

# KILLEARN COTTAGERS' HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



## Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 5 February 2025  
7.30pm Garden Room, Village Hall

### AGENDA

#### A short talk about Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary

1 **Apologies**

2 Minutes of the AGM on 7 February 2024

3 Matters arising

4 Chairman's report

5 Treasurer's report

6 Election of Office-bearers                      Current

Honorary President                      Jenny Wilkes

Honorary Vice President                  John Phillips

\*Chairperson                                  Paul Searle

\*Vice Chairperson                          Sharon Bowness

\*Secretary                                      Glenda Asquith

\*Treasurer                                      Neil Metcalfe

\*Show Convener                               Grant Farquharson

Minute Secretary                              Kevin Boland

Schedule Secretary                            Mary Fraser

\* This role is also a Trustee.

7 Notices

Whist Drive                                      Friday 7 March 2025 7pm, Church Hall

Plant Sale                                          Saturday 17 May 2025 10am - 12pm, Village Hall

159th Annual Show                              Saturday 30 August 2025 Village Hall, Church and Church Hall

8 Any other competent business

**Tea and biscuits**



## KILLEARN COTTAGERS' HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

#### MINUTES

- 1 **Apologies:** John Philips, Amanda Brookes, Jill Smith, Sue Beck.
- 2 **Present:** Chair, Secretary, Committee Members and members of the public.
- 2 **Minutes of the AGM 28 February 2023** – Approved other than issues surrounding a K Burnison, which no one could account for.
- 3 **Matters arising** – No matters arising.
- 4 **Chair's Report:** attached.
- 5 **Treasurer's report:** attached.

#### 6 **Election of Office Bearers**

Trustees appointment of officers

<b>Honorary President</b>	<b>Jenny Wilkes</b>
<b>Honorary Vice President</b>	<b>John Phillips</b>
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Paul Searle</b>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Sharon Bowness</b>
Secretary	Glenda Asquith
Treasurer	Neil Metcalfe
Show Convener	Grant Farquharson
Deputy Show Convener	Vacant
Minute Secretary	Kevin Boland
Schedule Secretary	Mary Fraser

Names in bold proposed by Sarah (Sharon? CHECK) and seconded by Elaine Curran

#### 7 **Notices**

Whist Drive	Friday 8 March
Plant Sale/Gardener's market	Saturday 18 May
Dumfries House Coach Trip	Wednesday 17 June TBC
Open Gardens	Biennial event
158th Annual Show	Saturday 31 August

- 8 **Any other competent business** – a short talk by Chelsea McKinnon, from the Open food artwork and Killearn community garden.

## Chair's Report

On behalf of the Horticultural Committee may I welcome you to this year's Annual General Meeting. My name is Paul Searle and I am chairing tonight's meeting.

I'm looking forward to the talk after the formal AGM about the Open Food Network and Killearn Community Garden and I'd like to thank Chelsea for coming along to speak to us.

But first, I want to pay tribute to John Phillips, who has stepped down as Chair following last year's Annual Show. John joined the committee in 2006 and became vice-chair in 2012. He has been a stalwart of the Show, bringing a wealth of horticultural expertise and experience. And so we are very pleased that we won't be losing John from Horti life in the village, as he has accepted the role of Honorary Vice President.

Now, you probably know that the Society has been around a long time. It was actually established in 1850 and became a registered charity in 2016. Our aim is to promote interest, knowledge and skills in the practice of horticulture and crafts amongst the public, and importantly, we support local voluntary and charitable organisations.

So I am pleased to report that last July 450 people visited the eight open gardens of Killearn event which we helped to organise with Scotlands Garden Scheme. Although that means we raised more than £2,600 from ticket sales, due to the generosity of Allister Ferguson who donated all his £800 of takings from his woodwork craft stall and Killearn Tennis Club who served tea and cake, together with the Plant Sale takings, it meant that around £4,100 went to the chosen charities. Mike Gray, Treasurer for Colourful Killearn wrote to us saying: "Your very generous donation will be of tremendous help in continuing to brighten up the public spaces in the village." And the Fundraising Manager for Strathcarron Hospice wrote: "You have allowed our doctors, nurses and multi-disciplinary team to give the best end-of-life care to people when and where they need us most... this [amount] could cover the cost of 51 hours of specialist nursing care in the Hospice."

Now, the future of any Society like ours is the young and last year we specifically encouraged youngsters to get involved in our activities. To that end, we made a small donation to Killearn Primary School for their gardening projects and recently received a very nice thank you letter, which read: "We want to say a huge thank you for the donation of £50 you gave the school. We have bought a beautiful piece of elm wood and our janitor is using it to make a memory bench for our much loved former janny Hector. Photos to follow when we have it in place in the school's new sensory garden. Thank you so much for making this possible."

And the Committee made extra efforts last year to promote the Annual Show as a family-friendly event, so we were very pleased at the large number of entrants in the Youth sections. Overall, there were more than 850 entries in all of the classes and I want to thank everyone who exhibited, attended, volunteered and helped clear up afterwards. We raised nearly £200 for Strathcarron Hospice by selling the cut flowers and we supplied surplus fruit and veg to a local food-bank.

It was sad though because show convenor and committee member Walter MacGowan had passed away earlier in the year, just we were gearing up the preparations for last year's Show. Walter had been associated with the Show for more than 50 years and was first listed as a committee member in 1975. He held the positions of Chairman, Treasurer and latterly Honorary Vice-President and his knowledge will be sadly missed.

So, our 158th Annual Show is on 31 August and everyone is encouraged to join in — young or not so young. Remember, it's not just about plants: there's baking, craftwork, art and photography, as well as cut flowers, vegetables and pot plants and more. It's open to everyone, whether you live in Killearn or not and we even have a prize for the best scarecrow. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook in the coming months.

Before that we have our fundraising Whist Drive on 8 March, where we need players to take part. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to be an expert at whist.

At some point — when spring arrives — myself and John will be perusing all of the front gardens in Killearn visible from the road for the Spring Garden competition. No action is required to enter, but we'll announce the results on our website and on Facebook.

Then, we need your plants and cuttings for our Plant Sale on 18 May. Please start growing some for us when spring starts and bring them along on the day for us to sell. And if you're clearing out your shed, we'll accept your gardening bric-a-brac to sell too. And don't forget that although it may only be February, the team responsible for Killearn Seed Library are in need of donations of seeds, so if you have any spare flower or vegetable seeds — store bought or saved — please take them to the donation box, down the stairs in the village hall foyer.

And lastly, we're at the embryonic stage of arranging a coach trip so keep an eye on our website.

In conclusion, I want to thank you all for coming along this evening and to the committee members who very much make things happen. Our events do take a fair bit of planning, effort, and elbow grease and we all need friends. The Horti is no different and we actually have an official list of such friends. Being a Friend of the Horti doesn't have a job description but it could involve volunteering to assist, helping set up at events, being a steward, selling schedules, serving teas, all without being on the committee (unless you want to be!). If you want to be our Friend, read more on our website, get in touch by email or Facebook or talk to a committee member. And if you're not on our email list, talk to me afterwards.

Good gardening to one and all and I'm looking forward to seeing you at one of our events.

Paul Searle

## **Treasurer's Statement**

It gives me great pleasure to present the Society's accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

I am pleased to report that, despite my financial incompetence, the Society is still healthily in the black. The financial details of the year are given on the accompanying sheet, alongside the results from 2022 for comparison. I would like to point out the following features:

- The comparison with the previous year is slightly complicated because fears over Covid meant that we didn't have a Whist Drive in 2022. In contrast, we were able to run all of our usual activities in 2023. It is worth noting that the income from the Whist Drive was actually significantly up from the pre-covid years (when it was always below £200), as a result of our managing to attract some new players.
- We had an extremely successful Plant Sale that raised a record amount. The Tennis Club provided coffee and cakes in the Village Hall to raise their own funds; our Society always pays for the hire of the Hall as one of our donations to village activities.
- The entry for 'donations received' refers to the money donated for cut flowers by visitors to the Annual Show; this amount was passed to Strathcarron Hospice so is part of the 'donations to individuals and groups' towards the bottom of the page.
- Our Annual Show was financially self-sustaining as well as very successful. The major part of the Show-related income comes from selling schedules and door admission, and from selling teas on the afternoon of the Show. Both of these forms of income were amongst the highest that we have achieved. Income from having adverts in the schedules was a little lower than usual, but this is mostly due to my incompetence in not getting around to sending out invoices for all advertisers. Costs of mounting the Show were a little higher than last year, mostly due to us having to ask for a second print run of schedules. As last

- year, none of our judges claimed any travel expenses, probably because I only asked them after they had just eaten the excellent free lunch. Other Show costs were fairly normal.
- Note that some of the Show costs come under the heading of 'Donations to individuals and groups', in line with our charitable status. For example, the Show makes use of both the Kirk and the Church hall, but since God does not issue invoices we instead make a donation to the Kirk. In fact this year's accounts include two years' worth of donations to the Kirk since there was a delay in making that donation last year. This partly explains why the 'donations' appear so high this year – another reason is that we covered some of the costs of the very successful Killearn Open Gardens event, such as printing fliers and hiring the village hall for teas. We also made a donation to Killearn Primary School that paid for the materials needed to make a bench for their garden, and covered the cost of a trophy awarded at Drymen Show.
  - As part of its charitable activities the Society also covered part of the cost of a very successful coach trip to Culzean Castle, paying upfront for the hire of the coach and subsidising the overall cost.
  - Other costs incurred including those for running the website, and for renting hall space for meetings such as this one. The costs of our subscription to the Scottish Gardeners' Forum and their Public Liability Insurance have been delayed because they have only just sent out the invoice, so these will be carried forward to next year.
  - At the end of the year the Society is worth just over £6050, about £250 less than last year but it is still in an extremely secure financial position relative to its turnover.

In August I submitted our accounts for the previous year to OSCR for scrutiny, and have again not heard anything back from them, which is good news.

I would like to end by again thanking Gill Smith for very kindly auditing the books and keeping me straight.

Neil Metcalfe

*Overleaf, accounts for the year...*



# KILLEARN COTTAGERS' HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC046071

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
Income from Whist Drive	£236.00	-
Income from coach trip to Glamis castle	-	£78.40
Income from Plant sale	£982.16	£792.60
Donations received	£183.00	£90.78
	<hr/> £1,401.16	<hr/> £961.78
 ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW		
Income from Membership schedules/door admission	£1,756.36	£1,365.40
Advertising income	£205.00	£370.00
Proceeds from afternoon teas	£464.00	£458.05
	<hr/> £2,425.36	<hr/> £2,193.45
 LESS COSTS OF SHOW		
Judges expenses	£0.00	-
Trophies, rosettes and prize cards	£360.80	£503.35
Prize money	£188.30	£164.10
Printing of Schedules	£1,126.00	£758.00
Lunch expenses	£203.86	£240.36
Other Show expenses	£410.79	£353.91
	<hr/> (£2,289.75)	<hr/> (£2,019.72)
PROFIT ON SHOW	£135.61	£173.73
 INTEREST RECEIVED FROM BANK		
	-	-
 LESS OTHER EXPENSES		
AGM and committee meeting room hire	£90.00	£82.75
Subscription to Scottish Gardeners' Forum	-	£50.00

Public Liability Insurance	-	£130.00
Admin and website costs	£288.02	£69.58
Subsidy of trip to Culzean Castle	£331.40	-
Donations to individuals and groups	£1,065.44	£307.73
	<u>(£1,774.86)</u>	<u>(£640.06)</u>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for year</b>	(£238.09)	£495.45
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b> as at 1st January 2023	£6,291.97	£5,796.52
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b> as at 31st Dec 2023	<u>£6,053.88</u>	<u>£6,291.97</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
Cash in Current Accounts	<u>£6,053.88</u>	<u>£6,291.97</u>

I have examined the books of Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and in my opinion, the attached accounts have been prepared in accordance therewith.