

Gifford Horticultural Society
Reg. Scottish Charity No. SC006996

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 27th November 2024, 19.30

Gifford Village Hall, chaired by Roger Wilson, President.

1. Apologies.

Kathy Sethi, Joy Grey, Joe Clark.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on November 29th 2023

These were taken as read and approved by Jeanie Cole and Frank Kirwan.

3. President's Report

Roger Wilson tabled his report which covered the main activities of the Society in the past twelve months including our Talks Programme, Outings, Flower Show and Plant Sales. The Society continues to issue regular newsletter and email updates to Members across the year. This year we have purchased a laptop to help with communications. We hosted the annual Inter Society Quiz and continue to liaise with groups in the village and others with gardening interests.

Roger Wilson thanked all members for their continuing support for all of our activities and thanked the Committee for their support to him in his role this year, as well as for their individual contributions.

4. Treasurer's Report

Sandra Banks presented the accounts to October 31st 2024.

The activities of the Society over the past year had produced a surplus of £574.26 (2023 £3,391). It was noted that this was not a year in which we took part in Scotland's Garden Scheme Open Gardens (as we do this every other year) which mainly accounts for the surplus being lower.

We saw a slight increase in income from Membership subscriptions, and introduced the Tattie Growing competition which raised £320.

We are very grateful to Rettie who sponsored this year's Flower Show again and to the Chippendale School of Furniture for their donation.

Our total funds have increased to £27,423.54 (2023 £26,796) which is in line with our Reserves Policy and provides a secure footing for future years .

Sandra Banks reported that the costs of engraving the Flower Show trophies has risen sharply. Roger Wilson led a discussion on whether we should continue to engrave them, advise winners to arrange their own engraving if desired or discontinue altogether. After a show of hands, it was agreed (by a small margin) to discontinue engraving but build up a digital record of winners. The committee agreed to review the overall number of trophies and their allocations.

Roger Wilson thanked Sandra Banks for the accounts and her work across the year.

Jackie Fry, Membership Secretary, reported that as of October 31st 2024, there are 186 members of the society and four Honorary Life members. Members live mainly in Gifford but there are also others who come from the surrounding areas (Pencaitland, Garvald, Tranent, East Saltoun, Haddington, Musselburgh, Haddington and Aberlady). This confirms that we continue to be a society which encourages the enjoyment of plants and gardening for everyone in our local area.

5. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members:

Roger Wilson, Rosemary Everett and Sandra Banks were content to continue as President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. They were duly elected (proposed by Frank Kirwan; seconded Jane Stevens).

Beryl MacNaughton, Helen Lee and Sarah Curtis retired from the Committee; Roger Wilson recorded our thanks for their outstanding contributions. They were each presented with flowers.

All other members of the Committee were content to remain.

Katherine Porter was elected to join the Committee (proposed by Frank Kirwan and seconded by Liz Stewart).

Jill Hyslop was elected to join the Committee (proposed by Jenaie Cole and seconded by Eleanor Hulme).

Emma Martindale was elected to join the Committee (proposed by Jane Stevens and seconded by Rosemary Everett).

5. Honorary Life Members

As noted in Jackie Fry's report, there were four Life Members. This is awarded to recognise service to the Society. Roger Wilson was pleased to offer Life Membership to Ian Currier who has served as a Vice President and a Committee Member as well as being responsible for improving and operating the sound system for talks and the electrics for the Flower Show.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner.

Mike Hinton was approved as the Society's Independent Examiner for our 2024/2025 accounts.

Date of next A.G.M.

Wednesday 26th November 2025 at 19.30.