NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2026

KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A Very Happy New Year to all our members!

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Quiz Night at St Winefride's, Leyborne Park, Kew, TW9 3HB

Friday 6th February 2026, 7pm

Our popular Quiz Night will take place on Friday, 6th 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. Thank you to those who have already booked. There is space for a few more tables, so a**ttached separately is a booking form**. If you are thinking about coming along, do send it in **now.** It would be most helpful to have all applications in by the end of January for catering purposes.

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!



Members enjoying last year's quiz night



Membership News from Carole Brougham

Membership fees fell due on 1 January 2026 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 to 58 Bushwood Road, TW9 3BQ.

If you have any queries, I can be contacted on membership@kewhorticulturalsociety.org or 07708343045.

KHS AGM

St Winefride's Church Hall, Monday 30th March 2026, 6.30pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Kew Horticultural Society to cover 2025 will be held at 6.30pm in St Winefride's Church Hall. Free glass of wine on arrival and the AGM will be followed by a short presentation on 'Tips for Exhibiting' to cover both produce and cookery, which should be of great interest to all those entering the Show! 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 as soon as possible.

Last year we gave towards renewing the railway sleepers in the North Road garden by the Kew Society. See the photographs below:







Stall at Kew Village Market

Sunday, 3rd May 2026

The KHS will be sharing a stall with the Rotary Club at the Village Market on Sunday, 3rd May. We shall be having a membership drive, advertising the Show and selling bedding plants. If you are passing, come and say hello!

(Just to let you know that the Rotary Club is holding its annual jazz and dinner evening at Mamma Mia's in East Sheen. Please see all the details on the attached flier.)

Talk and Demonstration all about Bonsai

Coach and Horses Hotel, 6th May 2026, 6.30pm

We are planning a talk by David Kilvington from Twickenham Bonsai Club, Put the date in your diaries and further details will come in due course.

Open Day at Short Lots

Sunday, 17th May 2026, 2-5pm

Another date for your diaries. We will again be joining Short Lots Allotments for an Open Day, to tie in with the NGS open gardens on Kew Green. Further details to come.

Kew Horticultural Society holiday to North Devon

May 19th – May 23rd 2026

There are a couple of double and a few single rooms still available. If anyone would still be interested in coming, please contact Travel Editions directly on 020 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). Numbers will be capped at 30.

Kew Horticultural Society Show 2026

The date for this year's Show is Saturday, 29th 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? Please do let us know! Any other comments about the Show would be gratefully received. Please email frgoodwin@hotmail.com

Richard Ward's Gardening Tips

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

So it's all over! It's a crazy world where an 8ft. Christmas tree might cost you £70+ on 24th. December, but you couldn't give it away on 26th! My tip for easily dealing with spent Christmas trees is to take them out on a dry day, and merely lop off all the side branches against the main trunk, starting at the base and working to the tip, and then cut the trunk into sections too. More easily recycled in a green bin, recycling centre, or ready for Council disposal. If you have plants in the garden that are not fully hardy you can as use Christmas tree branches laid over plants for protection until early spring.
Prune and tie in many deciduous climbers on walls and fences now - Wisteria, figs, fruit trees, vines ande roses. Wood is more brittle when it's cold, and sap can freeze during cold spells, so choose your weather. Check all ties. Re-wire if needed. Also remove dead or old wood from raspberries, loganberries and blackberrfes.

Avoid severe pruning of evergreens in winter - they need their leaves; prune in March - after the worst of the frosts but before the sun gets too strong.
Most plants will benefit from a dressing of bone meal in autumn/winter. Follow the instructions and apply on a dry day, avoiding getting it on the foliage of plants. Hoe or lightly fork it in between plants. Avoid nitrogen-rich Growmore until spring.
Don't forget to water your houseplants in winter.
Research and order veg. and flower seeds this month and next. Shop around.
Below is some seasonal colour seen in late December, all hardy. Happy New Year!



Pieris japonica



Viburnum tinus



Salvia jamensis
Hot Lips



Nandina domestica



Cobaea scandens, summer



seed pods, autumn



seeds, December

Richard had the 'Letter of the Month' in the RHS Garden magazine in November: You may remember his 'Kew Shoes' being sold at various events:



LETTER OF THE MONTH

Sempervivums – a shoe-in

Thanks to Sarah Lloyd for sharing her *Sempervivum* sphere on the September Letters page (p29). As a retired horticulturist with 67 years' experience, I didn't discover sempervivums until 2022. I came across a mixed collection of overgrown sempervivums: 'Hot Summer', 'Emily', 'Urmina', 'Pacific Blue Ice' and 'Killer' to name but a few. My Rotary Club supported the idea of collecting 150 pairs of local children's school shoes into which we planted the sempervivums. We sold them, along with growing instructions, to raise money for local charities at our village markets, fete and horticultural show.

Richard Ward, Surrey

Richard's shoe sempervivums were sold to raise money for charity

Congratulations!

Richard has won this bundle of best-selling RHS books published by Mitchell Beazley, worth more than £60.

Recent Event



Fungi Walk in Kew Gardens

16 people went on this walk and it proved highly successful on a wonderful day with many different fungi to see. Janet Bostock gave us an amazing talk and tour. The KHS donated £50 to the Kew Guides fund in recognition of Janet's time and expertise.



Bird's Nest fungus



Honey fungus



KHS Archives

The archives up to 2010 have now been given to Richmond Library.

Happy Gardening to you all from the Editorial Team.

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP or RENEWAL - subscription £5 per year per adult, £10 per family, children free. The membership year is per calendar year starting in January.

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.

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.

3. I bank online and have instructed my bank to pay KHS by Standing Order. **Please use your name as reference.**

If 1 applies, please return this form and payment to our Membership Secretary, Carole Brougham, 58 Bushwood Road, Kew, TW9 3BW (07708343045).

If 2 or 3 apply, PLEASE email a copy of this form to membership@kewhorticulturalsociety.org for our records so we can send you newsletters and information. Otherwise we do not have your details!

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 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……..