KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2024

Dear Members,

This year's Flower and Produce Show will be held on the Green on Saturday, 24th August. Your printed Schedule should just have been delivered so we hope you will be leafing through the classes and thinking about what you might be able to exhibit! Please display the poster and spread the word about the day - anyone can enter, so do encourage friends and family to have a go. Don't forget that there are classes for children and it would be great to have more entries there.



Our Show Organisers, Alison Greenwood and Mandy Botta, are co-ordinating the outside stalls, marquee, tea tent and all the other elements to make the Show another great community event.

Our usual KHS stalls will be there and the following items will be needed:

Book Stall – any saleable books (not travel guides from the 1980s please…) but no DVDs or CDs, thank you.

Plants – please start potting up anything available in your garden for our plant stall.



Tea Tent – cakes, biscuits etc. gratefully received

Bric-a-Brac – anything goes! (except electrical items)

Tombola – there will be a children's Tombola and a Bottle Tombola for adults. Donations of any sort of bottle (sauce, shampoo, alcohol) would be much appreciated.

All items can be brought to the Green on the Friday evening or early on the Saturday morning. If you cannot do this and need anything collected, please email the Secretary on the following: frgoodwin@hotmail.com

Volunteers - will be needed for the Show, to help with taking in exhibits, manning the various stalls etc. If you have an hour or so to spare on the day, please email frgoodwin@hotmail.com. Thank you!

If you won a cup last year and our Secretary has not yet contacted you about returning it, would you email Frances Goodwin on frgoodwin@hotmail.com





Recent Events

AGM

The AGM was held on 18th March at St Winefride's Church Hall, with a free glass of wine to attendees. The charitable donations were agreed as £750 to Westerly Ware Association towards the purchase of a picnic table, to be placed near the new petanque piste and £1000 to Kew Rotary towards their project to install defibrillators in Kew. Following the AGM the Committee unanimously also agreed to donate £500 to Pensford Field Trust towards much-needed new trees.



Richard Ward organised a most enjoyable plant identification quiz after the formal meeting. A bottle of champagne went to Julia Welchman for the second year running, with an impressive 16 correct answers out of 20. Well done, Julia!

KEW VILLAGE MARKET STALL

The KHS shared a stall with Kew Rotary at the Kew Village Market on Sunday, 5th May. It was a very pleasant morning and six new members were signed up to the Society, with many more interested in our fliers for the Show in August.

THE KHS HOLIDAY IN CHESHIRE 19th – 23rd May

Catherine Durucan writes:

A group of us have just returned from a very interesting tour, based in Chester, which took in stunning gardens, historic houses, the City of Chester and Port Sunlight Garden Village.

On our journey from Kew, we called in at Arley Hall Gardens. We were able to see the Hall and the gardens, which are laid out today much as they were in the 1840s. The blue Himalayan poppies and the acers were looking particularly fine.



The double herbaceous borders at Arley Hall

Once again, we had the services of our excellent guide, Tony Russell, whose specialist knowledge added to our enjoyment of all the gardens, and, in particular, the Lovell Quinta Arboretum. This Arboretum was the lifelong project of Sir Bernard Lovell, founder of the Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope.

The first morning in Chester, a local guide set the scene for us, leading us to Roman remains, the City Walls, the Cathedral, which currently has beautifully coloured irises flowering in its garden, black and white buildings and the River Dee.



In the afternoon, we visited Ness Botanic Gardens on the Wirral. This garden was originally developed by the passionate eighteenth-century plant hunter, Arthur Kilpin Bulley. Work is now being done to develop new areas: Mediterranean banks, water gardens, a wildflower meadow, an orchard with hens. The whole of this extensive garden is a delight.



The group under a flowering Davidia involucrata in Ness Botanical Garden



The following day we visited The Royal Horticultural Society's new garden, RHS Bridgewater. The creation of this garden has featured on the TV. Work is still ongoing on features such as the new Chinese Streamside Garden, but that area is already a blaze of colour from the candelabra primulas beside the stream. My favourite spot was the Bee and Butterfly Garden, which is currently full of alliums and bees. The lakeside terrace outside the restaurant was a perfect place for lunch.

For the following day the Cheshire area had a Met Office amber warning for rain. Luckily, our tour of Port Sunlight was on the coach, with a local guide who brought the history of the garden village, built for the soap workers,

alive with his enthusiasm. We disembarked the coach, rushing through ‘stair rods’ of rain, to see the museum and the art collection that William Hesketh Lever had made available to the public in the memory of his wife.

In the afternoon it was still raining, but we were able to go in the house at Tatton Park. A group of us, led by Tony, braved the rain to see the grounds, the famous Japanese gardens and the Fernery. The Japanese gardens were particularly atmospheric in the wet.

Our visit for the next day had to be quickly changed. Cholmondley Castle Gardens were completely flooded and had had to close. Instead, we visited The Dorothy Clive Garden, a charming garden on a slope, which had an area of garden created from a quarry as well as herbaceous beds and lawn.



The Fernery at Tatton Park



Beautiful Laburnum Walk at the Doris Clive Garden

Throughout the time, and the different weather conditions, Mark, our fantastic regular driver, gave us every confidence and a smooth ride.

Thank you to him, to Tony, to Mary for organising, and to everyone else who helped facilitate our tour.

Thank you to Catherine for this excellent account.

Our holiday in 2025 is to Madeira. Ellen at Travel Editions has extended the deadline for booking to 1st September.
The holiday departs on 4 February: a mid morning flight from Gatwick, returning early evening on 10 February.
The guide is Tony Russell.
Any queries please contact Ellen Walker at Travel Editions, ellen.walker@traveleditions.co.uk

SUMMER PARTY

The weather was rather chilly on 9th June, but we had a good turnout at Priory Park Tennis Club for wine, nibbles, conversation and to browse the plant stall. It was a very pleasant occasion, much enjoyed by all. Thanks go to the committee for supplying the drinks and the homemade food, and to Celia Fisher for organising the plants.





Richard Ward's Gardening Tips for July

I wish it would rain!
It's amazing how quickly the soil dries out and watering is needed for vegetables, annuals, tubs, window boxes, baskets, and plants with fibrous and surface roots. .
Keep hoeing during dry spells if you want to control weeds, picking up those that will otherwise drop their ripening seeds - groundsel, Shepherds Purse, Cow Parsley etc.
Subject to weather leave clipping Yew hedges until late July - one can usually get away with one clipping a year. Do it too early and you'll need a second one. Where you want to prune evergreens do it this month or next so that new growth occurs before winter.
Deadhead roses, down to the first leaf, to encourage a second flush of flowers, unless you want to encourage rose hips. Loosely tie in long growths on climbers to prevent damage- these should be properly tied in after wood has ripened in January.
Below are a few local spots of colour I have seen recently:



Salvia ‘Hot Lips.’ Hard prune in early spring.



Oxeye Daisy. Native wildflower



Osteospermums



Buddleia. Prune new growth in autumn





Autumn Event



CREDIT RHS Lindley Collections

KHS Member's outing
on Tuesday OCTOBER 8
To the RHS LINDLEY LIBRARY
followed by an optional lunch

The Royal Horticultural Society Lindley Library is situated in their Edwardian headquarters in Vincent Square, Westminster. It holds world-renowned collections of early printed books, botanical art and modern books on the history of horticulture and practical gardening. We will be a small group of just 15.

Timetable

10.50 am Meet at the main entrance of the Royal Horticultural Society at 80 Vincent Square, SW1P 2PE. A map will be sent when we acknowledge your booking. Victoria or Pimlico are the nearest Underground stations.

11 – 12.30 'Up Close Tour' of the Library to see Highlights held in the collections.

12.30 We are planning lunch next door at The Vincent Rooms at Westminster Kingsway College. Both the kitchen and Brasserie are staffed by the students on their Hospitality and Culinary Arts diploma course. Each year they train hundreds of chefs who graduate into the finest hotels and restaurants (Jamie Oliver included!). Choose and pay on the day.

Unfortunately they don't take bookings until nearer the time. So this will be confirmed by October 1.

If you would like to join the tour please fill in the form below and return to Jenny Long at Maze Lodge, Forest Road, Kew TW9 3BZ (07523 298 336) together with £3 (or more if you like) as a donation to the RHS. There are a limited number of places and your application will be acknowledged on receipt of the form and donation.

Please note that 'Collections up Close' tours take place in the Lower Reading Room of the RHS Lindley Library. It is not a fully accessible site, meaning that in the event of an emergency visitors to the venue must be able to independently manage the stairs

---

Name Mobile number

Email I enclose £ as a donation to the RHS

I would like to have lunch if possible. Yes/No

Archives

Our project is progressing well and we will eventually be lodging the archive with the Local Studies Library and Archive of Richmond-Upon-Thames. Thank you to those of you who have given us photographs so far. Jenny Long has been doing a grand job of organising the records and is trying to get as many Show Schedules as possible. Please have a look at the following resume of the Society's history a propos Show Schedules and if by any chance you have any of the missing years, and would be willing to let Jenny have them to complete the set, please email her on Jenny.long1@icloud.com:

MISSING SCHEDULES for the Summer Show

Kew Allotments & Gardens Association was formed in 1938.

The first Schedule we have is for the 21st show which was held on September 4 1965. The name was changed to Kew Horticultural Society on the Schedule in 1983, although it existed shortly after WW2.

1951 was the first time the Show took place in a Marquee on the Green. There were 930 exhibits, and the ladies were asked to provide the tea!

· We have a Schedule for every year from 1965 – 1984 apart from 1976.

· Then 1985, 1986,1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992 are missing.

From 1993 until 2017 all are present.

In 2018 and 2019 we had smaller Shows in the Church Hall and have some paperwork for those two years.

In 2020 was Covid lockdown and no Show at all.

We have schedules for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

There was a short period of SPRING SHOWS. The first record we have was at St Lukes, Sandycombe Road in 1952. It was an evening affair with an illustrated lecture on "The importance of Design in the Garden". According to our records there is then a gap until 1995 when we had a Spring Show until 2003 at St Winefrides in Leyborne Park. As far as we know we have not had a Spring Show since then, possibly as the organiser moved away from Kew.

Membership News

Carole Brougham writes:

Welcome to the new KHS members who joined at the Kew Village Market Stall - Maria Carbo, Susan Church, Cris Feely, F.M.C Floor, Cecily Goodwin, Kini Utsugi Harris.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our future events.



Members at the Roman garden in Chester

We are delighted to welcome Zoe Neale to the committee. She follows in the footsteps of her parents, who were invaluable members of the KHS for many years.

There is always room on our friendly committee for more members. If you are interested in joining us, please email Frances Goodwin on frgoodwin@hotmail.com for more information. In the meantime, our grateful thanks go to the current committee members, to our webmaster Roger Hine, to Celia Fisher and Chris Morley-Smith and to everyone who has contributed in any way to the Society this year.

Happy gardening to you all from the Editorial Team – and looking forward to seeing you at the Show!

Website: KewHorticulturalSociety.org

Kew Horticultural Society - Home | Facebook

Kew Horticultural Society (@kewhorticulturalsociety) • Instagram photos and videos