NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2025

KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

What beautiful weather we are enjoying. We know we need more rain for our plants but it is impossible not to relish the Spring blooms in the sunshine!







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Recent Events

Quiz Night at St Winefride's, Leyborne Park

Our popular Quiz Night took place on Friday, 7th February. Ten tables of six enjoyed a very entertaining evening with a delicious supper as well. Many thanks to all the committee for their hard work; to the Rotary Club for lending equipment and to Alan Sandall for splendid quizmastering as usual!

















The winning team was ‘No Idea’
Second: ‘The Pine Needles’
Joint Third: ‘The Cabbage Whites’ and ‘The Pensford Poppies’
Fifth: ‘El Presidente’





Thank you to all who came, and many congratulations to the winners (left)

THE AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Kew Horticultural Society to cover 2024 was held on Thursday, 27th March 2025 at 6.30pm, in St Winefride's Church Hall. There was a free glass of wine for attendees on arrival, and the charitable donations were agreed as £1000 to the Millennium Seedbank to sponsor a native cornflower and £300 to the Kew Society towards replacing seating in the little garden at the top of North Road. Thank you to all who attended the meeting.





Centaurea cyanus (Cornflower) – Cornflower is an annual flowering plant in the family Asteraceae, native to Europe. In the past it often grew as a weed in cornfields, hence its name. It was almost wiped out as a result of agricultural intensification, through loss of its habitat and the increased use of herbicides but is now starting to recover.

(See the attached certificate)

COMMITTEE NEWS

Our wonderful Treasurer of many years, Harriet Enthoven, stepped down from her post at the AGM. The KHS Committee owes her a huge debt of gratitude for all her work and support for the Society over the years. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a heartfelt vote of thanks from us all.

We are lucky that our committee member, Zoe Neale, is stepping into Harriet's shoes, with help from Wiena Ward, and we thank both of them.

Jenny Wakefield, our Accounts Examiner, also retired from this post at the AGM. We are likewise extremely grateful for her help over the years and she was presented with a plant, and again, a vote of thanks from us all.

Our accounts will be examined in future by Iain Kellet, who has kindly offered to take on this role.

Finally, a warm welcome to Jo Mansel-Bentley, who has joined the committee and will help Carole Brougham with membership.

Following the AGM, Richard Ward kindly organised a plant identification quiz, won this year by Harriet Enthoven, on the right in our photograph. Congratulations to Harriet!





In 2024, we supported Westerly Ware in buying a picnic table to go beside their new pétanque piste. It has now been installed by the Council and will soon have a notice, acknowledging help from the KHS

Forthcoming Events

Short Lots/KHS Open Day – Sunday, 18th May 2025, 2-5pm

We will be joining Short Lots Allotments for an Open Day, to tie in with the NGS open gardens on Kew Green. Our stall will, we hope, encourage new members to join us. Entrance is free (via Watcombe Cottages) and there will be a plant stall and refreshments. If anyone can help by donating plants and cakes etc, they would be most welcome (bring on the day, (or, if an allotment holder, plants can be left on the trading hut table during the week unless it's very hot) and if anyone can help on our stand for an hour or so, please let Frances Goodwin know on frgoodwin@hotmail.com.
The Open Day is a fundraiser for refurbishing the trading hut on the allotments, where the KHS stores many of its items, and all profits will go towards that.

Do come along, say hello and have a wander round the allotments to see what is growing.

Kew Horticultural Society holiday to Malvern - May 6th to 10th

Although this is full, there is a waiting list in case of any last-minute cancellations. Please contact Travel Editions direct if you would like to go on the waiting list. Their telephone number is 020 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm).

A reminder Everyone going on the trip must be a paid-up member. If anyone has a query on their membership status, they can contact Carole at carolebrougham.kew@gmail.com.

Kew Horticultural Society Visit to Hyde Hall – June 26th

RHS Hyde Hall is an impressive and fascinating garden in Essex. We are attaching herewith the information and application form for our summer outing there on 26th June. This should be a very rewarding day's visit and we do urge you to book your ticket - plus any family and friends you would like to bring - as soon as possible. We are hiring a nice, large coach!





The garden is beautiful with many and varied parts to interest and inspire us all. We will have a guided tour and there is a cafe and shop as well. The KHS is subsidising this trip, so do please join us for a brilliant day out.

Kew Horticultural Society Show 2025
Saturday, 23rd August

The date for this year's Show is **Saturday, 23rd August**, so put it in your diaries now. It is our intention to send round and put up on the website the Schedule of classes in the next few weeks, to give everyone lots of time to grow particular vegetables, take suitable photographs and start on craft projects.

As it is our 80th Show, and the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII, we are planning a section on 'The 1940s Revisited', which will include classes such as wartime cookery and 'make do and mend'. Keep an eye out for these as they should be fun to have a go!

We will, of course, need help on the day from our members and the callout will come later in the Summer. Thank you for any help you will be able to offer. In the meantime, do start putting bric-a-brac and books to one side, for the KHS stalls.

KHS STALWARTS

We continue our new series of short pieces about prominent members of the KHS over the years. Thank you to Zoe Neale, who has written these memories of **JIMMY NEALE**:

'My parents moved to Maze Rd, Kew in 1958. In the 1960's the house was a crowded one with our parents, our grandmother, Granny's sister, the 3 of us children and a dog.

Before he got a Short Lots Allotment, Dad had use of half of Joe Grimond's garden. Joe Grimond lived in one of the houses facing Church Green. The garden had a wild guinea pig living in it and our dog would run across Dad's vegetable beds in hot pursuit.

At some stage Dad received a Short Lots allotment plot. He grew fruit and vegetables but would often have a glut of produce, such as marrows. Yet another recipe would have to be found and we ate it in all forms: stuffed, curried, mashed, chutney, jam and marmalade and even marrow wine. We used to look suspiciously at Mum's cooking and say "what's this? Marrow surprise?"



Jimmy and the marrows!

He enjoyed the annual flower and produce show but every year, like most allotment holders, he would complain that he had "nothing to show". Despite the usual excuses of the weather, pests, blight or voracious birds, every year he would produce wonderful exhibits.

He used to instal KHS Flower Show's pa system and lighting. Every year we would watch in trepidation as he opened an electrical panel in one of the Victorian lampposts on Kew Green and twist the pa system's wires around some wires in the lamppost. We still don't know how he didn't manage to electrocute himself or cause a power cut in South West London.

He was still up ladders in the Flower Show marquee, untangling the light bulbs, into his 80s. His view was always that "the show must go on."

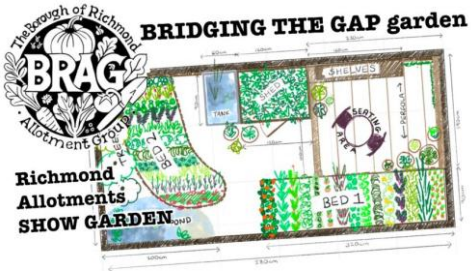
In the 1970's our parents started to help on the Flower Show's tombola stall. In later years we would all help and Dad would embarrass us by trying to drum up business by shouting "ROLL UP, ROLL UP GET YOUR LUCKY TICKETS HERE".

When he was President of the flower show, we used to tease him and call him "El Presidente"- I think he secretly liked that.

(NB Zoe is continuing the Tombola tradition even now!)

'BRIDGING THE GAP' GARDEN

A proposed 'Bridging the Gap' allotment has been accepted by the RHS for **Hampton Court Flower Show,** which is quite exciting**.** Richmond Borough-wide allotment tenants are growing produce and a Crowdfunder has been set up: https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/brag-garden



B.R.A.G: Bridging the Gap - a Creative & Arts crowdfunding project in United Kingdom by Jessie Sheffield

Keep what you raise – this project will receive all pledges made by 26th June 2025 at 12:00pm

www.crowdfunder.co.uk

Click on the link to find out more, and how to support the project, if you wish.

RICHARD WARD'S GARDENING TIPS

Please check our website for Richard's gardening tips each month. His May tips will be up shortly. Kew Horticultural Society

STREET TREES

Given the recent hot weather, if you have a new or young tree planted in the street near your house, we would encourage you to water it. They will appreciate it.



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.

Website: Kew Horticultural Society

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Happy Gardening to you all from the Editorial Team.

