NEWSLETTER – JULY 2019



KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Message from the Committee

All of us are struggling with the weather are we not? At the time of writing it is hard to know if it really is June or it is, instead, a rather slow February? I looked with envy at the gardens of those who are lucky enough to have greenhouses. My tomato plants are sitting glumly in their pots and are only about a foot high. The peppers and chillies are even worse. As for the roses, branches have been broken by the weight of the rain on them and the foxes, clearly energised by the grim weather, have dug up my dahlias.

Leaving that wreckage behind, let us move on to other things. Since the AGM, members of the Committee have had a busy time. Apart from organising the Summer Party, finalising arrangements for the holiday in Snowdonia and making arrangements for a coach trip to Wisley, we have been scrutinising and then awarding grants from the KHS to five organisations in Kew. Those of you who went to the Summer Party will know that two grants of £3000 each were given to Kew Botanical Gardens and the Chiswick House Kitchen Garden for community projects and Riverside, Queens and Darell primary schools have each received a grant of £1000 for educational projects that embrace initiatives under the broad title of 'earth sciences.' Further details are given elsewhere in the newsletter, about each of these initiatives, but I think that KHS members can feel proud that they have been able to make such a material contribution to those in our community.

Meanwhile, the Show Committee has been putting into place the arrangements for the Summer Show while facing the prospect that one of their number is moving away from the area and so her continued ability to help will inevitably be diminished. This departure takes us on to a melancholy topic which you have heard us rehearse in the past. One committee member is, as mentioned above, about to leave us. We have no Chair. At the next AGM three other crucial Committee members will be retiring. This means the Committee is almost at the level of a skeleton crew. It is starting to look as if The Committee is going to be in the position of simply managing the decline of the KHS. **The KHS needs you!** If members do not come forward to join the Committee and are not prepared to give some of their time to organising events and outings, including particularly the Summer Show, the KHS will go the way of other horticultural societies and simply die. While there is a glimmer at hope in that two members have expressed an interest in running a large show on Kew Green in 2020 and while we salute them, they cannot do it alone. They will need support. Ultimately it is for you, the KHS membership, to make the choice. Either you let things go on as they are, towards the inevitable demise of the KHS, which after 80 years would be a very sad indeed, or you get actively involved and keep it alive. Any exciting new ideas about possible future trips, subjects for talks, activities or initiatives, would be welcome and it follows from that, that offers to join the Committee, and make them happen is now becoming imperative. So, contact any Committee member if you feel you can join us.

Photos from KHS Social Media:



Richard's plant ID at the AGM



Our first Show Committee Meeting



Plant stall at The KHS Party

Membership Secretary

Welcoming new members is always good news! The new members who have joined us thus far in 2019 are: Zelda Blackadder, Amanda Botta and Philip Crocker, Daniel Le Cornu, Michael and Alison Greenwood, Sue and Andrew Murray, Liz Penman, Anna Shepherd, Jenny Sneesby, Jo Wenham and Ayla Soguksu.

We welcome you all and look forward to seeing you at future events and who knows, maybe you might volunteer to join the Committee. Sadly, we have to say goodbye to Anne Drummond-Hay and Bridget Wait who have moved away and also to Malcolm Hillier who has resigned. We were very sad to learn that Barbara Cooper died recently as has Michael le Fleming. Michael was a Vice President of the KHS who gave long term and enthusiastic support to the Society. He was a gifted gardener and had a lovely garden which in the past he had opened for NGS and also for the Rotary Club. He and his companion Colin always generously gave plants to the Plant Stall at the KHS Summer Show. He will be very much missed.

KHS Show 2019 – We need YOU!

Our big event of the year is quickly approaching! The KHS show will take place on **Saturday 24th August**, at St Anne's Church Hall, Kew Green, TW9 3AA. Please start thinking about your entries – and encouraging others to exhibit as well. Everyone is welcome! We are hoping the hall will be packed and colourful on the day and don't forget we are including classes for a jam, a chutney and a Victoria Sponge this year, together with several classes for children. Please stay around until the end, where there will be a sale of produce at 5.15pm in aid of St.Anne's Church!

Volunteers are needed to take entries, man the tea tent and bake cakes and biscuits (your donations last year were so tempting and we had many comments on the gorgeousness of the cakes!). Please let Frances Goodwin know on frgoodwin@hotmail.com if you can help in any way.

The hall will be open to the public a little earlier this year at 1.30pm. We are attaching a revised Entry Form and Poster with the Newsletter and we would ask that, if you can, you print off the poster and pin it in your window, in your car, or on your gatepost, wherever it is most visible, a couple of weeks before the Show. We are attaching it in both colour and black and white so you can choose which version to display.

Ann Sandall is kindly running the plant stall and would be grateful for donations of any plants (seedlings, perennials, house plants etc.) to be brought to the church during the morning of 24th. If you were awarded a cup last year, would you please arrange to return it/have it picked up by contacting Frances Goodwin.

We very much look forward to seeing you, your family and friends on August 24th!

The Show Committee



Do you fancy a go at Floral Art this year?



Please return if you have a cup at home!



How is your produce looking?

The Summer Party

Perhaps it was always too much to expect that the evening of the Annual KHS Summer Party, Friday 17th May, would be another warm and balmy one, as it was last year, and, as it proved, it was indeed too much! However, despite the cool, cloudy and showery conditions, we were delighted to welcome about 40 guests, including several new members to the Priory Park Tennis Club for our annual Summer social get-together.

Despite the gloomy weather, the Clubhouse looked bright and inviting. As usual, there was a vast selection of delicious canapés and snacks on offer, provided by Committee Members, to whom many thanks should go, and the bar, operated by Nigel and Jo from Priory Park, appeared to do brisk business throughout the evening. Once again, Ann and Alan Sandall ran a very successful plant stall, selling both their own plants and also those provided very generously by other KHS members. Ann and Alan seemed to spend most of the evening outside nobly braving the weather, and special thanks go to them both. This year, we decided to use the opportunity to hold a Special General Meeting during the course of the evening, to ask Members to agree the proposed distribution of KHS money to local horticulturally-based projects, and you can read about this elsewhere in this newsletter.

Two hours passed very quickly and pleasantly, and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening, and we hope the new members who attended had an opportunity to meet and get to know other KHS regulars in a relaxed, social atmosphere. As ever, we are very grateful to everyone who helped in so many ways to produce another successful KHS event. Thank you all.

Trip to Snowdonia

24 KHS members recently returned from a five-day trip to Snowdonia visiting gardens under the expert guidance again of Tony Russell. It was one of the best trips I have been on and I am avidly looking forward to the KHS trip in 2020—to South Wales, once again with Tony Russell. Tony lives in Snowdonia so he knows everything horticultural about the area. He worked on the itinerary to create a tour showing off a fascinating range of gardens and we met their owners and gardeners in several.

It was intriguing to visit Plas Brondanw, the house and garden inherited by Clough Williams-Ellis before he created Portmeirion which we visited subsequently. What a wonderland is Portmeirion, a highlight of the trip for me, a miniature Italianate resort, unusual shrubs, majestic trees, well chosen bedding and the sea casting its special sea light overall. A particular gem was a tiny National Trust house and garden, Plas Yn Rhiw, with a view over Cardigan Bay, an acre of Paradise. This little space contrasted with Bodnant, the world famous, huge NT garden where we were particularly lucky that the renowned laburnum tunnel was flowering its socks off and by pure wizardry there was a lull between waves of trippers so we saw it and photographed it unsullied by human presence.

Alliums everywhere will be one of my main memories, dark red and purple, huge fireworks, along with tulip trees, rhododendrons, azaleas, you name them, we saw them, patted them, loved them. The sun shone nearly all the time and we laughed at our prudence in packing waterproofs and thick sweaters.



KHS members in Snowdonia

We indulged our passion for plant buying at Bodnant and Plas Cadnant on Anglesey, bringing home a selection of unusual specimens, souvenirs of a wonderful holiday, and judging by the amount of rain these treasures will have already received in Kew, they will think themselves perfectly at home. Details of the 2020 KHS trip will appear in due course in the newsletter.





Our guide Tony Russell and a lot of cake!



Mary Fisher and Ruth Spiers

Coach trip to Wisley

As the day approached for our visit to Wisley we looked carefully at the weather forecast. In the end we were very lucky and were able to enjoy the magnificent gardens and 'new look' Visitor Centre, plant shop and restaurants almost entirely in the dry. A sharp shower during lunch was well timed. We were pleased too, to welcome a group of Kew Society members to join us on the day. Those of us that went 'behind the scenes' had a fascinating tour of the RHS laboratories and pressed plant collection and reference library. The focus of their research is horticultural plants and we saw the team that receives and investigates queries from RHS members. Some members do not just send letters and emails but send in specimens of plants and twigs and even chunks of lawn asking for an informed response and advice. Most arrive in plastic boxes but one of the scientists said that a tomato with a caterpillar infestation had been sent via the Post Office in a Jiffy Bag. This had not turned out well.

The glass house is truly splendid and boast what now seem to be the obligatory features of glass houses, a water feature, an impressive orchid collection and a large collection of cacti, some of which were on the verge of coming into bloom. Perhaps we should all return to see how they get on. My lasting memory of the trip is of a large family group of geese, some 20 of them from fluffy youngsters to elderly followers bringing up the rear - obviously on a journey heading somewhere important to them all. We had temporarily lost our way between the Glasshouse and the lakes and it seemed possible that they were heading in that direction so we followed them. A correct assumption! Groups of children were enthralled as they toddled past. The new plant sales area is spectacular, the plants in perfect condition, and I imagine almost anything you would like to see growing in your garden available to purchase.

Christmas shopping at Wisley will offer even more choice than in the past. Am I the only one who remembers the once famous huge Wisley biscuits? I was relieved to see they are still on the menu but no longer for sale around the gardens.

Future Social Events

A number of social events are at the planning stage these include:

A Trip to **Fulham Palace** sometime in the week starting 9 September. We are in discussions with Fulham Palace about this. We think this a garden well worth visiting given the substantial restoration of the garden has taken place to return it to its former glory. We will send the details to you when they are finalised.

The Annual Quiz is planned for 7 February 2020. Nearer the time we shall be looking for volunteers to help with setting up St Winefrides and generally organising the event.

We have already booked a stall at **Kew Market** for 3 May 2020. This has always been an opportunity to attract new members and raise some funds by the sale of bedding plants. Again volunteers will be needed to set up and run the stall.

Any other ideas for outings or activities that you would like to take part in are of course always welcome. The contact address of the Secretary is <u>secretary@kewhorticulrualsociety.org</u>







The greenhouse in the walled garden

The walled garden at Fulham Palace

Gifts from the KHS

At the AGM the members discussed the idea, put forward by the Committee, that some of the KHS's considerable excess reserves be given to local organisations for community or educational projects that involved horticulture. Those members at the AGM responded very positively to the idea and so the Committee undertook some research and at the Special General Meeting held at the Summer Party in May the Members endorsed the following suggestions:

Fulham Palace cafe - can we tempt you?

£3000 be given to the Kew Gardens Community Project. Kew are creating raised beds and allotments where 'excluded people' in our community, that is the homeless, refugees, those with physical and other disabilities, can garden and grow produce and receive training in a safe and welcoming environment. Kew asked us to fund a poly tunnel, where they might hold educational classes and work out of the rain, together with gardening equipment. We have been offered a visit to the site when the project is up and running. We will keep you informed of the date of any such visit.



The Produce Stall



Noreen Jones at The Kitchen Garden



Visitors at Chiswick House Kitchen Garden

£3000 to be given to the Chiswick House Kitchen Garden Schools project. This is open to all schools but inevitably most schools who visit come from Hounslow and Richmond and Ealing. The project introduces children to growing fruit and vegetables in a very hands on way. Experience showed that for many children this will be first time they will have actually seen fruit and vegetable growing; will have planted seeds or harvested produce. The project has been running for several years and Chiswick used to get about 28 schools visiting a year. The grant was cut, however, and

so last year only 3 schools visited as the schools had to pay for each child to go to the garden. Our grant will enable children to come for free, as in the past, and will also provide the tools and equipment needed. Given our grant Chiswick House say they are expecting up to 30 schools will visit this year. A real turn around.

There are seasonal open days when you will be able to visit the Kitchen Garden if you wish, and one such was held on 23 June. Your Secretary went along as I was invited to help on the produce stall and was delighted to see some KHS members visiting too, including the redoubtable Noreen Jones. The next open days, from 11.00am to 3.30pm are Sunday 1 September, and Sunday 13 October.

£1000 went to each of the three local primary schools. They were asked to submit a proposal showing how they would spend the gift and this was then approved by the Committee before the money was released. The schools chose to use the money in very different ways but each had gardening and nature study at its core together with the purchase of the books and equipment needed to enhance the projects.

New York Botanical Gardens

On a recent visit to New York City I went to the New York Botanical Gardens and as the garden has a link with Kew I thought you might be interested to learn more.

The Gardens were founded in 1891 by Nathaniel Britton and his wife Elizabeth. He was an affluent businessman and keen botanist. He eventually became the first director of the gardens. She was a university educated botanist of some repute. On their honeymoon they came to Europe and visited Kew Gardens. After which they decided New York needed a botanical garden and so on their return to New York City he encouraged rich philanthropists like himself to donate money to enable them to realise the project.



The Azalea Garden

Walking through the NYBG

American Larkspur

They eventually purchased 250 acres of wild terrain in what is now The Bronx. The site includes a number of huge granite outcrops which are used very imaginatively in the design of the gardens; 50 acres of old-growth forest containing native species, some of the trees are now over 200 years old and the Bronx river runs through the site. While there is a large conservatory and a few formal gardens, such as the Rockefeller Rose Garden, most of the site is given over to woodland gardens and quite loose planting. The native woodland area is managed as necessary but largely left untouched. As you can see from the pictures it is a truly lovely place.

I was there when the azaleas were out and while there are plenty of non native plants including of course the azaleas, the focus of the gardens is increasingly on native American species and a large area of the gardens has been set aside solely for such plants. I went around this area with a highly informative and enthusiastic guide. The dog woods were in full bloom and were truly gorgeous, scattering as they did, dappled shade over a carpet of flowers including American species of larkspur, heuchera, aquilegia and dwarf irises. There is even an American azalea, which has yellow, scented flowers that look rather like honey suckle in form.

So, if you go to New York City why not give Bergdorf Goodman and Saks a miss and make time to go to the Botanical Gardens instead. It's easy to get there. A train from Grand Central Station to the Botanical Gardens station takes just 20 minutes and drops you opposite the entrance. https://www.nybg.org

And Finally.....

As we have given money to the Chiswick House Kitchen Garden Schools Project, I thought you would like these two little incidents which occurred during a visit from a school a couple of years ago. The gardener took some small school children into the garden and asked them if they could think why it was that the kitchen garden has a wall around it. A hand shot up from the front of the group, a little boy, newly arrived from Somalia and as keen as mustard said, 'To keep the monkeys out.' On reflection and after some discussion, the group thought this was probably not the case and settled for rabbits instead.

Meanwhile, another group of slightly older children, they were about 7 or 8, went to visit the bee keeper. One boy asked her particularly probing and knowledgeable questions. 'Does your Dad keep bees?' She asked. He told us 'No,' but both his Mum and Dad worked full time and so in the holidays he was sent to stay with his Grandpa in Slovenia. Grandpa had a cherry orchard in which he kept bee hives and so he and Grandpa looked after the bees together. 'I do like bees.' He said. Don't we all.

Happy Gardening to you all from the Editorial Team!



75th FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW



FLOWERS - FRUIT - VEGETABLES - PRESERVES CAKE - FLORAL ART - PLANT STALL - TEA TENT

SATURDAY 24th AUGUST 2019

ST.ANNE'S CHURCH HALL - KEW GREEN - TW9

ENTRIES 9 - 10.30am SHOW OPENS 1.30pm

4.30pm

FOR INFORMATION AND ENTRY FORMS - WWW.KEWHORTICULTURALSOCIETY.ORG



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ENTRIES 9 - 10.30am SHOW OPENS 1.30pm

PRIZEGIVING

4.30pm

FOR INFORMATION AND ENTRY FORMS - WWW.KEWHORTICULTURALSOCIETY.ORG



75th Flower and Produce Show, St Anne's Church Hall, Saturday 24th August 2019

ENTRY FEE - £1 (unlimited classes) Mark classes entered X and bring your exhibits and form to the Church Hall between 9.00 and 10.30am

NAME		EXHIBITOR NUMBER	(to be given on the day)
ADDRESS	TEI	EMAIL	

Are you a first time exhibitor in Sections A, B and C?...... Are you a first-time exhibitor in Floral Art?..... Are you under 7or 7-11 years?.....

	Section A Vegetables		Section B Fruit	42	Mixed flowers
				43	Flowering shrub, 3 sprays of one variety
1	Aubergines 2	23	Apples 4, dessert	44	Best outdoor grown flower in the garden
2	Beans – Dwarf, 9 with stalks	24	Apples 4, cooking	45	Cactus or succulent, one in a pot
3	Beans - Climbing, 6 with stalks	25	Plums 6	46	Flowering pot plant, home grown
4	Beetroots 3, one variety, 8cm of tops	26	Pears 3, ripe or unripe	47	Foliage pot plant, home grown
5	Brassica 2, any variety	27	Figs 3		
6	Carrots 4, 8cm of tops	28	Soft fruit 9, of any kind		Section D Floral Art
7	Chilli Peppers 6	29	A dish of fruit of one kind other than above		
8	Courgettes 4			48	'Small is Beautiful' – a miniature arrangement
9	Cucumber 2		Section C Flowers and Plants		Maximum size 5" x 5"
10	Culinary herbs, 6 different kinds				
11	Garlic, 3 bulbs	30	Perennials tender or hardy, 3 or more kinds	49	'Childhood Memories' – an arrangement made
12	Onions 4, outer skins removed	31	Annuals, 3 or more kinds		without using Oasis. Maximum size 12"x 12"
13	Potatoes 4, white variety	32	Hydrangea, a single head		
14	Potatoes 4, coloured variety	33	Dahlias 3, decorative	50	'Over the Rainbow' – using only seven stems
15	Shallots 9	34	Dahlias 3, cactus/semi-cactus		of flowers in appropriate colours, plus greenery
16	Tomatoes cherry, one truss	35	Dahlias 6, pom pom		
17	Tomatoes 4, any other variety	36	Dahlias 6, waterlily		Section E Cookery
18	One variety of vegetable other than	37	Dahlias 6, mixed varieties		
	above				
19	Mixed vegetables, 1 each of 6 kinds	38	Rose, one scented	51	A glass jar of homemade fruit jam, any kind
20	A Display of Vegetables and/or Seed	39	Roses, 5 blooms	52	A Victoria Sponge- your family's favourite
	grown from Garden Organic Seeds				recipe
21	'A Vegetable Creature' made of fruit	40	Fuchsias, one variety or a mixture	53	A glass jar of homemade chutney, any kind
	and/or vegetables. Under 7 and 7-11yrs				
22	'A Miniature Garden' in a seed tray –	41	Sunflower, a single cut bloom		
	under 7 and 7-11yrs				

The Entry Form lists all the classes in the Show. The Entry Fee includes free entry to the Hall after 1.30pm. Exhibitors may only enter one exhibit per class. Cups are presented to those with the most points, which are awarded as follows: First Prize: 4 points, Second prize: 3 points, Third prize: 2 points, Fourth prize: 1 point.

Programme for Saturday 24th August

9.00 – 10.30am All exhibits must be brought to the Hall, together with this Form, and arranged in the appropriate class.

10.45am Hall is closed for judging.

1.30pm Hall is open to the public (£1 entry). Exhibitors and Under 12s are free.

4.30pm Prizegiving.

5.00pm Exhibitors should collect their exhibits from the hall. Exhibitors may donate/leave in situ their unwanted produce which will be sold off in aid of St. Anne's Church at 5.15 pm sharp.

Tips for Exhibitors

1. Uniformity of size, shape and colour is important.

2. All vegetables should be properly prepared and roots washed. No blemishes if possible. Cut beans and the like with scissors and retain long individual stalks. Root crops should have tops trimmed to about 8cm. Tomatoes and fruit should have the calyx left on.

3. Shallots, garlic etc. are better displayed on a plate of raised sand. Leave about 2.5cm of dry stem. Soft fruit look better displayed with a few of their own leaves.

4. An annual is a flower raised from seed during the 12 months preceding the Show. A perennial is a plant which lasts many years (including plants from bulbs, corms and tubers). All exhibits in Section C except pot plants should be shown in a vase or bowl. Water for topping up vases will be available outside the Hall.

5. Items in Section E will be judged on flavour and appearance, but please (i) label preserves with date and fruit used (ii) glass jars can be recycled provided they have been thoroughly sterilised (iii) jams to be covered with wax disc and cellophane or twist-on lid (if metal lid it must be new) (iv) chutneys should be minimum 2 months old and covered with a vinegar-proof top.

Rules for Exhibitors

1. All exhibits in Sections A, B and C must be bona fide produce of the exhibitor and all plants must have been owned and grown by him or her for at least three months. Vegetables/ fruit and items in Classes 21 and 22 may be bought (or borrowed). Flowers and foliage in Section D may be bought. All exhibits in Section E must be homemade by the exhibitor. 2. Competitors must be amateurs and may only enter one exhibit per class.

3. The judges may modify or withhold any prize if the standard of the exhibit does not merit the prize offered.

4. The judges' decision as to the relative merits of the exhibits shall be final and the decision of the Committee shall be final on all other matters connected with the Show.

5. Exhibitors must leave the Hall by 10.45am. All exhibits must remain in the Hall and cannot be altered or removed between 10.45am and the conclusion of the prize-giving.

6. All cups remain the property of the Society and will be held by the successful exhibitors for one year and must be returned when requested by the Society, and are accepted by winners subject to the above conditions.

7. The Society will not be liable for the exhibits or personal property of the exhibitors and members of the public.

Show Enquiries to Frances Goodwin General Enquiries to Ann Scurfield KHS Membership Enquiries to Carole Brougham email: <u>show@kewhorticulturalsociety.org</u> email: <u>secretary@kewhorticulturalsociety.org</u> email: membership@kewhorticulturalsociety.org Website: www.kewhorticulturalsociety.org

SPECIAL AWARDS AND TROPHIES

Apart from the Banksian medal and the usual cups that we compete for annually, there are many cups for all gardeners. One prize winning exhibit of roses, one glorious pot plant or one perfect plate of beans might make you the proud winner of a glearning cup. Read on and resolve to enter something in the show. It is a show for all gardeners and for KHS members so show off what you can do.

THE BANKSIAN MEDAL of the Royal Horticultural Society to the exhibitor with the highest number of points in Horticulture. LADIES THRESHER CUP to the lady exhibitor gaining most points in Horticulture unless she has won the Banksian Medal. MEN'S THRESHER CUP to the gentleman exhibitor gaining most points in Horticulture unless he has won the Banksian Medal. DIAMOND JUBILEE CUP to the exhibitor gaining the next highest points in Horticulture. PRESIDENT'S CUP to the exhibitor gaining most points in the vegetable classes only. NEWTON CUP for most meritorious vegetable exhibit. IAN MACLEAN CUP for the best display of vegetables grown from Garden Organic seeds. DR SPARKES CUP for the best fruit exhibit. TINKER CUP for the exhibitor gaining most points in the dahlia classes. KEW SOCIAL CLUB CUP to the exhibitor gaining most points in the Flowers and Plants classes. NATIONAL DAHLIA SOCIETY CERTIFICATE for the best exhibit of dahlias. NATIONAL DAHLIA SOCIETY CERTIFICATE for the best dahlia bloom. DIAMOND CUP for the first-time exhibitor gaining the most points in Sections A.B and C. K.E.W CUP for winner of Class 19, Mixed Vegetables. THOMAS CUP for best rose exhibit in Classes 38 and 39. BURKE CUP for best pot plant in Classes 45-47. GOLDEN JUBILEE CUP for the exhibitor with the second highest points score in Section C, Flowers and Plants. SCARBOROUGH CUP for the best bean exhibit in Classes 2 and 3. CAROLINE FIELDING CUP for the best potato exhibit in Classes 13 and 14. WELCH CUP for the child winning most points in Classes 21 and 22. QUEEN ELIZABETH CUP for the best apple in Classes 23 and 24. PAT THOMAS CUP for the first time exhibitor gaining most points in Floral Art. FLORAL CUP for the exhibitor gaining the most points in Floral Art. DAWSON CUP for the best exhibit in Floral Art. ASSOCIATION CUP to the exhibitor gaining most points in Section E. SIR ARTHUR HILL CUP for gaining most points in the Show.

In the event of a tie, the entrant with the most exhibits is declared winner.