

# Gifford Horticultural Society

Reg. Scottish Charity No. SC006996

## **Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 13 November 2019 Gifford Village Hall at 7.30pm Chaired by Joe Clark, President**

**1. Apologies:** Jane Steven, Eleanor Hulme, Graeme and Moira Wallace, Valery Heywood, Aileen Stones, Stan da Prato, Kathy Sethi, Rosemary Everett, Ann Armstrong, Shona Cuthbertson.

### **2. Minutes of the AGM held on 7 November 2018:**

These were taken as read and approved by Jane Will and Sarah Curtis.

### **3. President's Report:**

It has been my pleasure to be your President during the past year, and I am happy to report that we have concluded another successful and enjoyable year.

The series of Wednesday talks was again very popular, with a wide range of topics being presented by some very knowledgeable and engaging speakers. The destination of our annual outing was Perthshire, where a visit to the outstanding garden at Branklyn was followed by a tour of Glendoick.

The Flower Show attracted a very good attendance and a large number of entries, this despite poor weather limiting some of the flower classes. A re-designed Schedule was produced this year in the hope of encouraging more entries by simplifying the layout. The Junior Section was very popular, with a record number of entries and some outstanding exhibits. Other features included a new Egg Section, some delightful floral art, craft stalls, face-painting plus the children's Dog Show (organised by Rotary) and entertainment on Sunday afternoon from The Ukuladies. The prizes were presented in entertaining style by Provost John McMillan. The Flower Show requires a lot of hard work from a lot of people and I should like to thank all those who contributed so willingly to this great team effort.

I am keen that members share their knowledge and expertise, and two "sharing" features were introduced in the summer. A large number of members responded positively to my suggestion that we should open our gardens for others to visit – and so, on Wednesday evenings in June and July, members were able to enjoy each other's company and view with interest and admiration a delightfully wide range of gardens. I am most grateful to those who opened their gardens and to those who offered to do so but were unable to be accommodated this year. Also introduced this summer was a "Seedling Swap", an opportunity for members to pass on excess seedlings to each other. This proved less successful than the "open gardens" but I hope we may have more success with it next year.

Fundraising is a necessary part of our organisation and this year the profits from the annual Gifford quiz (with teams from all the village clubs and societies) were donated to us. In addition, the annual Plant Sale and the Flower Show raffle and sale of plants all contributed handsomely to our income – and I am most grateful to those involved.

After much committee discussion, it was agreed that our membership year should run from August to July, rather than follow the calendar year. Thus, our year now starts with the Flower Show and early indications are that this is a more efficient way of ensuring that subscriptions are being paid!

Finally, I should like to pay tribute to all members of the committee. In addition to their many and varied contributions towards the success of the Society, I am most grateful to them for their guidance and advice during my first year as your President.

Joe Clark  
November 2019

#### **4. Treasurer's Report:**

Copies of the Society and Flower Show accounts for the year ending October 2019 were circulated (last year's figures in brackets).

The accounts show a surplus of £811.46 (-£1,888.56) on the Society's total income of £6,248.45 (£7,378.06) for the financial year. The staging of the Flower Show produced a loss of £1,059.36 (-£1,206.11) on a turnover of £2,846.29 (£2,775.26).

With the current level of reserved funds of £9,748.15 (£9,681.53) in a Virgin Charity Account plus a year end bank balance of £6,377.20 (£5,956.24), the Trustees consider that the Society is well placed to continue its charitable purposes in the coming 12 months subject to close monitoring of the impact of any significant changes that might arise.

#### **5. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members:**

There are no changes to the Committee this year.

**6. A.O.B:** None

**8. Date of next A.G.M.** Wednesday 11 November 2020 at 7.30 p.m.