

**Gifford Horticultural Society**  
Reg. Scottish Charity No. SC006996

**Annual General Meeting**

**7.30 p.m. Wednesday 29 November 2023**

**In Gifford Village Hall, chaired by Roger Wilson, President.**

**1. Apologies.**

**2. Minutes of the AGM held on November 30 2022**

These were taken as read and approved by Jeanie Cole and Gordon Steele.

**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, Gardens Open, Plant Sales and events to mark our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary such as the successful Members Evening celebration with cheese and wine in October. The Society continues to issue regular newsletter and email updates to Members across the year. This year, the newsletters have included Snippets from the archives to mark the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

The activities of the Society over the past year had produced a surplus of £3,391 (2022 £2,431). This increase in surplus is due to taking part in Scotland's Garden Scheme Open Gardens which generated a net £2,816.

We saw a slight increase in income from Membership subscriptions and income from plant sales across the year was similar to that of last year. We had some increase in our costs, most notably the hire of the village hall due to the combined effect of an increase in the rental price and an increase in our usage of this invaluable space.

We made a one-off payment of £432 for the external audio system and, in light of the healthy position of our reserves, we made a donation of £1,000 to Gifford Community Association.

Whilst it has not in the past been uncommon for the Flower Show to return a loss, we are pleased to report that this year the Annual Flower Show covered its costs and

generated a small surplus of £60, down on last year's surplus of £791. Flower Show income was much the same as last year however we had higher costs, namely the cost of engraving trophies, which we did not have last year, some expenditure on staging, which will serve us well for future years, and an increase in the cost of hire of the village hall. We are very grateful to Rettie who sponsored this year's flower show and whose donation helped us to achieve break-even.

Our total funds have increased to £26,796 (2022 £23,365). This position provides a sound financial basis for the society and based on recent expenditure, a secure footing for future years.

Ian Currier commented that the Reserves Policy is wise.

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

Jackie Fry, Membership Secretary, reported that as of October 31<sup>st</sup> 2023, there were 150 members of the Society and 4 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 Joe Clark; seconded Jane Stevens).

Fiona Sheldon had retired from the Committee; Roger Wilson recorded our thanks again for her contribution. The resulting vacancy has been advertised via the newsletter.

All other members of the Committee were content to remain.

Frank Kirwan was elected to join the Committee (proposed by Beryl MacNaughton and seconded by Joe Clark).

## **5. Date of next A.G.M.**

Wednesday 27 November 2024 at 7.30 p.m.