

	Kew
	Horticultural
	Society

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2012

New members

A warm welcome to our new members, who joined KHS since July this year: Sheila Casstles, Mr and Mrs Forster (sorry but we don't have your given names), Cathy Jago, Jeff Rogan, Lynne Shelley and Philip Smith.

The summer of 2012 was of course memorable for other reasons besides the KHS Annual Show, but the deluge of rain that wiped us out midway through the afternoon may make 25 August 2012 the show we particularly remember. Indeed the nationwide news reported that Kew received the heaviest downpour in the shortest recorded time, and Francis Brown managed to take some photos to prove it. Trading ceased abruptly meaning that KHS made a loss of approximately £1000 (though it could have been worse) and miserable weather earlier in the year meant that the number of exhibits was also reduced. But we soldiered on in the best possible spirit, especially Harriet Enthoven, in her first year as Show Secretary, managing to retain an air of calm good humour. David Collison evacuated the prize giving from its normal open-air position to the scrum inside the marquee, and then proceeded to hold the usual lively auction of produce; and Emmeline Johnston actually re-opened the rather soggy tea tent when the power came back on.

Now read on for the details

Prizes

The prizewinners were as follows and we congratulate them for keeping up our standards. The judges were impressed by the quality of the exhibits and told us that all shows had suffered from the bad growing conditions this year – ours remains one of the best small shows that they see. In the Fruit and Vegetable classes:-

The Banksian medal was won by **Mike Kidd**.

Emmeline Johnston won the Ladies Thresher Cup and the Ian McClean cup

Mike Delf won the Mens Thresher cup, Presidents cup, Newton cup, Dr Sparkes cup and the Hill Cup for most points in show

David Collison won the Diamond Jubilee cup, Association cup and Keene cup

Finnuala Fowles won the Tinker cup and best exhibit certificate (for dahlias)

Sevket Durucan won the best bloom certificate

Jenny Kidd won the Kew Social cup for flowers and plants

Tony Hall won the Thomas cup (for jams etc)

In the craft categories **Nesbit and Crockford** won the Golden Jubilee cup (craft); **Jo Osborne** won the Scarborough cup (art); **Owaine Bates** won the Caroline Fielding cup (photography); **Fiona Laing** won the Dawson cup and Floral cup (floral art).

Altogether there were 159 exhibitors with a total of 633 entries, slightly down on recent years and the peaks reached in 2009-11 – so for every reason let us hope next year is a bumper year!

The Stalls

Our hearts go out to the commercial stall holders who made the gravest losses due to the weather. As far as the KHS stalls were concerned, the little ones, plants and pickles astonishingly did better than ever. The BBQ managed to make a profit on its expenses, though this was reduced not only by the rain halting all desire for sausages but also the sale of drinks was well down because it was too cool for people to be thirsty. The poor tombola was drowned out; and the Tea Tent, Books, Bric-a-brac and Raffle all had their takings reduced to about half the previous year. The full accounts will be available at the AGM in March.

Meanwhile Emmeline Johnston has produced another tea-tent poem which sums it all up for us:

A few words from the Tea Tent

On what was a day that produced Biblical rain
the efforts in the tea tent were not all in vain...
As well as the heavens the tea pots kept pouring
and with a selection of cakes no moment was boring.
Yes we had water around us and lots of drizzle cake
but who would have thought that nearly £600 we did take.
So thank you to all those who baked and served on the day
as well of course to those who came along and did pay
Next year let us hope it will be sunshine galore
but I wonder which year we will remember the more?

And finally, all stallholders have thanked their helpers, but they now wish to extend a public acknowledgement to all those who helped them provide the goods and run the stalls. There are many of you and every one essential. Thanks also to our generous sponsors - Priory Management and Antony Roberts. We did, after all, avert disaster and the Show goes on.

News from Kew Gardens

Mike Kidd (as KHS chairman) recently received invitations from the Royal Botanic Gardens from the new Director, Richard Deverell. Ross Randall represented him at a presentation introducing the Temperate House Restoration Project. Ross has known the Gardens longer than many of us, so had plenty of ideas to contribute. A further invitation was to the official re-naming ceremony of the Main Gate to "Elizabeth Gate", attended by Princess Alexandra. Jenny Wakefield, also invited, reported that

over 40 people representing many local organisations and RBG benefactors were there too to see Princess Alexandra wielding a shiny new spade for a tree planting and unveiling a stone plaque. We are delighted that the KHS and other local organisations are being invited to become involved with Kew Gardens in this way.

Forthcoming Event

November talk

The next KHS talk will be on Tuesday 27 November at 8.00 at St Winefred's Hall, when our own Celia Fisher will introduce her latest book, cryptically entitled *Flower* (not her choice), and featuring artists paintings of flowers from Durer till the present day (these *were* her choice, and represent a wide selection including Dutch and Impressionist masters, Japanese prints and our own Marianne North). There will be an entrance charge of £3 to cover the cost of hiring the hall.

There may also be books for sale.

Outings 2013

Private gardens of Cornwall

Following an enthusiastic display of hands at the last AGM, Gareth James is arranging a 5 day trip to Cornwall, probably in mid-May. The visit will be organised by Brightwater Holidays, who excel at specialist garden holidays, and at present the plan is to concentrate on private gardens such as Trebar, Lamorran, Boconnoc, Cutlinwith and Pencarrow to name but a few. This is on the assumption that many who are interested will already have visited Heligan and the Eden Project. However the trip will be tailor-made for KHS with the option to include Heligan if most of you wish to. The cost would be approx £475, to include travel and 4 nights dinner, bed and breakfast in a recommended hotel, probably in Lostwithiel, and most if not all entry fees. Attached to this newsletter is a form for you to fill in as soon as possible if you are interested. Be sure to fill in your email, and the options box for your preferred itinerary. Needless to say the visit would only be viable if enough of you respond – on the other hand it may be rapidly oversubscribed.

Following this new departure, KHS also proposes to offer day outings as usual.

In June/July Mike Kidd suggests Hinton Ampner in Hampshire, a National Trust property overlooking a stunning view, with unusually fine and varied gardens – including formal gardens, terraces of flower beds, a walled kitchen garden and woodland area. The house and interior represent a fine example of Georgian style (though renovated after a fire).

In September Gareth James proposes Beth Chatto's Garden in Essex, famous for the contrast of its dry gravel garden and the water garden. This is an unusual and beautiful garden that everyone should visit at least once, but it is a difficult drive from Kew across or around London, so you are offered an ideal opportunity to let the coach take the strain.

Various speakers are being approached for next year's talks including William Rallison to tell us about the Restored Gardens at Chiswick House, and a speaker on the Lost Gardens of Heligan. The details are to be confirmed - so keep an eye on the KHS website and the next newsletter.

The next KHS AGM will be week of 4 March 2013, exact date to be confirmed by the administrator of St Winefrides.

And finally

Membership matters - notes from Jenny Wakefield, membership secretary

Those members who were at our last Annual General meeting in March, may remember that the matter of the amount of our annual subscription was raised. For the last twenty-five years or more it has been only £5 a year per household for adults, in effect the same for a single person living alone as for a couple, with the talks and all overhead expenses each year being greatly subsidised by the profits from the annual Show. As a result, our reserves have gradually gone down but these need to be kept at a comfortable level in case a Show is a complete disaster (At least this year, the thunderstorm did allow *some* trading before and after it flooded the Green!)

After considerable discussion at the AGM, it was decided by a vote that for 2013 the subscription will be £5 per person and £10 for a couple, as seems fairer to our many single members. Some of you have already paid for 2013 and a few even for 2014, thank you, I won't nag for the extra £5 if you are a couple but won't promise not to remind you in due course! Then what the annual subscription for 2014 should be, will be considered at the next AGM, in March.

Since the marquee for the Show has to be booked and half the hire fee paid in February each year (our largest expense by far) our cash flow is helped if subscriptions are paid as early in the calendar year as possible so do please put a note in your diaries.

SUBSCRIPTIONS — Annual membership for 2013 is £5.00 per adult, £10 per couple per calendar year (children are members for free).

Either A: If you would like to pay by standing order, please complete the form below and take it to your own bank or building society. (Our bank account is a Community Account which does not accept direct debits).

KHS Account address	Barclays Bank, 8 George Street, Richmond TW9 1JU,
Bank branch sortcode	20 72 17
Payee:	Kew Horticultural Society, account number 13756440
Payment amount	£5.00
Date due	first payment immediately (unless you've already paid for this year) then January 5 th annually.

Or B: If you prefer to pay by cheque or cash) please complete and return the slip below with the payment, to our membership secretary **Jenny Wakefield, 77 Gloucester Road, Kew TW9 3BT** (Tel. 8940 5141, email [jenniferwakefield @ tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jenniferwakefield@tiscali.co.uk))

If you would like a membership card, for your own record or to show at Chiswick allotments or Manor Road allotments to buy garden supplies at a discount, please enclose a stamped addressed envelop. Otherwise, to save KHS overheads, Jenny will acknowledge by email or if you don't have email, she will take the clearance of the cheque as being the legal receipt or send a membership card if you have sent cash and a sae.

I enclose _____ in payment for my 2013 membership plus any arrears I may owe

Name _____ Tel. _____

Address _____

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<p><u>Private Gardens of Cornwall</u> <u>Proposed date - May 2013</u></p>	
Name (please print)	
Phone Number	
E-Mail Address:	
I am very interested	Yes/No
I would like Heligan garden included	Yes/No/Don't mind either way
No of tickets:	