



KEW
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2023

Dear Members,

Summer was late this year but vegetables and flowers are now burgeoning! And our thoughts turn to this year's Flower and Produce Show, to be held on the Green on Saturday, 26th August. Please turn to page 2 if you can't wait for the details!

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US!

We are looking for more committee members for the KHS. It is not an onerous task and many hands make light work. If you are interested in gardening and would like to get involved in our friendly group, please email Frances Goodwin on frgoodwin@hotmail.com for more information.

News from the Membership – Richard Ward

Committee member, Richard Ward, described the KALANCHOE DIAGREMONTIANA in a letter to the RHS this Spring, which we thought you all might find interesting:

'I first met this specie in 1958 at Dartington Hall Gardens where we grew it up to flowering and for selling on.

Last year I bought a pot full of dozens of tiny seedlings that were for sale in a local nursery which one of our members grew on and sold at our summer party plant stall to raise funds. I bought one, 4cms. tall, and grew it on, and here it is, 11 months later, babies hanging on the leaves, and seedpods forming, having been in flower since January.

The internet divulged that it is poisonous and once killed 123 hungry cows in Australia, which may explain why this Kalanchoe isn't widely grown as a houseplant.'



KHS Summer Show – Saturday, 26th August, 2023

Everything is on track for our next Flower and Produce Show in August, Our Show Organisers, Alison Greenwood and Mandy Botta, are co-ordinating the outside stalls, marquee, tea tent and all the other elements to make the Show another great community event.

The Schedule of classes is up on the website and also attached to this email. 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 again we make a 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!

If you won a cup last year and our Secretary has not yet contacted you about returning it, would you email Frances Goodwin on frgoodwin@hotmail.com

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 are on our website too: kewhorticulturalsociety.org



September Event

TRIP TO WATERPERRY AND THE OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN

Tuesday 5th September

Our coach trip to Waterperry and Oxford Botanic Garden is back in the diary at last. This outing was all arranged for June 2020 when lockdown suddenly stopped us going anywhere. We will visit the two gardens with some free time in Oxford for lunch. Further details and costs are on the application form attached to this Newsletter.

Our first stop is Waterperry, a garden made famous as a 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. Of particular interest in the autumn is the orchard which produces over sixty varieties of apples and several unusual varieties of pears. No doubt there will be an opportunity to purchase the fruit and their juice from the garden shop. In addition, there is a tea shop for morning coffee and cake, a plant centre, gallery, gift shop and museum to explore.

We are able to offer a voluntary guided tour of the garden lasting about an hour if there is sufficient interest (see application form)

From here we travel the short distance to Oxford for free time and lunch before meeting at 2.30 to visit the oldest Botanic Gardens in the UK. It was founded in 1621, just over 400 years ago and has around 6,000 different types of plant many of them to be found in the seven glasshouses. The Autumn Border runs the length of the Garden's boundary with Christ Church Meadow. The planting is designed to be at its peak in September and October, relying on strong colour contrasts of both foliage and flowers. In 1941 a rare living fossil the Dawn Redwood was discovered in China and a few years later one of the seeds was planted in the Walled Garden. This huge tree gradually turns a vivid brick-red in the autumn, so not to be missed.

The Jericho Coffee Traders' pop-up café is situated near the river Cherwell and serves coffees, teas, cakes and ice cream. Picnics are allowed in the Garden so you may like to take your own refreshments.

Complete the application form attached to secure your place on the coach.



Waterperry

Recent Events

QUIZ NIGHT

We had eight tables of eager quizzers this year and a very jolly time was had by all! Many thanks to the committee for organising the food and wine, to the Kew Rotary Club for their help and to Alan Sandall, Jenny Long and Frances Goodwin for providing the questions, both general knowledge and horticulturally inclined. The winners were The Dung Beetles, so many congratulations to them!



SUMMER PARTY

On a beautifully balmy evening in May, nearly 40 members gathered at the Priory Park Tennis Club for wine, nibbles, conversation and to browse the plant stall. It was a very relaxing and informal occasion, much enjoyed by all, and it was a delight to welcome some new members to their first KHS event. Thanks go to the committee for supplying the drinks and the homemade food, which all went down a treat, and to Celia Fisher and Jill Wilson for organising the plants.



THE KHS HOLIDAY IN SOMERSET

Catherine Durucan writes:

A group of us have just returned from a thoroughly enjoyable tour of the gardens of Somerset. For the whole time we had amazingly hot weather. It felt as though we were on holiday in the Mediterranean and we certainly saw the gardens at their best.

We were based at The Swan Hotel, which was conveniently and centrally located in Wells. Its terrace, overlooking the historic Wells Cathedral and the Cathedral Green, was a perfect place to relax, chat with friends and have something cold to drink.

On our journey from Kew to Somerset we visited Iford Manor, near Bradford upon Avon. Some of us realized that we had been there before, on a KHS day trip, but there have been changes since then. It is privately owned and the son of the family showed us around. The historic hillside garden, with its interesting structures and artefacts collected from abroad, was as lovely as ever. Due to the Covid era and the maintenance costs of the garden, they had decided to open a restaurant/café where we had an excellent lunch, followed by coffee under parasols on the terraces. Last time we had cups of coffee passed through the kitchen window by his mother.



Iford Manor



Iford Manor

On Wednesday our morning visit was to the Bishop's Palace Garden. There is evidence of a garden here since the thirteenth century. It has beautiful well pools, trees and borders and also hosts immaculate community allotments.



Bishop's Palace Garden

Late afternoon we went to Hestercombe Gardens. This is an Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll designed and planted garden, with later additions. On the following day we had lunch in a restaurant at The Newt, which utilised their own produce. The Newt is a historic garden, which has recently undergone design-led renovations to the landscape, garden, buildings and house. It has many interesting contemporary elements.

For me, however, the garden highlights of the tour were Batcombe House and East Lambrook Manor. Batcombe House is the private residence of the garden designer Libby Russell. The garden, which has featured in magazines such as Gardens Illustrated, opens under the National Gardens Scheme, but is not normally open to the public. The head gardener had some of his training at Kew Gardens and was happy to be with us for the whole of the visit. The plant colour combinations were sublime. The flower meadows, around a tennis court and a discreet swimming pool, were perfect.



Batcombe House

East Lambrook Manor is also privately owned. The garden was created by 20th-century plantswoman and gardening writer Margery Fish and is maintained in the English cottage garden style as a Grade 1 listed garden. The current owner gave us an interesting and amusing introduction to the garden, but did slip in that he has just put the property on the market. Let's hope someone buys it who will maintain it as well as he has. There is an excellent plant nursery and a number of our group could be seen ferrying boxes of plants to the coach.

During our five days we also visited two National Trust gardens, Tintinhull Garden, and Lytes Cary Manor, both interesting. Somewhat different, but equally interesting was Yeo Valley Farm. This is a contemporary garden set beside the house and farm of the owner of the organic dairy firm. We saw the cows and different garden rooms, including a stunning shaded area of young silver birch, underplanted with ferns.



Tony Russell



All in all, the tour was extremely good. We had the services of our excellent tour guide, Tony Russell, and a new driver, Dan, who was very obliging and a great driver. A big thank you to Mary Fisher and Jenny Long for organizing in conjunction with Travel Editions.



The group outside Hestercombe

Thank you to Catherine for this excellent account and to Ruth Speirs for the lovely photographs. Mary Fisher will continue working with Travel Editions to create another wonderful holiday for us next year and discussions are already underway.

More News from the Membership – Sara Scott-Rivers

In 2019, we relocated from SW London to the Peak District, but I have happily remained a member of KHS. We moved to the small village of Tintwistle, where Dame Vivienne Westwood was born. Vivienne sadly died in December 2022 and I was contacted by her family in London, to ask if I could assist with the funeral. The flowers were of paramount importance, the brief was “Peak District in Winter” and a local florist, Anja Norris, stepped in to create a wonderful, serene yet structural display for the church. Anja of Norris Floristry is based close by in Glossop and won two medals at RHS Chelsea in 2022 and 2023. Interior Designer, Alison McLeod, used swathes of tartan and Harris Tweed in the church (Vivienne was known for her love of tartan). I am sure you will agree, it looked absolutely stunning.





Thank you to Sara for sending us this very interesting piece.

Archives

Our project to organise and expand our archives is taking shape. If you have any old photographs, catalogues or similar, or any information, stories or anecdotes about the KHS over the years, please do let us have them. Just email Zelda Blackadder on zeldablackadder@googlemail.com

Thank You!



Thank you to our webmaster, Roger Hine, for all his work on running the KHS website, which he does for us gratis. He fits this in between rowing stints on the river and related events such as Henley Regatta! We presented Roger with some wine last month, to show our appreciation. Here he is, next to a wonderful weigela in flower.

Richard Ward's Gardening Tips for July

We are told that rainfall in the SE last winter was more than twice the average, but it's difficult to believe it now. As our spring and summers get drier it certainly pays off to prepare in advance by 'making your own' compost and spreading it through borders in autumn or early spring to help prevent evaporation.

June was a brilliant month for flowers, and July promises the same. Brought about by last year's drought which caused most growth to ripen well and in turn develop flower buds. No-one could have failed to marvel at all the roses. Remember to tie in loosely long, non-flowering growths of climbing roses - these can be better trained in December/January when the wood is harder, and they will produce the best and most flowers next year.

Remove seed heads of predominantly herbaceous plants which might otherwise spread through your garden - foxgloves, opium poppies, Lychnis and even Verbena bonariensis.

Dog rose, *R. canina*



Rosa Sparkle



Salvia Hotlips. Hard prune in winter



Cistus purpureus.



Rosa Peace



Hemerocallis. Rake off in February



Beware gooseberry thorns!



But it's worth the effort...



Membership News

Carole Brougham writes:

Welcome to the new and returning members in 2023:

Catherine Bates
Eric Carter
Sahra Christmas
Sarah and David Clarke

Susan Jensen
Linden Lawson
Mark and Deidre Linnard
Sui Choo Wu

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

Website: KewHorticulturalSociety.org

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PS: KEW'S SHOES

KHS Committee member Richard Ward is trialling a future Rotary fund-raiser by planting up second-hand baby and childrens' shoes with predominantly Sempervirens and other succulents. Please leave donations of shoes at Flat 1, 62 Mortlake Road, Kew, TW9 4AT at any time. Richard may be contacted on 07941 939783. Thanks.

