

Official Gardens Committee

Grosvenor & Lansdowne Crescents

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

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This Note contains important information for all proprietors

1. Gardens

1.1 **Tree Work** - Sadly, despite the Official Committee having paid (in March 2026) for the remaining tree work to be carried out as per Adam Riedi's report (our tree consultant), Heartwood Tree Care returned the monies to us due to the ongoing confusion and continual interference by the purported 'elected committee'.

We have since secured another firm to carry out the required work, and would urge the purported 'elected committee' not to interfere as any further delays / confusion, puts all proprietors at an increased risk in terms of personal liability.

1.2 **Regular Garden Maintenance** - To avoid any interruption to essential garden services, we confirm that Blackhall Garden Services, our longstanding and reliable gardener, has been secured and paid for until October 2026 to maintain the Gardens.

1.3 **Insurance** - Richard Le Sueur, our Head Gardener from Blackhall Garden Services, provided a walk round and indicated the tasks he felt could be carried out through community gardening maintenance, such as minor weeding and clearance. The recent activities of Sunday 3 May however, have gone beyond the limited scope of activities recommended by our professional gardener.

Whilst we acknowledge the effort and enthusiasm of some proprietors, having checked with our Insurance Company, they have advised that the Association's Insurance Policy would not cover proprietors using long handled gardening shears. Most concerning is such tools being used, without appropriate PPE, and with children in the nearby vicinity. We therefore **must insist** that all unauthorised gardening activities stop immediately. This is for the safety and protection of us all and to ensure we comply with our insurance obligations and garden rules.

2. Trust Funds

We note the many assertions made by the purported 'elected committee' that they claim to have consulted with Police Scotland prior to the removal of trust funds. In particular, they state:

"For completeness, we confirm that advice has been sought from Police Scotland. Officers took the time to review the factual background and our actions... A reference number, 519865, was provided in connection with this engagement..."

It is important for proprietors to note that the Official Gardens Committee reported to Police Scotland the unauthorised transfer of trust funds. We also provided them with the above reference number. The investigating Sergeant has confirmed to us that the reference number **is not a recognisable police reference number, nor is there any record of any engagement having taken place with anyone from the purported 'elected committee'**.

The Official Gardens Committee continue to work with the Bank and Police Scotland regarding the safe return of trust funds. In the meantime, we have a new secure bank account.

3. Legal Matters

3.1 Meeting of 16 December 2025 - We wish to re-iterate that the meeting held on 16 December 2025 was not a lawfully called Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), for numerous reasons, and therefore has no proper constitutional standing whatsoever. Importantly the Constitution Working Group had no legal standing or authority to announce such a meeting. In addition, proprietors were not given the required and reasonable notice period. Six days' is not a reasonable notice period for proprietors to attend an EGM and vote, particularly for major decisions (e.g., removal of office-bearers, constitutional changes). To clarify, everything pertaining to the meeting of the 16 December including the minutes, is invalid.

3.2 Title Dispute - We appreciate many proprietors are very concerned with the situation regarding the title dispute; however, proprietors should be aware that this situation is not of the Official Gardens Committee making. The Official Gardens Committee has repeatedly requested sight of the legal advice (on a firm's headed notepaper) obtained by individuals of the purported 'elected committee'. To date this has not been received. The purported constitution was not written or approved by a registered qualified Scottish solicitor.

The fact that Official Gardens Committee, and individual proprietors, have had to resort to consulting solicitors to protect their constitutional position is a sad day. As the purported 'elected committee' continues to ignore requests to cease misrepresenting itself as the legitimate committee, we now see an escalation of matters as being the only way forward.

Please be assured our focus is on the continued maintenance of the gardens for us all to enjoy and to ensure we meet our obligations.

3.3 Meeting of 1 April 2026 (Presentation) - The Official Gardens Committee notes the statement in ██████████'s communication of 24 April 2026:

“At this juncture, I would personally like to invite the 3 or 4 households who are disputing our democratic process to come to the next AGM on 17th June and put forward their views to all proprietors”

We wish to make clear that the The Official Gardens Committee has always been willing to engage constructively on matters relating to the governance and maintenance of the pleasure ground. However, we must address a serious issue arising from the purported ‘elected committee’s’ meeting of 1 April 2026.

At that meeting, a slide titled:

“Threatening Behaviour – Examples of threats to those who challenge”

was presented by ██████████. This slide contained **false, highly derogatory, and personalised defamatory allegations** about several proprietors / previous proprietors. These statements were presented publicly, without notice, without evidence, and without any opportunity for response. They were also circulated afterwards as well as being posted on the purported ‘elected committee’s’ website. It is extremely disappointing that the purported ‘elected committee’ see this as a constructive approach.

Whilst The Official Gardens Committee is open to respectful and lawful engagement, we cannot, nor should anybody, participate in any meetings where defamatory material is being used as part of the agenda, nor where there is a risk of further personal attacks on any individual (proprietor or not).

4. Important – Annual Assessment Fee

As there's no constitutional legitimacy whatsoever to the purported ‘elected committee’, we remind all proprietors, **not** to pay them any funds.