KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2025

A Very Happy New Year to all our members!

We wish you a happy and healthy 2025. It will soon be the Spring bulb season, always a joy to have in our minds at this darker time of the year.

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Membership News from Carole Brougham

Membership fees fell due on 1 January 2025 and thanks go to all of you who have paid so far. If your membership fee is not yet paid by Standing Order, please consider setting this up now, which is very easy to do if you bank online. Our bank account details are on the renewal form at the end of the newsletter. Otherwise, please send me the completed renewal form with your payment.

If you have any queries, I can be contacted on membership@kewhorticulturalsociety.org or 020 8948 7254.

Richmond Council Tree Giveaway

In case you missed this announcement, please see the attached link. There may still be time for you to obtain a free tree!

Richmond Council to give away 1,000 trees! - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames



Silver Birch bark in Ennerdale Road

Forthcoming Events

Quiz Night at St Winefride's, Leyborne Park, Kew

Friday 7th February 2025, 7pm

Our popular Quiz Night will take place on Friday, 7th February.

The questions will not be too hard...or too easy...or too obscure. There will be something for everyone whether a gardener or not. **Attached separately is a booking form** so please book early because the number of tables is strictly limited. Here are the details:

First question at 7.30 pm sharp - doors open at 7 pm
Price: £75 for a table of six or £12.50 a ticket, to include supper

Why not persuade your friends to join you to make up a table of six? The ploughman's supper will be served half way through the Quiz and a choice of wines and soft drinks available with a donation. Join us for a fun evening!

THE AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Kew Horticultural Society to cover 2024 will be held on Thursday 27th March 2025 at 6.30pm, in St Winefride's Church Hall. Free glass of wine on arrival and the AGM will be followed by a Plant Identification competition (a bottle to the winner).
Do come along and support the Society, and if you have any suggestions for the destination of our annual local charitable donations, please email Frances Goodwin on frgoodwin@hotmail.com

Kew Horticultural Society holiday to Malvern
May 6th – May 10th 2025

The holiday is now almost fully booked. If anyone would still be interested in coming, please contact Travel Editions directly on 020 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) concerning room availability.

Summer Garden Visit to RHS Hyde Hall
Thursday, June 26th 2025

It has long been our ambition to arrange a visit to the RHS Garden at Hyde Hall in Essex. Please save the date, 26th June, in your diaries. As we are an Associate Member of the RHS, we have free entry for a group of members to an RHS garden each year, so we shall take advantage of this and thus the fee for the day will be £20, which is a contribution towards the coach cost, the balance will be subsidised by KHS.

Further details and application form will be sent out nearer the time.

Kew Horticultural Society Show 2025

The date for this year's Show is Saturday, 23rd August, so put it in your diaries now! We will soon be thinking about the classes for this year and we would like to ask members for their input. Are there any new classes you would like to see at the Show? Is there a vegetable or flower gaining popularity for growing that we could include? Please do let us know! Any other comments about the Show would be gratefully received. Please email frgoodwin@hotmail.com

KHS Stalwarts

Introducing our new series of short pieces about prominent members of the KHS over the years. We begin with **MICHAEL KIDD,** who was Chairman of the Committee for a splendid 15 years:

Mike moved to Kew fifty-four years ago and first lived in Maze Road. His neighbour was Jimmy Neale, another KHS stalwart, so Mike was encouraged to join the KHS soon after arriving. (Jimmy Neale was quite a character and ran all the electricity for the annual KHS Show by plugging in to a lamppost on the Green…)

After acquiring an allotment at Manor Road over thirty years ago, Mike began putting exhibits into the Show. In those days, there was a Spring Show as well, held in the old church hall in Gloucester Road (now a house). Over the years, Mike has won almost all the cups that are presented, including the Banksian Medal several times.

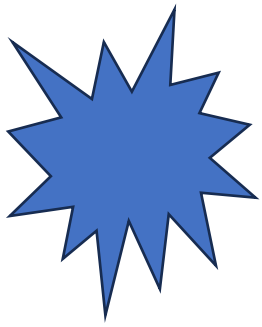
Here is Mike in 2009 being presented with one of his many cups, sporting his specially made 'Vegetable' waistcoat which came out every year for the Show. It even had vegetable buttons!

(Jimmy Neale, mentioned earlier, can be seen pottering in the background. Also, our President, David Collison, is on the left and David Blomfield is presenting the cup.)



Mike became Chairman of the KHS in 1998. David Collison, KHS President, took Mike to the pub and persuaded him to stand, despite the fact that he wasn't even on the committee at that point! He held the post for fifteen years and was a steady and encouraging chairman, only having to employ a little mediation in the event of a dispute every now and then…. He also ran the annual coach outing to a garden most efficiently for many years.

He remains a member of the KHS of course and still has his allotment at Manor Road. In 2024 he put in the excellent number of nine exhibits into the marquee, winning first prize for his cooking apples. We look forward to this year's contribution, Mike!



Please consider joining the committee! It is not an onerous commitment so if you are interested in gardening, do think about our very friendly small group. Our activities, and particularly the Summer Show on the Green, raise money for local charities too, so it is a worthy undertaking! Just email Frances Goodwin on frgoodwin@hotmail.com for more information.

Richard Ward's Gardening Tips

Please check our website for Richard's gardening tips each month. Here are this January's::

Nature waits for no-one. So gardeners really do need to plan ahead. Usually between Christmas and New Year I make up a master list of vegetables and flowers that I expect to grow on my allotment. Deals can be had on seeds in hardware shops and nurseries before they re-stock in early spring. And, looking ahead, if you save seed from your own veg, considerable savings can be made. Think butternut squash, marrows, peppers and tomatoes amongst others. You can easily save seeds from annuals and divide many herbaceous plants this month.

Alongside organising seeds, take this time of year to clean terracotta pots and saucers; bundle up canes; check all chemicals; wash down glass and plastic frames and windows, sort garden string and wire; check, clean and sharpen secateurs and knives; and clean and oil spades and other garden tools.

Check ties on trees, and climbers. Prune climbing rose, blackberries, loganberries, raspberries etc. by cutting out old canes to ground level and tying in next season's fruiting or flowering growth. Add bonemeal as per instructions, and lightly fork over the soil around the base to ease compaction, then mulch to several centimetres depth with compost. Sorted!

Hylotelephium spectabile (Sedum) Trim to a few cms. and lightly rake before new growth starts.









Foxglove 'seedling.'
Transplant whilst dormant



Keep your eyes open for brilliant/unusual flowering plants.
This geranium was found in France in 2024.

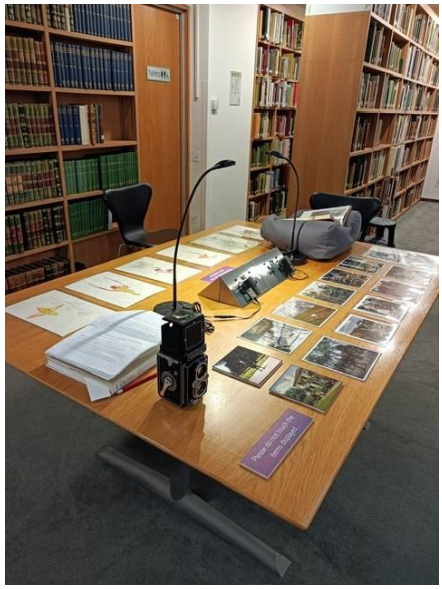


Happy New Year!

Recent Event

Last October 8th, a small group of members went to the RHS Lindley Library in Vincent Square, to see some of the highlights of the collections. We were made very welcome and were treated to four displays of material: very interesting photographs of allotments created by civilian internees in Germany during WW2; some beautiful botanical illustrations from their collection; photographs of well-known women gardeners, and some fascinating pictures of early roof garden designs in magazines of the 19th Century. After the tour, we headed for lunch at the Vincent Rooms next door, which is run by catering students learning their trade at Westminster Kingsway College. The food was excellent but the service variable! But we all much enjoyed the experience and would recommend a trip there.







KHS Archives

Just to remind you all to check through your bookshelves, old drawers etc. to see if you have any past Show Schedules that we are missing from our Archives. Please have a look at the following list 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:

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. 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, 2023 and 2024.

There was a short period of SPRING SHOWS. The first record we have was at St Lukes, Sandycombe Road in 1952. 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.

Finally, one of the benefits of KHS being a member of the Royal Horticultural Society is a discount card which gives 50% off the entry price to any RHS garden for up to two of our members at any one time. If any members would like to use this card, please email Frances Goodwin on frgoodwin@hotmail.com and it will be lent to you for your visit.

Happy Gardening to you all from the Editorial Team.

Website: Kew Horticultural Society

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

PS: The Rotary Club of Kew will be holding a Jazz Evening at Mamma Mia on 5th February. Please see attached flier.



KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: One of the oldest horticultural societies in London. No gardening experience necessary. Lectures, events and outings throughout the year. Newsletters. Annual Summer Flower and Produce Show .(open to all).

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - subscription per year £5 per adult/£10 per family. The membership year is the same as the calendar year.

Your name(s)……..……

Address……

Post code ……

Phone number……

Email ……

Date…….……

Please circle one of the following:

1. I enclose cash/cheque payable to Kew Horticultural Society for £5.00/£10 for my/our subscription.

Please return this form to our Membership Secretary, Carole Brougham, 58 Bushwood Road, Kew, TW9 3BW (020 8948 7254).

2. I have completed a standing order mandate (see below) for my/our bank/building society to pay my/our annual subscription(s) **and I will give/send it to my bank. Please do not send it to the Society.**

3. I bank online and have instructed my bank to pay KHS by Standing Order and am emailing this application form for your records.

If 2 or 3 apply, please email this form to membership@kewhorticulturalsociety.org for our records.

DATA PROTECTION: The KHS is operated in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. By submitting this form you understand that KHS will hold and use your personal data for administrative purposes and to keep you informed of its activities. Our data protection policy under these regulations can be found in full on the KHS website.

Help is always welcome with social events/deliveries of newsletters/organization of the annual Show committee/miscellaneous – please indicate below any which interest you: …….

KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Standing Order Mandate

To ……..Bank

Branch name……

Branch address

Postcode

Name(s) in which your own account is held

1 .....…… 2.....

Account number…….

Branch sort code……

Please pay to Kew Horticultural Society the sum of £5/£10 immediately then on 3 January annually until further notice.
Branch sort code: 20 72 33 (Barclays Bank)
Account number 13756440

Signed……..