

Gifford Horticultural Society

Reg. Scottish Charity No. SC006996

Annual General Meeting

7.30 p.m. Wednesday 11 November 2020

By ZOOM call - Chaired by Joe Clark, President

1. Apologies: Graeme and Moira Wallace

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 7 November 2019:

These were taken as read and approved by Helen Lee and Jane Will.

3. President's Report:

He reminded members of the upcoming Garden Quiz to be held on Zoom on Wednesday 18 November at 7.30 p.m.

Joe also referred to the sad loss of our Committee member Joyce McIntosh. She was a fantastic supporter of GHS and a regular participant in all events. Our Plant Sales will never be quite the same without her. Members today were asked to have a few moments of silence to remember her.

The year 2020 has had an extraordinary impact on all our lives. In the face of a worldwide pandemic, the curtailed activities of our Society over the past nine months would seem to be a very small disruption. While it is sad to report on a number of events that had to be cancelled, there are also several happy and successful activities to be celebrated.

It was with great disappointment that we had to cancel the final talk of the winter, the plant sale in May, the outing in June, the Open Gardens (under Scotland's Gardens Scheme) in July and the Flower Show in August. However, we were able to organise several events to compensate. We arranged with Redhouse Nurseries the sale and delivery of bedding plants. This proved to be very popular, to the extent that far more plants were bought than would normally have been bought at the May plant sale!

In August, we held a very successful plant sale on The Green. We were blessed with fine weather and many members contributed with a diverse range of plants. A large number of visitors enjoyed the opportunity to socialise as well as to purchase. Also in August, we organised a Scarecrow Trail. This seemed to catch the mood of the village and proved to be spectacular and hugely popular, with families displaying flair and originality in creating a wonderful trail of scarecrows. Throughout the week, hundreds of locals and visitors wandered the streets with maps in their hands and smiles on their faces!

The disappointment at not being able to visit other members' gardens was overcome to some extent by the many videos that were shared on the website, displaying not only some beautiful gardens but also some very skillful camera work. As I write, there seems little sign of an end to the current restrictions but I very much hope that your gardens will

continue to give you a source of recreation and pleasure. As Monty Don said – as you care for your garden, so it will in turn care for you.

Finally, I should like to record my warm thanks to your Committee whose support and advice I have greatly welcomed. Despite the conditions, it has been a pleasure to be your President and I look forward to the year ahead with enthusiasm and anticipation.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Report for the year ended 31 October 2020. For full details, please refer to:

Income & Expenditure

Flower Show Accounts

Society Accounts

The activities of the Society over the past year have produced a healthy surplus of £1093.94, due mostly to the smaller deficit on the Flower Show and an increased profit on the Plant Sales. In addition, the quiz night generated a profit of £382.26 and the raffles produced an impressive £289.50 thanks to the generosity of members in both donating prizes and buying tickets.

The substantial amount in our Total Funds has been accumulated over many years and is in place to cover any major change in circumstances in the future. The uncertainty of the year ahead caused by the pandemic may well produce that change.

Copies of the Society and Flower Show accounts for the year ending October 2020 were circulated in advance. There were no questions forthcoming. Joe offered thanks to Sandra Pentland for these and to Sandra Banks who audited them for us.

5. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members:

Anthea Skea has stepped down from the Committee and Joe recorded thanks for all her work over recent years. A new member was proposed – Jackie Fry – and she was unanimously approved.

6. Subscriptions:

It was proposed that the annual membership fee be increased from next August from £5.00 to £10.00 and this received unanimous approval. Flower Show membership will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Roger noted that only 51 members have paid for this year – understandable in the lack of events attended in person. This will result in a reduction in income but hopefully this can be restored from August next year.

7. AOB:

Jane Steven wished to say what a huge success the Scarecrow Trail held in August was. It was wonderful to see how it incorporated everyone in the village and beyond, especially children.

Members were asked if they still wished to participate in the Hyacinth competition due to be judged in February. Jeanie will ensure those who asked will receive their bulbs in due course.

Thanks were given to Jeanie Cole, Jane Will and Kathy Sethi for helping to plant another 400 daffodil bulbs on the Yester School bank, following the failure of a previous planting. They were assisted by a GHS member Jill Hyslop.

We were reminded about the Christmas Lights Trail taking place in December being run by the Gifford Community Council. Rosemary gave us more information on it and details are available on line.

8. Date of next A.G.M.

Wednesday 10 November 2021 at 7.30 p.m.