled £6,117 being £4,867 on plant sales and £1,250 on a generous donation from an anonymous donor. The Guidebook contributed £34,998 through sales, advertising and Rathbones' invaluable sponsorship. Generous donations of £8,714, investment income of £10,804 and other income of £3,289 all contributed to producing a combined gross income of over £488,000. In addition, our investment portfolio which underpins our financial stability, produced gains of £32,147.

Our costs continue to be subject to strict budgeting and there is a detailed breakdown of these at Note 7. We distributed £235,805 (2024 - £222,633) to garden owner charities, £72,000 (£60,000) to our core charities, £5,948 (£7,850) on our horticultural bursary programme and a one-off donation of £5,000 to Trellis to support their work. We also strive to advance community development through the promotion of volunteering. The costs of our dedicated volunteer manager, together with related costs amounted to £43,231 (2024 - £41,351). This all combines to make a huge difference to communities throughout Scotland and our SGS community should be proud of their collective effort.

**Investment Policy**

As noted above, the charity's investment portfolio is an important support to the charity and is the result of past generosity of our supporters and expert financial advice from our fund managers. The decision made at the end of 2024 to move our fund management from Adam & Co to Rathbones was implemented at the end of March 2025. With it, we moved away from direct investment in companies to a holding in Rathbones Core Investment Fund for Charities, whose size at the time of transfer was £224M. The objective of the managers is to achieve an overall return of 4% over and above the CPI. It also has an ethical element in that it does not invest in companies involved in defence, tobacco, oil and gas or minerals. The Trustees have on-line access to gauge performance, receive quarterly reports from Rathbones and meet its representatives at least once a year but they are also on hand as circumstances require. We successfully liquidated the old portfolio just before the market upheaval caused by President Trump's Independence Day tariff announcement. Thereafter, for the part of the year that Rathbones managed the portfolio it achieved a positive return of 6.9% compared with CPI plus 4% of 4.9%.

**Reserves policy**

The Trustees consider that the financial position of the charity at 31 December 2025 is such that it will have sufficient assets to meet its forthcoming obligations.

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Charity number**

SC049866

**Principal address**

23 Castle Street  
Edinburgh  
EH2 3DN

**Trustees**

**PRESIDENT**

Her Majesty The Queen

**HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS**

Charlotte Hunt

Sarah Landale

Appointed 9 April 2025

David Mitchell

Appointed 9 April 2025

**TRUSTEES**

Dougal Ramsay George Philip

Chairman

Stephen McCallum

Vice Chair

Peter William Yellowlees

Treasurer

David Buchanan-Cook

Board Secretary

Rory James Byatt

Trustee

Jonathan Paul Lindsay Cobb

Resigned 9 April 2025

Robert Colin Crosbie

Trustee

Charlotte Ann Halliday

Resigned 15 April 2026

Alexandra Margaret Lindsay

Trustee

Helen Margaret McMeekin

Trustee

Eric Wright

Trustee

**OFFICERS**

Liz Stewart

Chief Executive

Hazel Reid

Office manager

Jessica Taylor

Communications Manager

Kate Allan

Volunteer Support Officer

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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Telephone: 0131 226 3714

E-mail: [info@scotlandsgardens.org](mailto:info@scotlandsgardens.org)

Website: [www.scotlandsgardens.org](http://www.scotlandsgardens.org)

**Independent Examiner**

EQ Accountants Ltd

41 Charlotte Square

Edinburgh

EH2 4HQ

**BANKERS**

Coutts

6-8 George Street

Edinburgh

EH2 2PY

**INVESTMENT MANAGERS**

Rathbones

10 George Street

Edinburgh

EH2 2PF

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

From 16th January 2020, the Charity became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, previously an unincorporated charity. It is controlled by its governing document; Scotland's Gardens Constitution.

**Charity constitution**

Scotland's Gardens Scheme SCIO is governed by its Constitution and was established on 16 January 2020. The Constitution stipulates that there will be between 5 and 11 Trustees, and they have a duty to ensure that the Charity is managed responsibly, for strategic planning and implementation of policy, all financial matters including all statutory accounting and reporting, maintaining good lines of communication with its beneficiaries and agreeing the basis and amount of donations to charity. The Trustees meet at least four times a year including the Annual Members meeting in April.

**Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

At each Annual Meeting, one third of Trustees shall retire from office. They shall be eligible for re-election after one term of office, but no Trustee can serve more than three consecutive terms of office, without at least one year out of office before being eligible again. A Board skills matrix is operated by the Charity and is used to drive the recruitment process for new Trustees. Our current Chairman is Dougal Philip, who took office in April 2022.

**Risk management**

The Trustees continue to keep the Charity's activities under review, particularly with regard to any major strategic business and operational risks that may arise from time to time and ensure that procedures are in place to mitigate those risks. In line with best practice, Trustees maintain annual policy checks to ensure that policies remain fit for purpose. Our Strategic Plan for 2023-2026 concludes in spring 2026 and will be refreshed for 2026 – 2031. Supporting operational action plans are in place.



**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).


Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

Under charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The report was approved by the Trustees on 15th April 2026 and signed on its behalf:



.....  
**D R G Philip - Trustee**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Scotland's Gardens Scheme SCIO**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 set out on pages nine to twenty.

**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.

*Sheryl Macaulay*

Sheryl Macaulay FCCA  
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

EQ Accountants Ltd  
47-49 The Square  
Kelso  
Roxburghshire  
TD5 7HW

Date: 22/04/2026 .....

**Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31/12/25 Total funds £	31/12/24 Total funds £
	Notes				
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	439,151	-	439,151	505,829
Other trading activities	3	34,998	-	34,998	38,819
Investment income	4	10,804	-	10,804	12,620
Other income		<u>3,289</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,289</u>	<u>405</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u>488,242</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>488,242</u>	<u>557,673</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds	5	19,839	-	19,839	21,862
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Garden openings	7	40,293	-	40,293	39,708
Distributions to Charities	6	318,803	-	318,803	290,483
Volunteer Support	7	43,304	-	43,304	41,350
Marketing and Publicity	7	49,761	-	49,761	49,958
Management and admin	7	<u>37,960</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,960</u>	<u>45,128</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u>509,960</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>509,960</u>	<u>488,489</u>
Net gains on investments		<u>32,147</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,147</u>	<u>21,518</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		10,429	-	10,429	90,702
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>696,791</u>	<u>4,949</u>	<u>701,740</u>	<u>611,038</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>707,220</u></u>	<u><u>4,949</u></u>	<u><u>712,169</u></u>	<u><u>701,740</u></u>

**CONTINUING OPERATIONS**

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

**Balance Sheet**  
**31 December 2025**

	Notes	31/12/25 £	31/12/24 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	10	1,227	1,402
Investments	11	<u>589,095</u>	<u>480,643</u>
		590,322	482,045
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	12	3,719	25,410
Cash at bank		<u>194,301</u>	<u>287,694</u>
		198,020	313,104
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(76,173)</u>	<u>(93,409)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>121,847</u>	<u>219,695</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		712,169	701,740
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>712,169</u>	<u>701,740</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	15		
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		119,181	118,937
Designated: The Legacy Fund		<u>588,039</u>	<u>577,854</u>
		<u>707,220</u>	<u>696,791</u>
Restricted funds:			
Archive Review		2,013	2,013
Kirsty Maxwell Stuart Legacy		<u>2,936</u>	<u>2,936</u>
		<u>4,949</u>	<u>4,949</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>712,169</u>	<u>701,740</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on ...<sup>15 April 2026</sup>..... and were signed on its behalf by:



.....  
D R G Philip - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**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, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

**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. Donations and legacies are included in the period in which they are receivable, which is when the charity becomes entitled to the resource. Trading income relates to income received in respect of the sale of handbooks. These are recorded at the point of sale.

Investment income comprises bank interest which is recognised when the charity is entitled to the income, which is upon notification by the bank of the interest due.

**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.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

**Allocation and apportionment of costs**

Overhead and support costs have been allocated between costs of generating voluntary income and governance based on the use of the resource.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Office Equipment	- 10% on cost
Computer equipment	- 25% on cost

Fixed assets (excluding investments) are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The costs of minor additions (<£1,000) are not capitalised.

**Fixed asset investments**

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their market value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued****Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered.

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any discounts due.

**Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement date after allowing for any discounts due.

**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. Designated funds are unrestricted funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose. 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.

**Pensions**

Pension contributions are made on behalf of 4 employees to employer's schemes. The schemes are money purchase schemes with the assets invested in an independent fund. Contributions are recognised in the income and expenditure account as they fall due.

**Operating leasing commitments**

Operating leases and the payments made under them are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

**2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	31/12/25	31/12/24
	£	£
Donations and Grants	8,714	105,805
Gift aid	6,117	5,258
Net income from garden owners	<u>424,320</u>	<u>394,766</u>
	<u>439,151</u>	<u>505,829</u>

**3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	31/12/25	31/12/24
	£	£
Handbooks	14,498	16,768
Sponsorships	20,500	22,000
Miscellaneous	<u>-</u>	<u>51</u>
	<u>34,998</u>	<u>38,819</u>

In 2025 sponsorship included £20,000 (2024: £20,000) towards the cost of producing the Handbook.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	31/12/25	31/12/24
	£	£
Bank Interest and Dividends	<u>10,804</u>	<u>12,620</u>

**5. RAISING FUNDS****Other trading activities**

	31/12/25	31/12/24
	£	£
Purchases	<u>17,352</u>	<u>18,557</u>

**Investment management costs**

	31/12/25	31/12/24
	£	£
Investment Management Costs	<u>2,487</u>	<u>3,305</u>

Aggregate amounts	<u>19,839</u>	<u>21,862</u>
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**6. GRANTS PAYABLE**

	31/12/25	31/12/24
	£	£
Distributions to Charities	<u>318,803</u>	<u>290,483</u>

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	31/12/25	31/12/24
	£	£
Queen's Nursing Institute, Scotland	24,000	20,000
Maggie's Centres	24,000	20,000
Perennial - Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society	24,000	20,000
Other Charities of Owner's Choice	235,855	222,633
Horticultural training bursaries	5,948	7,850
Guest charity - Trellis	5,000	-
	<u>318,803</u>	<u>290,483</u>

Payments to other charities of owners choice of £235,855 to 254 Charities and good causes (2024: £222,633 to 232 Charities) have been made during the year under individual arrangements. Payments to core charities totaling £72,000 (2024: £60,000) will be made.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**7. SUPPORT COSTS**

	Management Totals £	Governance costs £	Total activities £
Garden openings	40,293	-	40,293
Volunteer Support	38,316	4,988	43,304
Marketing and Publicity	49,761	-	49,761
Management and admin	<u>34,452</u>	<u>3,508</u>	<u>37,960</u>
	<u>162,822</u>	<u>8,496</u>	<u>171,318</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

**Management**

	Garden openings £	Volunteer Support £	Marketing and Publicity £
Salaries	23,238	26,197	28,411
Social security	3,068	2,835	3,688
Pensions	1,448	1,276	1,734
Website & Information Management Systems	-	-	817
Insurance	-	-	-
Office Rent and Costs	5,586	5,789	6,313
Postage and Telephone	2,003	-	668
Printing and Stationery (inc. posters, signs etc)	1,261	-	-
Advertising, Promotions and Publicity	-	-	8,130
Sundries	-	-	-
Travel expenses	-	2,219	-
Staff and Trustee Training	-	-	-
Depreciation of tangible assets	-	-	-
District expenses	<u>3,689</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>40,293</u>	<u>38,316</u>	<u>49,761</u>

	Management and admin £	31/12/25 Total activities £	31/12/24 Total activities £
Salaries	16,108	93,954	101,895
Social security	2,119	11,710	4,041
Pensions	999	5,457	5,694
Website & Information Management Systems	4,237	5,054	5,553
Insurance	2,750	2,750	2,684
Office Rent and Costs	3,883	21,571	18,606
Postage and Telephone	780	3,451	2,972
Printing and Stationery (inc. posters, signs etc)	1,781	3,042	3,102
Advertising, Promotions and Publicity	-	8,130	8,994
Sundries	1,330	1,330	393
Travel expenses	<u>61</u>	<u>2,280</u>	<u>2,612</u>
	34,048	158,729	156,546



**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**7. SUPPORT COSTS - continued****Management - continued**

	Management and admin £	31/12/25 Total activities £	31/12/24 Total activities £
Brought forward	34,048	158,729	156,546
Staff and Trustee Training	229	229	35
Depreciation of Fixtures and fittings	175	175	175
District expenses	-	3,689	2,681
	<u>34,452</u>	<u>162,822</u>	<u>159,437</u>

**Governance costs**

	Volunteer Support £	Management and admin £	31/12/25 Total activities £	31/12/24 Total activities £
Independent Examiners' fee	-	2,820	2,820	-
Audit fee	-	-	-	12,000
Conference & meeting costs	4,988	-	4,988	4,117
Legal & professional fees	-	688	688	590
	<u>4,988</u>	<u>3,508</u>	<u>8,496</u>	<u>16,707</u>

**8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2025 nor for the year ended 31 December 2024.

**Trustees' expenses**

Trustee expenses of £73 were paid in the year ended 31 December 2025 (2024: £261).

**9. STAFF COSTS**

	31/12/25 £	31/12/24 £
Wages and salaries	103,454	101,895
Social security costs	2,210	4,041
Other pension costs	5,457	5,694
	<u>111,121</u>	<u>111,630</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31/12/25	31/12/24
Administrative	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel was £46,340 (2024: £44,557).

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Office Equipment £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 January 2025	1,752	7,859	9,611
Disposals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 December 2025	<u>1,752</u>	<u>7,859</u>	<u>9,611</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 January 2025	350	7,859	8,209
Charge for year	<u>175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>175</u>
At 31 December 2025	<u>175</u>	<u>7,859</u>	<u>8,034</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 December 2025	<u>1,227</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,227</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,402</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,402</u>

**11. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	Listed investments £	Cash and settlements pending £	Totals £
<b>MARKET VALUE</b>			
At 1 January 2025	462,918	17,725	480,643
Additions	554,386	-	554,386
Disposals	(465,128)	(12,953)	(478,081)
Revaluations	<u>32,147</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,147</u>
At 31 December 2025	<u>584,323</u>	<u>4,772</u>	<u>589,095</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 December 2025	<u>584,323</u>	<u>4,772</u>	<u>589,095</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>462,918</u>	<u>17,725</u>	<u>480,643</u>

The market value of our investment in the Rathbones Core Investment Fund for charities at 31 December 2025 was £589,095 (2024: £480,643). 8.7% of the portfolio is invested in UK equities, 72.4% in overseas equities, 15.65% in infrastructure funds, 4.1% in diversifiers and 13.1% in liquidity.

The investments are primarily held to provide an investment return for the charity.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**11. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - continued**

Cost or valuation at 31 December 2025 is represented by:

	Listed investments £	Cash and settlements pending £	Totals £
Valuation in 2025	<u>584,323</u>	<u>4,772</u>	<u>589,095</u>

**12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31/12/25 £	31/12/24 £
Other debtors	-	20,000
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>3,719</u>	<u>5,410</u>
	<u>3,719</u>	<u>25,410</u>

**13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31/12/25 £	31/12/24 £
Distributions to charities	72,000	60,000
Accruals and deferred income	<u>4,173</u>	<u>33,409</u>
	<u>76,173</u>	<u>93,409</u>

Deferred income relates to income received in advance for the following years handbook advertising and sales.  
The movement is as follows:

	£
Deferred Income as at 1st January 2025	10
Amounts released in year	(10)
Amounts deferred in year	-
Deferred income as at 31st December 2025	-

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**14. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31/12/25 Total funds	31/12/24 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1,227	-	1,227	1,402
Investments	589,095	-	589,095	480,643
Current assets	193,071	4,949	198,020	597,138
Current liabilities	<u>(76,173)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(76,173)</u>	<u>(377,443)</u>
	<u>707,220</u>	<u>4,949</u>	<u>712,169</u>	<u>701,740</u>

**15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1/1/25 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/12/25 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	118,937	244	119,181
Designated: The Legacy Fund	<u>577,854</u>	<u>10,185</u>	<u>588,039</u>
	696,791	10,429	707,220
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Archive Review	2,013	-	2,013
Kirsty Maxwell Stuart Legacy	<u>2,936</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,936</u>
	<u>4,949</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,949</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>701,740</u>	<u>10,429</u>	<u>712,169</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	488,242	(487,998)	-	244
Designated: The Legacy Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>(21,962)</u>	<u>32,147</u>	<u>10,185</u>
	<u>488,242</u>	<u>(509,960)</u>	<u>32,147</u>	<u>10,429</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>488,242</u>	<u>(509,960)</u>	<u>32,147</u>	<u>10,429</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued****Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1/1/24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/12/24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	118,796	101,144	(101,003)	118,937
Designated: The Legacy Fund	<u>487,293</u>	<u>(10,442)</u>	<u>101,003</u>	<u>577,854</u>
	606,089	90,702	-	696,791
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Archive Review	2,013	-	-	2,013
Kirsty Maxwell Stuart Legacy	<u>2,936</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,936</u>
	<u>4,949</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,949</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>611,038</u></u>	<u><u>90,702</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>701,740</u></u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	557,673	(456,529)	-	101,144
Designated: The Legacy Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>(31,960)</u>	<u>21,518</u>	<u>(10,442)</u>
	<u>557,673</u>	<u>(488,489)</u>	<u>21,518</u>	<u>90,702</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>557,673</u></u>	<u><u>(488,489)</u></u>	<u><u>21,518</u></u>	<u><u>90,702</u></u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1/1/24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/12/25 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	118,796	101,388	(101,003)	119,181
Designated: The Legacy Fund	<u>487,293</u>	<u>(257)</u>	<u>101,003</u>	<u>588,039</u>
	606,089	101,131	-	707,220
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Archive Review	2,013	-	-	2,013
Kirsty Maxwell Stuart Legacy	<u>2,936</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,936</u>
	<u>4,949</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,949</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>611,038</u></u>	<u><u>101,131</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>712,169</u></u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

**15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	1,045,915	(944,527)	-	101,388
Designated: The Legacy Fund	-	(53,922)	53,665	(257)
	<u>1,045,915</u>	<u>(998,449)</u>	<u>53,665</u>	<u>101,131</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>1,045,915</u>	<u>(998,449)</u>	<u>53,665</u>	<u>101,131</u>

**General Fund (Unrestricted)**

The General Fund is maintained to provide working capital for the Charity throughout the forthcoming year, thereby enabling the bank account to remain in credit until revenue from garden owners is received.

**The Legacy Fund (Designated)**

Over the years, Scotland's Gardens Scheme has received a number of generous legacies, most notably from Gordon Bowes and the Cattanach Bequest. These had previously been shown as separate designated funds but the Trustees, for simplicity's sake, consolidated them into one Legacy Fund in 2016.

As part of the re-evaluation of where the charity is going, the Trustees are developing ideas as to what additional use these funds could be put to. They appreciate the need for a plan to use these funds constructively and it is hoped that the ideas that are being formulated will result in a positive strategy for the future.

**Archive Review Fund (Restricted)**

The purpose of this fund is to help finance a review of our archives and this project is currently underway and nearing completion.

**Kirsty Maxwell Stuart Legacy Fund (Restricted)**

This fund was established by a legacy received from the estate of the late Kirsty Maxwell Stuart, Past Chairman of the Charity. The funds are to be used for office comforts and improvements.

**16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

Donations of £24,000 (2024: £21,840) were made to the Perennial society of which Trustee David Buchanan-Cook is also a Trustee). (Also in 2024: £100,000 was received from Cross Trust, a Trust in which Trustee Douglas Philip was a Trustee).