

Kilmacolm Horticultural Society. Annual General Meeting. 12th November 2025

Our Chairman Dr Ian Morrice welcomed members to the 146th AGM of Kilmacolm Horticultural Society.

Minutes of 2024 AGM – approved and signed.

Apologies for absence:

David Wilson, Andy Aitken, Irene Gillone, Susan Houston/

Deaths. - We are sad to report the passing of loyal members – B Dunlop, A Maclean, A Gilbert, N Barclay and C Mackean.

Chairman's Report:

IAN

It is a pleasure to report that our Society has had another successful year.

Our winter gatherings were well supported and our experiment of switching the January and February meetings to an afternoon slot proved very popular, so I think this practice is now well established.

Our summer programme kicked off as normal with the Coffee Morning and Plant Sale and again this was very well supported. The fact that we are one of the few groups left to hold coffee mornings makes it a particularly popular event.

38 people attended the summer outing to Scone Palace and Branklyn gardens. The weather was kind to us and everyone had a great time. (Mind you, afternoon tea in Nardini's in 2024 after visiting Culzean Castle and gardens was a hard act to follow). Next year we are talking about a possible outing to Benmore Botanic gardens and Inverary castle gardens.

We approached the Flower Show at end of August with fear and trepidation because of the mixture of weather conditions - you will remember the drought of July followed by wet and colder weather in August. Once again, our exhibitors turned up trumps, and we had an excellent Flower Show.

One of our long-standing judges and supporter George Irvine sadly was in poorer health this summer, and could not take part. However, John Currie (Largs Horti Soc) stepped in at short notice to judge the Vegetables section, and we are grateful to him. Andy Aitken who for many years exhibited prize-winning dahlias and onions had given up his allotment last winter, and has now established himself as a judge for local groups. We value his expertise in many fields, and thank him for judging the Cut Flowers section this year. There are a few minor changes and additions to the 2026 schedule, which can be viewed on our website now, and printed copies will be delivered early in the Springtime.

The Garden at the Cross has had a good year with many positive comments from passers-by. As before, I am always looking for any help to keep the weeds in check.

I am grateful for the enthusiasm from the committee, and from the various helpers who step forward when needed. We are always open to volunteers to join the committee, or to be a helper. My thanks to Sheena who has completed a three year stint on committee and is stepping down this year. I would wish to thank Susan, in charge at the village centre, plus Lewis and Willie for their help at all our functions.

And last but not least, my sincere thanks to Jill our secretary, treasurer and general organizer.

Treasurers' Report

Jill reported on a good year for the finances.

70% of members have paid their annual subscription of £8. – Thank you.

The coffee morning/plant sale is our main fundraising event, entrance tickets and plant sales brought a net income of £672. Expenditure is still high, with the annual show costing a net of £516. Hall rent and lectures fees/expenses cost £846, Postage, printing, sundries cost £446, and a small subsidy of £101 was needed for the summer outing. Our year ends with a small Surplus of £32.68.

Funds in the current account, investment account and petty cash amount to £3373.19. Given the poor support that other horticultural societies are facing, the committee feel that our society is doing very well indeed - thank you !!!

All invoices, receipts and summaries are on the desk here for you to peruse later.

Thank you to Gordon McGibbon for auditing the accounts. There were no questions.

Approval and acceptance of the accounts were requested and given unanimously.

Catering Convenor's Report

Irene sends her apologies, absence due to a family funeral. She has asked me to briefly summarise the catering arrangements for the past year.

Refreshments at winter lectures used to offer homebaking, thank you to those who brought in baking. Due to uncertainty in numbers attending, we have decided to switch to Biscuits to accompany tea and coffee.

The coffee morning was again abundant in its offerings of homebaking and delicious treats.

Thanks to all members of the catering team who give their time to set up lectures and coffee morning, and serve the refreshments, you are much appreciated.

Beautiful Plants, Wildlife, in your garden – all year round.

Helen reported on a new project being trialled for the KHS.

Invitation to members to record in photographs the beauty of plants in your garden, *maybe with a favourite household pet*, or indoor plants. Save your photos and send your best example each month to the KHS. Entries will be shown on the website. One from each month's entries will be selected to create a Calendar 2027.

Email: **kilmacolmhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com** Give your name and month taken, and attach photograph – 'actual size' to the email.

We hope to create a beautiful record of members' horticultural triumphs yearly.

Outings Report.

Jill reported on the Summer 2025 coach trip to Branklyn Gardens, and then Scone Palace.

Refreshments in both venues were superb, the weather was warm and dry, everyone happy. Next summer's outing is still in the final planning stages, but we hope to visit Benmore Botanic gardens, Inverary castle gardens, or gardens open to the public under the SGS charity scheme. Returning along the scenery of Loch Lomond. Provisional Date of Wednesday 20th May 2026.

Retiral and Re-election of Office Bearers and Committee

Retiral from committee – our good friend Sheena McKerrell is retiring. Thank you Sheena for giving us your time and effort, ideas and always quiet support to the committee.

Re-elections. There being no other nominations, we propose:

Office Bearers: Chairman – Ian Morrice. Vice-chairman Peter Klovborg.

Secretary /Treasurer – Jill Russell

All have agreed to stand for re-election – Voted unanimously by members.

Committee:

Carina Bull, Helen Cook, Maureen Gallagher, Irene Gillone (catering), Colin and Susan Houston (lectures), Jenny O'Rourke.

All have agreed to stand for re-election - Voted unanimously by members.

Our chairman emphasised the committee's need for helpers, or for members to join the committee - to share the workload in any way possible.

Any other Business:

A social Meet and Greet social time will be included in evening of 18th March 2026 starting at 6.30pm, offering sparkly drinks, nibbles, lively chat, before and after the Spring Lecture with historian Peter Gilchrist and director of Parklea – Sharon Gemmell. This is also the date to bring along your Spring Bulb exhibits for the prestigious award of the Jimmy Whittet trophy.

Next year's Coffee Morning and Plant Sale will be on Saturday 2nd May at 10.00a.m in the Kidston Hall.

Finally, next year's Flower Show will be on Saturday 29th August, here in the Kilmacolm Community Centre. The draft show schedule can be seen on the KHS website www.kilmacolmhorticultural.com

Date of Next Meeting : Wednesday 21st January 2026 – Dan Snowdon warden of Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve RSPB.

Ian closed the meeting with many Thanks offered to all the committee and members.

13.11.2025.