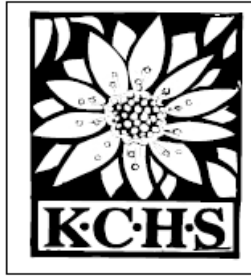


# **Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society (KCHS)**

## **Trustees' Annual Report**

From 1 January to 31 December 2020

**Hon. Secretary Mrs Glenda Asquith**



## **Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society (KCHS)**

Scottish Charity Number: SC046701

Website: <http://www.killearn.org.uk/kchs/>

Facebook: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/killearnhorti/>

### **Charity Trustees**

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. John Phillips     | 12.7.16 – 31.12.20 |
| 2. Susanna Blackshaw | 12.7.16 – 31.12.20 |
| 3. Glenda Asquith    | 12.7.16 – 31.12.20 |
| 4. Grant Farquharson | 12.7.16 – 31.12.20 |
| 5. Tim Bedford       | 12.7.16 – 31.12.20 |
| 6. Neil Metcalfe     | 11.2.17 – 31.12.20 |
| 7. Jennifer Anton    | 6.2.19 – 31.12.20  |
| 8. Heather Wright    | 6.2.19 – 31.12.20  |

## **Objectives and activities**

Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society was formed:

- To promote interest, knowledge and skills in the practice of horticulture and crafts amongst the public, in particular in Killearn and the nearby Strathendrick villages.
- To organise an annual flower show with various categories in horticulture and craft.
- To support the local voluntary and charitable organisations which contribute to the development and wellbeing of the local community.

To this end it organises trips to local and more distant gardens of interest, occasional talks and lectures, an annual plant sale (which also acts as a fundraiser), an annual whist drive (which also raises funds) and – most importantly – the Show, held in the village in late August each year. It also provides support (financial and logistical) to related voluntary organisations in the village and local area.

## **Structure, governance and management**

### **Type of governing document**

The Society is governed by a written constitution that sets out its purpose and structure, and describes how it operates.

### **Trustee recruitment and appointment**

When it became a Charity the Society appointed 5 Trustees, being the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Show Convenor (all positions that are elected at the Annual General Meeting each year). At the 2017 AGM there was a change of Treasurer (Tim Bedford being replaced by Neil Metcalfe), and so Neil Metcalfe was made a Trustee; Tim Bedford was retained due to his experience in setting up the Society's charitable status. Two further Trustees were added at the AGM in February 2019: Heather Wright (the incoming Chair of the Society) and Jennifer Anton (the incoming Vice-Chair).

## **Achievements and performance**

This report covers the period from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2020 (the end of the reporting year for 2020).

The main aim of the Society is to promote interest, knowledge and skills in the practice of horticulture and crafts amongst the public, in particular in the village of Killearn and its neighbouring villages. Under normal circumstances this is achieved primarily by organising an annual Plant Sale (in May) and an annual Show (in late August); an annual coach trip is also usually organised each summer so that supporters can attend a major garden or flower show. These activities are funded through organising an annual Whist Drive (in March), through the proceeds of the Plant Sale, and through selling Show schedules and schedule advertisement space to local businesses. Excess funds are dispersed through donations to other local organisations and charities.

As usual our first event in 2020 was the whist drive, held in early March as a fund-raising event for the Society and a social event for the local community. These days it is attended by mostly elderly inhabitants of the local area. Numbers attending were similar to the average over recent years. We provided tea and cakes and held a raffle, which raised a small amount of funds for the Society. At the time there was little thought that all of our activities would then be completely changed for the rest of the year.

The plant sale and the coach trip had to be cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions. The annual Show in August 2020 was in a very different form to the usual in-person event: we ran it online, with contributors uploading photographs of their home-grown fruit and vegetables, cut flowers, baking, preserves, crafts, art, photography and children's classes (with a reduced number of classes in each section to make the process manageable). No Show schedule was sold (so greatly reducing our income), but conversely costs were much lower than usual, being largely restricted to the costs of mounting the online show on our new greatly-expanded website. While the entries were judged, no money prizes were awarded since it is difficult to adequately judge the quality of an entry from a single photograph – this again helped to reduce our costs.

Thanks to the excellent support that it receives from the villagers the Society ended 2020 as a healthy and viable organisation in a stable financial position.

## **Financial review**

The Society continues to be in a sound financial state. At the start of 2020 the KCHS had £7109 in its bank account as a result of earlier activities (the Society has been in existence for over 150 years). While the Whist drive at the start of the year made a similar small profit to previous years, both the income and expenditure through the rest of the year were lower than in previous years as a

result of the Covid pandemic. The Show is normally the largest cause of both expenditure and income; taking it online resulted in a small cost (due to the costs of running the upgraded website) and meanwhile there was virtually no income from selling schedules or advertising space. As a result it made a small loss of £84. The Society also lost the deposit for the cancelled coach trip (£115), and had outgoings related to PLI insurance, hall hire and minor secretarial expenses. However, the Society was still able to make a small number of donations to organisations in the village (£200). The finances for 2020 showed a slight deficit of £293 – which is small given the otherwise major impact of the pandemic, leaves the Society with a healthy reserve of £6816.

## Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Society aims to break even each year and hold only sufficient reserves to fund its activities and to cover any short-term shortfalls in income generation or unexpected additional expenditure. Given that its gross annual income and expenditure are usually below £3000, the amount of reserves that it holds should therefore be below £10,000. The reserves of £6816 at the end of the reporting period satisfy this policy.

## Details of any deficit

The Society does not have a deficit at the end of the reporting period.

## Donated facilities and services

The Society does not have any donated facilities or services.

## Future plans

The Society aims to continue to operate in its current form, with the main focus being the annual Show in the village in late August, and with associated fundraising activities and other smaller events designed to promote its aims (e.g. the plant sale, trips to gardens etc). The Covid-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on activities in 2021, with the cancellation of the Whist Drive and the switch of the annual Show to a largely online event (but with a small in-person component). Again no revenue was gained from selling schedules or charging admission on the day of the Show, and the in-person event required the hiring of a marquee, so Show costs relative to income was greater than in 'normal' years.

However, the Plant Sale was held as normal, generating a reasonable sum. As a result the financial impact of Covid is likely to remain relatively minor and the Society remains healthily in the black.

## Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

*Neil Metcalfe*

Print name

Neil Metcalfe

Designation

Treasurer T

Date

3 September 2021