



Kew Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER – October 2016

From the Chair

Dear members,

You will read in this newsletter about the Flower and Produce Show held on August Bank Holiday Saturday. It was indeed a well organised, well attended, happy day thanks to the hard work of the new Show Team to whom we owe much.

I'd like to send a big thankyou to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Show – committee, stall-holders and volunteer helpers and not least to the many exhibitors (please see Appendix A for a list of cup and prize-winners).

You can see photographs of the show on the KHS website – pictures including the prize winners with Tony Kirkham as well as the winning limerick and behind the scenes images of the Judges at work! See www.kewhorticulturalsociety.org/show.html We are also hoping to have a time lapse sequence that was shot to show how the marquee is put up – a great little sequence so watch out for that on the website too and our thanks to Brian Secrett for putting this together for us.

Takings were slightly down on 2015 but fortunately the Show covered its costs.

Now it is over we must ask ourselves why there were over 100 fewer exhibits: vegetables, fruit, flowers and plants, craft and photography were all down. This summer was a hard one for growers, too much rain, then not enough, then searing heat. In addition a few of our most keen members suffered illness. Nevertheless, the purpose of the Show is for members to exhibit. If we choose not to, the Show loses its meaning.

I hope that the Show Team will wish to continue their excellent efforts in 2017 and I trust that the marquee will be crammed with exhibits.

Thank you Jenny Long for a splendid day out at Sissinghurst on the hottest September day for 100 years. It was marvellous and Sissinghurst looked wonderful in spite of the drought. A few more words about this at the end of the newsletter.

Four KHS forthcoming events are detailed in this newsletter, an evening lecture, an afternoon floristry demonstration, the latter a new departure for KHS, and the Horticultural Quiz 2017 for which you will find a booking form. Also advance notice of the AGM!

Finally – a warm welcome to those of you who are reading this newsletter as a result of just joining the Kew Horticultural Society perhaps as a result of the Flower and Produce Show. You are most welcome.

The KHS 72nd Annual Flower and Produce Show

KHS POST-SHOW THOUGHTS

Very luckily for us, Bank Holiday Saturday, August 27th this year was a fine, warm, sunny day, which undoubtedly contributed greatly to the relaxed, holiday atmosphere and to the enjoyment of the 72nd Annual Flower and Produce Show. Many thanks must go to all those KHS members who contributed in so many different ways to the success of this event.

The Jazz Band, the variety of food and drink available and the diverse range of stalls both KHS and others, all made a vibrant display on the Green with the Marquee as always, the Show's centrepiece and focus. We invested in new eye-catching banners this year, and in some more gazebos for KHS stalls which all looked colourful and festive.

Thank you to all those people who entered their exhibits, and many congratulations to all the winners. Tony Kirkham did a splendid job presenting the cups and prizes, and was much-photographed in the process! We always aim to cover the costs of staging this event, and we again managed to do this. But despite the favourable weather and the apparently high number of visitors, the takings for most of our stalls were very slightly less than 2015, and far more troubling was the fact that although exhibitor numbers were almost the same, there were actually 106 fewer exhibits than last year particularly in the Vegetable, Fruit and Flower classes, and without the new Limerick class which attracted lots of entries, the Craft section too would have been disappointingly sparse. The display of exhibits and the distribution of cups and awards is of course at the heart of our annual Show, which encourages interest in, and hopefully participation in all aspects of horticulture, and we do need to be sure of a good number of entries in all classes to make the whole event worthwhile. We particularly hope KHS members will bear this in mind, and will consider entering more exhibits in more classes in future. The KHS Annual Flower and Produce Show needs you!!

Lyn Keay (Joint Show Coordinator with Jill Wilson)

Upcoming Events and Talks

**Friday October 28th 7.30pm St Winefride's, Leyborne Park,
"Plant hunting in Armenia"**

The speaker, Kit Strange, works in the Alpine Nursery at Kew Gardens and goes on plant hunting expeditions to remote regions of Central Asia. During this talk she will describe some of her adventures and the plants she finds with great humour and wonderful images – so we are in for a treat. £5 for members & £7 non-members with drinks available.

**Monday November 28th 3pm St Winefride's, Leyborne Park
Christmas floral decoration demonstration**

Enhance your Christmas decorating skills! Come to St. Winefride's for tea and cake on Monday 28th November and see the latest imaginative ways to create a wreath and a table decoration. Our guest florist, Rebecca, founded the florist, Steel Magnolias, and is currently the bee keeper at Chiswick House where she has recently produced the first honey for sale to the public.

Demonstration 3pm, doors open 2.45pm

Members £5, non-members £7

Small charge for refreshments.

PLEASE let the Secretary know if you are coming so we can ensure there is plenty of cake! Please email secretary@kewhorticulturalsociety.org with your name.



Friday February 3rd 2017.

Gardening Quiz and Supper

Venue: St Winefride's Church Hall, Leyborne Park, Kew

Time: 7:30 pm for a welcome glass of wine. We aim to finish by 9.45 pm

Price: £10 a head includes a Ploughman's Supper... (£60 a table). Cash Bar.

Apply for tickets now as there is limited room in the Hall! See Appendix B

This seems to be the popular formula for what is becoming a fixed point in the dark winter months. Save the date in your 2017 diaries, persuade your friends and families to do the same and make up a winning team. The questions will not be too hard... or too easy... or too obscure. There will be something for everyone whether a gardener or not.

There is a booking form in this newsletter. Book early because the Hall has a limit on numbers. Join us for a fun evening... fill out the form now!

Monday 6th March 2017.

KHS AGM

A review of the years activities, accounts and overall well-being. Election of committee members and then a well-earned glass of something with some nibbles. See further newsletters for details.

June 18th -22nd 2017....reserve the dates!

The Summer Trip 2017

Proposed KHS trip to Norfolk organised by Brightwater.

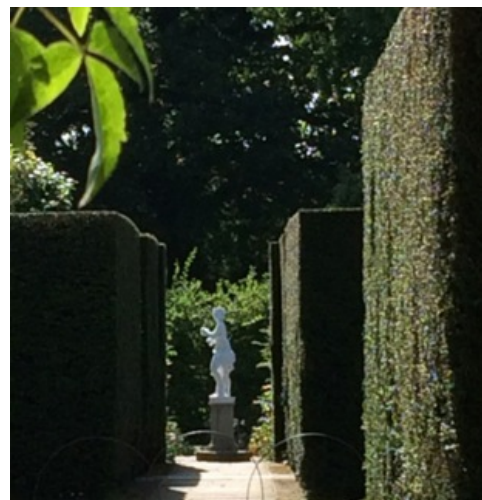
Cost: in the region of £500 depending on numbers booking.

We shall be based just outside Norwich. The final itinerary has not yet been decided but we hope to visit among other places East Ruston, Felbrigg, Wyken, Beth Chatto and Bressingham.

As soon as possible, further details and booking forms will be emailed to you. In the meantime mark the dates in your diary.

Update on the most recent KHS trip taken to Sissinghurst:

Our autumn coach trip took place on just about the hottest day of the year in September. A large coach full of members and friends enjoyed a full day at Sissinghurst. We spent a lot of time sitting in cool spots admiring the lovely views, and eating ice creams. The flowers were certainly suffering from lack of water but the views were magnificent from the top of the tower and the walk around the two lakes shaded and cool. There were striking displays of purple and lilac autumn crocus which we will all remember, and the perfect 'square' hedges cut by a gardener with such care. Our thanks to Glynis Becker who provided us with photos.



A view from the tower at Sissinghurst

So, with the leaves about to turn – let's get out there and kick some in the air and then look forward to the autumn events and activities in the New Year.

Have fun!

Emmeline Johnston - Editor

secretary@kewhorticulturalsociety.org

www.kewhorticulturalsociety.org/

APPENDIX A

2016 List of cup and prize winners at the 72nd Kew Flower and Produce Show

Banksian Medal	Finnuala Fowles
Ladies' Thresher Cup	Carole Brougham
Mens' Thresher Cup	Chris Morley-Smith
Diamond Jubilee Cup	Pauline Taylor
Presidents Cup	Finnuala Fowles
Association Cup	Chris Morley-Smith
Newton Cup	Charlie Shelton
Keene Cup	No entries
Ian Maclean Cup	Chris Morley-Smith
Dr Sparkes Cup	Frances Goodwin
Tinker Cup	Finnuala Fowles
Kew Social Club Cup	Pauline Taylor
National Dahlia Society	
Best Dahlia Exhibit	Finnuala Fowles
National Dahlia Society	
Best single Dahlia bloom	Shirley Hutchins
K.E.W. Cup	Catherine Bates
Thomas Cup	David Collison
Burke Cup	Catherine Bates
Golden Jubilee Cup	The Avenue Club
Scarborough Cup	Patricia Halliday
Caroline Fielding Cup	Charlotte Hawkes
Welch Cup	Lily Webber
Queen Elizabeth Cup	Lydia Pannett & Jessica-May Phillips
Diamond Cup	Lauren Purewal
Pat Thomas Cup	Cameron Williamson
Floral Cup	Frances Goodwin
Dawson Cup	Charlie Shelton
Sir Arthur Hill Cup	Catherine Bates

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!

APPENDIX B (QUIZ NIGHT)

Kew Horticultural Society Quiz

Friday 3rd February 2017

St Winefride's Hall, Leyborne Park, at 7.30pm, doors open at 7pm.

Cost £60 per table of six or £10 per person. Cost includes a ploughman's supper. Cash bar.

Please send your payment with booking form to Ann Sandall at 38 Leyborne Park, TW9 3HA. Phone 0208 948 2806.

Please make cheques payable to Kew Horticultural Society. Bookings accompanied by payment will be acknowledged.

Name -----

Email -----

Phone -----

Team name (optional) -----

I would like ----- (number of tickets at £10 each)

I enclose a cheque/cash for ----- (amount)

Send to Ann Sandall, 38 Leyborne Park, TW9 3HA