Welcome to the first of your 2017 newsletters. Hopefully you will like the new style and layout.

Chairman’s Jottings

So now we have had our first layer of snow for winter and a few good hard frosts, maybe we will able to finish our digging sweet-pea and bean trenches before the rain kicks off as when it starts it does not know when to stop, the ground gets so saturated it takes some time to dry out and we are all enthusiastic to get planting come Easter.

We had three very good shows with the entries for the Early and Late Summer shows exceeding last year’s thanks to the number of exhibitors not to say anything about the numbers now having tea and home-made cakes in the anti-room, well done Anne. The raffle ladies do a sterling job, Thanks to Joy and her friend who do the prize money that (we are always happy to receive). Also the plant sales table with Jennie, Melica and Marion, Marion also has another role, to organise the coach outings. Sue is mentoring her until she gets into it. Lastly thanks to all the helpers willing to help David and Cathy set up and dismantle the shows, that is an enormous help, heavy work as we are all getting older, as the Chinese philosopher said ‘many hands make light work’

We are also looking for an enthusiastic person to help me as assistant Chairman just as a safety valve, I would love to have a chat to anyone about this task.

Well that is about all only to wish you all a good growing season for 2017.

Graeme.

Dates for your Diary

Spring Show
Saturday 15th April Church Hall, Tadworth

Early Summer Show
Saturday 1st July Church Hall, Tadworth

Late Summer Show
Saturday 26th August Church Hall, Tadworth

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 1st November
Church Hall of Christchurch, Walton-on-the-Hill
(PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE)

Trip 1
Tuesday 2nd May - Gravetye Manor

Trip 2
Thursday 13th July – Veitch Heritage Garden and Bridge End Cottage.

Trip 3
Saturday 2nd September - Oxfordshire

Gardeners Delight
17th & 18th June

Spring Show
Come and enjoy the afternoon and collect your free fuchsia to grow throughout the summer. Our thanks to
David Hogg at Buckland Nursery for donating these plants.

Would exhibitors please vacate the hall by 10.45 a.m.

2017 Coach Trips

This is the last year that Sue Edwards will be organising our trips and Marion Mason has kindly offered to take on this task. For this year we have arranged three trips and if you are interested please complete the booking form at the end of this newsletter. Alternatively contact Sue at suehortsoc@btinternet.com, telephone on 01737 813015

Once booked, your deposit needs to be sent to Sue at The Firs, The Hoppety, Tadworth, KT20 5RQ as soon as possible. **Trip 1** is a return to GRAVETYE MANOR, Vowels Lane, West Hoathley, Sussex, RH10 4LJ on Tuesday 2nd May which is repeated by popular demand (note there are steep slopes in the garden). Gravetye Manor now only offers private tours with lunch or tea. The cost of afternoon tea is £25 per head and the most cost effective way for the Society to travel is by car and or organize a car share. The maximum that Gravetye can cater for is 20 people and we have booked for a garden tour at 3pm followed by afternoon tea at 4pm. We would aim to meet in the car park at 2.45pm. When you book please indicate whether you would be willing to offer another member a lift or whether you would need a lift yourself. A deposit of £15 per head is payable at the time of booking and the balance on the day.

**Trip 2** is to THE VEITCH HERITAGE GARDEN on the Coombe Estate in Kingston. Andrew Fisher Tomlin, our speaker at last year’s AGM has kindly invited us for morning coffee and a tour of the garden. Until 1837, the land was owned by the Earl of Spencer after which the Duke of Cambridge bought it and immediately erected a large fence and ornamental gates across The Warren, complete with guards. Half of the town agreed with the Duke’s actions and the other half did not. In 1853 the case went to court and was known as the Battle of Coombe Warren. The verdict dictated that the public had unrestricted use of The Warren as a footpath but not as a carriageway.

In 1865, Hugh Hammersley bought the 16 acres estate from the Duke and commissioned the building of Warren House. On part of the land as the Coombe Nursery established by James Veitch & Sons. The nursery was famous for many rare specimens of flowering trees and shrubs collected during foreign trips to the Far East by James and his team which included E. H. Wilson and James Lobb. The Japanese water garden apparently inspired by the Willow Pattern plate design is thought to be the oldest Japanese Garden in existence in the British Isles.

Before he died in 1882, Hammersley arranged the transfer of the nursery into the Warren House estate and thus the relationship between the house and Veitch Nursery began. Sir Henry Veitch – son of James – was one of the founders of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 1913.

After several changes in ownership, the estate was eventually acquired by General Sir Arthur Paget (1851 – 1928) who served as Commander-in-Chief in Ireland and it remained in his family until the 1950’s when it changed hands once again and was subject to major refurbishment in 1988.

Enter Andrew Fisher Tomlin, noted landscape and garden designer who was commissioned to design a garden to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Veitch Nursery. Andrew has won many awards for his designs including Gold and ‘Best in Show’ 2016 at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show.

Please bring a packed lunch!

In the afternoon, we visit BRIDGE END COTTAGE near Wisley. This is a 2 acre country garden with perennial borders, mature trees, pond and streams, herb parterre, fruit trees and vegetable plot plus an adjacent 2 acre perennial wildflower meadow.

**Trip 3** will be Marion’s first and will be on 2nd September to Oxford Botanical Gardens and Waterperry Gardens, both in Oxfordshire. More details and booking form in our next newsletter.
Membership Matters

2016 saw us undertake a complete audit of our membership numbers, an exercise led by Chris Betts. At the end of last year we had 340 paying adult members and 7 juniors. Of these, we have the email addresses for 227 (67%). This year it will cost the society 55p each time it sends out a communication through the mail and as such

We would like to encourage you to receive your newsletter by email. Please register your interest by emailing kwhortsoc@btinternet.com quoting your name and address.

Gardeners Delight

This will take place this year on the weekend of Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June. If you would like to open your garden for this event please contact Sue Edwards. Further details will be in the next newsletter. Tickets this year will be £6 to included entry to all gardens.

More information in your next newsletter.

Gardens to Visit

Not all gardens in these newsletters will interest all gardeners. We all have our own personal preferences. If you know of any gardens to recommend please speak to a Committee member.

New to NGS this year is Woodland, 67 York Road, Cheam, SM2 6HN. Opens the weekend of 8th and 9th July.

Winchelsea Secret Gardens, open under NGS. Many styles, large and small, secret walled gardens, spring bulbs, herbaceous borders and more in the beautiful setting of the Cinque Port town of Winchelsea. Summer opening this year will be in two small groups. Seven are open in June (clashes with Gardeners Delight) and six in July. Also six spring gardens in April. Saturday 22nd April, Saturday 17th June and Saturday 29th July from 1-5 pm. Admission £6.50 - CB

Albury Park near Guildford. This comprises 14 acres of pleasure grounds laid out in the 1670s by John Evelyn for the Howard family. The terraces are particularly fine (a quarter of a mile long) and there are some very unusual trees as well as a lake and river running through the park. It opens under the NGS on two Sundays this year (19th March and 1st October) from 2-5 pm. Admission £4.50 (children free) – LR

Further afield if you are in Somerset, The Oudolf Field at Hauser & Worth, BA10 0NL. Piet Oudolf is an internationally acclaimed landscape designer and has restored 18th century farm buildings at Durslade Farm. Here is an outdoor meadow containing 26,000 herbaceous plants with a series of paths cut through. If you like the Sussex Prairie Gardens you will find this one an absolute delight – SE

Sue and Tim Edwards invite all members to an open garden and coffee morning with unlimited hot cross buns in aid of Friends of The Children’s Trust on Wednesday 12th April at The Firs, The Hoppety, KT20 5RQ from 10 am – 1 pm. No parking in The Hoppety except for those with mobility issues. Entrance £5. SE

If any other members open their garden for charity please let one of the Committee know and we will try to include in future newsletters.

A recipe to try at home

Mincemeat loaf cakes

INSTRUCTIONS - MAKES 2 LOAF CAKES

Preheat the oven to 160C/fan 140C/gas 3. Grease two 450g loaf tins (top measurement 17cm x 11cm) and line with baking parchment.

Measure all the ingredients, except for the almonds, into a large bowl and beat well until thoroughly blended. Turn into the prepared loaf tins and level out evenly. Arrange the almonds on top of each cake mixture.
Bake in the preheated oven for about 1¼ hours or until the cakes are golden brown, firm to the touch and a skewer inserted into the center comes out clean.

Allow the cakes to cool in the tins for a few minutes, then loosen the sides with a small palette knife, turn out on to a wire rack and leave to cool.

TIP - Making 2 loaf cakes at a time means you have one for now and one to freeze – often a life-saver when friends arrive without warning.

PREPARING AHEAD - The cakes will keep for up to one week if wrapped tightly in cling film and stored in an airtight container. Or wrap the cakes and freeze for up to 2 months.

Ingredients

150g soft butter
150g light muscovado sugar
2 large eggs
225g self-raising flour
225g mincemeat
100g currants
100g sultanas
50g blanched split almonds

Equipment

Nurseries to Visit

Wallington Nursery, Woodmansteane Lane (opposite Woodcote Garden centre). Opened last year and is a sister nursery of Priory Farm in Nutfield. Worth a look for cheap, good quality plants.

The Walled Nursery, Hawkhurst, Kent. 13 Victorian glasshouses widely regarded as one of the finest and most intact in Britain. All plants grown by the owners.

Sociable Gardens

This group has been in existence for eleven years and we have to thank Jasmine for offering to co-ordinate 2017’s programme. The aim of the group is to meet on a regular basis and explore fellow member’s gardens. Don’t feel that you have to have a show garden to open so the more gardeners we have who would be willing to open their gardens the better which will add to the variety. Please contact Jasmine Heath (Jasmine.Heath@btinternet.com or 01737 814291 if you would like more information.

10% Discount on plants, trees and Shrubs

This is given to all members of the Society who have paid their subscriptions for the coming year. The two nurseries involved are Buckland Nursery on the A25 between Reigate and the Dorking roundabout and Barnes Nursery at 46 Woodmansteane Lane, Wallington, SM6 0SW. You need to show your 2017 membership card to claim the discount.

Hints and Tips

Did you know?

There could hardly be a more common creature - for anyone who has a garden - than a greenfly, and yet the female greenfly can produce young without a male and while she is producing that young, that baby within her already has a baby developing, so you have three generations all at the same time. That is why you can suddenly have tens of thousands of greenflies in your garden - David Attenborough (wise words)

Remember to visit the NGS web site

www.ngs.org.uk
Beetroot Health Benefits

Beetroot contains betaine, a substance which relaxes the mind, and is used in other forms to treat depression. It also contains tryptophan, which is found in chocolate and is believed to promote a sense of well-being. Recent claims suggest beetroot may help to lower blood pressure and help prevent dementia. Beetroot is a good source of iron and folate—naturally occurring in folic acid.

Also did you know?

In Victorian Britain, the roots of beetroot were added to sweet dishes such as cakes and puddings, in addition to their savory uses in salads and soups. The Victorians also used beetroot juice as a hair dye. Beetroot is one of the sweetest vegetables often with 10% level of sugar which it releases gradually into the body.

The RHS has a devised rating system for plants that is temperature based, with seven main categories being.

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H1 HEATED GLASSHOUSE – WARM TEMPERATURE
Needs to be grown under glass or as a house plant all year or can be grown outdoors in summer throughout most of the UK whilst daytime temperatures are high enough to promote growth. Examples include most bedding plants such as Pelargonium and Solenostemon (coleus), Brugmansia and fruiting vegetables such as tomatoes and cucumbers.

H2 TENDER – COOL OR FROST-FREE GLASSHOUSE
Tolerant of low temperatures but will not survive being frozen. Except in frost-free areas or coastal extremities, require greenhouse conditions in winter but can be grown outdoors once risk of frost is over. Subtropical plants such as Agapetes 'Ludgvan Cross' and Citrus x neyeri Meyer (Meyers lemon), some succulents, annual bedding and many spring grown vegetables.

H3 HALF-HARDY – UNHEATED GLASSHOUSE/MILD WINTER
Hardy in coastal/mild area, except in hard winters and at risk from sudden (early) frosts. May be hardy elsewhere with wall-shelter or good microclimates. Likely to be damaged or killed in cold winters, particularly with no snow cover or if potted, Can survive with artificial winter protection.

H4 HARDY – AVERAGE WINTER
Hardy through most of the UK apart from land valleys, at altitude and central/northerly locations. May suffer foliage damage and stem dieback in harsh winters in cold gardens. Plants in pots are more vulnerable. Examples include many herbaceous and woody plants such as Lacandula x chaytoriae ‘Sawyers’, winter brassicas and leeks.

H5 HARDY COLD WINTER
Hardy in most places throughout the UK even in severe winters. May not withstand open/exposed sites or central/northern locations. Many evergreens suffer foliage damage, and plants in pots will be at increased risk. Examples include herbaceous and woody plants such as Daphne x transiantica Eternal Fragrance (‘Blafra’) and some brassicas.

H6 AND H7
These classification refer to temperatures colder than -20 degrees C.

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Slugs and Snails

Types of Slug Control

The battle against slugs is one the gardener will never win. However, working with natural solutions, planting strategically, and encouraging wildlife, we can minimise the impact of the slug menace.

Tender plants can be decimated overnight.

Slug Elimination

Finding ways of permanently putting the little blighters out of your misery! This method includes poisoning, which should be avoided unless absolutely necessary.
Wise precaution

When using chemicals in the garden, ALWAYS read the label carefully. Keep any poisons away from children and animals.

Slug Traps

Ingenious contraptions to lure the slug to its doom; either killing it outright or allowing you to dispose of it later at your leisure. For example, the ever popular beer trap.

Slug Shelters

Another variation on the slug trap idea is to recognise the sort of places where slugs love to hide during the day. Check those places and dispose of any slugs you find hiding there. You can even create your own such places in the garden and have the slugs exactly where you want them.

Slug Barriers

Rather than total annihilation, this approach aims to keep a little distance between the slug and your precious plants. Rough surfaces that are difficult to move across, desiccants that dehydrate, and copper barriers that inflict a tiny electric shock are just some of the possibilities.

By Hand

Yuk! This must be one of the most disgusting, though arguably one of the more effective, methods of slug control; more so than any poisons or chemicals. You can collect hundreds on night time ‘slug patrol’ after a shower of rain.

Natural Predators

Hedgehogs, birds, and beetles all love a fat juicy slug! Learn to encourage the ‘good guys’ to make your garden their home. Microscopic nematodes while technically a parasite rather than a predator, fall loosely into this category too.

Garden Hygiene

An untidy garden with masses of dense undergrowth and rubbish beneath which to shelter during the day will provide a veritable slug haven. So keep it tidy! Slugs will hate you for it.

Slug Tolerance

Last but not least is learning to live with the slug to a certain extent. Grow the most delicate plants away from favoured slug haunts. Consider a few sacrificial plants to lure them away from your tender seedlings and treasured specimens.

Did you know?

One individual field slug has the potential to produce about 90,000 grandchildren!

Christine and Stephen Smith

For more information about their progress cycling around the world check out their blog www.christineandstephen.co.uk

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Serious fuchsia pest is spreading

RHS Gardening Advice reports that the fuchsia gall-mite is spreading. In August 2016, they received 17 enquiries, the highest number since the pest was first reported in 2007. Some of these came from new areas including Dorking and Woking in Surrey. The microscopic sap sucking pest is most active in the summer months. RHS say it is likely to become one of the 5 top pest problems in the garden.

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Heuchera’s

Heuchera can raise up out of the ground as they get older usually 3-5 years, some varieties do it faster than others. The cure is apparently quite easy! Dig them up and plant
them lower never deeper than the crown. If you do they go rotten. Spring is the best time to do this.

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Books we are reading!

I have been reading a fantastic book by Jim Buttress called The People’s Gardener which is about a local man who grew up in Purley, trained in the royal parks and RHS Wisley. Great read. GB

A House Full of Daughters by Juliet Nicolson. Juliet is a renowned historian and the Grand Daughter of Vita Sackville West. The book begins with Catalina, the Great Grandmother of Vita born in the early nineteen century through the female line to Juliet’s granddaughter Imogen born in 2013. SE

Further Information

For more information about the Society, please refer to our website www.kwhortsoc.co.uk

2017 Committee

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

Hon Secretary – Keith Lewis (01737 210707)

Membership Secretary – Chris Betts 
kwhortsoc@btinternet.co.uk

Show Captains – David Dunning/Cathy Varney 
davidcdunning@aol.com , cathyvarney@aol.com

Show Secretary – Linda Rowles (01737 814597) 
Marrowmail2000-kwt@yahoo.co.uk

Sociable Gardeners – Jasmine Heath (01727 814291) 
Jasmine.Heath@btinternet.com

Hon Treasurer – Michael Tremlett

Anne Bance

Marion Mason (01737 819964)

Jennie Page

Sarah Azhashemi
BOOKING FORM TRIP 1

VISIT TO GRAVETYE MANOR with AFTERNOON TEA on TUESDAY 2nd MAY 2017 by own transport.

I enclose a non-returnable deposit of £________ being £15 per person for the cost of Afternoon Tea. Balance of £10 to be paid on the day.

Please meet in the Gravetye Manor Car Park at 2.45pm

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

No of available spare seats in car

No of lifts required

This visit is limited to 20 persons only and will be on a first come first served basis.

Sue will confirm your booking and the car sharing arrangements if so needed.

01737813025  suehortsoc@btinternet.com

Please note that the grounds are NOT suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

BOOKING FORM TRIP 2

COACH OUTING TO THE VEITCH HERITAGE GARDENS, KINGSTON and BRIDGE END COTTAGE, OCKHAM ON THURSDAY 13 JULY 2017

Please reserve me ____ seats for which I enclose a non-returnable deposit of _______ being £15 per person. The balance, £20.00 will be collected on the coach **. If the outing is cancelled the deposit will be returned.

Please offer the correct cash or make the cheque payable to Kingswood, Walton and Tadworth Horticultural Society

We will be joining the coach at (Please indicate where):  ✔ a) Walton Pond  9.30 am  

b) Tadworth Bridge by the Traffic Lights  9.35 am

c) Lower Kingswood Beechen Lane, The Fox  9.40 am

Name(s)

Phone:

Email: