



January 2026

NEXT MEMBERS' MEETING

BEECHGROVE GARDEN

Speaker: Calum Clunie

Friday 6th February

Dalgety Bay Community Centre

7pm for 7.30pm start



**My New Year's resolution is to stop
procrastinating...**

But I'm starting that on January 15th.

FUTURE EVENTS

6th March

**The Magical Ingredient Rock Dust
Jennifer Brodie**

16th May

DBHS Annual Plant Sale
including Hanging Basket
demos/advice, Sale of filled hanging
baskets, bedding plants, garden
plants and Tea/coffees.

4th - 5th September

DBHS Annual Show

Set up takes place on the 4th
September 11am until late.

Judging takes place on the 5th from
10am, halls open to public at 12.30pm
and prize giving at 5pm

Craft Fair will be held in the Main
Church Hall on 5th September.

**I told my treadmill my New Year's
resolution...**

Now it's avoiding me.

JANUARY UPDATE

The DBHS AGM took place on Friday the 5th of December, 2025. Our AGMs are usually sedate affairs consisting of the election of committee members followed by a cup of tea and a game of Beetle. This AGM was not sedate and the only chance of a cuppa was to stay behind after the meeting. Being a well-known Tea-Jenny I stayed for the tea.

So, what happened? I know that is a question a lot of you are asking. There have been requests for the Minutes of the AGM and really these are normally made available prior to the next AGM. Given the circumstances Michael Gourlay, our previous Chairman, has produced a report explaining what took place and will go out with this Grapevine

In the meantime, these are my recollections of what happened and what was voted on and carried. First the easy bit, the new committee was elected Keith Brand (Chairman), Lynn Hewitt (Membership Secretary), Pauline Willox (Treasurer) and myself Sharon Greig (continuing as Grapevine Editor).

The more difficult bit was explaining why there was a need to increase membership fees and Allotment fees. It is all being driven by the fact there is little over £1000 in the funds. (The new committee later found out that the total included the Kings seeds meaning until the seeds were distributed and paid for there was less than £150 in our coffers.) This is why the recent survey of the trees at the allotments and the estimate £400+ cost of doing essential work was delayed

until after the New Year when the 2026 fees will have been collected. It also came to light that the allotments are not insured for personal injury. The insurance that we get by being members of gardening associations basically covers the contents of the containers. The cheapest insurance we can get is roughly £500.

Outstanding work at the allotments is the trimming of the fir hedges, repair of the fence and the removal of the old container. From memory the fence will be roughly £600 and the container removal £1000. Gardening is a costly business.

The membership and allotment fees have not increased in 20 years with the result that increasing costs have been taken from the society's reserves. Unless something drastic is done the club will fold in 12-18 months.

The allotments are not the only drain on the finances. The Annual Show makes a loss but due to sponsorship, grants from Fife Council and gardening associations the loss is minimised. The Annual Plant Sale makes a profit but this could be a lot more. The DBHS presence at the Gala could also be an opportunity to make money instead of barely breaking even or incurring a small loss.

The Annual Show was not discussed in detail other than in the financial report. This is a major undertaking by the society and needs be looked at carefully on its own.

Having sat through the details of our financial difficulties there was no opposition (from what I remember) to the

membership fees being increased from £5 to £10. This was proposed and seconded.

The independent analysis that Willie Allan carried out had arrived at an increase of allotment fees to £30. This was based on the limited projected spend figures made available to me prior to the meeting and that was the figure proposed by the committee to the meeting. Subsequently it emerged at the meeting that the extent of possible allotment spend in the coming year would render a £30 fee inadequate.

The proposal from the outgoing Chairman was £30 per annum. A counter proposal was to pay £20 this year and £30 next year. At this point Keith Brand stood up and spoke more about the costs incurred at the allotments and stated he thought £60 was a reasonable amount but then changed it to £52, £1 per week but that he was not going to propose that. Next thing, Gordon Shewn called out that they proposed it. So that left 3 options to be voted on. Luckily Willie Allan was there to explain the voting procedure in these circumstances. None of the committee members, either outgoing or incoming, voted. Basically, the option that received more “for” than “against” votes was the £52 option. It was after the vote that the members of the Allotments Subcommittee resigned.

The reason why the members voted for that option is purely down to the desperate state of the society’s finances. The clear almost brutal explanation really left conscientious members no other option but to vote for a substantial

increase in fees whether that be £30 or £52.

It was agreed that all allotment fees will be ringed fenced for work carried out there. Over time there should be a nest egg built up to cover years when extra work is required on the trees and to have money to put towards improvements the allotment holders themselves want.



Collection of DBHS Fees

Membership and Allotment Fees are due now. We prefer members to pay through the bank (see our bank details below). If you do not use online banking then we will still collect cash payments. All membership fees must be paid by the end of March and all allotment fees must be paid by the end of June. The fees are

Membership	£10 per annum
Allotments	£52 per annum.

Allotment holders may pay in two instalments of £26. The first payment must be made by the end of March and the second payment by the end of June.

Please pay electronically using the following DBHS Bank Details:

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland
 Address: 52/54 East Port, Dunfermline, Fife, KY12 7HB
 Sort Code: 83 29 01
 Account Name: DBHS
 A/C No: 00676049
 Ref: Your first initial(s) and your last name

Please note some banks expect the Account Name to be the full name (Dalgety Bay Horticultural Society).

If you decide to pay membership fees by cash your assigned Distributor for your area will be in touch.

Distributor List

Area	Distributor
1	Lynn Hewitt
2	Lynn Hewitt
3	Lynn Hewitt
4	Ray Fleming
5	Ann Welch
6	Pauline Willox
7	John Small
8	Mike Gourlay
9	Sharon Greig
10	No members in area 10
11	Claire Greig
12	Sharon Greig
13	Pauline Willox
14	No members in area 14
15	Keith Brand
16	Lynn Hewitt
17	Mike Gourlay
18	Pauline Willox
19	Keith Brand
20	Keith Brand

2026 Syllabus

This year the Syllabus will be emailed to members rather than receiving a card. Copies will be printed and made available at our monthly meeting held on the first Friday of the month. If you require a printed copy, please contact your distributor and one will be handed into you.

Non-members may attend their first meeting free of charge thereafter they may join as a member or pay £3 per meeting for a maximum of 3 meetings.



GRAPEVINE CONTACT DETAILS

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Email addresses are being set up for the other members of the committee. I'll email them out once they're available. They will be listed in this section of the Grapevine every month.

