



NEWSLETTER – JULY 2020

Message from the Committee

Whilst these last few months have been very difficult to say the least, we hope that you and your families have all stayed safe and well and you have enjoyed watching your plants and vegetables grow. Spending all our time at home has meant that we have enjoyed our growing spaces more than ever and have had the time to notice tiny changes that would otherwise pass us by. As sadly we have had to cancel all of our scheduled events, this newsletter won't be as full as normal, but it will feature highlights from members' allotments and gardens. Have you been growing anything interesting during lockdown? Please let us know what you have been up to by emailing secretary@kewhorticulturalsociety.org.

One of our committee members is moving away this summer, so we are looking for a willing volunteer to compile the quarterly newsletter. You don't have to do any writing, just put text and pictures together. We are also looking for someone to help with the KHS Facebook page and Instagram account (one or two observational posts every few weeks of local Kew flora and produce). It is a fun thing to do, and if a younger person were interested it would look great on a CV! Jobs can be divided of course. If you are interested please email Frances on secretary@kewhorticulturalsociety.org

We still have some vacancies on the committee, so please step forward if you would like to be a part of the small friendly group of growers!

Photos from KHS Social Media:



Blossom at Kew Riverside



Tulips 'Temple of Beauty' and 'Havran'



A beautiful garden posy

News from the RHS

All four RHS gardens were opened from 1st June, with pre-booked timed tickets for entry, maintaining social-distancing measures. (We are sure you know that Kew has also re-opened for which we hope you have been able to book a slot.)

The RHS has had to cancel completely the **RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival**, which had been postponed until 10-15 September.

Although the **RHS Flower Show Tatton Park** is also cancelled, it does go 'virtual' on the RHS website on 22nd July, with videos, articles and inspiring content for those who love gardens, design, plants and the world of horticulture. To see the show at home, please go to the following link <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/tatton-park-at-home>

Notes from our Members and Committee Members

An allotmenteer's thoughts and ideas from Richard Ward: Did you know that there are 2400 allotments in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames? Each site has one or two reps. who represent the interests of the site tenants, and meet quarterly to discuss matters of interest and act as a vehicle for consultation with the Council. BRAG (The Borough of Richmond Allotment Group) was formally established in 2014. Those of us lucky enough to have a tenancy have surely counted our blessings this year! Much spare time, lovely weather, less atmospheric pollution.



Velux Skylight pond



Richard on his allotment



Hedgehog hole

Over the 14 years cultivating 4 rods at Townmead allotments things have changed, just as they have in our gardens. Like many people with an interest in gardening, my interest in conservation and encouragement of wildlife has increased. But over those few years added challenges have appeared for gardeners and allotment holders, and added challenges for our wildlife. Think traffic, building and development, plastic 'lawns', paving. And magpies, jays, squirrels, and cats that decimate our birds. It would be interesting to hear from KHS members what they are doing for nature. Please email us to let us know what you've been up to.



The newly aquired chickens



A view of the allotment



The eggs!

At Townmead we have introduced 'bug hotels' which encourage the likes of ladybirds, solitary bees and others to hibernate or lay their eggs. We have 5 bird boxes/old watering cans/boots which have variously provided safe nesting for bluetits, robins and, this year, 3 wrens. We have cut a 'hedgehog' hole in the gravel board under our boundary fence; and sunk an old Velux skylight into the ground to make a little pond where honey bees come to drink, using the mud slope that we have formed in one corner beside a few water Iris. We had three chickens there once, but someone stole them. So now we have three more in our garden, as of lockdown. The only snag is we feel duty bound to grow fresh veggies for them on the allotment - but the eggs are fantastic!

There is a video tour of Richard's allotment on our facebook page. To take a look please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/KewHorticulturalSociety/>

A note from Jenny Long: Many years ago whilst on the first KHS summer coach trip which was to Cornwall in 2013, we bought a small plant which has turned into this small tree. It was in full flower towards the end of April. Having lost the label I spent some time this spring trying to discover the name of it. I had a suspicion it was an Australian plant as they often have strong small oval leaves. It turned out to be *Prostanthera rotundifolia* - the Ozzie mint bush found in the SE of the country. When crushed the leaves are fragrant, a little like eucalyptus. We thought it was very unusual at the time but it is quite easily available from nurseries on the internet.



Ozzie mint bush



A note from Liz Moreton: I look after the car park garden and riverside garden at our block of flats on Kew Bridge Road. New this year is blossom on a little tree which was a potted tree left by Anton and Olga when they moved. I planted it in the garden in November 2019. Clematis Montana growing over the arch was bought on sale on our RHS flower holiday in 2016, and the wet winter 2019 has meant masses of flowers. The original poppies grew from seeds collected at Haddon Hall, Derbyshire.



Clematis Montana



Little tree in blossom



Poppies

Events that never happened!

Sadly we were only able to squeeze in one social event before the Covid lockdown was thrust upon us. Having sold all the tickets, a happy February evening was spent at St. Winefride's for the Quiz and Ploughman's Supper. The planned coach trip to Waterperry and Oxford Botanic Gardens in June will have to wait for next year and will be top of the list for 2021. As the AGM had been postponed, we couldn't enjoy Richard Ward's plant identification quiz. Likewise the KHS Stall at Kew Village Market in May couldn't be erected as the whole thing was cancelled. The much anticipated coach trip to South Wales this summer has been postponed and is now planned June 2021, leaving on the 25th, perhaps an unexpected opportunity to book a place on the coach for those who were on the waiting list!

This year's AGM will now be held together with next year's AGM before April 2021 (date tbc).

As you are all aware, the summer show had to be cancelled this year which was a difficult decision, but we are already looking forward to seeing the show back on Kew Green in 2021.

Membership

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your subscription this difficult year, especially those of you who pay by standing order or bank transfer. If you have any queries about membership, contact Carole Brougham, our membership secretary at membership@kewhorticulturalsociety.org. Sadly we have had to say goodbye to long standing members, Annie Forey and Richard Rudd, who died earlier this year. They will be missed.

Gardening News....

Our membership secretary Carole was interviewed recently by Russian TV, who wanted to know how we were using our gardens and allotments during lockdown. Click on the link so see the news clip, but please note - it's in Russian!
<https://www.ntv.ru/video/1854360/>



Charole being interviewed by Russian TV



Chalked plant labels - Jane Perrone/BBC

We enjoyed this BBC News article about Jane Perrone who chalked the name of plants growing in pavement cracks near her Bedford home during lockdown - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-52674679>

Stay safe and well - The Editorial Team

CHARITY PLANT SALE

CHARITY PLANT SALE AT 38 LEYBORNE PARK SATURDAY 18TH JULY, 10am-1pm

Echiums, echeverias, a few dahlias,
a peony or two, herbaceous this and that.
Plants for spaces large and small.

In aid of Kew W.I.'s charities: Refuge (which runs the Chiswick Safe Houses);
Kew Neighbourhood Association; and Learn English at Home.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - subscription £5 per year per adult, children free.

The membership year is the same as the calendar year but members joining at the Show or later in any year, are covered for the following 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.

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, committee membership, and organization of the annual Show – please indicate below any which interest you:

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STANDING ORDER MANDATE



**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.....