



Kew Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2016

From the Editor

Greetings to all KHS members, old and new. From where I'm sitting I think we enter 2016 in very good shape and urge everyone who can to attend the AGM on Friday 4th March – there will be much to discuss and some fascinating Heritage seeds to acquire.

Thanks to all committee members who have sent in their reports to the editor's desk and don't forget, if any Member wants to make a contribution to the newsletter, my email address is on the last page.

I wonder if there will be any daffodils left to enjoy over Easter? Don't forget to thin out your banana bunches before the month is out and if you're planning a coconut plantation it's time to set out those seedlings (minimum ten metres between plants)

Message from the Chairman

Dear Member,

In this newsletter, the first of 2016, you will find the agenda for the AGM on Friday 4th March and an updated KHS Constitution which will be discussed at the meeting before adoption. Do try to come to the AGM and meet your Committee who run the business of your Society. After the formal business there will be a party, free of charge, so we can all get to know each other a bit more. The Committee is looking for new blood; there are three vacancies. Perhaps you would like to consider joining the Committee which works hard with every member mucking in but I hope it is fun. Contact me on chair@kewhorticulturalsociety.org or on 0208 948 2806.

Already this year the KHS has held its first social event, the quiz on 5th February, fast becoming a regular favourite. Jenny Long, Committee member, organises this, and the latest was a tribute to her usual calm efficiency. Thank you Jenny and all your team of helpers as well.

Arrangements for the Society's Flower and Produce Show on Kew Green on 27th August this year are proceeding apace thanks to the new show team. Read all about it in this newsletter and do come forward to help. The more the merrier.

Finally the Camellia Festival at Chiswick House continues till 13 March, open every day 10-4, except Mondays when the Conservatory is closed. Entry is free. There is a pop-up festival shop in the Conservatory where camellias propagated on site from Chiswick's own historic varieties are for sale. Do visit.

Good gardening in 2016 and hope to see you at the AGM.

Ann Sandall

Membership

Membership Secretary, Carole Brougham, reports that the following have joined the Society since July 2015:- Christine Ellis, Lyn and Martin Glen, Alexander Hunter, Vivien Lloyd, Ann Scurfield and Amanda Ward.

We offer a sincere and warm welcome to you all and look forward to seeing you at one or two or hopefully all of our future events!

Membership subscription renewal fell due on 1 January and several are now outstanding. If your renewal is not received by 31 March, it will be assumed that your membership has lapsed. It is still £5 per member or £10 per couple, a snip and the same as last year.

(Please see APPENDIX A for Subscriptions)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 4th March 2016

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting of Kew Horticultural Society at St Winefride's Church Hall, Leyborne Park, Kew on **Friday 4th March 2016 at 8pm.**

Agenda

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last AGM (6th March 2015)
4. Adoption of revised Constitution
(A copy of the text accompanies this agenda in the newsletter.)
5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of accounts for the year to 31 December 2015
6. Membership Report
7. Social Events Report
8. Show Co-ordinator's Report
9. Election of President and Vice Presidents
10. Election of Officers and Committee
11. Election of Auditor
12. Consideration of charitable donations.
The Committee proposes the donation of £500 to each of Spear, React, Chiswick House and Gardens Trust and Abbeyfield Victoria House.
13. Any other business

The meeting will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to talk to your fellow KHS members and friends.

Constitution of the KHS—changes proposed by the Committee

The effects of the proposed changes are—

- (i) Obsolete references to trading and to Short Lots allotments are removed (paragraphs 2 and 5)
- (ii) 14 days' notice to be given of the AGM (paragraph 3);
- (iii) The Committee to include a Membership Secretary but not a Trading Officer or a Show Treasurer (paragraph 5);
- (iv) Committee members may be nominated orally at the AGM as an alternative to written nomination in advance (paragraph 5);
- (v) Subscriptions to be fixed by the AGM rather than by the Committee (paragraph 9);
- (vi) Eligibility for charitable donations extended to include local branches of larger charities, as well as local charities (paragraph 11).

Red text Proposed additions to the existing constitution

[Text in italics] Proposed deletions from the existing constitution

1 The Society shall be called KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (“the Society”).

2 The objects of the Society shall be to promote the best aims **and practice** of horticulture [, *to trade in horticultural supplies*] and to hold [*agricultural shows*] **shows of flowers and produce**.

3 An Annual General Meeting for members shall be held **after not less than 14 days' notice has been given to members and** before 30th April each year, **and such notice shall include the agenda for the meeting**.

4 A President and **one or more** Vice-Presidents shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting.

5 The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Committee elected at each Annual General Meeting. [*and consisting of the following:*] **The Committee shall include a Chairman, a General Secretary, a Membership Secretary, a Treasurer, [*Trading Officer,*] a Show Secretary [, *Show Treasurer*] and not more than 8 general committee members [, *at least 2 of whom shall be allotment holders at Short Lots allotments, Kew*]. **An Honorary Auditor shall also be elected at each Annual General Meeting**.**

6 Members of the Committee shall retire at the Annual General Meeting and may be nominated for re-election without prior notification to the General Secretary. [*New*]

Nominations for new members of the Committee shall be made **either—**

(i) in writing together with the consent of the nominee, and delivered to the General Secretary at least two days before the Annual General Meeting; or

(ii) orally with the oral consent of the nominee at the Annual General Meeting.

7 The Committee has power to co-opt members to fill casual vacancies arising in its composition until the following Annual General Meeting. The Committee also has power to appoint sub-committees and to authorise co-option to those sub-committees.

8 At all meetings of the Committee **and any sub-committee** one-third of its composition shall form a quorum.

9 An annual subscription **to the Society** shall be paid by all members and shall be payable on 1st January each year, the amount to be decided by [*the Committee*] **the Annual General Meeting held in the previous year**.

10 [*Annual accounts, duly audited, shall be*] **Accounts for the previous calendar year shall be audited and signed by the Honorary Auditor and presented by the Treasurer** to the members at each Annual General Meeting [*and at such meetings an Hon. Auditor shall be elected*].

11 The Society may make donations to local charitable bodies **and to local branches of larger charities** at the discretion of the Committee but subject to confirmation of each proposed **charity** by an Annual General Meeting **after due consideration of the Society's accounts for the previous year**.

12 The Committee shall appoint three of its members to be the authorised signatories as far as the Society's bank and any investment accounts are concerned and any two of [whom] those authorised signatories must sign all cheques drawn on the Society's account.

13 A Special General Meeting for members may be called at any time on written application signed by 12 members to the Secretary who shall then send details of such a meeting to all members at least fourteen days before it is due to take place. Such details shall include the agenda for the meeting.

14 The [Rules] Constitution of the Society shall be changed only at an Annual General Meeting or at a [special meeting called for that purpose for which 14 days' notice shall be given] Special General Meeting.

15 All decisions at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting shall be taken by a majority vote of members present.

Summer Show 2016

Philippa Hurman writes -

The **72nd Annual Summer Show will be held on Kew Green on Saturday 27th August**. New members may not know that it is one of the few shows in a marquee, with a traditional village atmosphere. Although vegetables, fruit and flowers play the important part, there is something for everyone - photography, arts and crafts, cookery, and special classes for children. There are many stalls, a lively jazz band, a barbecue and a tea tent. Profits from the show will go to local and horticultural charities.

Please put the date in your dairies and most important of all we would like you to be involved and enjoy the day. So please volunteer to come and help either on the Friday, for setting up, and on the day itself. We have lots of different tasks to fit all talents and availability such as helping with the tombola or even assisting with the scoring.

To volunteer please contact the Show Co-ordinators, -- Lyn (spillings@hotmail.com) or Jill (j.wilson629@btinternet.com).

We look forward to hearing from as many of you as can help.

Events - past

Quiz Night

Our third quiz night took place on Friday 5th February and once again was a roaring success.

The Winners were Curious Kew, under their captain Harriet Enthoven (don't let this become a habit Harriet!) and the runners-up were The Chairman's team, led by none other than our leader, Ann Sandall. Ann thanked all those who had worked to make the evening a success, especially the organisers – Jenny and Chris Long, Celia Fisher, who set the challenging questions and John and Chris White who kept the score.

There was general and loud acclaim for Gareth James, our MC and Question Master, who presided over the evening with characteristic firmness (“NO, we will **not** award half points for a half answer”) and flexibility (“OK we'll allow that one I suppose. It's only a blooming game”)

Events - upcoming

3rd May– Day Trip to Standen House & Garden

Michael Kidd is organising a day trip to STANDEN HOUSE AND GARDEN near East Grinstead. The cost per person is £22.00 - plus an additional £9.50 entry charge payable on the day for those who are not National Trust members.

Standen House lies nestled in the Sussex countryside, with views over the High Weald. Designed by Philip Webb, the house is one of the most complete examples of Arts and Crafts workmanship.

The gardens offer something for every season, and we hope that some of the 8000 tulips will be in bloom at the time of our visit. There is a cafe and shop. Picnicking in the grounds is permitted.

If you would like to come, please send a cheque for £22.00 payable to KHS, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to Michael KIDD, 14 Clarence Road, Kew, TW9 3NL. Phone: 0208 948 1184

Email : jennyakidd@yahoo.co.uk

(Please note: I am away March 14....April 7th) .

20th May – A KHS Spring Party

How better to celebrate the time of tulips and fresh growth than by having a bit of a get together. A chance for new and some a bit older members to meet, sup a few drinks and to talk about what you are all up to enjoying the spring time and all that it offers horticulturally. There will also be a plant stall so we can all do a bit of swapping...shame for all those little plug plants to go to waste!

Full details to come but please mark it in your diaries for this Friday evening in Kew.

May / June – Roots and Shoots

Actual date to be confirmed

Visit to Roots and Shoots in Lambeth with its Director, Linda Phillips OBE, alumna of RBG, to be arranged in May or June. Details nearer the time.

Roots and Shoots is a horticultural and educational charity working with young people. We shall see its garden and new eco building.

Trip to The Hidden Gardens of Herefordshire.

July 4th- 8th

Gareth James says - Hurry! Hurry! The 2016 KHS trip to Herefordshire is filling up fast!

From Monday the 4th of July to Friday July 8th we will be visiting some fascinating gardens in Herefordshire - some of which cannot be seen by the general public.

Leaving The Coach and Horses pub on Kew Green early on Monday morning we will see two gardens on the first day - including The Laskett, the Garden of Sir Roy Strong.

On Tuesday we visit the more naturalistic garden of Noel Kingsbury at Montpellier Cottage; followed by a visit to Hergest Croft Gardens which, amongst other delights, has one of the finest tree collections in the UK, containing over 4,000 rare shrubs and trees.

The following day we travel to Lower Hopton Farm in Stoke Lacey to marvel at the four acre garden of Veronica Cross with her exciting species and to appreciate her passion for Peonies, some of which were collected centuries ago from Russia and China.

We have two more gardens to visit on this day - Stockton Bury Gardens at Kimbolton - a beautiful garden divided by old bricks and stones and yew hedges along with a dingle created from an old quarry.

In the afternoon we will visit Bryan's Ground, an eight acre internationally renowned contemporary reinterpretation of an Arts and Crafts garden dating from 1913.

On Thursday we visit the 15th century Hampton Court Castle which is surrounded by 1000 acres of stunning parkland, pasture and woodlands. The gardens have only been created recently and are one of the most ambitious garden creations of our time.

By contrast, Lower Hope at Ullingswick is a garden that is colourful and very varied with a strong Mediterranean feel to it.

On our way back to London on the final day we visit Misarden Park near Stroud. Originally developed in the 17th century, the gardens were redeveloped in the Edwardian style by Edwin Lutyens.

The cost of the trip is from £505 per person, with a single room supplement of £60 per person.

Included in the price is:-

Four nights dinner, bed and breakfast at the Three Counties Hotel, Hereford

Comfortable coaching

Visits to the gardens listed

Services of a Brightwater tour manager.

Further details are available from Brightwater and if you would like to come please contact them:-

by phone -- **01334 657155**,

by post -- -- **Brightwater Holidays Ltd, Eden Park House, CUPAR, Fife, KY15 4HS**

or by email -- **info@brightwaterholidays.com**

requesting a booking form and then send or email it to Brightwater with your deposit...not the KHS!

Looking forward to seeing you on the trip

Report on 2015 Summer Show by Philippa Hurman

As we all know by now, the date of the Show in relation to the dates of school holidays has a huge impact on the numbers of people exhibiting and attending. This year we were hit by other factors as well: Rugby at Twickenham, the gloomy weather on Saturday morning and, most of all, a very difficult, wet, growing season. Luckily the net result was only 5 fewer exhibitors and 25 fewer entries than in 2014.

So, despite the difficulties of growing flowers fruit and vegetables this year, our 71st annual summer show was, as usual, a superb demonstration of the skills of our members and guests. Beans didn't mind the wet weather, although many of our Dahlias were sadly beaten down by the rain. Floral arrangements were spectacular this year, and Children's Classes showed that we have lots of artistic talent coming up. We welcomed 31 new exhibitors in 120 classes, making a total of 571 entries coming from 136 exhibitors. The financial cost of running the Show is considerable. The marquee alone costs over £5,000 and there are many other expenses in running this huge community event. We could not do it without all our amazing volunteers and stallholders. Once again, Colleen Farr kindly donated one of her beautiful paintings, which was bought by Richard Ward. Our sponsors (Priory Management, Antony Roberts, Taylor Wimpey, and the RFU) helped to defray some of the costs. Teresa Hartley was instrumental in obtaining most of the sponsorship money and will be sorely missed in 2016.

Please make sure that you have the date in your diary - Saturday August 27th - and we look forward to seeing you all at the 72nd Show

Philippa

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The editor wishes you Good Luck and Good Gardening in the months ahead

David Collison,

Editor

davidcollison@tiscali.co.uk

APPENDIX A (SUBSCRIPTIONS)

SUBSCRIPTIONS — Subs were due 1 January 2016. Annual membership is still £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 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 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 **Carole Brougham, 58 Bushwood Road, Kew, Richmond TW9 3BQ** (Tel. 8948-7254, email: 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 2016 membership plus any arrears I may owe

Name(s): _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email: _____

Tel. _____

Date: _____