

## Message from the Committee

Spring is approaching and with it preparations for the Summer Show. This year we are hugely fortunate in that Amanda Botta and Alison Greenwood (two long term Kew residents and members of the KHS) have agreed to organise the Summer Show together with a team of helpers. So this year the KHS is able to respond to popular demand, and hold a traditional Summer Show on Kew Green with a Marquee and outside stalls and other attractions. We are hugely grateful to Alison and Amanda. The date of the Show is **Saturday 29 August**, so why not put that date in your calendar now.

The AGM is coming up on 27 March and will be held as usual in the Church Hall at St Winefride's. Full details are given below later on in the Newsletter. At the AGM two committee members are retiring, Lyn Keay and the Secretary Ann Scurfield. At the end of the year our Treasurer, Harriet Enthoven is retiring. As members know we are without a Chair since Ann Sandall retired at last year's AGM. **So far no replacements for any of these key posts have been found despite the assiduous efforts of members of the Committee.** That said despite this background the marvelous news is that Mary Fisher, a KHS member who many of you will know, has agreed to join the Committee which is a very happy circumstance and we are most grateful to her.

So why not follow Mary's example? In the immediate short term the most urgent need is for a Secretary to co-ordinate the KHS's activities and communicate with members. Ann Scurfield will be at the AGM and is happy to discuss with anyone who is interested, what the role entails. The Committee meets only 4 times a year so it is hardly an onerous commitment to join the Committee, so please do not let timidity or uncertainty stand in your way.

What is certain is that unless members step forward to share the load, then it is an open question whether the KHS can continue as at present. You have heard exhortations from the Committee before on this subject but if you want the KHS to continue to put on Quiz nights, social evenings, and the Summer Show, holidays and coach trips then frankly the solution lies in your hands. so please if this matters to you, get involved!

Photos from KHS Social Media:



Iris bulbs emerging in January



Edgeworthia caryanthea (paper bush)



Daphne odora

## Trip to Waterperry and Oxford Botanic Gardens - Tuesday June 9th 2020 (Update 6/4/20 - Trip Cancelled)

Do join us for a day out in June! We have arranged visits to two gardens and some free time in Oxford. Details of times and costs are on the application form at the end of this newsletter.

Our first stop is Waterperry, a garden made famous by Beatrix Havergal who established her School of Horticulture

for Ladies between 1932 and 1971. It has 8 acres of beautifully landscaped ornamental gardens and is just 10 miles from Oxford. You'll find a plant centre and garden shop, gallery, gift shop and museum. The tea shop will be open for coffee or an early light lunch or you can wait for the many and varied choices in Oxford. We are able to offer a voluntary 45 minute guided tour of the garden if there is sufficient interest.

From here we travel the short distance to Oxford for free time before meeting at 2.30 to visit the oldest Botanic Gardens in the UK. With nearly 6,000 different types of plant, classic English herbaceous borders, a rock garden and glasshouses you will be relieved to find the pop-up Café near the River Cherwell which serves teas, cakes and ice cream. Finally don't miss the colourful Merton Borders, an example of sustainable horticultural development. They require no artificial irrigation, staking or fertilisers.

Why not fill in the attachment to secure your place on the coach!

## Membership Update

Welcome to Pearl Pelfrey who has joined recently. We offer a sincere and warm welcome to you and look forward to seeing you at one or two or hopefully all of our future events that are being planned for the year ahead and that goes for all our members.

**A reminder - subscriptions are now due!** Thanks to all of you who have already paid your subscription for 2020, especially those of you who pay by standing order. If you have paid by bank transfer in the past, it is easy to set up a standing order and it much easier for your membership secretary to check who has paid. For everybody else, you are reminded that subs fell due on **1 Jan 2020**. If your renewal is not received by 31 March, sadly it will be assumed that your membership has lapsed. and you will be removed from our records. It is still only £5 per member or £10 per couple, a snip I think you will agree and is the same as last year (you will find the membership renewal form towards the end of this newsletter).

## Committee Members' visits - Kew Community Garden & Chiswick Kitchen Garden Education projects

As members will no doubt remember, last year, the KHS gave grants of £1000 each to three local primary schools, Queens, Darrell and Riverside, and £3000 each to the Chiswick House and Gardens Trust for their Kitchen Garden Education Programme, and to the Kew Gardens Community Garden project which aims to encourage excluded people such as the homeless, refugees and those with disabilities to become actively involved in gardening. Towards the end of last year, members of the Committee were invited by the leaders of both the Kew and Chiswick projects to visit them to see exactly how the KHS money was being used.



The poly tunnel



Kew Gardens Community Project



Produce beginning to grow under netting

The money given to the Community garden at Kew was specifically for the purchase of a poly tunnel, to enable the gardeners to propagate and grow a wider range of plants throughout the year, and this was what we were invited to see. So one afternoon at the end of October, several of us gathered at Lion Gate where we were met and guided to a



previously unnoticed allotment area inside the boundary wall only a few yards along from the gate. There we were introduced to Jane, the impressive and hugely energetic project leader, to other staff members, and to several of the gardeners, some of whom had come to Kew having spent the night sleeping on the streets, which was where they would be going back to at the end of the day. Some were delighted to be able to talk about their work there, proudly showing us what they grew, and then the dishes they cooked using their produce, but some were understandably reluctant to speak to us, and quietly continued with what they were doing. The poly tunnel was already in use, although it was at that point still unfinished, lacking the staging on each side, but Jane said that it would double the amount of produce in the year to come, and that they were tremendously grateful for it. Other than the poly tunnel, there were only gazebos for shelter. We were all very impressed by the importance of the work going on, and by the enthusiasm of the staff both paid and voluntary who have created a safe environment and a sense of achievement and purpose for people with a range of mental and emotional problems.



KHS members and committee



Chiswick House & Gardens

We also accepted an invitation from the Chiswick House and Gardens Trust coordinator Louise Randall to visit the Kitchen Garden Education project to see the work our gift was helping to fund there. It was a cold morning in late November, but to start with, we met a small Primary school group who were already in the large kitchen garden, and under the guidance of two volunteers, were obviously enjoying working their way round being introduced to all the different plants, and enthusiastically joining in a favourite activity, learning about bee keeping and trying on the bee keepers' suits. Inside in the classrooms, there were worksheets and activities, pictures and examples of plants, seeds, fruits and vegetables of all sorts, to help the children learn at first hand, not only about horticulture, but also all aspects of the natural environment and the importance of protecting it. Permanent staff members also work with the children, and it was good to think that before the KHS grant runs out at the end of March this year, it will have funded the sessions throughout last Autumn, and will enable Chiswick to offer a further four visits to local schools.

Two very interesting and inspiring visits, and the organisers and volunteers of both these projects were at great pains to express their sincere gratitude for the money they received, so THANK YOU, KHS! - *Lyn Keay*

## Diary Dates - 2020

### **7 February - KHS Quiz Night**

St Winefride's, Leyborne Park on Friday 7th February 2020. 7.30 pm sharp - doors open at 7 pm.

### **27 March - KHS AGM. St Winefride's Church Hall, Leyborne Park (Postponed until further notice)**

The doors open at 7.45pm and meeting will start at 8pm. Free glass of wine on arrival. After the formal business there will be a plant identification quiz kindly arranged by Richard Ward with a bottle of champagne for the winner! The AGM is hoped it will conclude at 9pm. This is an important meeting as you will note from the Treasurer's Report. Please send Apologies if you are unable to attend to [ann.scurfield@zen.co.uk](mailto:ann.scurfield@zen.co.uk)

### **3 May - KHS Stall at Kew Village Market (Cancelled)**

We will be at Kew Village Market with some seasonal plant for sale to entice new members and promote the summer show. Come and say hello!

**9 June - KHS Trip to Waterperry & Oxford Botanic Gardens (Cancelled)**

Do sign up for this interesting trip! Details of times and costs are on the application form at the end of this newsletter.

**29 August - KHS Summer Show**

As you know, this year The Show is returning to Kew Green! Watch this space for more details.

**And Finally.....**

This time not so much an item that might just make you chuckle but one which I hope will warm the cockles of your heart, sort of.



I was walking across London Bridge. It was bitter cold and the wind was raw when I came across a rough sleeper sheltering in Pret a Manger's window recess. What I saw there was a tribute to the human spirit because here was a person, clearly at a very low ebb, who had created a home in this tiny little space with a library and a garden, well, a pot plant. Talking to them it was clear they got as much pleasure from their library and pot plant as I do from my books and plants and took as much care of them as I do. Understandably perhaps, they did not want to be photographed but were pleased and gratified that their home would feature in the Kew Horticultural Society newsletter. So here it is. Homes and Gardens street style.

**Happy Gardening to you all from the Editorial Team**

Homes & Gardens - Street Style

Please see following page for membership renewal form

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2020 - DUE JANUARY 2020!**



**KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: One of the oldest horticultural societies in London. No gardening experience necessary. Lectures, events and outings throughout the year. Newsletters. Annual Summer Flower and Produce Show**

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2020 – due 1 January 2020. Subscription is £5 per year per adult, children free. The membership year is the same as the calendar year but members who joined at the 2019 Summer Show or later in 2019, are covered for 2020.

Your name(s) .....

Address .....

Post code .....

Phone number .....

Email .....

Date .....

Please circle one of the following:

1. I enclose cash/cheque payable to Kew Horticultural Society for £5.00/£10 for my/our subscription.

Please return this form to our Membership Secretary, Carole Brougham, 58 Bushwood Road, Kew, TW9 3BW (020 8948 7254).

2. I have completed a standing order mandate (see below) for my/our bank/building society to pay my/our annual subscription(s) and I will give/send it to my bank.

3. I bank online and have instructed my bank to pay KHS by Standing Order and am emailing this application form for your records.

4. I confirm that I pay by standing order

5. I confirm that I joined at or after the 2019 Summer Show and my subs are paid for 2020.

If 2 -5 apply, please email this form to [membership@kewhorticulturalsociety.org](mailto:membership@kewhorticulturalsociety.org) for our records. Thank you,

Help is always welcome with social events, deliveries of newsletters, committee membership, and organization of the annual Show – please indicate below any which interest you:

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**STANDING ORDER MANDATE**



**KEW  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY**

**STANDING ORDER MANDATE**

To .....(Bank)

Branch name.....

Branch address.....

Postcode.....

Name(s) in which your own account is held 1 ..... 2.....

Account number.....

Branch sort code.....

Please pay to Kew Horticultural Society the sum of £5/£10 immediately then on 3 January annually until further notice.

Branch sort code: 20 72 33 (Barclays Bank)

Account number 13756440

Signed.....