Welcome to the second of your 2017 newsletters.

**Chairman’s Jottings**

It is now the middle of May with the dry weather and threat of water restrictions, one really doesn’t know what to do first. The greenhouses are bursting at the seams with all the vegetables and bedding plants, the weather is really unpredictable with cool days and glimpses of sunshine every so often so I have both greenhouses with shading on. And as for the frost we had at the end of April, a lot of plants were ‘shocked to their socks’. My hostas took a real beating and several other things, I saw wisteria reduced to brown hanging blooms and the tips of hedges knocked back, but I am sure with a little TLC they will spring back but not the wisteria blooms this year.

Funny thing is, I planted my carrots 3 times last year with the resultant poor crop. This year 1st sowing 100% germination, as my wife Josie was weeding commented, that the ground was so much warmer and this helped even though they were under cloches.

We went to Denbies to the Heritage Plant Fair on 7th May. I was told they lost quite a high % of buds on the vines so this is not good news for the wine harvest. We came across several people we knew from local societies, it was well supported with lots of interesting stands, a good morning out.

Just to recap, remember the saying “Ne’er cast a clout until May is out”. Keep the fleece handy. Just popped into Buckland Nursery for a couple of bags of compost and David Hogg introduced me to his new manager, a very knowledgeable, pleasant person wanting to help and give advice on all aspects of the trade.

With a wing and a prayer we are off to Scotland at the beginning of May so hope the south east gets some nice warm gentle evening showers.

Good gardening,

**Graeme**

**Dates for your Diary**

**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.

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

**Trip 3**

**Gardeners Delight**
17th & 18th June

**Early Summer Show**

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 1st July in the Church Hall, Tadworth 2pm – 5pm.

Exhibitors please vacate the hall by 10.45 a.m.
**2017 Coach Trips**

This year’s **Trip 3** will be on 2nd September to Oxford Botanic Gardens and Waterperry Gardens.

The Botanic Gardens were founded in 1621 with a mission to promote the furtherance of learning and to glorify nature. We will visit the inspiring herbaceous borders and greenhouses that take you around the world.

The Botanic Gardens are divided into two main sections, The Walled Garden and Lower Garden. The Walled Garden houses scientific and heritage collections. The Lower Garden comprises ornamental and thematic collections.

There are seven glasshouses creating various climatic conditions where you will find yourself travelling around the globe from tropical conditions and oozing swamp to desert and alpine environments.

We will then move on to Waterperry Gardens. Made famous by Beatrix Havergal who establish her horticultural college for ladies it is now set in 8 acres of beautifully landscaped ornamental gardens and there is also a plant shop, gift shop, museum, gallery, and tea shop.

Home to the renowned horticultural college between 1932 and 1971, the emphasis was on food production rather than spectacular ornamental gardens.

Over the past twenty years though the gardens have developed and grown, and many new projects have been undertaken and completed.

You'll now find a Formal Garden, the Mary Rose Garden, a Waterlily Canal and the Long Colour Border, and they have recently planted a small arboretum in the meadow area beyond the canal.

**Please remember to bring a packed lunch.**

Please complete booking form and send to Marion with your deposit.

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**Report from Gravetye Manor outing 2nd May**

The approach to the grounds was through a woodland area planted with swathes of bluebells scenting the air with their delicate perfume. It would have made a good photo had I brought my camera!

The drive up to the 16th century Elizabethan Manor is bordered with unusual shrubs and mature trees that have been planted over the last 150 years. The Handkerchief Tree (Davidia) was in full bloom and worthy of a photo, had I brought my camera!

The Flower Garden, overlooked by an Azalea bank and leading from the back of the house was heavily planted with perennials waiting to make their debut and inter-planted with Tulips in stunning colour combinations. It really was the most amazing display that greeted you from the Wisteria clad pergola at the far end of the garden. Another fantastic photo opportunity had I brought my camera!

The Walled Kitchen Garden was a hive of activity with three gardeners busy planting rows of vegetables to be used in the restaurant later in the year. The fruit trees were pruned beautifully and made me aware of where I go wrong. I could have taken a photo to use as a guide had I brought my camera!

The original Glasshouses and Cold frames were full of plants just waiting for a bit more warmth and the Tulips to finish flowering before being planted out. The Peach tree, loaded with fruit is full of promise of luscious desserts to come.

It is not possible to cover everything in the garden but walking the grounds truly was a most enjoyable experience and the tea that followed was equally sumptuous. Observing the members eating from terracotta flower pots could have made a good photo if ... ....... .. ...... .

**Marion Mason.**

Following the visit, Gravetye Manor have advised that for anyone wishing to visit, garden tours must be booked with either a lunch, afternoon tea or dinner. Afternoon tea for a group of 12 can be booked at a
cost of £30 per head with tea to be taken in the Gazebo in the Little Garden.

Membership Matters

The Society’s membership year runs from 1st February when subscriptions are due. In December 2016 we had 340 paying adult members and 7 juniors, however this has now decreased to 242 at the beginning of May and of these we have email addresses for all but 54.

This year we asked members to consider setting up a Standing Order to automate payments and whilst we understand the reluctance to set up a regular annual payment, it reduces the costs for the Society. Several members chose to pay by Bank Transfer which is another agreeable payment method as long as a reference is shown.

A Standing Order mandate will be attached to the next newsletters and we would encourage you to complete before 1st February 2018 if you have not already done so. We intend to issue an email reminder about subscriptions early next year but only if we have email addresses. Of these, we have the email addresses for 188 (77%). Where no email address is known a reminder will not be issued. Non-paying members will not receive a Schedule of Shows in 2018 so would not be able to exhibit.

Gardeners Delight

This will take place this year on the weekend of Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June between 2pm and 6pm. Tickets this year will be £6 to include entry to all gardens.

The gardens opening this year will be:-

37 Shelvers Way, Tadworth (Sunday)
41 Shelvers Way, Tadworth (Sunday)
75 Shelvers Way, Tadworth (Sunday) (Teas)
36 Tadorne Road (Saturday and Sunday)
The Firs, The Hoppety, Tadworth (Sat & Sun) (Ice Cream)
Rozel, 53 Tadworth Street, Tadworth (Sat & Sun) (Teas)
Mellows, Lothian Wood, Tadworth (Sat & Sun)
Meon House, Meon Close, Tadworth (Saturday) (Teas)
Honeywood, Deans Lane, Walton (Saturday)
The Cools, Heath Drive, Walton (Sat & Sun) (Liquid Refreshments)

Spring Show

On Easter Saturday, the Society held its Spring Show in the Tadworth Church Hall. This year there were approximately 130 entries with a stunning display of Daffodils covering a huge variety of types and subtle colour combinations. Who would ever know there where so many different varieties. Entries were slightly down on last year due to the warm spring we have had. Best in show went to a wonderful pot of auriculas - beautiful and unusual. There were also many tulips and mixed flowers demonstrating the huge variety of plants available at this time of year in various gardens. The domestic section had some lovely looking biscuits and cakes, it’s just a shame that the only person allowed to sample what’s on offer was the judge.

The junior section was won by Luke Patmore with a beautiful display of flowers.

Throughout the afternoon there was a steady stream of visitors including over 50 non-members and for the first time a number from Tadworth Grove Care Home enjoying the displays and being tempted by the delicious cakes, plants and raffle tickets on sale plus picking up their fuchsia plugs to grow for the late summer show.

The trophy winners were as follows:

Kemp Narcissi Cup for most points in the Narcissi Classes – John Goddard

John Grant Memorial Trophy for best exhibit in show – Jennie Page
Spring Cup for most points in the nominated Narcissi Classes – Shirley Bassett

Spring Floral Cup for most points gained in Decorative Sections – Jane Scott

E Bonsor Cup for most points gained in the Domestic Sections – John Barlow

Congratulations to all the winners and we look forward to seeing you all at the next show on 1st July.

Show Table

Have you visited the Plant Sales Tables at the Shows?

If you have you will know that we display an amazing selection of Shrubs, Perennials, Alpines and ‘Plants of the Moment’ at discounted prices.

There is also plenty of advice from the sales team and the committee who are willing to answer any questions you may have.

Don’t forget that SHOWA gloves are still there priced at £5 per pair.

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.

Heale House Garden, SP4 6NT. Free to Historic Houses Association members. 5 miles north of Salisbury and designed by Harold Peto in Edwardian times. A far more interesting garden than the description in the booklet. Added attractions are the rooms and excellent nursery run by specialist nurseryman Kevin Hughes stocking unusual hardy plants. The house is not open to the public but can be viewed from the gardens.

Godinton House near Ashford, Kent, TN23 3BP. Godinton is well known for its Edwardian garden designed by Reginald Blomfield that folds around the mellowed gabled house and is enclosed by long yew hedges shaped with matching gables. In April, the main highlight was the large area known as the wild garden filled with daffodils, primroses and fritillaries. The Walled Garden is not yet at its best so a summer visit may need to be planned famous for its Delphiniums. Free to Historic Houses Association members.

Vacancy for Show Secretary

Linda Rowles has signified her wish to step down as Show Secretary with effect from the 2017 Late Summer Show. As such we need someone else to fill this role which is integral to the running of the Societies three shows each year. If anyone is interested please speak to either Graeme or Linda for more information. The role involves collating Show entries during the week before each Show and producing a schedule of the entries for the day so a certain degree of PC literacy is required.

Remember to visit the NGS web site

www.ngs.org.uk

Nurseries to Visit

Crocus Nursery, Nursery Court, London Road, Windlesham, GU20 6LQ www.crocus.co.uk is about an hour away by car. Crocus open their doors to the general public four times a year and for 2017 they are open on 22nd April (you’ve missed this one), 3rd June, 10th June and 9th September. Doors open at 9.30 am and close at 3.30 pm. This is a 30 acres site with approximately 2,500 different types of plants, many of which can be seen at either RHS Chelsea or RHS Hampton Court Flower Shows as they supply many of the garden designers who exhibit there. It’s hard to resist with so many wonderful plants available (often at very reasonable prices) but remember they must fit into your car and it’s easy to forget your budget. Prices are either displayed at the entrance or simply based on pot size so it’s best to speak to one of the assistants if
in doubt. You select your plants and the assistants take them all to the check-out area for you. A fun morning out. CV

Hall’s Court Nursery is an attractive, small working nursery in a garden setting just a few miles from Ashford. They specialize in hardy geraniums which they propagate themselves (note that this is their last season as the owners are retiring so you may get some bargains towards the end of the season). In addition to geraniums that have many alpines, herbs and grasses. The nursery is open every weekend between March and October and during the week by prior arrangement. For details visit their website www.hallscourt.co.uk.

Buckland Garden Centre just outside Reigate on the A25 is run by David Hogg and his wife Linda. David is the sixth generation of Hogg’s to run the nursery which was formed in 1865. They stock a wide range of trees, primulas, shrubs, bedding plants, herbs, garden sundries and more. Remember they offer KWTHS members 10% discount on production of your membership card.

10% Discount on plants, trees and Shrubs

Remember, 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 Woodmansterne Lane, Wallington, SM6 0SW. You need to show your 2017 membership card to claim the discount.

Cheam and Cuddington Horticultural Society

Members are cordially invited to the two shows being organized by another local Society held at St Dunstan’s, Cheam C of E Primary School, Anne Boleyn’s Walk, Cheam, SM3 8DF.

Summer Show, Saturday 15th July.

Autumn Show, Saturday 9th September.

Staging of exhibits is between 8.30 am and 11 am with the Show Open between 2 pm and 5 pm. Prize giving will be at 4.30 pm. Exhibitors would need to join the Society which costs £3.50 per annum.

HINTS AND TIPS

Advice for Show Exhibitors

Below is a list of hints and tips aimed at assisting exhibitors. If you require further advice regarding staging exhibits or have a question on any class in the show please contact the Chairman, Secretary or Show Captains.

General

Read the show rules and schedule carefully. Ensure that all sizes, colours, quantities etc. for each class are complied with, as judges will disqualify exhibits deemed to be “not according to schedule” (NAS)

On Show Day, allow plenty of time to stage your exhibits. Collect class cards from the show Secretary, pay your entry fee (if you have not yet done so), ensure all cards are correct for your entries, and when ready place the entry card with each exhibit with your name side down. Name
varieties of fruit, vegetables and flowers where known.

Do not move or alter in any way, other exhibitors’ entries. If you feel you do not have enough space speak to the Show Captains.

**Cut Flowers and Stems (including floral art)**

Cut stems of flowers the evening before the show. Cut stems as long as possible. Remove underdeveloped side shoots, unopened buds, seed pods and some lower leaves and plunge cut stems up to their necks in a deep container of clean water in a cool dark place overnight. Some flowers in bud e.g. daffodils may be cut 4 to 5 days in advance and brought into the warmth and will open in time for show day.

When staging your exhibit, remove any damaged, dis-coloured or broken leaves and trim the stem, making sure that the stem retained is appropriate for the size and quality in containers of suitable proportions. Arrange blooms so that each flower is facing the front. Oasis, or paper may be used to help hold stems in place in the vase, but make sure that the supporting material is below the top of the vase.

Judges look for flowers and foliage that are fresh, free from diseases and blemishes and at the optimum point in their life cycle, fully developed but not yet fading.

**Pot Plants**

Pots should be clean and plant supports can be included but should be as unobtrusive as possible. Pot size is the outside measurement taken at the pot rim. The plants should be free from pests and diseases. Damaged leaves should be removed together with spent flowers or seed pods and any debris on top of the compost.

**Fruit Classes**

Pick as near to show time as possible. Fruit should be picked with the stalk attached. Handle fruit as gently and as little as possible so as not to spoil the natural bloom. For this reason is best to use scissors to pick fruit. Do not polish the fruit as this destroys the natural bloom.

Fruits should be fresh, uniform and free from blemish and disease and characteristic of the variety in shape size and colour. When staging at show, arrange the fruits on a plate in a neat symmetrical way. Rhubarb should have leaves trimmed to about 3”

**Vegetables**

Vegetables should be staged on plates or directly on the show table in a wheel formation or in rows. Root vegetables should have their leaves cut to approximately 3” of leaf stalk, which should be neatly tied. They should be carefully washed with a soft cloth and plenty of water to remove soil. Do not scrub. Do not apply oils in an effort to improve appearance.

When exhibiting vegetables, aim for freshness, with exhibits free from blemish and disease and of uniform colour and size appropriate to the variety. All exhibits in a class should be of the same variety or cultivar unless otherwise stated. Remember that oversize and coarse specimens do not usually win prizes.

**Beans** - Broad, French and Runner. Try wrapping them overnight in a damp tea cloth to keep them straight and fresh. Arrange on the show table with stalks at one end, and tails at the other.

**Beetroot** - Size ideally between a tennis ball and a golf ball. Colour throughout should be dark with no whitening around the root area.

**Carrots** - Avoid broken tips or greening around shoulders. Hairs on the root can be snipped off.

**Courgettes** – Select young, tender and uniform fruits between 4” and 8” long.

**Cucumber** – Fruits should be a fresh green colour with a waxy bloom and flower end fully developed.
**Onions** – Should be chosen for evenness and size. Remove the extreme outer skin but do not peel too much. Cut off the tops to 2” and bind with coloured raffia. The roots should be neatly trimmed to the basal plate. They can be staged on rings or bedded on a plate so that they stay upright.

**Peas** – Take care not to remove the bloom. Snip each pod off the vine with scissors leaving some stalk.

**Potatoes** – Choose medium sized, equally matched tubers, free from skin blemishes caused by pest and diseases. Stage on a plate with the rose end outwards.

**Tomatoes** – Choose specimens of the right size and colour for the cultivar. The fruit should be firm but with no ‘greenback’. Aim for a uniform set of fruit with fresh calyces. Stage on a plate with the calyces upwards.

**PRESERVES**

Jars and bottles should be made of glass and be free from any commercial advertising. Jars should be full and have an airtight seal, preferably a cellophane film or metal lid film with a waxed paper disc next to the product. They should be labelled stating the contents and date made.

**Jam** – The fruit should be evenly distributed and tender. There should be no scum, mold, sugar crystals or air bubbles. Consistency should be jellified with no loose liquid or syrup and not runny, too firm or sticky.

**Marmalade** – Peel should be tender, uniformly cut and evenly distributed. Otherwise, as for jam.

**Chutney** – Colour should be even throughout with no air bubbles or vinegar. Mature flavour which will only be achieved about 3 months after making.

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**INTERESTING FACTS/MISCELLANEOUS**

**Rhubarb**

A good source of fibre, rhubarb also provides vitamin C and calcium.

The earliest recorded use was in 2700BC in China, as a drug to treat gut, lung and liver problems. Usage is thought to date back further.

It is said to have been brought to Europe by Marco Polo.

The plant was used in English cooking in the late 18th century.

Forcing rhubarb is a process discovered in the Chelsea Physic Garden in 1817, when roots were inadvertently covered with soil during winter – resulting in tender shots with incredible flavour.

Forcing began in Yorkshire in 1877 with specialist sheds erected for the first time.

Night trains that carried the crop to London became known as the Rhubarb Express.

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**Fuchsias**

They are named after a 16th century herbalist and physician called Leonard Fuchs!

It is a little known fact that the berries and inner petals are edible (although it’s worth noting that ‘edible’ doesn’t necessarily mean that they taste good!). However there is now a variety bred especially for eating. It’s called ‘Berry’ and produces fruit with a flavour something like a sweet fig. The fuchsia berries are rich in vitamin C and antioxidants. They don’t have a long shelf life so pick them when they are soft and squishy and eat them fresh, or freeze them in small quantities as you collect them, until you have enough to make fuchsia jam or add to muffins, much as you might add blueberries.
Books we are reading!

The Gardener’s Handbook by T C Holmes and R E Hay © 1936 (out of print!). A practical and handy manual of seed, bulbs, plants and flowers for the amateur and professional gardener, seedsman and florist. Do you to know how to prepare and use Bordeaux mixture, paraffin wash, nicotine spray, or potassium sulphide solution? How times have changes! DD

2017 Committee

Chairman - Graeme Boast (01737 832395)
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Hon Secretary – Keith Lewis 01737 210707)

Membership Secretary – Chris Betts
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Show Captains – David Dunning/Cathy Varney
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Show Secretary – Linda Rowles (01737 814597)
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Sociable Gardeners – Jasmine Heath (01737 814291)
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Hon Treasurer – Michael Tremlett (01737 210839)

Anne Bance

Marion Mason (01737 819964)

Jennie Page

Sarah Azhashemi

Further Information

For more information about the Society, please refer to our website www.kwhortsoc.co.uk
BOOKING FORM TRIP 3

COACH OUTING TO THE OXFORD BOTANIC GARDENS AND WATERPERRY GARDENS ON 2ND SEPTEMBER

Please reserve me _____ seats for which I enclose a non-returnable deposit of ________ being £15 per person. The balance, £11 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

I/We will be joining the coach at (Please indicate where): □ a) Walton Pond 8.30 am

□ b) Tadworth Bridge by the Traffic Lights 8.35 am

□ c) Lower Kingswood Beechen Lane 8.40 am

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Please return to Marion Mason, Mellows, Lothian Wood, Tadworth, KT20 5DQ