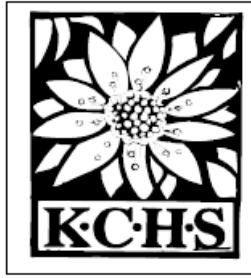


Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society (KCHS)

Trustees' Annual Report

From 1 January to 31 December 2021

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 – 31.12.21 |
| 2. Susanna Blackshaw | 12.7.16 – 31.12.21 |
| 3. Glenda Asquith | 12.7.16 – 31.12.21 |
| 4. Grant Farquharson | 12.7.16 – 31.12.21 |
| 5. Tim Bedford | 12.7.16 – 31.12.21 |
| 6. Neil Metcalfe | 11.2.17 – 31.12.21 |
| 7. Jennifer Anton | 6.2.19 – 12.1.21 |
| 8. Heather Wright | 6.2.19 – 31.12.21 |

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 usually organises trips to local and more distant gardens of interest, occasional talks and lectures, an annual plant sale (which also acts as a fund-raiser), 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). Jennifer Anton then resigned in January 2021 upon stepping down from office.

Achievements and performance

This report covers the period from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2021 (the end of the reporting year for 2021).

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.

Due to covid restrictions we were not able to hold our usual whist drive in March 2021. However, the lifting of restrictions and the outdoor nature of the event meant that we were able to hold a plant sale in May, which was highly successful, raising over £800 (the most on record), possibly due to people being keen to both replenish their gardens and to meet up at a village event (one of the first in over a year).

The uncertainty over covid levels meant that we could not guarantee to be able to hold our usual annual Show in August 2021, since this would involve many people being in close proximity in a confined indoor space. Instead we arranged a 'hybrid' event. This consisted firstly of an online competition, in which contributors submitting photographs to a limited number of classes (as in the previous year's online-only event). It was matched by an in-person event (the 'HOE') in the Kirk and a marquee in the adjacent carpark that featured displays of flowers, produce, art and crafts, complemented by stalls from a good number of local organisations. The major cost was the hiring of the marquee, and there were also other website and administrative costs; the combined events had no income, and so inevitably made a loss, but this was well within the limits planned by the Society and the combined events were greatly appreciated by the public.

Thanks to the excellent support that it receives from the villagers the Society ended 2021 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 2021 the KCHS had £6816 in its bank account as a result of earlier activities (the Society has been in existence for over 150 years). The lost revenue from the cancellation

of the Whist drive at the start of the year was offset by higher than usual profits on the Plant sale. The Annual Show is normally the largest cause of both income and expenditure; there was no Show-related income in 2021 due to the decision to not produce a schedule (which is sold door-to-door and also has advertisements from local businesses) and not charge entry. Meanwhile the hiring of a marquee (considered more covid-safe than having the event indoors) resulted in extra costs. However, this was considered a good use of the Society's reserves since it allowed us to keep active and provided a safe social activity for the village; it was well attended and much appreciated. The Society had outgoings related to website costs, 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 2021 showed an expected deficit of just over £1000 – which is considered justifiable given the exceptional circumstances of the covid pandemic and still leaves the Society with a healthy reserve of £5796.

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 £5796 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 a lingering impact on activities in 2022, with the cancellation of the Whist Drive, but

the Plant sale was held as normal and the annual Show is returning to a more typical in-person format, with entry schedules (containing advertisements) being sold around the village. The finances are thus likely to be more like those in pre-pandemic years, and the Society remains healthily in the black.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

Neil Metcalfe

Designation

Treasurer T

Date

17 August 2022