



**KEW
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2020

To All Our Members

Those of us fortunate enough to have acquired an allotment over the years, or have a neglected patch of garden, must thank the gods for the opportunity we have had to worry about something other than lock-down or the latest 6 o'clock news bulletin. Allotment-holders are well aware of the great asset they are tending and have been putting in extra effort, with some marvellous results in these troubled times. The quality and quantity of produce grown in this season has been so wonderful that we would have been assured a bumper Horticultural Show in August, had not the virus put paid to all hopes and preparations. Hope springs eternal for 2021.

So Show or no Show, it has been a terrific year for roses and dahlias, my best onion crop ever, a glorious glut of tomatoes, some hefty parsnips, (though the carrots were as ever, a disaster). Why is it I can grow parsnips, whereas carrots - same shape, different colour - just never perform? Answers on a limp lettuce-leaf please. As if you didn't know already, garlic and shallot bulbs and sweet pea seeds could be tucked into the ground or pots right now

On a personal note, many members may be unaware that Mike Kidd, for many years the inspiring Chair of the KHS, is shortly to undergo some major surgery. I know you will want to wish him and Jenny an excellent outcome to his treatment and a speedy recovery. Mike is of course a fine and enthusiastic gardener and allotmenteer - his plot at Manor Road is like a small corner of Shangri-la - and it is my fervent hope and expectation that he will be presenting the cups at a revived KHS Show on Kew Green in August next year; maybe one or two to himself!

May I just say that in these difficult times especially, the KHS is a real asset for the wider Kew community. Quite a few of our members work as volunteers at the Royal Botanic Gardens and the more productive, imaginative and committed we can be, reflecting in our amateur enthusiasm the great Gardens on our doorstep, the better for all.

David Collison
President, KHS



Aubergine ripening



A good year for figs



Pumpkin Harvest

Message from the Committee

First of all, we would like to offer a big thank you to Sue Goddard, who held a book sale in her front garden on Saturday, August 29th, with the proceeds going to KHS funds. Not only did it raise the goodly sum of £82.90 but it also afforded us a chance to get together (socially distancing, of course!)

Sadly, under current restrictions, it does not seem possible to organise any members' events in the very near future. However, we are hoping to find a digital way to hold our annual fun Quiz Night in February – so watch this space!

The AGM will be held next April. If we are still unable to gather together in person, we will look into holding the meeting on Zoom.

We have also booked a stall at the Kew Sunday Market next June, where we plan to encourage new members and to publicise the 2021 Show, which (All Fingers Crossed!) will be on the Green again next Summer.

We are looking for more committee members so please do consider joining us! Just email Frances Goodwin at frgoodwin@hotmail.com

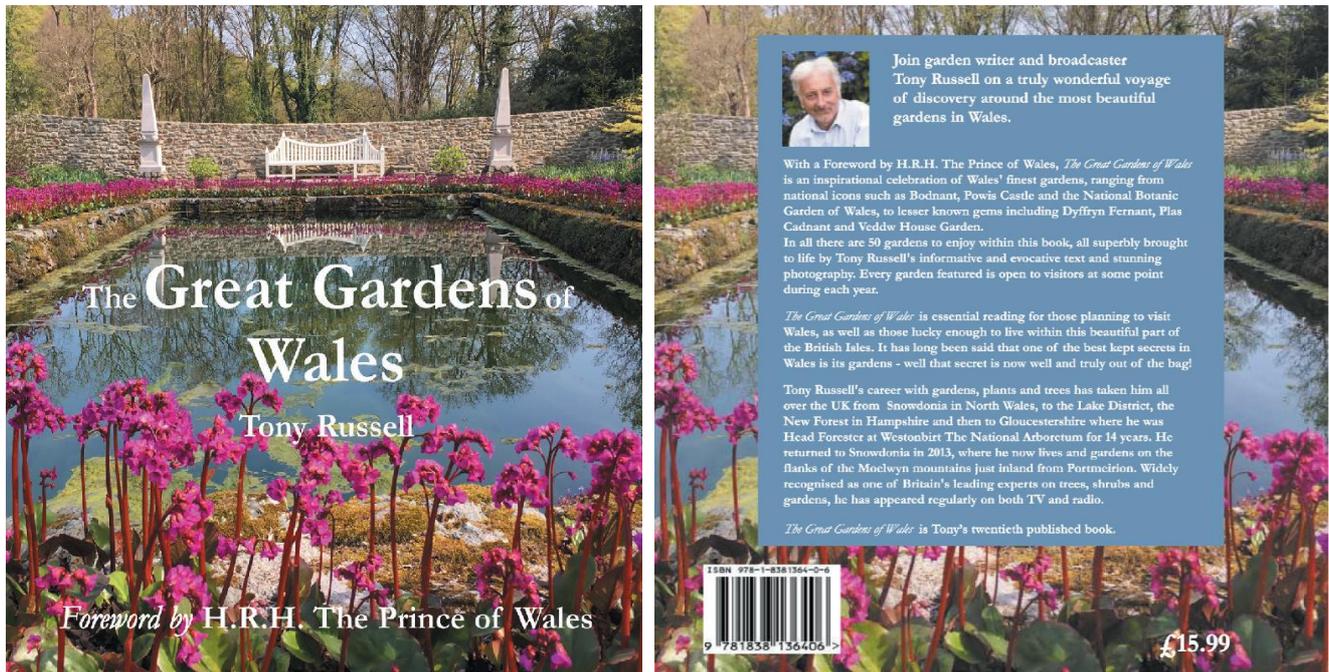
Proposed Trip to Wales June 25th 2021

We have heard from the organisers of our postponed trip to South Wales that they have some additional benefits to their travel insurance policy. This will only be relevant to those who opted for the travel insurance provided by our agent Travel Editions. Here is a copy of their notification:

Insurance Reassurance: You may be worried that your travel insurance won't be sufficient to cover you if you or someone in your household contracts COVID19. We have been working with our insurance provider to reassure our customers in this eventuality with three important new COVID-related clauses being added to make the decision to book a holiday that little bit easier (with no increase in our premiums, we are pleased to report). These are: Cancellation following a diagnosis of COVID-19 arising within 14 days of the booked departure date or being denied boarding due to contracting COVID-19, as certified by a medical practitioner following a medically approved test showing a positive result for COVID-19. Emergency medical and repatriation expenses & curtailment as a result of the insured contracting COVID-19 as certified by a medical practitioner following a medically approved test showing a positive result for COVID-19. Includes additional travel and accommodation expenses for an extended stay and when denied boarding on the return journey. Includes a benefit payment of £30 for each complete 24 hour period up to £300 where ordered into self-isolation by Government authority. Cover also extends to close relative or member of your household having a diagnosis of COVID-19 within 14 days of travelling. The insurance policy is entirely optional of course, and you may already have annual cover.



Also, Tony Russell, who will be our garden guide in Wales next year, has just published a book on the Gardens of Wales with a foreword by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. His book may well be of interest to KHS members:



RRP £15.99

To purchase copies, personally signed by the author, visit www.gardenstovisit.net

Membership Update from Carole Brougham

Firstly, thanks to all of you who have supported the KHS during 2020.

I hate to remind you that subs fall due once again in January, hopefully for a better horticultural year in 2021. I know several of you who may have missed paying their subs in 2020 with all the chaos in our lives but still want to be members. So, if you are in any doubt whether you paid me in 2020, do contact me via

membership@kewhorticultural.org or 020 8948 7254

It is still only £5 per member or £10 per couple, (please see the end of the newsletter for a subscription form including a standard order mandate).

Dahlias growing at Short Lots allotments





Chrysanthemums grown by members

Perk Up With Plants!

Some thoughts to keep us going over Winter from Richard Ward

In late October I read an article in a Sunday newspaper about how many people suffer depression after the clocks go back and the nights draw in. I also read that gardening is the country's second favourite past-time (following watching the television).

So if you need cheering up during the winter months, I urge you to spend some time learning about and maybe buying new plants for your house and/or garden. Find out how to plant them, propagate, stake and tie them, and prune them correctly. Look to repotting rootbound houseplants. Get out into our parks and gardens on fine sunny days after leaf-fall and notice the differing buds and bark on trees and shrubs.

And keep your eyes open for the earliest winter flowers - Celandine, Hamamelis (Witch Hazel), Garrya, Winter Jasmine, Camellias, Viburnums, Heathers, Mahonias, Cornus mas, Daphnes, Chimonanthus, Sarcococca, Coronilla glauca, Christmas roses, and Dwarf Irises, to name but a few. Many of them have gorgeous scent too. Visiting week by week and enjoying the changes in these wonders of nature will brighten up all our lives during these dark days ahead.

Richard has also made a short video about the chickens he keeps in his garden:

'An Amateur's Introduction to Keeping Chickens', which you can see on our Facebook page:

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



News from the RHS

We hope you have enjoyed the dahlias this Autumn – they have been a truly magnificent show and all the photographs of dahlias in this newsletter were snapped in and around Kew. The RHS currently has an online exhibition exploring the history of the dahlia, illustrated with beautiful botanical images from their Lindley Library: rhs.org.uk/digital-collections. Greatly recommended.

And Finally.....

‘To a Gardener’ by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

Friend, in my mountain-side demesne
My plain-beholding, rosy, green
And linnet-haunted garden-ground,
Let still the esculents abound.
Let first the onion flourish there,
Rose among roots, the maiden-fair,
Wine-scented and poetic soul
Of the capacious salad bowl.
Let thyme the mountaineer – to dress
The tinier birds – and wading cress,
The lover of the shallow brook,
From all my plots and borders look.

Nor crisp and ruddy radish, nor
Pease-cods for the child’s pinafore
Be lacking; nor of salad clan
The last and least that ever ran
About great nature’s garden-beds.
Nor thence be missed the speary heads
Of artichoke; nor thence the bean
That gathered innocent and green
Outsavours the belauded pea.

These tend, I prithee; and for me,
Thy most long-suffering master, bring
In April, when the linnets sing
And the days lengthen more and more
At sundown to the garden door.
And I, being provided thus,
Shall with superb asparagus,
A book, a taper, and a cup
Of country wine, divinely sup.’

Happy Gardening to you all from the Editorial Team



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 .(open to all).

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.

**KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Standing Order Mandate**

ToBank

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.....