



# Kew Horticultural Society

## NEWSLETTER – JULY 2016

### From the Editor

Dear All,

Well by hook or by crook the Kew Horticultural Society is determined that we have something to look forward to this summertime so read on about delights in store and as Alan Titchmarsh frequently says ‘whatever the weather...enjoy your gardening’. So, let’s embrace what nature throws at us – there is always something that thrives and read on about what is happening in this area. In the meantime, if you do find yourself sheltering indoors from the latest downpour then the ideal opportunity for you to contact us with any news or opinions that you would like to share with the membership – we are only an email away so please do contact us.

Someone who has made contact - we’re delighted to welcome new member Brian Secrett to the Society – you are most welcome.

### From the Chair

Dear KHS members,

This newsletter is sent to you as a hard copy because it is enclosed with the Plant and Produce Show Schedule and Entry Form for the Show on Saturday 27 August on Kew Green. Please browse through the Schedule, indeed read it from cover to cover, and then make the decision to enter something for this year’s Show. There is a new category this year, *a limerick*, so you do not need a garden or an allotment to be able to exhibit, just a pen and paper. So, “There was a young woman of Kew....”

You will also find a poster for the Show designed again by the talented Jane Shelton who also masterminds the Schedule. Thank you Jane for all your work behind the scenes. It would be splendid if every member put up the poster in a window, on a fence, on a gatepost, anywhere it can be seen.

After the Show an *Auction of Produce* is always held in the Marquee, when the exhibits which have been kindly donated to the Show by their growers and exhibitors, are auctioned off to the highest bidders amid much hilarity. The Auction raises money to help defray the costs of the Show so if you are an exhibitor please consider leaving your produce at the end of the day in the marquee. Entry is free so please come along and bid enthusiastically. The Auction is scheduled to start at 5pm.

Those of you who came to the summer party in May at Priory Park Tennis Club enjoyed an unexpectedly balmy evening with delicious canapes made by Committee members and a Plant Sale that rivalled Hampton Court Flower Show, everything from agapanthus to zinnias. We hope to repeat this event next summer.

In the newsletter you will find a booking form for a day trip to *Sissinghurst* on Tuesday 13 September, organised by Jenny Long, to whom we have much cause to be grateful. Sissinghurst is not just a world famous garden but a literary love story, so you might like to read about Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West who created the garden. Their letters and diaries are fascinating as

indeed are the biographies that have been written about them. Bookings are coming in fast. The first one arrived from Kazakhstan! Do not delay. Book today.

At the end of October the KHS will host an evening lecture given by an *Alpine plant specialist from RBG Kew*, and at the end of November there will be a *Christmas wreath and table decoration demonstration* with tea and homemade cake.

Your Chairman must confess to a making a hash of the donations to four local charities agreed at the AGM in March. The money for React was sent by mistake to INS, who were not on the list. We will rectify this error at a future AGM.

### **From our Show Co-ordinators Lyn Keay and Jill Wilson**

Dear KHS Members,

The 72nd KHS Show Day - is fast approaching, and here are your 2016 Show Schedule, Entry Form and Show poster.

As well as thinking about your entries, please start preparing your horticultural questions, because we are delighted to announce that **Kew Gardens will be providing a Horticultural Advice Stall** at the Show. So if you're planning to bring any creepy-crawlies or infected foliage along for identification, please keep them in a screw-top jar; your fellow gardeners have got enough of their own!

We hope you have all been nurturing your vegetables, fruit and flowers, scouring your cookery books, dusting off your baking tins, getting your arty and crafty brains in gear, and stimulating your children's and grandchildren's imaginations in preparation! There are rosettes and cups waiting to be won, and as you can see from the Schedule, there really is something for everyone. The **chance of winning is high**, so do please consider entering several classes.

Just one request from us, the Show Co-ordinators; we still need **volunteers** to help with lots of different tasks, and many thanks to those of you who have already given us your names. However, we need help with setting up on Friday 26th August and on Show Day, Saturday 27th, and our Site Manager Chris Morley-Smith is keen to find 4 willing and strong young people over 18 specifically to assist him, for which they will be **paid**, so please start nagging any likely candidates now!!

We need people to help with taking entries on the evening of Friday 26th and we still need 2 or 3 more people for the barbecue, among lots of other jobs, so even if you only have a spare hour, do please consider getting involved. Our contact details can be found in the Summer Show section of the KHS website; [www.kewhorticulturalsociety.org](http://www.kewhorticulturalsociety.org) - along with lots of information about this year's Show, including further 'Tips for Cooks'. Chris can be contacted directly on 077706 94073 or at [cms@kewgs.com](mailto:cms@kewgs.com). The more people who get involved, the less of your time we will need!

We look forward to hearing from you, and to another successful KHS Show!

Thank you, Lyn Keay and Jill Wilson (Show Co-ordinators)

### **Additional points from the Editor regarding the Show**

1. On a related matter – if you are able to help with the all-important **TEA TENT** – either baking your favourite tea time treat to share with others or to help out on the day serving teas, chatting, serving cake, chatting, or taking money and chatting.... Then we are keen to hear from you! If you can do any of this, then please contact Emmeline Johnston on 0208 948 0312 or via [secretary@kewhorticulturalsociety.org](mailto:secretary@kewhorticulturalsociety.org) Thank you.



2. The *Plant Stall* at the Show depends on the contributions of KHS members, which in recent years have been increasingly generous, so please keep up the supplies! Last year we included a very successful cut-flower section on the stall, and would also like it to be partly a produce stall. So offerings of all or any of these plant forms will be gratefully received on the day. In addition - anyone who would like to contribute an hour or so of help on the stall please contact [celiafisher@btconnect.com](mailto:celiafisher@btconnect.com)
3. The *Pickles and Preserves stall* is always looking for contributions of Pickles, Chutneys, Jams and Marmalade. If you're making preserves this summer do please make a couple of extra jars and bring them along to the KHS stall on the morning of the Show.
4. While some of you will be personal members of the *Garden Organic Heritage Seed Library*, others may have discovered Heritage seeds at the Society's AGM. Please enter your achievements in the Show and compete for the Ian MacLean cup. You could enter a small display of vegetables (however contorted – we're not a supermarket!) or you could exhibit a selection of the seed you have saved, to further the aims of Garden Organic's important contribution to bio-diversity and old varieties of vegetables from all corners of the world.

## **EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT JULY 2016**

### **Events that have happened so far this year:**

#### ***Standen House and Garden***

Mike Kidd's KHS May trip to Standen was a huge success, with a coach almost full of excited explorers and plant seekers. The house was very popular. Designed more for comfort than showing off, the house had a lovely friendly ambience - with helpful guides and the bonus of an exhibition of stunning contemporary needlework art in one of the larger bedrooms.

The garden is still in the process of recreating the original concept of blending into its Sussex surroundings. Self-taught gardener Margaret Beale integrated an old quarry, full of tree ferns and streams, with more formal lawns and enticing walks through woods and fields. The impressive show of tulips was breath-taking; a wonderful range of beautiful colours and unforgettable harmonies.

Many thanks to Mike and Jenny for arranging this super trip.

#### ***The Hidden Gardens of Herefordshire***

The July trip to Herefordshire has not yet happened as I compile this newsletter – but will have done by the time you read it! So, for all of you who went – I am sure you will have some great recollections of some beautiful gardens.

### **Events to look forward to**

#### ***Sissinghurst in September***

There are still spaces available for the KHS trip on Tuesday Sept 13<sup>th</sup>.

For those who have never been, the garden was created in the 1930s by Vita Sackville-West, poet and gardening writer, and her husband Harold Nicolson, author and diplomat. The layout and planting were strongly influenced by Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens. The garden was first opened to the public in 1938 and taken over by the National Trust in 1967. Adam Nicolson, Vita's grandson and his wife Sarah Raven (who is often on television and runs her own plant nursery) now live at Sissinghurst. If you would like to join us please see the booking form at the end of this newsletter.

**October Autumn Talk: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 7:30 – 8:30**

The speaker, Kit Strange, works in the Alpine Nursery at Kew Gardens. The precise title of her talk is yet to be revealed but since she goes on plant hunting expeditions to remote regions of Central Asia, and describes her adventures and the plants she finds with great humour and wonderful images, we are in for a treat. *St Winefrides Church Hall*

**November: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2:30 – 4:30**

Christmas Wreath and Table Decoration demonstration followed by homemade cakes and tea – time for the mincemeat slices and Stolen! Costs and further details to come. *St Winefrides Church Hall.*

**So, lots happening – let’s get out there and enjoy it all – whatever the weather!**

Emmeline Johnston - Editor

secretary @kewhorticulturalsociety.org www.kewhorticulturalsociety.org 0208 948 0312

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**BOOKING FORM: KHS TRIP TO SISSINGHURST Tuesday SEPT 13<sup>th</sup>**

There is nothing organised for the day apart from the coach so you are entirely free to explore on your own.

8.45 am Meet at the Coach & Horses pub on Kew Green ready for departure at 9 o'clock prompt. We have a timed arrival slot at Sissinghurst.

Free time In addition to the Garden there's lots to do.

4.30 pm Leave. We should arrive back in Kew by 6.30 pm depending on traffic.

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Please book early and return this completed form to Jenny Long, Maze Lodge, Forest Road Kew TW9 3BZ Tel: 020 8940 3636

If you would like to bring a non-member as a guest their coach ticket is a little more expensive (KHS membership is only £5 a year!) and in all cases **non National Trust Members must pay the entry fee of £10.95.** This will be collected as you get on the coach in cash or by cheque on the day.

Membership cards will be inspected on arrival at Sissinghurst, so don't forget to bring them. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Name of KHS member (s) \_\_\_\_\_ @

£22 each                      £

I/we are National Trust Members Yes/No

Name of guest (s) if applicable \_\_\_\_\_ @

£25 each                      £

National Trust Member (s) Yes/No

Your E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not provide an e-mail address please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for confirmation of your booking

Your Mobile Number (in case we need to contact you quickly) \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose my cheque made payable to Kew Horticultural Society

**TOTAL    £    \_\_\_\_\_**