

Report

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Title: NEL Greens Annual Report

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1 **North Edinburgh and Leith Greens: Annual Report** 2 **2026**

3 *This report is available as a formatted PDF:*

4 <https://members.greens.scot/file/nel-greens-annual-report-2025-6pdf>

5 We are pleased to publish a report of North Edinburgh and Leith sub-branch's
6 activities in the period June 2025 – May 2026.

7 The sub-branch covers three council wards (Forth, Leith, and Leith Walk), and
8 has a very high concentration of Green members and voters. All wards have a
9 Green councillor: Kayleigh O'Neill in Forth, Chas Booth in Leith, and Susan Rae
10 in Leith Walk.

11 Contact us at nel@scottishgreens.org.uk

12 **Committee**

13 The subbranch committee was:

- 14 • Co-Convenors: Morgane Perez-Huet, Boyan Karabaliev (resigned November
15 • 2025), James T. Harding (elected November 2025)

- 16 • Depute Co-Convenor: Jula Kinross
- 17 • Membership Secretary: Mariusz Cebulski
- 18 • Ordinary Members: Ian McCormick, Paul Mitchell, Ian Cowan and Colin Brown

19 Unless otherwise noted, the committee was elected at our AGM in June 2025.

20 **Membership**

21 As of 20 May 2026, the membership stands at 650, which is +46% compared to last
22 year). This comprises 119 members in Forth (+44%), 202 in Leith (+44%), and 329
23 in Leith Walk (+42%).

24 The membership secretary continued to engage new members via welcome emails and
25 phone calls.

26 **Meetings and events**

27 The sub-branch held monthly hybrid meetings at Leith Community Centre (with
28 breaks in August and December). There were typically attended by 10-16 members
29 and followed by social drinks at the Lioness of Leith.

30 Social events included a litter pick in Leith Links organised by Morgane Perez-
31 Huet, a Christmas party organised by Mariusz Cebulski, and post-election drinks
32 at Lost in Leith organised by James T. Harding.

33 **Scottish Parliament Election**

34 The sub-branch was directly involved in three interlinked campaigns:

- 35 • The regional campaign for Edinburgh and Lothians East, in conjunction with
36 all of Edinburgh Greens and East Lothian Greens
 - 37 ◦ 67877 votes, 21.2% of the total vote share
 - 38 ◦ +7.9pp swing compared to 2020 results
 - 39 ◦ Elected 3 MSPs: Kate Nevens, Q Mannivanan (NEL member) and Kayleigh
40 Kinross-O'Neill (NEL councillor)

- 41 • Constituency campaign for Edinburgh North Eastern and Leith (Kate Nevens),
42 in conjunction with East Edinburgh Greens
 - 43 ◦ 10559 votes, 27.8% of the total vote share
 - +17.3% swing compared to notional 2020 results (We did not stand)
 - 44 ◦ Finished 2nd behind SNP on 35.8%

- 45 • Constituency campaign for Edinburgh Northern (Kayleigh Kinross-O'Neill),
46 in
47
 - 48 • conjunction with Central Edinburgh Greens and West Edinburgh Greens
 - 49 ◦ 5289 votes, 14.1% of the total vote share
 - +7.6% swing compared to notional 2020 results (We did not stand)
 - 50 ◦ Finished 3rd behind Lib Dem (34.6%) and SNP (27.9%)

51 A large number of volunteers were involved in the sub-branch campaign, peaking
52 with 41 people out and about on polling day. Members from NEL were also involved
53 in key roles across the branch, including comms, finance, volunteer management,
54 events, candidate support, and even one of the lead campaign officers.
55

56 Door-knocking was the most popular campaign activity, with 15 full sessions
57 taking place and myriad additional mini-sessions hosted by Kate Nevens and other
58 candidates. Attendance ranged from 6 to 17. We recorded a total of 1247 doorstep
59 conversations, of which 681 (55%) were rated G1 or G2.

60 We took the approach of splitting door-knock organisation into different roles:
61 Route Wizard, Doras Wrangler, Marketing Maven, Clipboard Juggler, and The Face.
62 Special thanks to Soh Xi Ken for organising the most door-knocking days. Pauline
63 Ward much improved accessibility for door-knocking by conducting access surveys
64 in some key areas of Forth.

65 Over 30 thousand campaign cards, posters and canvassing cards were hand
66 delivered. (This does not include targeted letters or freepost sent by the
67 party.) Deliveries were ably coordinated by Lennie Sefton, Ian McCormick,
68 Mariusz Cebulski and Ian Cowan.

69 Special campaign events included a Let's Get Started campaign launch at St James
70 in Leith in September, and an all-day stall at Leith Police Box the weekend
71 before polling day which featured live music by Rosie Bristow and Toni Santoyo
72 McLeod as well as the brand-new Edinburgh Greens-branded gazebo. NEL members
73 were involved in the branch fundraiser Celidh, the Queens for Greens drag night,

74 the Songs of Care concert, a community meal at Hibs Stadium, and a variety of
75 engaging Green Talks.

76 A-boards were provided by the branch and were cleaned and fixed up together with
77 East Edinburgh Greens. Ian McCormick acted as coordinator for distribution,
78 creating routes to maximise efficiency for distribution and collection.

79 On polling day, Ian and Katherine McCormick kindly hosted a NEL HQ in their
80 flat, creating a space for volunteers to collect materials, refuel and recharge.
81 Jula Kinross organised snacks and drinks for volunteers, culminating in dinner
82 for twenty in the evening.

83 The three most key polling stations were attended continuously from 8am to 8pm
84 on polling day, with volunteers handing off materials in relay. Other polling
85 stations were covered on a more flexible basis, with volunteers collecting
86 materials from HQ and attending as availability and energy levels allowed. A
87 camping chair was available to assist with attendance, and polling-place staff
88 granted access to baby-change facilities at Leith Library.

89 We undertook GOTV tactics for the first time, which involved revisiting people
90 who were previously door-knocked to remind them to vote and address any last-
91 minute questions. Most of the routes were done twice, once in the morning and
92 once at 5pm.

93 On count day, five NEL members were involved in ballot sampling and gathered
94 valuable data which can be used to further optimise campaign activity going
95 forward.

96 **Green News**

97 The sub-branch wrote and delivered two editions of Green News during the year
98 period.

99 **Finances**

100 The sub-branch budget for January to December 2026 is £350 and we are projected
101 to be in surplus by the end of the year.

102 The largest expense is meeting-room hire at £150 annually.

103 A gazebo was purchased using the branch participatory budget.

104 **Plans for the coming year**

105 The coming year is included in the Strategic Plan for 2026-27.

106 The influx of new members and volunteers represents an exciting new opportunity
107 for the year ahead, which includes a Council Election with the potential to
108 elect a record number of Green councillors. The sub-branch aims to capitalise on
109 and continue this momentum, making it easier, more accessible, and more fun than
110 ever before for members and volunteers to get involved, and promoting the
111 wellbeing of those who choose to do so.