



# Kew Horticultural Society

## NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2015

### From the Editor

My apologies if this newsletter is a little skimpy, but we are getting it out to you as early as possible in order to ensure a good turnout at the **Annual General Meeting on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March** and to draw your attention to the potential crisis facing our famous **Annual Summer Show**. Unless someone will step forward to offer their services as Show Secretary for 2015 it is hard to see how we can maintain the high standard achieved in 2014 - indeed the very Show itself – the highlight of the KHS calendar - could be at risk.

The role of Show Secretary is not as daunting or demanding as it sounds. We have a strong team of experienced volunteers and this year, for the first time, a site/project Manager, in the person of Chris Morley-Smith, whose legendary efficiency and good-humour is a pretty good guarantee that things will go well on The Day. In order for that Day to arrive, the Show Secretary's job is to ensure that the necessary procedures, (*which are all laid down and documented – we are not seeking innovation*), are followed through on time. So we are seeking an enthusiastic individual who will co-ordinate the tasks of an experienced team.

Do please consider if you would be willing to volunteer, or know of another person whom we could approach. **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.**

In a similar vein – we are also looking for a Publicity Person to coordinate the promotion of all our interesting talks, tours and the Show. Again – tasks are already well documented but we would love someone on board who is happy to talk or liaise with local press and ideally also to be 'social media savvy'!

Meanwhile congratulations are in order. This January two KHS members Charlie Shelton and Jenny Wakefield who volunteer at Kew Gardens (Charlie in the Tropical Nursery and Jenny in the Herbarium) have both been nominated for Marsh Awards. The Marsh Christian Trust was set up by a venture capitalist who gives to a wide number of good causes, but only to nominated individuals or groups of individuals. A couple of years ago the Kew Guides (which include a number of KHS members) won the award as a group.

We are very sad to report the death of Jim Wilson, who passed away on 13th January. Jim was a familiar member of the Short Lots community and an enthusiastic supporter of the Society and of SLUG. He will be much missed and we send our deepest sympathies to Jill and the family

# Membership

Membership Secretary Carole Brougham reports that the following have joined the Society since last our last newsletter

Jill Collins

Caroline Whitefoord

Gill Turnor

Julia Martin

Ruth Todd

Catherine Bates &

Francis Kennett... **A sincere welcome to you all.**

Please note that 2015 subscriptions were due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015. For details please see at the end of this letter where you will find a Subscriptions Form.

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place at 7pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March in St Winefred's Church Hall Kew. Light refreshments (and seeds from the Garden Organic Heritage Seed Library) will be available. This will be followed by a talk at 8pm.

***Fritillaria*: A photographic Journey to a Botanical Understanding**  
by guest speaker Laurence Hill.



The above picture is a section of a larger piece that has recently been on show at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery in Kew Gardens. Laurence Hill is fascinated by Fritillaria has become a world expert on Fritillaria identification, research and conservation - collaborating with the Jodrell Laboratory at Kew with genetic research and looking at the evolutionary relationships in Fritillaria. During this talk, Laurence will share the stories and science contained within the life size images that he creates and the challenges faced acquiring, growing and illustrating the plants. For more than a decade Laurence has used digital technologies to

explore new ways of recording and presenting botanical science. The cornerstone of his exploration is an extensive living collection of more than 700 *Fritillaria* accessions.

Last year Laurence won a prestigious Gold Medal in the RHS Botanical Photography Category. His photographs were printed on rice paper and the format adopted is that of the old wood block prints of plants. They are simply beautiful and reflect Laurence's drive for authenticity and understanding – so come along and hear what Laurence has already learned and how this passion is moving on and challenging traditional botanical illustration.

*Talk free to KHS members and £3.00 to non-members*

## Summer Show

The decision to avoid the August Bank Holiday weekend in 2014 proved successful in terms of visitors (and weather!) and this year's Show is planned for **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September**. (see Editor's note above and Events below)

## Events

### Quiz Night

Many thanks to Jenny Long, who organised the quiz – this is her report:-

It was a full house again this year for the Horticultural Society Quiz. Seventy two of us arrived at a nice warm St Winefrides Hall on January 30th to find our teams and start work on the two sets of Quiz questions left on the tables.

There was keen competition between the 11 teams - mostly general knowledge questions with a horticultural slant. Half way through the evening a Ploughman's supper and a glass of wine (with chocolate brownies to finish) helped competitors face the three final sets of questions. The scores were close in the end but the tiebreaker not needed this year. Harriet Enthoven's team Curious Kew came out on top with the Hugaslug team in second place and the Kew W.I. in third. Colourful pots of double primulas were presented to the winners.

Finally the President, David Collison, thanked Jenny and Chris Long with Philippa Hurman for organising the quiz, those who provided the excellent supper, Celia Fisher for setting the questions, Chris White at the score-board and Gareth James for his role as quizmaster - friendly but firm! David also made a plea for volunteers to come forward to help with this year's Show in early September. Captain of the winning quiz team Harriet has been leading the Show Committee for the last three years but is stepping down. Her job will be divided and simplified in future but a replacement has yet to be found.

The evening made a profit of £350, which will help to subsidise the Show.

### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. 10.30am, meet at the LION GATE Entrance:**

**Free Guided Tour of Kew Gardens** for KHS members. You are invited to take a specialised guided tour of Kew Gardens. If you are a Friend of Kew Gardens there is no cost. If you are not a Friend there should be plenty of people able to take you in as a guest. Numbers are limited so please book with Emmeline Johnston as soon as possible via [kewhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kewhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com) or on telephone no 0208 948 0312.

## **June 11th-15<sup>th</sup>**

**Gardens of Yorkshire**, a five-day trip to some of the finest gardens in Yorkshire. Price includes transport from Kew and return, 4 nights dinner, bed and breakfast, and visits to 8 gardens - £455. There are still a few places available - contact Brightwater Holidays Ltd, on 01334 657155.

## **June 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **Trip to Anglesey Abbey and Lode Mill**

National Trust property near Cambridge, comprising House, Gardens and Mill. Don't be fooled by the name, the house is a vestige of 1930s luxury, standing in a beautiful landscaped gardens.

Cost: NT members :£ 16.00 Non NT members : £26.00  
Depart 9.15 am from Coach and Horses, Kew Green.  
Return: 6.00 pm (at latest )  
Payment: send cheque payable to " KHS " and stamped addressed envelope.  
to: Michael Kidd, 14 Clarence Rd. TW9 3 NL  
phone: 0208 948 1184 E mail : jennyakidd@yahoo.co.uk

## **July 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Day trip to Harold Peto's garden**, Iford Manor near Bradford upon Avon. We will have lunch at The Courts Garden nearby. Harold Peto ( 1854-1933) was a garden designer and architect. Iford Manor was his own, beautiful, garden, on the south-west facing slopes of the River Frome. Italianate in style, his clever planting exuberating over a series of terraces, gently punctuated with wonderful statuary, this is one of the great British gardens. It exemplifies Peto's ability to marry formalism with the surrounding rural landscape. Please note that the site is set on a hillside and there are many steps.

For the afternoon, The Courts Garden (National Trust) has a fine collection of trees, some inventive topiary, magnificent water gardens, good planting, and lots to see and enjoy. Cost: approximately £25 including transport from Kew Green and entry to the two gardens. For further details please contact Gareth James - [garethkjames@hotmail.com](mailto:garethkjames@hotmail.com)

## **September 5<sup>th</sup> The 71st Kew Horticultural Show on Kew Green.**

One of the few remaining village shows in London, our show is always an important community and cultural event. Please show your support by entering some of your own produce or creative crafts and encourage your children and grandchildren to have a go in the children's classes. Full details will be on our website [www.kewhorticulturalsociety.org](http://www.kewhorticulturalsociety.org) from July onwards.

### **POSTSCRIPT**

Thank you for your continued support of the Kew Horticultural Society. The Society is in good heart and good hands, but please please get in touch with our Secretary Emmeline Johnston via [kewhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kewhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com) Chairman Mike Kidd [jennyakidd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennyakidd@yahoo.co.uk) or myself, if you feel you would like to help with planning this year's Show and bringing it to fruition or the position of Publicity.

And by the way – Happy Gardening!

David Collison, Editor

[davidcollison@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:davidcollison@tiscali.co.uk)

And finally – really finally – a correction: In our last newsletter we stated that subscription to KHS entitled you to an automatic discount at the Manor Road Allotment Site. We would like to clarify that this there is no such agreement in place and that if you do not have an allotment there then you can still buy at discount there – but you need to become an Associate Member and join to be eligible.

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### SUBSCRIPTIONS FORM

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** — Annual membership for 2015 is £5.00 per adult, £10 per couple, per calendar year (children are members for free) is now due!

**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 sort code                      20 72 17

Payee:    Kew Horticultural Society, account number 13756440

Payment amount                              £5.00 or £10 (please delete as appropriate)

Date due    first payment immediately (unless you've already paid for this year) then January 5<sup>th</sup> 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 **Carole Brougham, 58 Bushwood Road, Kew, Richmond TW9 3BQ** (Tel. 8948-7254, email: [kewhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kewhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com))

If you would like a membership card, for your own record or to show at Chiswick allotments to buy garden supplies at a discount, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Otherwise, Carole will acknowledge by email or if you don't have email, she will take the clearance of the cheque as being the legal receipt.

I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ in payment for my 2015 membership plus any arrears I may owe

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_