

The Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill



FRIENDS OF EASTER CRAIGLOCKHART HILL

Annual Report & Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 March 2026

We are a SCIO regulated by OSCR

Scottish Charity No. SCO49086

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The trustees present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2026.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill (FECH)

Charity Number SCO49086

Contact Address C/o Jim Heath
17 Craiglockhart Terrace
Edinburgh
EH14 1AJ

Website Address www.eastercraiglockharthill.org

Current Trustees	Jim Heath	Chair
	Iain McLeod	Secretary
	John MacKerron	Treasurer
	Simon Hart	
	Bryce Morrison	
	Paul Duncanson	
	Daniela Polic	
	Daniel Rayner	
John MacKerron	(Appointed 23/6/25)	

Bankers Bank of Scotland

Independent Examiner Rob Moffat
24 Lockharton Avenue
Edinburgh
EH14 1AZ

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

FECH is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). It was incorporated on 27 February 2019 and is governed by its constitution effective from that date.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the charity. The Board of Trustees may appoint other trustees at any time subject to there being a minimum of three and a maximum of 14 trustees.

Organisational Structure

FECH consists of members and trustees. Membership is open to any individual aged 16 or over who is interested in helping the organisation achieve its aims and is willing to abide by the rules of the organisation.

The trustees are responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the charity.

PURPOSES

The purposes of FECH are:

- (a) Advancing environmental protection and improvement by preserving and protecting Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve for the enjoyment of members of the public and by conserving and enhancing wildlife and biodiversity
- (b) Advancing education by providing learning and educational materials and by organising educational events and activities
- (c) Promoting equality and diversity through specific initiatives to encourage people with additional needs to make greater use of the Local Nature Reserve
- (d) Advancing community development by providing and maintaining community and play space and by organising community events and activities.

In furtherance of the above charitable purposes, FECH will:

- Consult with and involve the members of the organisation and members of the local community in the management of Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve
- Raise and administer funds for maintenance, developments and improvements
- Recruit and support paid and volunteer workers
- Work closely with City of Edinburgh Council, the landowner, and with other relevant organisations whose interests include the protection and preservation of Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve or of the environment in general.

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

We work alongside the Natural Heritage section of the City of Edinburgh Council. Their continued support is invaluable and very much appreciated. They guide all of the work we do on the hill.

The council are to audit the steps and paths latter half of 2026 with a view to fixing the many rotten and eroded steps all around the hill. Meantime the council continue to react quickly to any broken steps and fallen trees if deemed unsafe. The set of steps leading to Lockharton Crescent were fixed over Christmas and are now wider and more robust.

We continue to run well-attended events:

- Easter egg hunt was delayed this year due to bad weather but was well attended despite being a week after Easter!
- The bird walk and fungi walks sold out very quickly indicating an appetite locally. We intend to run another bird walk in the summer of 2026.

We've been awarded a green flag again this year and so have been the proud flyers of this flag since 2009.

We've maintained our 2nd place on the quality parks assessment for Edinburgh out of a list of over 140 sites across the city. The assessment covers access, cleanliness, signage, biodiversity and safety and is assessed by independent examiners during the early part of the year.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Local people are engaged with tasks on the hill such as the information boards, the Poet's Post, web site, social media and the newsletter. We are very grateful for all their commitment and hard work.

Our volunteers have been busy throughout the last 12 months. Our Welcome Garden meadows were scythed in autumn 2025 and were extended to 10m². They will be a feast of flowers for bees and other pollinators. The planters provide splashes of colour and structure.

We've maintained our newly planted trees (1200 to date) throughout the hill by weeding around and mulching. Our tree survival rate is over 90% which is encouraging. We've planted another 500 trees this year in areas where gorse was thinnest.

We have planted more patches of wildflowers including red campion, cowslip, dog violet, rock rose and several thousand native bluebell and snowdrops. We have split large bunches of snowdrops and primrose in order to create a self-sustaining population of the LNR.

Our dry hedges have been maintained to prevent material rolling down the hill onto the paths, keeping them safer for people to walk on and enabling people to keep their dogs out of the marsh area.

Our communication team has been busy keeping us all updated online on social media, on the many clip frames and signposts and we've even received a bespoke poem this year for our Poet's Post.

There are so many people to thank for their hard work to keep the hill in good shape for nature to thrive and for people to enjoy

In the 12 months to 31 March 2026 we have spent 625 volunteer hours with Duke of Edinburgh's Award students and local people. These sessions run every first and third Sunday of the month from 2-4 pm and everyone is welcome.

Some of the other tasks carried out by the volunteers include:

- Refreshed the dead hedge to protect marshy area.
- Removed a cherry laurel hedge and replaced it with native species.

Pulled up rosebay willowherb beside the lower meadow to make the area more biodiverse and allow the birch to thrive.

- Removed invasive small balsam before it gets out of control. In 2025 we removed 700 plants – if left they may each produce 800 seeds!
- Extended the meadow area in entrance garden.
- Scraped paths and cut back vegetation including a major task to rake the meadows once cut by CEC.
- Extreme litter picks – clearing hard to get at places of decades old bottles and cans. Unfortunately there's still many dog poo bags discarded on the hill but we clear these up too.
- Planted out hundreds of wildflowers grown from seed harvested on the hill.
- Carried out regular bumblebee and butterfly surveys.
- Saved fixed cost money so that we can spend more of our donations on the hill.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The accounts below detail our financial position.

Our largest income source this year was, again, events, generating £2,359 (2025: £2,055). Events included our third Plant Sale as well as successful guided walks and our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

We received £885 (2025: £1,523) from donations during the year. We are encouraged by a growing number of people who appreciate the hill and LNR and make a regular monthly donation by subscription via PayPal. We also continue to see donations from users of the hill and members via the PayPal QR codes posted on the noticeboards.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The largest element of our £2,657 expenditure (2025: £3,257) related to consumable items to support our weekly volunteer work squad and Duke of Edinburgh's Awards volunteer activities. Consumables include small tools, materials and safety equipment for planting, clearing, and other work squad running expenses. Other significant expenses relate to hosting various events, as well as printing of our maps of Easter Craiglockhart Hill which are available at various points in the LNR. Insurance was a significant cost but we anticipate significantly reduced costs in future years following a change in our insurer.

In the year we received a new restricted grant of £233 from Volunteering Matters Project Earth 2025. This grant was fully utilised in the year.

The trustees consider £750 to £1,000 to be a minimum level of reserves to hold to meet the day-to-day running costs of the charity, excluding project costs which are largely grant funded.

FUTURE PLANS

In the coming year, we want to:

- Launch a new look website for FECH and improve the ease of maintenance.
- Increase our capability to propagate wildflowers to plant on the meadow areas and throughout the LNR.
- Grow more wildflowers from seeds gathered from around the hill.
- Clean up the pond as best we can by dragging plastic, cans and bottles out when they get washed closer to the banks. Engage with canoe club to run a litter pick on the pond.
- Engage with Edinburgh University who are surveying for amphibians in our marshy area.
- Refresh our living willow structures. The willow can be cut and reused elsewhere on the hill.
- Put water plants into the pond at the Sports Centre end.
- Continue our hedge planting – replacing trees removed by the council or replacing trees we've planted which have died.
- Arrange events on the hill and support those who run events already, such as the Easter Egg Hunt and the Seven Hills running race.
- Encourage more local people to get involved with work on the hill – invasive species removal, tree maintenance, wildflower seed gathering and sowing and litter picking.

We will continue to do our best to protect and improve Easter Craiglockhart Hill for the benefit of both the local and the wider community.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the Trustees on

and signed on their behalf by:

Jim Heath

Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

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 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation (10)(1)(a) to (d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 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 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

In connection with my examination, no matter came 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 Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 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.

Rob Moffat, ACA

24 Lockharton Avenue
Edinburgh
EH14 1AZ

2026

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Donations		885	-	885	1,523
Events		2,359	-	2,359	2,055
Grants		-	233	233	-
		<u>3,244</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>3,477</u>	<u>3,578</u>
Payments					
Charitable Activities	5	2,272	233	2,505	3,099
Governance Costs					
AGM & members Meetings		152	-	152	158
		<u>2,424</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>2,657</u>	<u>3,257</u>
Net Movement in Funds		820	-	820	321
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		<u>820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>820</u>	<u>321</u>

The Notes on pages 10 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF BALANCES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
Funds				
Reconciliation				
Balance as at 1 April 2025	5,829	-	5,829	5,508
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	820	-	820	321
Balance as at 31 March 2026	6,649	-	6,649	5,829
 Bank & Cash Balances				
Cash at Bank	6,649	-	6,649	5,829
Cash in Hand	-	-	-	-
	6,649	-	6,649	5,829
 Liabilities				
	-	-	-	-

The Notes on pages 10 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Jim Heath
Chair

John MacKerron
Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1. Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts & payments basis in accordance with:

- a) The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005
- b) The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

There have been no changes to the bases of preparation or to the previous year's accounts.

2. Fund Accounting

- a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.
- b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.
- c) The purposes of funds are shown in Note 7.

3. Taxation

- a) The charity is not liable to corporation tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.
- b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.

4. Transactions with trustees and related parties

- a) No remuneration was paid to trustees during the year (2025: £Nil).
- b) No personal expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year (2025: £Nil).
- c) There were no transactions with related parties during the year (2025: £Nil).

5. Payments for Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	-	-	-	250
Projects and Land Management	62	233	295	-
Printing & Stationery	305	-	305	654
Events Expenses	437	-	437	518
Insurance	586	-	586	387
Consumables	742	-	742	1,183
Other	292	-	292	265
	2,424	233	2,657	3,257

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

6. Movements in Funds

	As at 31/03/2025	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	As at 31/03/2026
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	5,829	3,244	(2,424)	-	6,649
<u>Restricted Funds</u>					
Restricted Funds	-	233	(233)	-	-
Total Funds	5,829	3,477	(2,657)	-	6,649

7. Purpose of Funds

General Fund	An unrestricted fund that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.
Restricted Funds	FECH currently holds no restricted funds.