NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2026

KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



KHS SUMMER SHOW – Saturday 29th August, 2026

This summer's drought has been a great challenge for all gardeners and we were therefore very apprehensive by the end of August for our annual Show. However, we had an amazingly impressive array of exhibits that filled the marquee, so we need not have worried! Despite the weather, the gardeners excelled themselves, as did the cooks, artists, crafters and photographers. Fruit seemed to have suffered most from the weather apart from the grapes, which had a bumper year! We were delighted to see more entries from children too. The judges were most complimemtary altogether this year in every category.



Grapes!



A fox got in under the marquee overnight and sampled one of the children's entries…!

There were 164 exhibitors, which is the highest number for five years and nearly 800 people visited the marquee. The rather gloomy weather forecast did mean that a few of the outside stalls withdrew on the day, but although the rain fell in the morning, only one or two brief showers occurred during the afternoon and we enjoyed a reasonable crowd on the Green. The Punch and Judy Show was again a favourite!











Our President, David Collison, ran the auction at the end of the afternoon with his usual aplomb and it was much enjoyed by the crowd.

The individual KHS stalls took the following sums – well done everyone!

Teas: £2,421	Bric-a-brac: £979	Books: £389	Plants: £260
Raffle: £1175	Bar: £1360	Tombola: £228	Auction: £933

Many congratulations to our Show Team: Mandy Botta, Siobhan Burn, Lisa Cleary, Phil Crocker, Janet Deboo, Martin Deboo, Frances Goodwin, Alison Greenwood, Mike Greenwood, Sue Murray and Jo Wenham.







Our grateful thanks go to the Reverend Canon Dr Giles Fraser for presenting the cups and to our fabulous jazz band. Also of course to our President, David Collison, and the whole KHS Committee, to those who judged and clerked, and to the many other KHS members who volunteered and helped on the day and organised the KHS stalls, particularly Celia Fisher, Chris Morley-Smith, Zoe Neale, Charlie and Jane Shelton, Pauline and Malcolm Taylor, Linda and Gerry Bodily, Alex Urquhart, Joe Ward, Beth Greenwood and Mark Clapp.











Congratulations to all the following 2026 Cup Winners:

THE BANKSIAN MEDAL	**Of the Royal Horticultural Society to the exhibitor with the highest number of points in Horticulture**	**Malcolm Taylor**
LADIES' THRESHER CUP	**To the lady exhibitor gaining most points in Horticulture unless she has won the Banksian Medal**	**Frances Goodwin**
MEN'S THRESHER CUP	**To the gentleman exhibitor gaining most points in Horticulture unless he has won the Banksian Medal**	**Stuart Webb**
DIAMOND JUBILEE CUP	**To the exhibitor gaining the next highest points in Horticulture**	**Michael Kidd**
PRESIDENT'S CUP	**To the exhibitor gaining most points in the vegetable classes only**	**Malcolm Taylor**
ASSOCIATION CUP	**To the exhibitor gaining second highest points in the vegetable classes only**	**Michael Kidd**
NEWTON CUP	**For most meritorious vegetable exhibit**	**Jaysshree**
KEENE CUP	**To the winner of Class 28 (a collection of vegetables)**	**Tim Bates**
IAN MACLEAN CUP	**For the best tomato exhibit**	**Sasha Pearce**
DR SPARKES CUP	**For the best fruit exhibit**	**Chris Langley**
TINKER CUP	**For the exhibitor gaining the most points in the dahlia classes**	**Stuart Webb**
KEW SOCIAL CLUB CUP	**To the exhibitor gaining most points in the Flowers and Plants classes 42 - 66**	**Stuart Webb**
NATIONAL DAHLIA SOCIETY CERTIFICATE	**For the best exhibit of dahlias**	**Stuart Webb**
NATIONAL DAHLIA SOCIETY CERTIFICIATE	**For the best dahlia bloom (the winner of Class 55)**	**Deirdre Egerton-Smith**
KEW CHALLENGE CUP	**For the first-time exhibitor gaining the most points in horticultural classes 1 - 66**	**Jane Kimber**
K.E.W. CUP	**For gaining the most points in Cookery**	**Catherine Bates**
THOMAS CUP	**For the best exhibit of jams, chutneys & pickles, classes 65 - 71**	**Stephanie Griffiths**
BURKE CUP	**For gaining the most points in Art and Crafts (excluding Photography)**	**Catherine Bates**
GOLDEN JUBILEE CUP	**For the best Craft exhibit**	**Lucy Crosse**
SCARBOROUGH CUP	**For the best Art exhibit**	**Lulu Lee**
CAROLINE FIELDING CUP	**For best technical photograph in the Show**	**Killian Hanlon**
WELCH CUP	**For gaining the most points in children's classes, age 6 and under**	**Nate Royle**
QUEEN ELIZABETH CUP	**For gaining the most points in children's classes, age 7 - 11**	**Beatrice Smith and Teddy Gomex**
PAT THOMAS CUP	**For children's photography**	**Beatrice Smith**
FLORAL CUP	**For gaining the most points in Floral Art**	**Rose McGrath**
DAWSON CUP	**For the best exhibit in Floral Art**	**Alison Greenwood**
SIR ARTHUR HILL CUP	**For gaining most points in the Show**	**Catherine Bates**

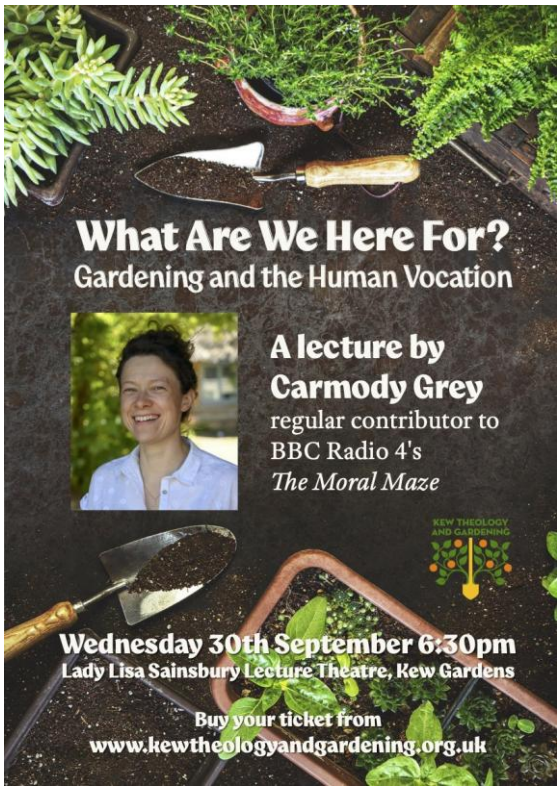






Kew Theology and Gardening

What Are We Here For? Gardening and the Human Vocation. Lecture in Kew Gardens by Carmody Grey, Professor of Integral Ecology at Radboud University in The Netherlands, Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics and a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's *The Moral Maze*. Go to our website for further details and to purchase tickets: https://www.kewtheologyandgardening.org.uk/events-schedule



Future Events

Kew Fungarium Tour – this Autumn we are hoping to organise a special KHS tour of the Fungarium, which is an absolutely fascinating place. If we are successful, the date will be circulated shortly.

Quiz Night – our annual quiz will take place in early February. We have a provisional date of 5th, but this will be confirmed asap. Do begin getting your tables of six together!

KHS Holiday 2027 – Gardens of the Lake District

Travel Editions has organised this especially for the KHS for our 2027 gardens tour. Tony Russell will again be our guide. Please see attached flier with all the details together with the application form, on which to secure your place for 2027.



The famous topiary gardens at Levens Hall, one of the gardens we shall be visiting.















Richard Ward's Gardening Tips for September

Looking back over 5 years 'Tips' I can see signs of climate change. Following this years' drought and hot weather many flowering plants have finished 2-3 weeks earlier than usual. And veggies have ripened much earlier too. With severe watering restrictions we can only hope for more good rains very soon, and plan ahead.

Lawn treament? It's a good time to scarify lawns now, to remove thatch and dried-up grass. Rakings may be composted. A light topdressing of proprietary topsoil after rains in September will help getting rid of depressions. Broadcast suitable seed, this month or next, rake it lightly in, and if possible roll it. Water it in if dry. This helps deter birds. When the grass is a few centimetres high box it off, when dry. An alternative is to re-turf your lawn but this is hard work and expensive.

Plan ahead and order bulbs.

Below are a few varied Tips and ideas……





Amaryllis. Hippeastrum bulb. Re-pot now, with soil up to the neck of the bulb.



Lift onions as they die down. Dry them in trays & keep frost free.



Chlorophytum. Spider plant. Great for hanging baskets.

Allow a few lettuces to go to seed. You can grow 2 crops in one year!



Membership News

C:arole Brougham writes:

We are delighted to welcome three new members who have joined or re-joined recently: Francisney Pereira, Mandy Hunter and John Wood.

Happy gardening to you all from the Editorial Team.

Website: Kew Horticultural Society

Kew Horticultural Society - Home | Facebook

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











