



**Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage
Virtual AGM 18th September 2020**

1. Welcome and Apologies

Chloe welcomed everyone to this first virtual AGM.

The AGM, facilitated by Zoom, was virtual because of the pandemic Covid 19 restrictions on meetings.

Present:

Board members: Chair: Chloe Bennett; Bob Luther, treasurer and acting secretary; Christopher Dingwall, vice chair; Marilyn Brown; Judy Riley; Sarah Barron; Hannah Tweedie; Matt Benians; Sue Hewer; Marion Shawcross (minutes).

Members: Fiona MacKelvie; Vanessa Stephen; Iain Joliffe; Jean Harthill; Carol Jefferson-Davies; Hilary Gunkel; Anne Hardcastle; Hilary Bosher; Nick Bennett; Kirsty Burrell; Diana Hardstaff; Lesley Cumming; Patricia Andrew; Katherine Prentice; Alison Allighan; Colin Ellis; Shiona Mackie; Shone Munro; Graham Shawcross; Barbara Morris; David Simpson; Susan Bennett; Peter Burnam; John West.

Apologies:

None.

2. Election of a Chair for the meeting

John West proposed, and Vanessa Stephen seconded, the appointment of Chloe Bennett as chair for the meeting.

3. Reports and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019

The Trustees Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2019 had been previously circulated to the members.

The main activities were highlighted:

- visit to Scone palace on 18 May, with tour of the pinetum and walled garden led by Brian Cunningham, Head Gardener, and Christopher Dingwall, Vice Chair;
- 2019 AGM was held at the Botanic Cottage, Edinburgh, on 22 June, followed by a talk on Victorian horticulture from Phil Lusby;
- visit to Abbotsford on 27 July with a tour of the gardens and policies, led by Pippa Coles, Heritage Policy manager;

- study day on 14 September to Falkland Palace gardens and policies, with talks by Marietta Crichton Stuart, family archivist, Susan Thores, head gardener on the gardens including Percy Cane's design and Peter Burnam on John Ruskin's influence;
- holding a stand in the Plant Heritage section at Scotland's Garden show;
- Joint SGLH/AHSS talk on 4 November 'The Sublime Experience in the Hermitage wilderness garden' by Shannon Fraser, NT curator for Northern Ireland.

Glorious Gardens: Bob Luther summarized the situation regarding Glorious Gardens. GG I was now complete in both the Clyde and Avon Valley and Falkirk regions. GG II has also been completed. The additional GG1 phase was almost complete. Last year we made application to HES for funding to produce a digital recording package for gardens and designed landscapes, which was not accepted. We sought an explanation, and decided to make another submission addressing their issues. At the same time East Lothian Council wished to re-activate an earlier recording project and promised £23K funding if HES would put up the balance. So, this year we filed a 2nd application linking the digital recording package with East Lothian. The new application, known as GGEL (Glorious Gardens East Lothian) to develop a recording package for use by organisations or individuals across Scotland, to be piloted in East Lothian, was submitted to HES. Sue Hewer spoke of the preliminary work for the project which she is doing. We hope for a decision from HES early in 2021.

Bob Luther highlighted some key points from his financial report. The funds at the close of 2018 were £9,718 and for 2019 they were £7,540. The website development was a big commitment in 2019 at £4,800 but was money very well spent as the new website is easier to manage than the previous one and is proving to be very attractive to users. He added that expenditure is reduced this year because of Covid with the bank balance now being a healthy £7,948. The final payment for GG2 has been made. Income from membership subscriptions is slightly down from 2018, but membership numbers remain relatively constant. Last year the cost for the AGM, at the RBGE, was £190, but this year AGM costs will be zero. The cost of printing is declining as we are now mostly paperless.

Barbara Morris proposed, and Anne Hardcastle seconded, the adoption of the reports. They were adopted unanimously.

4. Election of Trustees

Three trustees, Chloe Bennett, Sarah Barron and Marilyn Brown, were standing for re-election, and Marion Shawcross, who had been coopted in September 2019, was standing for election. There were no other nominations and no objections. Colin Ellis proposed, and Susan Bennett seconded, these elections and they were passed by acclamation. The other trustees are willing to continue.

Bob Luther, acting secretary, reminded members that a secretary is still required, adding that the secretary works closely with the chair and the role is not onerous. The secretary is a member of the Board. Christopher said that various queries coming into the organisation, that could be seen as secretarial issues, are passed to him by Bob, and he is happy to continue to take these on.

5. Any other competent business

Peter Burnam asked if anything could be said about the future programme. He said that Vanessa had given a wonderful talk to members of the Falkland Society on the Dean Cemetery, and he wondered whether there could be a joint meeting and visit to the Dean Cemetery in the next year. Christopher said he had led groups there. Chloe responded that the Board would consider this helpful suggestion. Chloe explained that the 2021 programme will largely consist of the events which were postponed in 2020 because of the Covid pandemic.

There was no other business, and the meeting was formally closed at 11.30.