



## NEWSLETTER – JULY 2017

### Message from The Chairman

Dear Member,

The KHS Committee has had a busy few months: we took a stall at the Kew Village Market in May, where we sold pelargoniums and handed out flyers advertising the Show (26th August, don't forget). We also signed up over 20 new members who will be reading this their first newsletter to whom we extend a warm welcome. Thank you to all you members who came to the stall to say hello. We shall be repeating the exercise as soon as we can get another pitch.

We are very excited about the Society's appearance on Facebook and Instagram. There is now a link on the website to both these social media apps so you can all see what is up there and what is going on in gardens and allotments wherever members are. You can also take a look here: [f KHS Facebook](#) [KHS Instagram](#)

Then we had a party in June at Priory Park tennis club and it was a beautiful sunny warm evening such as we had not dared hope for. Members and guests enjoyed homemade nibbles, chilled wine and explored an excellent plant stall.



Kew Village Market Stall



Summer Party Fun



'The Shard' at Corpusty Mill

I have just returned from the KHS tour of East Anglia gardens in the heat wave. In spite of the rather poor food at the hotel (where the air conditioning was bust!) we were all delighted by the range of gardens which transported us to the realms of garden paradise. An enormous thank you to Jenny Long and her researchers for putting together such a well-chosen tour. See the picture above of "The Shard" at Corpusty Mill gleaming across the water, which can also be viewed on Instagram. At Wyken Hall we were treated to a wine tasting from their vineyard, one of which was a sparkling wine that has just won an award. At Fullers Mill we heard a cuckoo. The coach returned laden with plants we had bought rather like Kew Gardens on wheels. It is hoped to run another trip in 2018. May I suggest you sign up as soon as there are details?

The KHS was recently alerted to the most generous and thoughtful offer of pot plants. A local lady who died recently, was a keen gardener, her nephew kindly invited the KHS to visit the conservatory at her house on Attwood Avenue on 1 July and choose anything they wanted from her collection of pot plants. Her nephew wanted to know that the plants would find a good home in recognition of his aunt's love of gardening. A good crowd of members turned up and chose some interesting and some unusual specimens. Some of which will likely find their way onto the plant stall at the Summer Show in August. A lovely day and a kind gesture, for which the KHS is most grateful.

The next big happening for KHS is of course the Flower and Produce Show on 26th August on Kew Green. The Schedule and booking form will be posted to you (and they are also available to view on the KHS website). You will find more information from the Show Team in this newsletter. There will also be an ailing houseplant clinic in November and you can read details about that too.

There are still one or two vacancies on the Committee...and you keep telling me you are all so busy...but you know that if nobody comes forward to organise these events they will not happen. Please consider whether you can make a space in a busy life for a bit more fun which I can promise you on the Committee as well as some shared work. You will be made welcome. Contact me on [chair@kewhorticulturalsociety.org](mailto:chair@kewhorticulturalsociety.org).

- Ann Sandall, KHS Chair

### The Summer Show 26 August 2017 - A note from the Show Coordinators

Thanks to the hard work and commitment of all the members of the Show Team, arrangements for the Annual Flower and Produce Show on Saturday 26th August on Kew Green, are all in place and well on schedule. Now the emphasis shifts to you, the Members. This is your Show, and as you realise, without your input and support, principally in the form of a Marquee full of your produce and exhibits, all the considerable expense and effort needed to produce an event like this, is pointless!

Last year, exhibitor numbers were significantly down, and the Marquee was noticeably sparsely-filled. So this year, we have decided to hire a smaller Marquee, and our aim is to see it packed spectacularly with your fruit, flowers and vegetables, and your art, craft and cookery exhibits. We expect competition for the many cups and trophies on offer to be keen as usual, and Sarah Olney, until recently the Lib Dem MP for this constituency, will be presenting prizes to all the winners. This is the heart of the Show, and it is only by supporting it in this way, that you will ensure its future in its present form.

So do please help us however you can. As always we need volunteers to assist on the various KHS stalls, to receive and process entries on both the evening of Friday 25th August and the morning of Show Day, Saturday 26th, and to take Marquee entry money throughout the afternoon. And as ever, there will be an Auction of donated produce after the Prize-giving, so please stay and enjoy some fast talking and exciting bidding to round off what we hope will be another happy and enjoyable day.



KHS 2016 Summer Show Pictures © Brian Secrett

The Show Schedule which of course includes detailed information of all this year's classes, tips for exhibitors and entry details are all available on the KHS website - [www.kewhorticulturalsociety.org](http://www.kewhorticulturalsociety.org) - where it is also possible to download and print entry forms. All Members will of course be receiving a Schedule, an entry form and a poster in due course, and we hope you will find there really is 'something for everyone'!

Please contact either Frances or Lyn (joint Show Coordinators) with suggestions of when and how you may be able to help - and many thanks in advance for those who do decide to help.

**Frances:** [frgoodwin@hotmail.com](mailto:frgoodwin@hotmail.com) **Lyn:** [spillings@hotmail.com](mailto:spillings@hotmail.com)

In addition, David Collison (President of KHS) is resurrecting his pickle and preserves stall at the Show. He is very keen to hear from all those who may be prepared to contribute home-made pickles, chutneys, jams, marmalades and jellies for sale at the Show. For details please contact David on 07736 237701 or 8940 9062 or email [davidcollison@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:davidcollison@tiscali.co.uk). In both 2014 and 2015 the stall raised over £200 - to help the Society, please give David all the support you can muster (or mustard).



## An Exhortation from the KHS Secretary

Did you see the most interesting article in the RHS magazine Grass Roots, which has been mailed to all members, about a Garden Club in Norfolk? (It is on <https://www.rhs.org.uk/communities> and then scroll down to Grass Roots). The article contains ideas for keeping horticultural societies vibrant and active. The main message was 'keep the members involved and engaged'. With that in mind may I suggest you give some thought to the following ideas:

- Why not make the Show a success and have fun at the same time. If you fancy being a helper, even for an hour, as skilled, semi skilled or unskilled labour whether before, after or during the Show, then get in touch with Lyn or Frances, the Show co-ordinators, who would be delighted to hear from you. They have given their contact details above.
- Why not look through the Show Schedule, which will shortly arrive in hard copy but is already on the KHS website, and see what classes attract you or you think you or your family members could make a stab at entering. Participation is the thing. We are not all super expert gardeners nor do we need to win prizes in order to experience the fun of taking part and take pleasure from seeing our exhibits on show in the marquee. So be bold and give it a go.



KHS 2016 Summer Show Pictures © Brian Secrett

- Come along and join in events and outings. On that score could you let me know if there is something, anything in terms of events, workshops and outings that you would really like to see in the KHS calendar? Also what time of day would suit you best? Workshops and social events do not always have to take place in the evening. Any ideas or suggestions? Then please contact me on [ann.scurfield@zen.co.uk](mailto:ann.scurfield@zen.co.uk) or on 0208 747 1250.
- Help make it all happen by joining the Committee. If you are unsure if you want to make this commitment or are uncertain this is your thing why not come to the next committee meeting as an observer and see if this is something would like to take part in. If this appeals to you do please contact me (my details are given above) or our Chair Ann Sandall and we will let you know the date of the next Committee meeting.

Remember, the KHS is nothing without you.

Best Wishes  
Ann Scurfield  
KHS Secretary

## KHS Events planned for 2017

### 7 September – One Day Coach Trip to Cliveden and Chenies Manor

Jenny Long has organised a splendid coach trip to two wonderful gardens. The plan is to stop for lunch and a wander round the formal gardens at Cliveden before going on to Chenies Manor. Full details of the trip, including timings and price are given in the application form at the foot of this newsletter. So check your diaries and book now, this should not be missed.

## 10 November – All about Houseplants

We are lucky to have persuaded ex Kew Gardens student and local Landscape Contractor Richard Ward to give a talk and hands-on demo 'All about Houseplants.' The success of the evening depends on members and friends bringing their old, tired and sick houseplants along on the evening. Attendees may get their hands dirty! Richard will demonstrate propagation methods; pots, potting up and re-potting; staking and tying; soils, pests and diseases; watering etc. Q & A. This will take place at St Winefride's Church hall at 7.00pm. Full details and costs will be sent to you nearer the time. (Please note - There is a chance that this event may be rescheduled due to the guest speaker's availability)

## Gardening Roundup - We spotted a some snippets of information that we thought might be of interest to you:

We know that a number of our newer members have described themselves as beginner gardeners and so for them, most particularly, they might find the following Royal Horticultural Society link helpful: [www.rhs.org.uk/getgrowing](http://www.rhs.org.uk/getgrowing). This contains a series of 'how to do it' guides and step by step directions for a variety of projects. Well worth checking out.

17-23 July is Bees Needs Week. We are all now aware that bees are struggling and we need to do all we can to keep the bee population healthy and vigorous. <http://bumblebeeconservation.org> is a helpful site and will give you information about bee friendly flowers and where to get the seeds. Even planting a window box with bee friendly plants will help. This picture below of a bee on a Hollyhock was taken in my new bee garden made earlier this spring on a patch of waste ground behind the garage. Easy and fun and full of bees. Very satisfying.

Good news is that the Garden Museum, which is right near Lambeth Bridge, is open again after its £7.5 million refit. Always worth a visit – and it has a good teashop too: [www.gardenmuseum.org.uk](http://www.gardenmuseum.org.uk)

## And finally.....

For those really lazy gardeners who are also tech geeks, this is one for you. The Tertill Solar Powered Weeder. The advertising blurb says it patrols the garden daily, avoiding plants and obstacles while looking for weeds to eliminate. That is can cover rough ground and roams at will spotting and getting rid of any plants under one inch high. So keep it away from your precious new veg seedlings. A lavish prize to the first member to buy one and test drive it.

Happy gardening to you all from the editorial team.



Plant Sale Succulents from Attwood Avenue



Tertill Solar Powered Weeder



Bee on a Hollyhock

**Application Form:**

**VISIT TO CHENIES MANOR AND CLIVEDEN - THURSDAY 7th September**

Chenies is the MacLeod Matthews family home, a Tudor manor house which was originally built in 1460 with a fortified tower and stepped gables. The five beautiful acres of garden are especially famous for dahlias, cosmos and salvias in late summer. The gardens feature a Tudor sunken garden, herbaceous borders, a fountain court and physic garden. In addition there is a Victorian kitchen garden and maze. Plenty to explore for an afternoon finishing with a visit to the tearooms. On the way to Chenies we stop at Cliveden, mainly for lunch but also for a stroll around the five formal gardens and many more acres of woodlands! (National Trust members bring your membership cards, non-members pay on the day.)

**PROGRAMME:**

- 10.00 am      Leave Kew Green, just near the Botanist
- 11.00         Arrive at Cliveden with free time to visit the gardens and have an early lunch
- 1.15 pm      Leave to travel on to Chenies
- 2.00         Arrive at Chenies. Our entry fee includes a 40 minute guided tour of the house. It may be necessary to split into two groups for this with approx. 20 mins between tours. Don't forget to visit the tea rooms.
- 4.45         Depart. It is about 25 miles to Kew and we hope to be back shortly after 6 pm depending on traffic.

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**APPLICATION FOR TICKETS TO VISIT CHENIES AND CLIVEDEN**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

EmailAddress: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_

(in case of problems on the day)

Please reserve me ..... tickets on the coach @ £23 a head (includes coach trip, entry to Chenies + driver's tip)

I am a member of the National Trust:    Yes \_\_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque made payable to Kew Horticultural Society for .....

Please send to Jenny Long, Maze Lodge, Forest Road, Richmond TW9 3BZ . On receipt, an email confirmation of your place will be sent.