

Ballater Royal Horticultural Society

Chairman's Report 2019 – 2020

At our AGM on 4th November 2019, we said goodbye to Jane Oliver who has been a committee member for 11 years; we will miss all the help she has given our Society over the years.

Also stepping down was Helene Thom who encouraged the Rainbows and Brownies to enter the “Children’s Challenge” at the Flower Show.

The remaining Office Bearers and Committee members were duly re-elected, and Sabine Muir was pleased to be nominated and accepted to the Committee.

The AGM was followed by an interesting, illustrated presentation by Jamie Urquhart on “Invasive Species, Both Flora & Fauna On The River Dee”.

Our Quiz Night in December, with wine and nibbles was again an enjoyable evening, although not as well attended as usual.

Our first meeting of 2020 on February was a film night, showing one of Britain’s Famous Gardens; this was followed in early March by a talk on “Forest Gardening, “A Powis Allotment”, by Alan Carter. Sadly due to Covid 19, that ended our Society’s scheduled programme

Our meetings in April and May, Plant Sale in June, Coach trip in July, and our Annual Exhibition and Flower Show in August, all had to be cancelled.

On top of all of this we were saddened to learn of the death of Alec Copland, our Chairman from 1999 – 2007 and then President from 2013 – 2016. We have also lost Dr Gordon Smith, a Committee member from 1990 – 2011, who died suddenly in April.

Again due to lockdown, Aberdeenshire Council was unable to supply plants for the village this year; however, with financial donations from Invercauld Estate and Captain Alwyn Farquharson, we were able to purchase plants from the SeedBox and fertiliser from Alistair Cassie so that we could plant up the tubs. This coupled with bedding plants donated by the Hilton Craighendarroch, Malcolm Jarvis and Paul Patrick, meant we could plant up the beds on the village green which is normally done by the Council employees. This was greatly appreciated by both residents and visitors.

Every year the Banksian Medal, presented by the Royal Horticultural Society, is normally awarded to the exhibitor with the most points at our Flower Show. However for this year they suggested it would be a great idea to present the medal to a member of our Society who has made an effort to benefit the village. Our Committee have decided that it should go to Tommy Jackson for the work he put in to preparing, planting and maintaining the flower beds and for his idea to incorporate “NHS” in the planting of one of the beds.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Committee and members for their support in this very difficult time. With regards to the future, it is very difficult to plan anything at the moment but be assured we will be up and running again as soon as it is possible.