



Kew Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2009

Dear Members

First, a warm welcome to new members – **Alex Macfadyen, Rosemary Ledlie, Julia Martin, Chris Sumner, Ros Sweeting, Tony Eades, Marillyn Maklouf and Jenny Raworth.**

THE ANNUAL SHOW

Report on the Annual Show

The Annual Show on the Saturday of August Bank Holiday weekend was a bigger event than usual, thanks above all to the organising skills of our new show secretary, Philippa Hurman, and all those who so willingly gave up their time and energy to form part of her team, both on the day and beforehand. There were plenty of stalls, as well as the barbeque and tea tent, stretching right round the green in front of the marquee. (The general increase in trading was due in part to the absence of the other autumn fair that used to take place in previous years).

The central matter of the show, around which all these sideshows spring up, is of course the exhibiting of fruit, vegetables, flowers, preserves, cakes, photography, handicrafts and children's categories. The idea of encouraging more entries by making it free, proved a good one - the marquee was full of interest, and the extra visitor numbers made the display even more worthwhile. Anyone wishing to become involved with helping Philippa Hurman with the Show next August would be most welcome to discuss what tasks would best suit them. Philippa can be contacted on 020 8948 1151 or kew.show@yahoo.co.uk

Winning

The prizes were presented by Caroline and David Blomfield, our local photographer and historian (and founders of Kew Bookshop), while Nigel Taylor, Keeper of the Living Collections at Kew Gardens, outdid us all with the cups he won, as follows: **Nigel Taylor** won the Banksian Medal (most points in horticultural classes) the Mens Thresher Cup, the Presidents Cup, the Newton Cup, the Keene Cup and the Sir Arthur Hill Cup (exhibitor with most points in the Show)

Mike Kidd won the Diamond Jubilee Cup (2nd highest points in horticultural classes)
Jenny Kidd won the Kew Social Cup (most points in flowers and plants section)
Chris Morley-Smith won the Association Cup (2nd highest points in vegetable classes)
Michael Delf won the Ian Maclean Cup (best display of vegetables from organic seed)
Marty Jewett won the National Dahlia certificates
Finnula Fowles won the Ladies Thresher Cup (most points in horticultural classes) and the Tinker Cup (highest points in Dahlia classes)
Jane Shelton won the K.E.W. Cup (most points in cookery classes)
Charlie Shelton won the Caroline Fielding Cup (best photograph)
John Smith won the Thomas Cup (best preserves)
Claire Martin won the Burke Cup (most points in floral art)
Lynda Nesbitt won the Golden Jubilee Cup (best craft exhibit)
Janet Robertson won the Scarborough Cup (best art exhibit)
Carol Duggan won the Dawson Cup (best floral arts)
Marnie Skeates, Owain Bates and **Billy Smith** were winners in the children's classes.

Finances

Jenny Kidd's tea tent in particular increased its takings to £1200, thanks to generous contributions of home-made cakes, and David Collison's auction at the end of the show, as well as being wonderfully entertaining, made almost £900, of which £375 came from the relentless bidding for 3 pots of lemon curd. Other KHS stalls had takings as follows; Books £276; BBQ £793; Bric a brac £853; Pickles £203; Plants £118; Raffles £450; Tombola £209; Swing boats £45. Thanks to the generosity of Priory Management in paying for the band, Jazz a la Carte, the overall surplus on the day, after deductions for the cost of the marquee etc, was over £2000, more than double the previous year, and the distribution to local charities will – as usual – be discussed at the AGM on Thursday 11 March. These figures are of course subject to the payment of any outstanding expenses & audit.

AGM

The Annual General meeting of KHS will be held on 11 March 2010 at St Winefride's Church Hall starting at 7.0pm. There will be refreshments followed by a talk by David Blomfield at 8.0pm on the old market gardens of Kew and Mortlake, entitled '**The Other Kew Gardens**'. Those who have heard the talk some years ago are eager to hear it again, and those of us who missed it are looking forward to it even more.

EVENTS

Thursday 3 December

Our next evening meeting will be a talk by Max Calligola on Alpines. Max is a local expert on alpinists who is a guide at Kew Gardens and leads his own botanical tours, especially to Italy. The talk, which will be illustrated, will be held at St Winefride's Church Hall starting at 7.30pm. There will be refreshments afterwards

KHS Outings

The annual coach outing organised by Mike Kidd, which takes place in June/July each year is in the planning stage for **Borde Hill** in West Sussex, a varied and interesting garden with a nursery and restaurant attached.

We are hoping to offer a second outing in the autumn, organised by Gareth James and going slightly further afield, to **Great Dixter** in East Sussex, which was created by Christopher Lloyd and is now guaranteed by a Trust and still gardened by Fergus Garrett, who helped to create the exciting planting schemes and experiments for which the garden is famous; the trip would also include Merriments Nursery, nearby, which has a garden worth visiting and a restaurant.

The suggestion for the London Outing is the garden of the Royal College of Physicians, which has been highly recommended and which we are investigating. We are also hoping we may be able to arrange another behind-the-scenes visit in Kew Gardens after the very successful visit last summer to the tree nursery.

Website

The website proved to be of great quality and was used extensively over the summer. If you haven't visited it already do go to www.kewhorticulturalsociety.org and have a look. Thank you Roger and Philippa for all the hours you put in to make the website one to be proud of.

AOB

Further items of interest to members:

- Rev'd Nigel Worn and Richard Pownall from St Anne's Church gave a short presentation to the recent Kew Forum on their ideas for a Kew Festival in June 2010 with plans for musical events, art exhibitions and possibly a fair on Kew Green.
- The RB Mind Ecotherapy project had their gardening tools stolen recently. If anyone has any suitable redundant garden tools that they would like to donate to this worthwhile cause, contact Carole Brougham on 020 8948 7254.
- Her Majesty's Prison, Latchmere House, in Ham which is a resettlement prison getting the lowest security category of prisoner back into work and society, is looking for one or two keen gardeners to volunteer to help with the prison's newly created veggie garden in the prison grounds. Contact Ann Sandall on 020 8948 2806.
- On 8 January at 3.30pm the annual wassail is taking place in Pensford field. Celia and Bob Fisher will be doing their special ceremony as 'ritual leaders' for the last time, so do go along with hats and noisy instruments to get rid of bad spirits and encourage the orchard to flourish. Contact Dee Hutchings on 020 8878 44684

And finally this newsletter will be sent to all members regardless of whether their subs are up to date, but it is the last one for those who have not paid their subs for 2009. If you do need to catch up, the membership secretary is Jenny Wakefield Tel 8940 5141, and this is a reminder that subs for 2010— still a modest £5 – will be due in January.

Carole Brougham, Editor KHS Newsletter