

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



St Mary's Street Community Garden

Registered Charity Number SC 053186



Chair's Introduction

This year has been one of growth, resilience, and community connection for Saint Marys Street Community Garden. We have formed a Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation which is registered with the Office of the Scottish Regulator (OSCR) which has replaced the St Marys Street Residents Association founded in 1986 to look-after and maintain the garden and terrace space to the east of the lower tenement block in St Marys Street Edinburgh

Despite challenges, our gardens have continued to provide a welcoming space for people of all ages to come together, learn, and enjoy nature.

Our Mission

We exist to create and nurture this valuable city-centre community space for those who wish to connect with nature, and improve their wellbeing,

Our Purpose

Providing a welcoming and thriving community garden space where people can grow, learn and work together and feel more connected to their environment and each other.

Our Values



- **Respect** - we believe in providing an inclusive and welcoming environment that recognises that everyone has something to share and treats all members with dignity and respect.
- **Member Focused** - the interests and needs of our members are at the heart of what we do and at the forefront of our decision making.
- **Community Focused** - we believe that involvement in positive communities can have a tangible impact on individuals by providing a sense of belonging, feeling more connected to each other and their environment; and can act as a support system for members when they are in need of encouragement or help.
- **Teamwork** - we recognise and value the contribution of all, blending the skills of individual members and working together as a team for the collective interests of the community garden.
- **Learning** - we believe learning is fundamental to building a thriving community, and strive to provide learning and volunteering opportunities where members can teach each other and actively learn from one another. Opportunities to try out something new, to grow, realise potential and make positive changes.



St Mary's Street Community Garden

Looking Back

This year has been one of laying the groundwork for the future in-line with our mission.

Building Relationships

We spoke with local residents, our members and volunteers gathering their ideas and thoughts for the development of the garden. We also explored future partnership working with local charities, schools and other organisations.

Communication

In an effort to ensure we communicate well with our members and the wider public we were pleased to launch our website in May.

We have revised the signage on our information and parking notice board at the junction of Boyds Entry and Gullans Close with information about the garden, its history and who is eligible to become a member.



Administration

A considerable amount of time has been spent attempting to set up Microsoft Teams and Work Station to support the administrative side of the work that we do. Due to a number of unfortunate setbacks and delays this is still to happen. While somewhat frustrating we are hopeful to have this in place by the end of this calendar year.

Parking Rental

We have negotiated an income from the parking spaces within the main garden helping place us on a firmer financial footing.

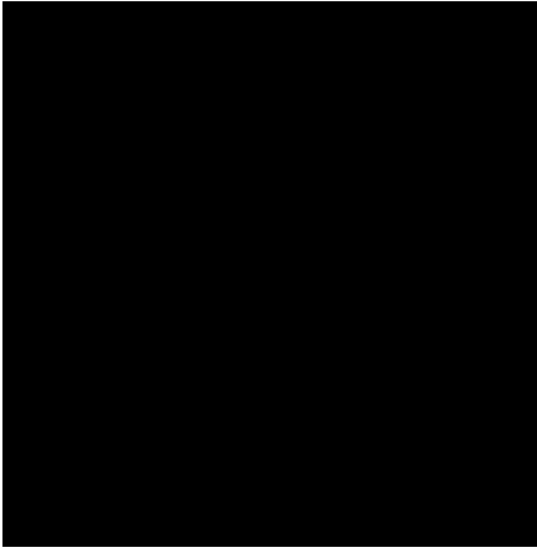
General Maintenance

This year like previous years and a little like 'painting the Forth Bridge' this has kept us busy. We have made arrangements for our tree surgeon to cut back some of our overgrown trees in February 2026. During the high winds in July a large limb from one of our trees came off. Thankfully no-one was hurt - it went bump in the middle of the night but a significant area did need to be cordoned off, the council were notified and our tree surgeon attended to ensure the remainder of the tree was safe.

Other general maintenance tasks carried out this year include padlock and key replacement and chain repair for the parking bays, garden lighting repair, identifying owners of and removing abandoned bikes, litter picking, trying to address the regular fly-tipping and liaise with the council about this.

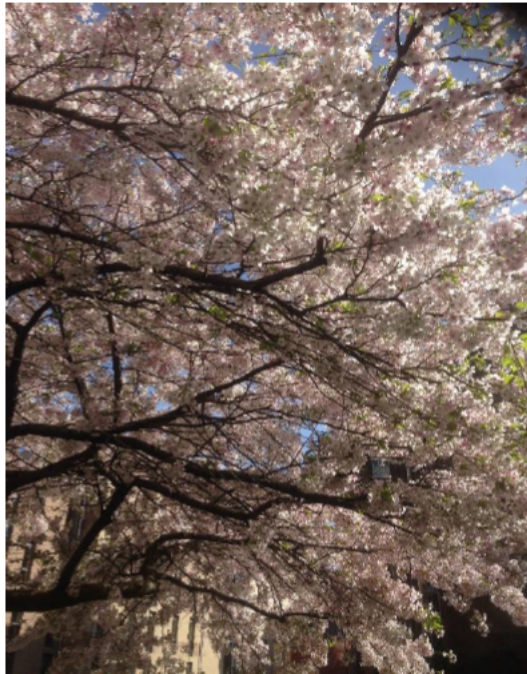


Tribute to [REDACTED], 1969 - 2024



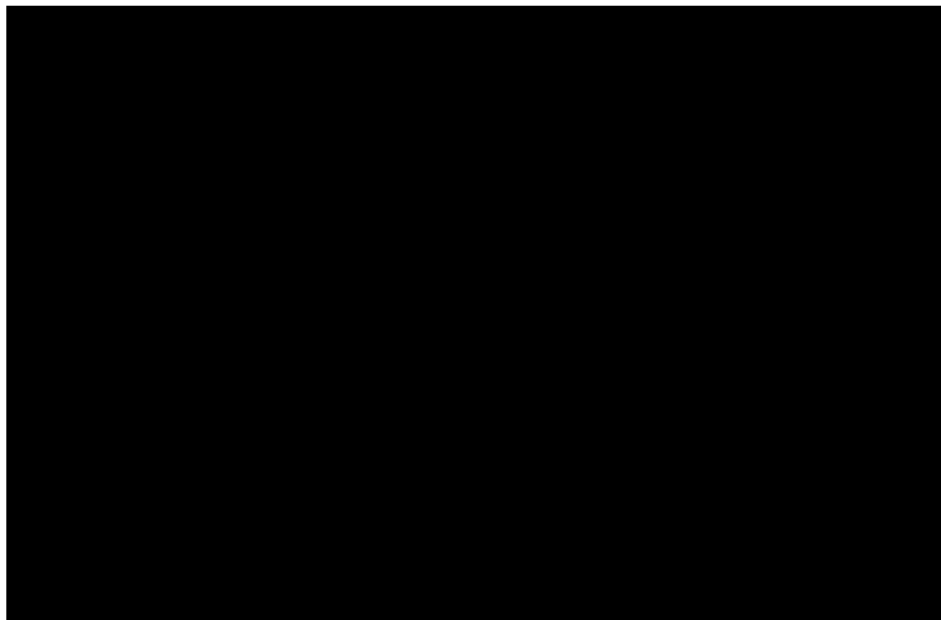
[REDACTED], the founder of OCA Studio ([REDACTED]) was an award-winning and renowned architect. [REDACTED] portfolio and work a testament to his passion for the sensitive re-use of historic buildings, caring for the environment and the people who inhabit it.

Projects such as the Egg Shed, a heritage and community centre formed from the bones of a former transit shed in Ardrishaig and the Flitch House, a garden room extension to an Arts & Crafts home in Trinity, Edinburgh.



[REDACTED] was a kind, considered and compassionate man, a true gentle-man and he is very much missed by us all. His passing was such terribly sad news.

We have commissioned a memorial bench dedicated to the memory of [REDACTED] which will be placed in a beautiful sunspot where [REDACTED] used to like to sit and soak up the sun in the garden.



GREEN SPACES

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Together our members and volunteers helped maintain and develop our gardens in the heart of the Old Town, meeting our objectives along the way....

Advancing Community Learning & Development

- A stronger connected community
 - Over 10 volunteers contributing 450+ hours
- Valuable skills development
- Making a difference by beautifying the local area
 - Feeling safer

Advancing Health Reducing Social Isolation

- A peaceful, nurturing space
 - Relationships built, friendships formed
 - Physical activity, green exercise
 - A healthier environment by attracting more wildlife
- A cleaner, greener environment

Advancing the arts, history, heritage and culture of the local area and gardens

- A highlights of our time together discovering the wealth of arts & crafts skills we have
- Community conversations, reminiscing, sharing stories of being an Old Towner
- Finding out more about the history of St Mary's Street
- Exploring creative ideas to bring this history alive

Looking Ahead - A focus on placemaking and beautification...



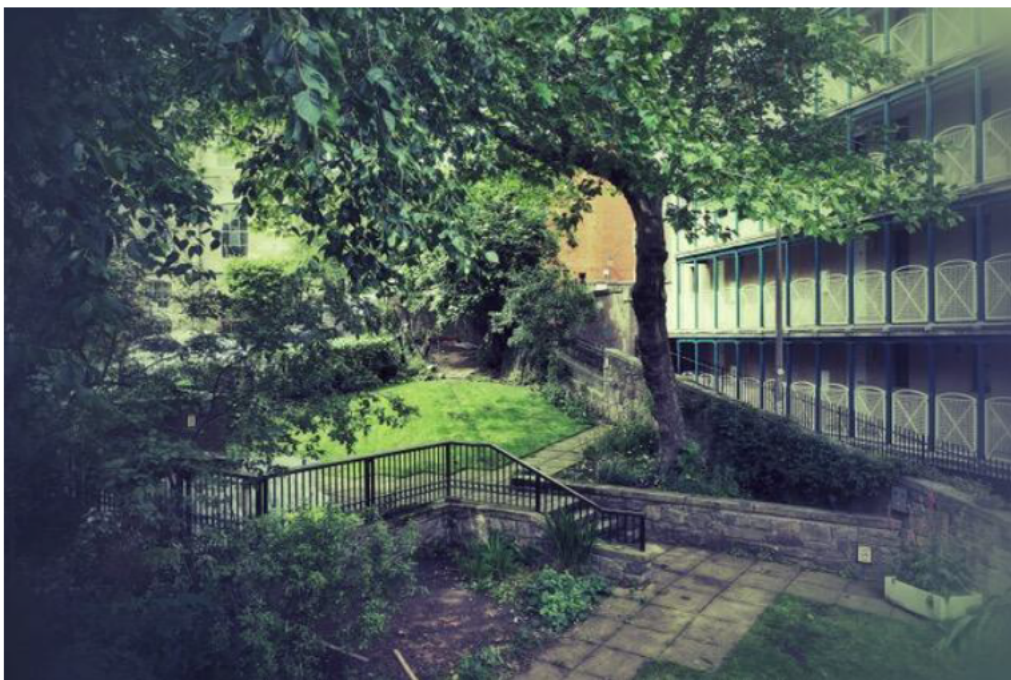
Studies show that placemaking and beautification of urban areas through the addition of greenery, art and other elements help create healthier, more connected spaces for people to live and engage in, provide a sense of place and belonging, and help boost the money coming in for local businesses - people more likely to spend time and money in attractive and engaging public spaces.



██████████ (GG Studio Workshop) one of our volunteers has been working on some mock-ups of how this could look. As well as the increased community engagement in getting together to improve these areas we hope this will also help to deter the fly-tipping, graffiti and needles being discarded in the area.



██████ is also working on some designs for the main garden, reworking possible layouts that are more in-line with our objectives and what members would like to see. Things such as designated beds for growing herbs, fruits and vegetables, raised planters for members who may have mobility problems, areas where workshops, events can be held.





Main Garden Security

Data collected by health agencies in Edinburgh found that the only drug deaths in public in Edinburgh in 2025 have taken place in the Old Town. This year there have been several incidences of people sleeping in the garden and two incidents when people have over-dosed in the garden and the paramedics needed to be called.

This has been a cause of concern as one of our main aims is to ensure we provide a safe environment, particularly when people may be living with mental health issues and we wish to work with children and families.

It has also been a major cause of concern for residents whose homes and terraced spaces face directly onto the main garden. Moving forward we will be exploring several options for better gate security to the main garden and hope to apply to the Security Industry Authority Grant for Good Causes when it is next open for application to help with this. We will also be actively engaging with the public consultation on plans for a new safe drug consumption room in the Old Town, Edinburgh that is set to get underway in early 2026.



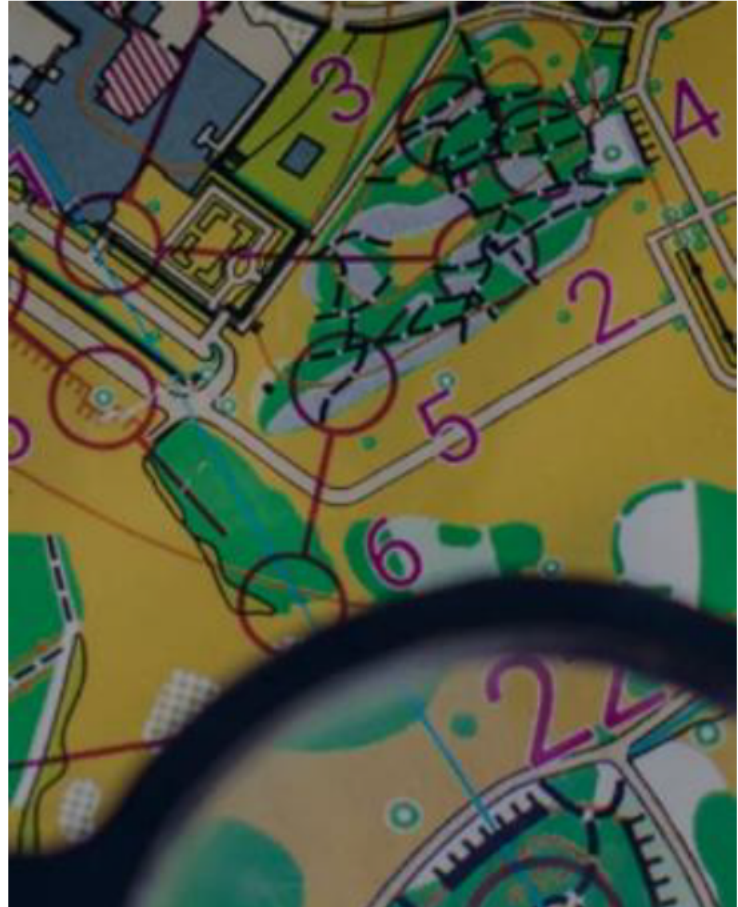


**In the coming year
we aim to:**

- Strengthen links and partnerships with local schools and health services
- Offer arts & crafts workshops
- Offer training sessions in sustainable gardening
- Make some necessary repairs
- Remove a dangerous tree

World Orienteering Championships Edinburgh July 2024

One of the highlights of last year was the gardens being included on the course for this event as organisers had been scouting for as many courts and closes to include to help maximise the range of navigational challenges they could set. Looking ahead we would like to do more of this partnership working and explore other events we can run and / or link in with for our members, the wider community and general public.

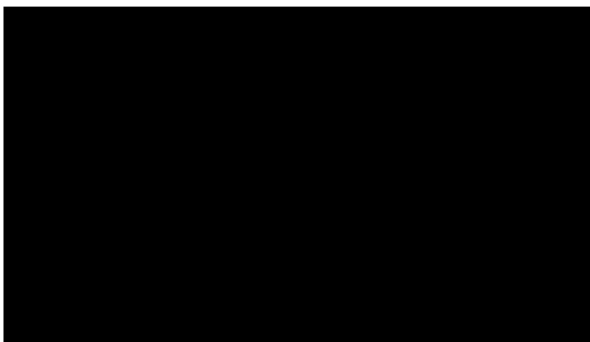


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income and expenditure		£	£	Who we are...
Rental & other income			9,561.38	
Less :	Electricity	295.00		
	Gardening / Maintenance	5,388.01		
	Other costs (NDR & Water)	1,154.01		
			6,837.01	
			<u>2,724.37</u>	
Bank reconciliation		£	£	
Opening balance			*3,671.88	
Receipts	9,561.38			
Payments	<u>6,837.01</u>		2,724.37	
Closing balance	31-Mar	<u>6,396.25</u>		
* Opening balance - transfer of funds from St Marys Street Residents Association				

Thank You

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers, funders, partners, and all members of St Marys Street Community Garden. Together we are making gardens thrive and communities flourish.



SC



Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	04	2024		31	03	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	3,580				3,580	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings	7,722				7,722	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
					-	
A1 Sub total	11,302	-	-	-	11,302	-
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,302	-	-	-	11,302	-
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	6,188				6,188	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	6,188	-	-	-	6,188	-
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,188	-	-	-	6,188	-
Net receipts / (payments)	5,114	-	-	-	5,114	-
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	5,114	-	-	-	5,114	-

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year					-	
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	5,114				5,114	
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	5,114	-	-	-	5,114	-
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments				
		Total	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets					
		Total	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities				
		Total	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees
on behalf of all the trustees

Signature*

Print Name

Date of
approval

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds *(may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)*

The Management, financial administration and maintenance of all garden and landscaped areas to include liaising with City of Edinburgh Council on matters or suggestions concerning the overall maintenance of the environment and buildings of St Mary's Street.

C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Total			-

C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)

Authority under which paid

C3b Trustee remuneration - details

	£

C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)

C4b Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)

C6 Other information

- SC

Additional analysis (1)**Analysis of receipts and payments****1 Donations**

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	reference	-	-	-	reference	-

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £			Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-			-	-
	-	-			-	-

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
	6,188				6,188	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	6,188	-	-	-	6,188	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

SC

Additional analysis (2)**5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds**

	St Mary's Street Association	Unrestricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations	3,580				3,580	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings	7,722				7,722	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
Sub total	11,302	-	-	-	11,302	-
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,302	-	-	-	11,302	-
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	6,188				6,188	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
					-	
Sub total	6,188	-	-	-	6,188	-
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,188	-	-	-	6,188	-
Net receipts / (payments)	5,114	-	-	-	5,114	-
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	5,114	-	-	-	5,114	-

Nature and purpose of funds

The Management, financial administration and maintenance of all garden and landscaped areas to include liaising with City of Edinburgh Council on matters or suggestions concerning the overall maintenance of the environment and buildings of St Mary's Street.

- SC

Additional analysis (3)**6 Breakdown of restricted funds**

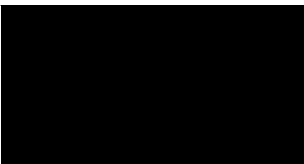
	Restricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net receipts / (payments)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	-	-	-	-	-	-

Nature and purpose of funds

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APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts						v2
Report to the trustees/members of		St Mary's St Residents Association						
Registered charity number		SC						
On the accounts of the charity for the period		Period start date				Period end date		
		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
		01	04	2024	to	31	03	2025
Set out on pages								(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
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) 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.						
Basis of independent examiner's statement		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.						
Independent examiner's statement		<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]</p> <p>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>have not been met, or</p> <p>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p>						
Signed**:							Date:	
Name:								
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):								
Address:		Neil Nisbet & Co						
		Thain House, 226 Queensferry Road						
		Edinburgh						
		EH4 2BP						

*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