



**KEW
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2022

Dear Members,

We know you are all waiting with bated breath for news about our forthcoming annual Flower and Produce Show, so we start with all the details. But please also read on for an account of the recent trip to visit Irish gardens; the next event that we are organising in September; Richard's July tips and a new series about our members and their individual gardens.

KHS SUMMER SHOW – Saturday, 27th August, 2022

Following last year's highly successful event, we are back in a marquee on the Green again this year, ably co-ordinated by our Show Organisers, Alison Greenwood and Mandy Botta.

The Schedule of classes is up on the website and the printed Schedule will be with you all very shortly, so please display the poster, look through the Schedule and start planning your possible entries! There is something for everyone; all friends, family and gardeners everywhere are welcome to exhibit too. And there is a special plea for parents and grandparents to encourage the children in their lives to enter some of the children's classes. All it needs is an enthusiastic adult!

Our usual KHS stalls will be there and the following items will be needed:

Book Stall – any saleable books (not travel guides from the 1980s please...) but no DVDs or CDs, thank you.

Plants – please start potting up anything available in your garden for our plant stall.



Tea Tent – cakes, biscuits etc. gratefully received

Bric-a-Brac – anything goes!

Tombola – there will be a children's Tombola and a Bottle Tombola for adults. Donations of any sort of bottle (sauce, shampoo, alcohol) would be much appreciated.

All items can be brought to the Green on the Friday evening or early on the Saturday morning. If you cannot do this and need anything collected, please email the Secretary on the following: frgoodwin@hotmail.com

Volunteers - will be needed for the Show, to help with taking in exhibits, manning the various stalls etc. If you have an hour or so to spare on the day, please email frgoodwin@hotmail.com. Thank you!

We are hoping for another wonderful Show and look forward to seeing you all on the Green with your exhibits, at the end of August. Please spread the word – all the details will be on our website too: kewhorticulturalsociety.org

THE KHS HOLIDAY IN IRELAND

Celia Fisher writes:

As always with KHS holidays, the visit to the Dublin area offered a wide variety of gardens to suit different tastes - including two instances of Japanese influence - but the two gardens that inspired the greatest enthusiasm all round were created by brother and sister, Jimi and June Blake, each blessed with a stunning sense of colour. Arriving at the entrance to Jimi's garden, we were confronted by a steep bank of orange, pink and red, so many rich and subtle shades all singing together and too many different flowers to begin listing them (though dahlias set the tone). By walking slowly up the main path one could dwell on all their individual forms, or by scrambling up the bank one could wander above the flowers, with views of the lovely Irish landscape beyond. Jimi Blake loves to experiment, which makes his garden full of excitement, and beyond this long, curving bank is a bluer bed with many salvias. At the top of the garden is the plant sales area, where everyone dived in and Jimi patiently answered our teeming questions. Various intrepid souls then plunged into the woodland area in search of the orchid meadows beyond, before being rounded up to proceed to June's garden. Hers was based around old farm buildings, their walls adding form and charm, and the large square beds were similarly massed with bold and varied planting, though the preponderance of blues gave it all a calmer feeling.



Jimi Blake in his garden



At Mount Usher

There were several gardens on a far grander scale, not without uneasy reminders of past repression - most notably Powerscourt, with its endless steps receding into the landscape between statues of rearing horses, and a massive arboretum to walk round. At Kilmacurragh's arboretum, the guide made no secret of the hatred felt for the displacement of Irish families in order to carve out the grounds of a big house (now left in ruins). Of course, members of KHS accepted these strictures calmly. The arboretum at Mount Usher was mercifully free of such vibes, perhaps because William Robinson, who was much involved in the planting, was himself Irish. He became famous as an opponent of Victorian formality, and the sense of flowers and trees growing in harmony and freedom is still strong there.





Glasnevin

The fascination for exotic plants, and for something never encountered before, met with our enthusiastic responses in all the gardens and tree collections. Talbot Botanic Gardens boasted a particularly interesting collection of plants from Australia and New Zealand, and an exquisite glasshouse at the centre, full of mystery plants. Other fine glasshouses were at Glasnevin, the National Botanic Garden in Dublin, perhaps more delightful as architecture viewed from the outside (since we are so spoilt with the collections at Kew). Glasnevin could however boast the best herbaceous borders - among many that we saw! It was generally at such moments, when admiring flowers that seemed familiar, that KHS members could be spotted earnestly discussing plant names. There was one in particular where the jury is still out, a handsome hardy geranium - rich magenta with a dark eye - which came variously named as Mount Venus, Anne Thomson, Ann Thompson and Ann Folkard. No doubt all the same species, but in what sense were they distinct? Perhaps we'll get the answer at the next KHS quiz.



The Group at Powerscourt

Huge thanks on behalf of all the travellers go to Jenny Long and Mary Fisher for their hard work in putting the holiday together – not an easy task, but much appreciated – to our agent, Travel Editions and to our tour manager and guide, Tony Russell. Discussions about next year's destination are already being held.

Forthcoming Event

TOUR OF LINCOLN'S INN GARDENS

Monday September 12th

Meet at 10.30am at Fields Bar and Kitchen (in Lincoln's Inn Fields, adjacent to Lincoln's Inn)

We have arranged a personalized tour of the historic Lincoln's Inn Gardens with Head Gardener Miranda Kimberley, who was trained at Kew. Lincoln's Inn's eleven acre estate is comprised of barristers' chambers, commercial premises and residential flats together with collegiate property, all set in beautiful grounds. The first garden to be recorded at the Inn was in 1445.

The price is £14 a head and we are limited to 20 KHS members. The last booking date is September 1, and if there are any spaces these will be offered to non-members.

The nearest underground is Holborn, approx. 0.2 miles from our meeting point at Fields Bar and Kitchen, next to Lincoln's Inn Fields tennis courts WC2A 3LJ. Meet there at 10.30am where coffee will be available. Miranda will join us for lunch and we have inside reserved tables for 20 (choose and pay on the day for coffee and lunch). The tour will begin at 11 am and will take approximately an hour followed by optional lunch.

Please apply for a ticket on the form attached to this email, which also contains all the details.



Tales from the Everyday Gardens of Kew

Zelda Blackadder writes:

Andrew Murray and his Citrus lemon

When our neighbour Andrew turned a decent round figure in age, his wife Sue, knowing the passionate gardener he is, sourced him a small lemon tree plant from a local nursery.

This lovely, aromatic, potted specimen lives in their north facing garden in the summer while close by in the conservatory in winter. Although north facing, the garden has a sunny central spot further down for the Citrus which is extremely favourable. The tree has probably doubled in size in three years. There are numerous buds which then flower and finally the fruit. The citrus are first lime coloured and could in fact be mistaken for lime. Then they turn yellow. Andrew gets about 25 lemons a year. The fruit are riper in summer but can be picked in the winter. Seaweed fertiliser is Andrew's chosen feed. Maybe the challenge will be when it reaches a height it will not fit into the conservatory!

I can vouch that the juice and superb zest of one of these lemons added an awesome flavour to my home made Ottolenghi fish cakes!

The Citrus lemon is doing so well that Andrew was awarded the Dr Sparkes Cup at our 2021 Show in the category Best Fruit.



Richard Ward's Gardening Tips

Richard is keeping up his gardening notes on our website and the July tips are also here below:

KHS TIPS FOR JULY

It's a wonder that plants can cope with our weather extremes, but they usually do. As summer continues, remove the seed heads of those that can become invasive - foxgloves, alliums, Verbena bonariensis, Opium poppies, Lychnis and nasturtiums amongst others; unless, of course, you wish to nurture replacements for next year. If so, you can collect seed from the best mother plants and sow them at the appropriate times.

Have you evaluated your floral displays in hanging baskets, pots and boxes? Are you spending too much? Consider taking cuttings of favourite Geraniums during the summer and overwintering them indoors; also softwood cuttings of your preferred Fuchsias, Lavenders, Hebes, and ivies which will root quickly at this time of year ready for planting out of small pots in October after the summer bedding has finished.

Compost gets pretty dried out during summer so it may be worth planning to replace it in autumn, together with the drainage. Avoid garden-made compost as worms etc. do more harm than good in small containers over the months.

Below are a few of the lovely plants that I have spotted in gardens in the Kew area during late June- beauty is all around us.



Membership News

Welcome to the recent new and returning members:

David & Sarah Clarke

Vanessa Giles

Cheryl Macleod

Paul Miller

Tina Ruygrok

Lisbeth Mousell Taylor

Barbara Scarcliffe

Alice Shackleton

Jeff Shaw

Charlie & Jane Shelton

Alan Thompson & Chris Brown

Juliet & Jonathan Thompson

Angie Wilson

This will be the last newsletter to be printed and sent to those who still do not receive it by email. In future it will be sent as an attachment to an email only. The committee has had to make this decision as we do not have enough help on the committee to cope with the printing and distribution and the subscription is not now high enough to cover the cost. We do hope that, if you do not have email yourself, you might know someone whose email could be used to show the newsletter to you. Let us know if this is the case and we will record the email address under your name.

Happy gardening to you all from the Editorial Team – and looking forward to seeing you at the Show!

Website: [Kew Horticultural Society](#)

[Kew Horticultural Society - Home | Facebook](#)

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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 (open to all).

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - subscription £5 per year per adult/£10 per family. The membership year is the same as the calendar year.

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.
- If 2 or 3 apply, please email this form to membership@kewhorticulturalsociety.org for our records.

DATA PROTECTION: The KHS is operated in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. By submitting this form you understand that KHS will hold and use your personal data for administrative purposes and to keep you informed of its activities. Our data protection policy under these regulations can be found in full on the KHS website.

KEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Standing Order Mandate

ToBank

Branch name.....

Branch address

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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.....