



Kew Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2013

From the Editor

31st October – Hallowe'en. Sincere, if soggy, greetings to you all and thanks to everyone for supporting the Society throughout an "interesting" year (as in the well-known Chinese curse 'May you live in Interesting Times'). Gardening-wise it's been extraordinary, with vegetables and flowers sulking in the cold and the rain until mid-summer and then suddenly bursting into growth and fruit and blossom – and all at the same time, so that I for one didn't quite know which way to turn, (though for reasons I cannot fathom, my sweet peas were the best ever – perhaps it was down to the extra-moist Spring?)

Despite the terrific work and preparation of our Show Secretary Harriet Enthoven and her team and some wonderful displays in the marquee, the Summer Show was once again the victim of the unpredictable elements (see below). Nevertheless the visits etc., laid on by the Events sub-committee were well attended and much enjoyed – so 'thank you' to the committee and to all of you who took advantage of their hard work.

Membership

Since the last newsletter, five new members have joined KHS, and here's a warm welcome to them all. They are David and Phyllis Bell, Mark and Lotte Campanale, and Jennie Johnson.

As many of you already know, because of other commitments, Jenny Wakefield intends to continue as our membership secretary only until our next Annual General Meeting in March 2014. She is happy to explain to any member who is interested in knowing what the role entails, how she has computerised the members' details, using the Microsoft Excel programme and exactly how her predecessor recorded them on a card index which she still has.

If you would like to consider taking on this role please send Jenny an email to jenniferwakefield@tiscali.co.uk or phone her on 8940 5141.

And thank you Jenny for your contributions to the KHS committee and for setting up our new membership recording system.

A Request from our Chairman

Mike Kidd asks any (fairly) numerate KHS member to contact him if they would be prepared to give our Hon. Treasurer, Ross Randall the occasional helping hand – not a big commitment by any means but something that would be much appreciated. Please contact Mike on **8940 1184**

The Summer Show

While not exactly a total washout, the 2013 Summer Show was the victim of dreadful weather for the second year running, obliging us to draw on our reserves to pay the bills. Once again KHS stall holders and the prize-giving had to take refuge in the marquee. In 2011 the Show made a profit of almost £1000, allowing us to make our usual donations to local charities. In 2012, owing to the downpour and gale-force winds we showed a loss of £1000. This year, despite a truly marvellous display of flowers, fruit and vegetables in the marquee and a successful auction which included an original watercolour of Short Lots generously donated by the artist, Colleen Farr, which fetched £500, we lost a further £900.

2014 will mark the **70th Summer Show** and the Show Committee are determined to make it a memorable event. We can't legislate for the weather, but as an experiment it has been decided to break with tradition and avoid the August Bank Holiday weekend, when so many families are away. So next year the Show will be held on **Saturday 30th August**, in the hope that we will attract many more visitors, make it a great Anniversary Show and put ourselves back in the black! We'll need all the support you can give us.

Heritage seeds

Message from David Collison. Thanks for the best-ever display of produce grown from Garden Organic's Heritage seeds at this year's Show. There were seven entries and the winner of the MacLean cup was Mike Kidd. Will any KHS members who have saved seed from the Heritage vegetables they grew this year please get in touch with David on 8940 9062.

Events

In 2013

The KHS **Autumn talk** will be on **Tuesday 19 November** at St. Winefride's Church Hall at 8pm. The subject will be the work of the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), based in Kew, which exists to ensure the world-wide conservation of threatened plants. Asima and Kirsty from the BGCI, will be talking about the work of the organisation and projects they are involved with.

Please come and support this event. There will be a small charge of £3 to cover the cost of the hall and speakers.

In 2014

Friday February 7th

Gardening Quiz and Supper

Venue: St Winefrides Church Hall, Leyborne Park, Kew

Time: 7 pm for a welcome glass of wine. We aim to finish by 9.45 pm

Price: £10 a head includes a Ploughman's Supper (or £12 on the night).

Organiser Jenny Long writes:-

This is the first time we have held a quiz, and as we have so many knowledgeable gardeners in our midst we hope it will be a popular evening. The Quiz Master, Gareth our Events Chairman, will be setting the questions and it will be a very informal social evening. All are welcome, whether coming alone or with a ready made team of six. Why not ask your friends who are not yet members of Kew Horticultural Society? Wine will be available (we ask for a donation) to accompany the cold supper.

Please apply on the attached form (see below) and send your cheque to

Jenny Long, Maze Lodge, Forest Road, Kew, TW9 3BZ

Queries to Jenny at jenny@longstones.com or 8940 3636

This will be acknowledged by e-mail so don't forget to give us your e-mail address. Actual tickets will not be issued, just the e-mail receipt which you can bring on the night. However we will be keeping a list of all those expected.

If you don't use e-mail please add your telephone number and enclose a s.a.e.

Keep the date free or better still apply for tickets now!

Monday March 3rd.

The Annual General Meeting of the KHS

May 1st - KHS trip to NORMANDY.

Organiser Gareth James writes:-

This will take place on the 1st of May for 4 nights.

I am still negotiating hotels and gardens etc but the cost will be approx £599 per person (shared twin per person) with a single supplement of £160 extra per person.

This cost includes the coach and 4 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast. Dinners will be taken in different restaurants in Rouen.

I will be able to confirm the final details shortly but do look at the attached proposed itinerary below.

Please register your interest with Gareth on 0208 948 1153 or 079668 48642.

KHS Day Trips

There will be, as usual, two day trips - one in the Spring and another in the Autumn.

Happy and successful gardening to all, from David Collison, Editor KHS Newsletter
davidcollison@tiscali.co.uk .

www.kewhorticulturalsociety.org

**To: Jenny Long, Maze Lodge, Forest Road, Kew TW9 3BZ, jenny@longstones.com **		
QUIZ AND SUPPER Friday 7 February 2014 St Winefride's Church Hall, Leyborne Park, Kew £10 in advance, £12 on the door		
Name (please print)		Phone number:
E-Mail Address:		
No of tickets:	Amount:	Cheque number:
Cut off: 31 January 2014		
Please enclose a <u>stamped addressed envelope</u> if you would like written confirmation of your booking and to receive further information about this event.		
Please make cheques payable to <u>Kew Horticultural Society</u>		

Rouen and the Gardens of Normandy

1 – 5 May 2014

from £599.00

Proposed Itinerary

Thursday 1 May 2014

We depart from your local area early this morning and travel by coach to Dover to catch a P&O Ferries sailing to Calais. Lunch is available on board the ferry (not included). On arrival in France we continue to our hotel, the **Hôtel du Vieux Marché**, conveniently located in the centre of Rouen. Dinner is served in a nearby local restaurant this evening.

Friday 2 May 2014

After breakfast this morning we travel north to the beautiful gardens at **Le Bois des Moutiers** on the northern coast, near Dieppe. The garden, in part influenced by the English designer Gertrude Jekyll, is full of charm. Near the house a white garden, held in check by disciplined box hedges, is full of white valerian, Iceberg roses, white irises and other ghostly plants. One can amble through the glades whose themes, colours and scents vary enormously in one of the most beautiful landscapes of the region.

After a leisurely lunch in a local restaurant in nearby Dieppe (not included), we visit the **Château de Miromesnil**, which represents four centuries of harmonious architectural styles including a rare example of Louis XIII monumental style. Of particular interest will be the kitchen garden which was restored forty years ago by the Comtesse de Vogüé, grand-mother of the present owners. Separated by alleys made of grass, the squares are ordered with vegetables and flowers that contrast with the profusion of annual flowers on the sides. The surrounding park is dominated by a cedar of Lebanon, several centuries old, and there are also fruit trees, magnolias and a huge collection of clematis.

We return to Rouen where dinner is served in a nearby local restaurant this evening.

Saturday 3 May 2014

After breakfast this morning, we visit a rare example of pure Louis XIII architectural style, **Château de Bosmelet**, which was built in 1632 and still stands at the apex of 300 year-old lime tree avenues planted out to classical French designs. Of particular interest will be the rainbow potager garden with some 900 varieties of vegetables and flowers in four chromatic patterns on either side of a central boxwood hedge.

Following our visit we will have a leisurely lunch in a local restaurant in the nearby seaside town of Varengeville-sur-Mer (not included). In the afternoon we will visit the **Jardins Agapanthe**. There are two gardens and a nursery here, with many interesting and unusual features, including a scented walk, a sunken garden with lavender, a Mediterranean garden with ponds, a pergola, terraces and a fountain.

Dinner is served in a nearby local restaurant this evening.

Sunday 4 May 2014

This morning, following breakfast, we depart for Giverny and the world famous house and gardens of **Claude Monet**. Our early start today will ensure an early arrival at Giverny - a time when the gardens are at their most tranquil. Both the house and gardens have been lovingly and accurately restored - one would believe that the family have just gone out to walk in the garden. You will have plenty of time to explore this marvellous garden at your leisure.

After an opportunity for lunch (not included) we will visit the **Musée des Impressionnismes** in Giverny, which as well as charting the story of Impressionist painting has its own attractive little garden. Following our visit we will enjoy free time in Giverny along with an opportunity to visit the little church where Monet is buried.

Later we return to Rouen, where dinner is served in a local restaurant this evening.

Monday 5 May 2014

Today, following breakfast, we check out of our hotel and begin our homeward journey, but before we leave Normandy we have time for one more visit, the **Jardin de Plume**. Since 1997, Sylvie and Patrick Quibel have been creating this natural yet structured contemporary garden in a typical Normandy orchard. Making generous use of grasses and perennials, this four acre garden includes seasonal plantings, a central square mirror pool, and a kitchen garden.

Following our visit we return to Calais for our crossing with P&O Ferries to Dover. Refreshments are available on board (not included). On arrival in Dover we return to our original departure point, where arrival is due in the evening.

Included in the price

- Four nights' bed and breakfast at the 3-star Hôtel du Vieux Marché, Rouen. All rooms have private facilities.
- Four dinners in local restaurants.
- Return ferry crossings Dover-Calais
- Comfortable coaching throughout.
- Admissions to the gardens of Le Bois de Moutiers, Château de Miromesnil, Château de Bosmelet, Jardins Agapanthe, Fondation Claude Monet and the Jardin de Plume; the Musée des Impressionnismes
- Services of a Brightwater Holidays Tour Manager

Not included (per person)

- Single room supplement £160.00
- Insurance £33.00 (under 65); £66.00 (65-74); £99.00 (75-90)