KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2026

Dear Members,

Our annual, and most important event, the Flower and Produce Show, will take place on the Green on Saturday, 29th 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! Entries will be taken on Friday, 28th August in the marquee between 5 and 7.30pm, and on the Saturday morning between 7.30 and 9.30am.







Also enclosed with the Schedule is the poster for the Show which we would be most grateful if you could display. Do 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 an extra class in the Floral Art category this year: A Bowl of Floating Flowerheads and Petals, arranged in a pattern. Here is a photograph of one of the entries in the Floral Art tent at the Malvern Show, which some of the committee saw during last year's KHS Holiday to Malvern, and which inspired our own class:



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 success, but we also need your support as members of the Society in the following ways:

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 – homemade 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 for the adults (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

We look forward to seeing you all on August 29th!

Recent Events

KEW VILLAGE MARKET STALL 3rd May

The KHS shared a stall with Kew Rotary at the Kew Village Market on 3rd May. It was a very pleasant morning and six new members were signed up to the Society, and over 100 fliers for the Show were handed out.





TALK ON GROWING BONSAI 6th May

Kew Rotary invited the KHS to a presentation by David Kilvington of the Twickenham Bonsai Club on growing this most fascinating of plants: miniature trees. The talk took place at the Coach and Horses and there were many bonsai examples to view and discuss. A most enjoyable evening, and Richard Ward gave out young conifer seedlings for us to try the techniques!

SHORT LOTS/KHS OPEN DAY 17th MAY

The KHS joined Short Lots for an open day, to tie in with the NGS open gardens on Kew Green. We enjoyed a good number of visitors on a lovely, sunny day and signed up about ten new and returning members. We also gave out many flyers for the Show, so a successful venture! Visitors were able to look round the allotments, sample some homemade cakes and browse the plant stall, run by Celia Fisher and Chris Morley-Smith. Thank you to Short Lots and all our members who contributed cakes and plants on the day.



THE KHS HOLIDAY TO GARDENS OF NORTH DEVON 19TH – 23RD MAY

We enjoyed a wonderful tour and attached to this email is an excellent and entertaining account of what we did and where we went, written by Michael Lowe. Many thanks to Michael for this write-up.



Some of the group on holiday

This was the last holiday that Mary Fisher had organized in conjunction with our travel agents. We are enormously grateful to her for all her hard work over the years and presented her with some tokens of our thanks at the end of the holiday.

! The following items were left on the coach at the end of our tour. If you recognize your belonging, please email Jenny Long on jenny.long1@icloud.com







STOP PRESS! COACH HOLIDAY PLANS FOR NEXT SUMMER

We have asked Travel Editions to plan a garden visiting holiday for us in the Lake District. We need a minimum of twenty people and all we have to do is book the places. This is a great relief for some members of the Committee! In the past Mary Fisher helped with research into possible gardens, the itinerary and proof reading which has been very time consuming.

Everything is very much at the planning stage at the moment but there are some details available.
The departure date is July 20 for four nights (and five days). An Ambleside hotel will probably be our headquarters and some excellent news is that Tony Russell has been asked to be our guide.
This is a later date than usual because the gardens he is proposing will be at their best at that time.

We hope to receive full details of the trip in time for The Show on August 29th, so look out for the Membership table where we should have more details available.

Membership News

Carole Brougham writes:

We would like to welcome all those who joined as members at the Kew Village Market Stall and the Short Lots Open Day. We hope to see many of you at our events, particularly, of course, the Annual Flower and Produce Show on 29th August this year.

Richard Ward's Gardening Tips for July

As I write this on the hottest day of the year what is my best advice for garden enthusiasts? It's 'do it now.' Nature won't wait for you. Hoe during dry spells so that weeds shrivel quickly and don't need picking up - unless they are already seeding.

If you carry out many horticultural practices out of season, plants will survive but at the expense of next year's flowers or new growth. Shrubs that flower on the previous year's growth will usually benefit from pruning after flowering, in order to prevent seeding, keep contained, or to encourage new growths to flower next year. A good example is Forsythia.- prune in April/May after flowering and all resulting growth produced this year will flower without fail next Feb/March. If you prune all growth in autumn you'll have very few flowers next early spring. Many evergreens don't benefit from pruning, but when this is necessary, preferably do it in March or after flowering, although overweight branches can be removed at any time. Deadhead roses down to the first leaf to encourage a second flush of blooms. Remove old flower stems of Verbascum, hollyhock, foxglove and poppies before they set seed, unless you actually want that seed.

Check for Box Moth caterpillar on Box bushes. Trim vines to one leaf above fruit bunches. If you want to encourage wildflowers let them seed and mow off in late August. Check and destroy bright red lily beetles.

During hot spells it's worth an evening burst of watering to build up a microclimate and encourage re-growth after pruning.

Clean up old bulbs and corms from pots, ready for re-planting in autumn.

If you have 'bug hotels' it's worth stretching some chicken wire or similar over the front, and a few centimetres away, to prevent predators seeking out larvae of solitary bees and others.



Crocus. Remove old corm below. plant 4-5" deep otherwise



Bug hotel, with mesh across.

Forthcoming Events

Autumn 2026: We are hoping to organise a visit to the Kew Herbarium this Autumm. More details later.

Spring 2027: Our annual Quiz Night will take place next Spring and the provisional date is Friday, 5th February. Please pencil in your diaries now!

Trees for Streets

This is a national charity sponsorship scheme, where you can request to sponsor a new tree in your street or favourite park. If you make a request now, and subject to a survey, a tree can be planted this winter. You can find out all the details at treesforstreets.org/Richmond.

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

Website: KewHorticulturalSociety.org

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

