

Kingswood, Walton and Tadworth Horticultural Society

Spring 2022
Newsletter



This is the first of your 2022 newsletters.

Chairman's Jottings

I welcome everyone to a happy showing and growing 2022. I hope because of the past 2 years of very little showing that you have not hung up your gardening implements and enthusiasm to strive to grow. You will see below that in addition to the three shows we have also arranged two talks, one coach trip and a visit to Withypitts Dahlia based in Turners Hill.

"Blight"

I have been reading a lot about growing tomatoes and have come to the conclusion that you should grow them in a greenhouse if you have one because blight is wind born. I suggest you take the top layer of staging off and place your growbags on the lower staging, planting two or three tomatoes plants in each growbag, the plants can be easily supported with canes that are stabilized together thus not getting any wind bourn tomato blight, getting plenty of fresh air, only shut the greenhouse on those misty damp summer days. These are the days that blight spores blow into your tomato plants. Keep them well watered to avoid two other problems, bottom end rot, caused by irregular watering and red spider mite infestation caused by dry atmosphere, spraying the plants with your atomiser regularly will stop these little critters, keep a bucket of water and an atomizer handy for watering and spraying the plants, when the fruit starts to develop, feed regularly with high potash or tomorite, do not be too greedy, stop them, pinch the tops out when three or four trusses have developed.

Splash plenty of water around on those summer mornings to create humidity, this also encourages the bees and pollinators to set your fruits, it is also recommended to always water your plants in the mornings.

Hope this is of some help to avoiding tomato blight this year.

Happy growing and showing for 2022.

Graeme

Dates for your 2022 Diary

Spring Show 2022

9th April 2022

Gardeners Delight

25th/26th June 2022

Early Summer Show

2nd July 2022

Late Summer Show

10th September 2022

Annual General Meeting

10th August 2022

Church Hall of Christchurch
United Reformed Church
Walton on the Hill at 7.30 pm.

The Committee are mindful that many members do not wish to go out on cold November evenings so we have scheduled the AGM for an evening in August. The Societies financial year end will need to be amended so that accounts can be presented.

Talk on Dahlias by Richard Ramsey

We have organised an evening talk by Richard Ramsey, the owner of Withypitts Dahlias in Turners Hill. The talk will take place in the Meeting Room at The Church of the Good Sheppard Church Hall, Tadworth on **31st March**. We reached the hall's capacity within four days of notifying members – thank you to all who booked a place. If there is further interest, we will arrange for a second talk by Richard.

On the evening, Richard will bring along dahlia tubers for sale.

We are also planning a self-drive visit to Withypitts on 18th August. More information to follow in the next newsletter.

Credited with the resurgence of dahlias as cut flowers, Withypitts Dahlias have become renowned country wide as the grower of the highest quality farmed, cut flower dahlias in the UK. Used by the UK's leading event florists to adorn prestigious venues throughout the country, for example, Westminster Abbey, The Banqueting House, Kensington Palace, National Gallery, Blenheim Palace, Skibo Castle, Tate Modern and The Royal Academy.

If you are interested in attending a second talk, please let David and Cathy (kwths@btinternet.com or 0208 660 9242, 07531 822547, 07932 899757) know so we can organise.

Many thanks.



Flower Arranging Workshop



We are delighted to have a member of the Ashted Flower Arranging club, Lynis Williams, who is coming to run a workshop for us. She will be demonstrating two arrangements and then helping us to create them ourselves. The arrangements will be a table centre and an arrangement in a mug.

On **Wednesday April 20th** 3.00-5.00pm in the anteroom at The Good Shepherd Church Hall Tadworth. Coffee and biscuits will be provided.

We are sure this will be an enjoyable afternoon and maybe will encourage some of you to take part in the Shows. No previous experience needed, just come along, and have a go.

The Society have decided to offer this workshop free to Members and we ask you to **book your place**, so that we know how many people to expect, by contacting Jasmine on 01737 81429 or 07710 973352 jasmine.heath@btinternet.com

Once you have booked Jasmine will send you details of items you will need to bring. The society will also be supplying some of the equipment needed.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Visit to Wisley by coach

Each year, the Society is permitted by the RHS to visit one of its gardens. For 2022, we have arranged a visit to Wisley on **14th July** and we have arranged to hire a coach for 36. If you are not a member of RHS this is a superb opportunity to visit their 'flagship' garden which has been significantly changed over the last two to three years. As this will be a small coach we will operate on a 'first come first served' and will be open to KWTHS members and friends. The charge will be £10 for members and £12 for friends with payment to be taken on the day.

We will aim to leave Walton Ponds at 10 am, Tadworth Bridge at 10.05am and Lower Kingswood at 10.10 am with a view of arriving at Wisley about 10.45am. We would aim to leave Wisley at 3.30pm

If you wish to reserve a place, please contact Cathy and David (kwhst@btinternet.com or 020 8660 9242, 07531 822547, 07932 899757).

For those with mobility issues, we are able to reserve mobility scooter at Wisley so please let us know in advance if one will be required, they have 8 available.

The Sociable Gardeners Group 2022

As a member of the Horticultural Society, you can also join The Sociable Gardeners Group. It is a very good way to meet other members and get to know people better. Jasmine has recently distributed the programme and 12 members have agreed to invite us to their gardens this year. This is an informal get together where we meet for tea and cake and the opportunity to chat about gardens and gardening. This year we also hope to include short walks ending in a pub snack or coffee at a garden Centre.

If you would like to join, please contact Jasmine on 01737 814291 or email jasmine.heath@btinternet.com

Jasmine

My Garden by Keith Lewis (part 4)

On the arrival of my daughter Donna, my first job was to put strong safety netting over the goldfish pond. This was fortuitous because as soon as she could move about, she climbed straight onto the netting. She was a "shuffle bottom" not a crawler. She would shuffle down the garden, find a plant like calendula, pick a flower stem and then slowly pick off all the petals. Luckily in those days I did not open for the National Garden Scheme. The general outline of the garden, as you can now see it started to take shape. Trees and shrubs were planted all over the garden. Rhododendrons and azaleas over the bottom area with a number of small paths between them. I had a chain link fence at the bottom allowing

me to see into the fields behind, where there were horses and cows. It is now the area that is Tadworth Park. A footpath ran through the woodland starting in Tadorne Road and exiting through the grounds of Great Ormond Street Hospital onto the common. It was great to talk to the many dog walkers. It was around this time that I decided to scrap all my roses nearest the house, following a tremendous summer thunder storm which decimated all of the blooms. I offered the plants to anyone who wanted any roses and those left on New Year's Day were lifted and burnt, of which there were very few. Remember there were about three hundred originally. The borders became mixed with shrubs and herbaceous plants. I planted the two natural grass areas with many different daffodils. The centre bed in the lawn was raised with rockery stone and plants with dwarf conifers and heathers, both winter and summer varieties. My children were now growing up and wanted to help Dad raking up leaves and occasionally other jobs. Vegetables were grown in the bottom area together with a little fruit. I was playing a lot of cricket and the children always wanted to come and to play on the Green and climb the trees around the cricket ground. It was at this time that my son gained a love of cricket and now my two granddaughters aged 13 and 15 have coaching all through the year with the MCC.

Back in the garden my love for flowers took over. Near the greenhouse I planted up about 12 old fashioned roses. All varieties introduced before 1910. I still grow two of them, Dunwich Rose a small single yellow with lovely scent flowering late May and Compt de Chambord, a large flowered pink, again with the most wonderful scent. This was a time prior to the David Austin roses. Whilst planting the roses I decided to plant more annuals in the vegetable bed. I also grew Delphiniums from special hand pollinated seed from the Delphinium Society. This meant I could select the colours I wanted.

The area below the steps was devoted to herbaceous plants with gaps left near the front for

some long flowering annuals, e.g., Antirrhinum and various Marigolds. The area in front of the stockade was made into a raised bed planted with conifers (two are still there), small shrubs, bulbs and annuals. At the same time, I made a special area for dianthus. It was alright in the earlier years but my soil gets too wet in the winter. If I had a chalky garden, I would be growing masses of dianthus from Sweet William, Border Carnations and all the old miniature pinks. The water table had dropped, but it has risen again and we now have flooding in the Tadworth area as some of you will know. In the late 1970s we had some long dry summers and were not allowed to water the lawns. I decided to remove all the grass nearest the house and convert the area to cobbles and shingle, mainly as you see it now. It was photographed in Surrey Life as a dry garden, which it was then. That story will have to wait until my final part.

Questions for the committee

We have asked each member of the committee the following questions. This time it's Anne's turn.

What or who inspired you to like gardening?

I was inspired by my parents first but later by my late husband, Len, who was a very keen gardener. He had an allotment and I used to help with picking the fruit that he grew.

What is one of your favourite tasks in the garden?

My favourite task is sitting in my beautiful garden and enjoying it. Most of the work nowadays is done by my gardener, Morag.

What advice would you give a person new to gardening?

My advice would be to learn as much as you can from other people and from books.

What do you enjoy most about being outside in the garden?

The most enjoyable thing about being in the garden is having a good look round to see what is new. Sometimes I don't even remember planting a new plant or flower.

Favourite garden smells?

Daffodils and dahlias.

The season you love best and why?

My favourite season would have to be spring because all of the fresh growth followed by the gorgeous colours of Autumn.

Anne Bance

Gardeners Delight 2021

Recently the Committee agreed to make charitable donations where funds were raised at last year's Gardeners Delight and items were sold for nominated charities. We are please to advise that the following charities had been nominated and each received £79.27 to help their cause. After the 2022 event the Committee will consider making further donations to any nominated charity.

Perennial
Marion and Nick Mason
Mellows, Lothian Wood

Royal Marsden Cancer Charity
Derek Parsons
Meon House, Meon Close

Marsden Children's Unit
John and Ivana Darter
Rozel, 53 Tadworth Street

Dyscover
Sue and Tim Edwards
The Firs, The Hoppety

Princess Alice Hospice
Sarah and Hossain Azhashemi
75 Shelveys Way

MS Trust
Guy and Anna Marshall
87 Tattenham Way

Gardeners Delight 2022

Gardeners Delight Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th June 2022.

Please contact Sue Edwards (01737 813025) if you would like to become a 'New-Opener' - we welcome gardens of interest in the KT20 area.

Subscriptions and Spring Show

The new schedule for 2022/2023 along with membership cards has now been printed and have been issued for those of you who have already paid your subscriptions. Bank transfers are the preferred method of payment as now we have to pay for parking in Wallington (so selfish of us!). If you still wish to pay by cheque, would you kindly forward a cheque to Cathy and David at 101 Foxley Lane, Purley, CR8 3HQ for either £4.00 single or £7.50 for two in the same household. Your cheque should be payable to KWTSHS. On receipt, your membership card(s) and schedules will be issued. We will be at the Show so if you wish to pay there, we will happily accept your subscriptions.

If anyone has any old gardening books or tools that they wish to donate to the Society, we would be happy to sell these at the Show.

Sue Edwards' Hot Cross Bun Garden Opening

HOT X BUNS at The Firs, The Hoppety, Tadworth. KT20 5RQ in aid of The Friends of The Children's Trust on WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL 10.30am - 1pm. PLANTS for sale, RAFFLE and REFRESHMENTS. Entrance £5. No Parking in The Hoppety except by prior arrangement for anyone with walking difficulties. For more details contact Sue Edwards 01737813025 suehortsoc@btinternet.co

Gardens to visit

Last year we visited Leigh Place in Godstone and would highly recommend it.

Leigh Place Garden has 25 acres on Greenland. Large lake with walks, which may not be suitable for those with mobility issues. Walled garden including a cutting garden, orchard and vegetable quadrant with green houses. Beehives and rock garden

One word of warning. The owners arrange for parking in a nearby field about 500 yards from the front gates which is fine when you arrive as it is downhill. Once you have walked around the lake the walk back to the car park can be a challenge as it is uphill. Blue badge parking within the grounds. Open Sunday 18th June for NGS. Post code RH9 8BN. Address Leigh Place, Leigh Place Lane, Godstone.

Planting sweetcorn



There is nothing more joyous than eating your own homegrown sweetcorn. It is SO much sweeter and tastier than shop-bought corn. Having said that, it can be incredibly disappointing when the corn doesn't grow properly, so here's everything you need to know for a successful crop!

Sweetcorn is best grown in a nice, warm, sunny spot. Rather than planting in a single row, it is better to plant in grids. Since sweetcorn relies on wind pollination rather than insects this helps to improve the chances of good pollination. If you've grown peculiar looking cobs before with just a few plump kernels then it's most likely that they didn't get pollinated very successfully. By planting them in blocks or grids (i.e in 3 rows of 3 rather than a single row of 9) then you should get a much better rate of pollination. Leave 30cm between each plant.

Sweetcorn is not frost tolerant, so if it's still chilly at night in your area, it will be better to plant your seedlings temporarily in a pot and keep them under cover, or if you can't do that then loosely plant them in a growbag somewhere sheltered. Then plant them out in a few weeks when it's warmed up properly.

Caring for your sweetcorn:

In the early days your sweetcorn plants will need to be kept well-watered (yellow/brown leaves is a sign that

they don't have enough water and nutrients) and they will also need protection from slugs. If the leaves start to look a bit shredded this is probably due to slugs (they don't eat the tougher ribs in the leaves so the damage does not look quite so slug like!).

As your plants mature and get a bit taller, it is a good idea to earth them up by bringing some soil in and around the base (like a molehill) to give them a bit of support on windy days. Other than that, they are fairly self-reliant! Just keep them weed free and well-watered during dry spells.

Harvesting your sweetcorn:

Wait until the tassels on the end of the cobs turn black in autumn. Then, gently peel back the outer leaves of one cob, just a little, to reveal a few corn kernels inside. Press a thumbnail into a kernel and look to see what colour the juice is. If it's clear, they need a little longer. If it's milky, they're good to go! Simply tear the cobs off by pulling them downwards. They really are best eaten fresh, so don't pick them until you're ready to cook them – you'll really notice the difference in flavour!

Book Reviews

A Year Unfolding by Angela Harding

Perhaps one to try. The book is subtitled 'The printmakers view' and Angela explains that her illustrations are her response to nature and what she sees around her. The book takes a calendar approach walking us through the seasons with Angela's prints. The prints are so beautiful and accompanied by narrative paragraphs that give us the back story.

It is printed by [Hachette](#) and is priced at £20, but you can find it for less on large internet book sites.

Beth Chatto's Green Tapestry Revisited

The heart of this book was first published in 1989 and many of you may have a copy in your bookcase. Beth is sadly no longer with us but this does not mean her work is no longer relevant. Beth talks us through her approach, inspirations and principles and her granddaughter, Julia Boulton adds new material bringing this work into the now. Julia shows us how

these principles have matured and how the different areas of the garden have developed. It is illustrated throughout by Steven Wooster, who we are told was Beth's preferred photographer. These new photographs show the gardens how they are today and as we are taken through the different parts of the garden, we can see the living legacy of Beth. It is a great book because it is the embodiment of how gardens develop and evolve. Beth's garden continues to change and progress. Julia ensures that the garden is in line with Beth's principles and remains one that the spirit of Beth would hopefully recognise, but it is not a museum of a garden, it is continuing to change which is just what any gardener would want. How many of us never let anything change and refuse to see new opportunities as we garden?

Beth Chatto's Green Tapestry Revisited is published by [Pimpernel Press](#) and retails at £30, but, you've guessed it, it can be found for less.

Erysimum (perennial Wallflowers)

There is a lot of history associated with these plants. In the 12th century, Troubadours would wear a sprig of wallflower to signify that their love survives time and misfortune. It is said that this is as a result of seeing the plant growing on the ruins of fallen towers, the rather romantic image of beauty and fragrance amongst desolation.

In Palestine, the wallflower is known as the 'blood drops of Christ'.

Mention Perennial Wallflower and most people think of the ubiquitous 'Bowles Mauve' but there are many other varieties available, offering a wide range of colours and sizes.

Perennial Wallflowers are longer lived than the traditional bedding plant wallflower and will live for several years. They are invaluable in late spring and early summer, when they are covered in typical wallflower clusters in various colours, offering a valuable food source for our bees and butterflies. Most are scented and all enjoy hot, dry, sunny conditions. They are often found growing in rough, poor soil, including on walls of ruined buildings (hence the name), so you can see that they do not need much looking after!

Bloomers

They gardened in bloomers, the newspapers said, so to Kew without waiting all Londoners sped. From the tops of the buses that a fine view,
Of the ladies in bloomers who gardened at Kew.

Rhubarb & Marzipan Cake

Forced rhubarb is everywhere this month.

Serves 12

150g butter (softened)
150g caster sugar
150g marzipan
3 medium eggs
50-75g plain wheat flour
3-4 rhubarb stalks, washed
30g granulated sugar, plus extra for dusting the tin
10 sprigs lemon thyme, rinsed and roughly chopped

1 Preheat the oven to 170C/Fan 150C/ Gas 3. Cream the butter, caster sugar and marzipan together until smooth, then add the eggs one at a time until combined. Fold in the flour and stir.

2 Meanwhile, grease a spring-form cake tin with a little butter, then sprinkle the inside of the tin with some sugar so that it sticks all the way around. This helps the baked cake to slip from the tin and gives it a caramelised surface. Spoon or pour the cake mixture into the tin.

3 Cut the rhubarb stalks into 1-2 cm chunks and place in a bowl. Toss the pieces in the granulated sugar, then spread the rhubarb across the top of the cake mixture, pressing a few pieces down into the batter.

4 Sprinkle the lemon thyme over the cake and bake for 30–35 mins.

5 Remove from the oven and allow to cool before serving with yogurt, whipped cream or ice cream.

Cook's note: The cake can be made the day before serving as it retains moisture and freshness well.

This edition's poem

Journey's End

Upon a day, a woman who had died
Came to the Gates of Heaven, and saw outside
St Peter, writing in his book of gold
The dreary lies that everybody told.

The woman waited, with averted head,
Until St Peter looked at her and said
"Tell me, oh traveller, with the pilgrims pack
What loves and hates you carry on your back"

"I loved my garden, sir" the woman said
"I loved my flowers, and now that I am dead,
I only ask that someone will be kind
To that dear garden I must leave behind"

The key was turned, the Gate was opened wide,
St. Peter and the woman walked inside,
And there within the sunshine of the Throne,
She saw the little garden she had grown.

2022 Committee

Chairman - Graeme Boast (01737 832395)
gboast@gboast.co.uk

Hon Secretary – Keith Lewis (01737 210707)

Hon Treasurer – Ian Garrett (01737 362610)
lc_garrett@hotmail.com

Membership Secretaries – David Dunning and
CathyVarney (0208 660 9242) kwths@btinternet.com

Show Captain (Vacancy)
(Does not need to attend Committee Meetings)

Sociable Gardeners and Minute Secretary –Jasmine
Heath (01737 814291) Jasmine.Heath@btinternet.com

Jennie Page

Anne Bance

