

Kingswood, Walton and Tadworth Horticultural Society

Spring 2020 Newsletter



Welcome to the first of your 2020 newsletters.

Chairman's Jottings

Happy New Year to one and all.

It may be cold outside but many of us will start making our first tentative sowing inside or under glass this month, OK it is still a little early but who can resist tearing open those packets of seeds that need a longer growing period, like onions, leeks, peppers and tomatoes, I am experimenting with the Bob Flowerdew 'no dig programme'. I will still do some digging but will let you know what I think about it next year, but some things need lighter soil.

Myself and the committee have had several meetings to plan the new schedule for 20/21 and we have made some big changes in the daffodil section so I hope it will encourage a lot more exhibitors. Look through the schedule at other things like photos, cookery and junior to plan ahead.

We are still desperate to get a new show captain so if anyone who would like to get involved, I will be on hand to guide you, it is quite a simple task.

I trust we have all had adequate water in Surrey, if only we could send some to Australia. One of my sisters has had to buy water for her cattle, but thank god they have not been too close to the fires, the amount of devastation is unbelievable.

Just a gentle reminder David Hogg gives 10% on all your plants, he is very knowledgeable and would be happy to advise you, also Barns at Wallington and the Plug Plants at Doves Barn Nursery at Copthorne Road, Felbridge, RH19 2PB.

Look forward to seeing you at the Spring Show.

Graeme – Chairman

Dates for your Diary

Spring Show

Saturday 4th April
Church Hall, Tadworth

Early Summer Show

Saturday 27th June
Church Hall, Tadworth

Late Summer Show

Saturday 22nd August
Church Hall, Tadworth

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 4th November
Church Hall of Christchurch United Reformed
Church, Walton-on-the-Hill

Spring Show

Come and enjoy the afternoon and you're your gardening friends. You can also collect your mystery plant to grow throughout the summer. Our thanks to David Hogg at Buckland Nursery for donating these plants.

So that we can commence the judging would exhibitors please vacate the hall by 10.45 a.m.

2019 Gardeners Delight

This year will take place on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st JUNE from 2pm - 6pm on both days. If you would like to include your garden or persuade a friend/neighbour to join in please contact Sue Edwards on 01737 813025 or suehortsoc@btinternet.com

2020 Coach Trip

These are the details of the Coach trip for 2020 which will be on Wednesday 10th June.

This year we will be visiting the garden of the renowned garden designer Tom Stuart-Smith, together with the garden owned by his sister Kate which is nearby. The gardens are not generally open to the public so this will be a unique experience.

The day will start at the usual pick up points, see below and booking form and depending on traffic we will have a comfort stop on the way to Hertfordshire. There will be tea/coffee and cake on arrival followed by a tour of the garden conducted by the head gardener.

Tom Stuart-Smith is a landscape architect whose work is characterised by strong contrasts between built form and naturalistic planting. Tom read Zoology at Cambridge before completing a postgraduate degree in Landscape Design at the University of Manchester. He worked for several years at Hal Moggridge and Elizabeth Banks Associates before setting up his own practice in London in 1998.

Tom has since designed parks, gardens and landscapes throughout Europe, India, USA and Caribbean. Significant projects in the public domain have included the Queen's Jubilee garden at Windsor Castle to mark the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Trentham Gardens in Staffordshire, the Bicentenary Glasshouse Garden at Wisley for the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and on a smaller scale, the Keepers House Garden at the Royal Academy of Arts. International projects have included Le Jardin Secret in the heart of the Medina in Marrakech, a garden located on the

waterways near Kottayam in Kerala, India, and a show garden for the international horticulture exhibition at IGA Berlin 2017. Current projects include a garden square at King's Cross in London for Argent LLP and the Aga Khan Foundation, several projects at Chatsworth, a garden for the Scottish baronial estate of Aldourie Castle, a new public garden at the Hepworth Gallery Wakefield, and the masterplan for the RHS's gardens at Bridgewater (near Salford) which is the largest new garden project in the UK.

Tom has also designed eight award winning gardens for the Chelsea Flower Show all of which were presented with gold medals and three 'Best in Show'. In 2018, Tom was delighted to return to the Chelsea Flower Show after eight years absence to create The Weston Garden, celebrating 60 years of the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Tom regularly presents talks and lectures, and continues to write occasionally for the Guardian, Financial Times and Telegraph, amongst others. An exhibition on his work, the first about a living garden designer in the UK, was held at the Garden Museum in London in 2011. A monograph of his work to date is due to be published by Thames & Hudson in 2020. Tom is a Trustee of the Garden Museum and Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Tom has throughout his career also developed with his family his own garden at his home The Barn, Serge Hill, Hertfordshire, where he still lives. This garden opens each summer by appointment to visitors. It is here, in the surrounding area of Serge Hill, where Tom is currently proposing to move his London-based design studio, into a new, highly sustainable mixed-use building of which will house the landscape design studio of Tom Stuart-Smith Ltd as well as offer community gardening, intermittent public events, talks and exhibitions related to practical gardening and garden design.

Afterwards there will be a lunch served consisting of seasonal salad and tarts followed by a fruit pudding.

In the afternoon we carry on to see Kate's garden.

As we are limited to a maximum of 30 bookings will be on a strictly first come basis and restricted to members only.

The cost for the day including driver's tip and refreshments mentioned above will be £75.00 (£40.00 deposit and £35.00 on the day). pick-ups will be at:

WALTON ON THE HILL bus stop by the pond at 9.30 am

TADWORTH BRIDGE at 9.35am

LOWER KINGSWOOD Fox Pub bus stop at 9.40am

Marion is hoping to run a second trip, details of which will follow.

Membership Matters

As we move into the 2020 year your subscriptions are now due and remain £4 for single and £7.50 for joint members at the same address..

📧 We would still like to encourage more of you to receive your newsletter by email so if you have not yet communicated your email address with David or Cathy at kwths@btinternet.com please do so quoting your name and address.

Membership subscriptions are due in February each year with the membership year running from 1st March and you can pay in one of three ways:

- By standing order. If you completed one last year you do not need to take any further action. If you paid last year by cheque, cash or bank transfer you can complete a new standing order for your bank and one is attached to this newsletter.
- By bank transfer ensuring that your full name is included in the reference. Details of our bank are shown on the attached standing order.
- By sending a cheque to David and Cathy payable to KWTHS at **101 Foxley Lane, Purley, CR8 3HQ**. Please note that this method creates a delay for the Society and creates additional work for the Membership

Secretaries as we then have to deposit each cheque at our local TSB branch in Wallington (10 minutes' drive and limited parking).

Once your subscriptions have been received, your new membership card will be issued together with the new schedule (when we receive them from the printers.)

Sociable Gardeners Group

We are delighted that Jasmine has agreed to co-ordinate this group again for 2020. Jasmine will be contacting existing SGG members, meanwhile if any member of the Society wishes to join and open their garden throughout the year please contact Jasmine at jasmine.heath@btinternet.com or 01737 814291. Remember, your garden does not have to be a show garden, the object of the group is to discuss gardening and be sociable, drink tea and/or coffee and eat cake and/or biscuits.

Gardening information

Comfrey

Comfrey is an incredibly useful plant to have in the garden, both boosting soil fertility and providing attractive flowers for bees and pollinators. It regrows very quickly, so you can easily harvest a big bunch by cutting it off just above the crown, and it'll come back pretty speedily.

Here are 3 ways of using it to fertilize your plot.

1. **As a Liquid Feed (The Easy, Stinky Way)**
Fill a container or bucket with chopped leaves and cover with water. Pop a lid on it and leave it for a week or two (best left in the garden shed where it can be a bit smelly without bothering you too much!) – After 2 weeks, strain the liquid into another container. Add the leaves to the compost pile, making sure you turn the pile to mix them in a bit, and cover the container with a tight-fitting lid. You can use the liquid feed (which will keep for several months) in a 1-part comfrey/10 parts water mixture to feed your plants.
2. **As a Liquid Feed (The Less Stinky Way)**
Cut a big bundle of comfrey and tie it into a bunch with twine. Hang it upside down for a week or so to

try out (wait until the leaves have completely dried). Once dry, you can crumble the leaves and store in an air tight container. They will keep like this for months. As and when you need a liquid feed, just 2-3 handfuls of the dried leaves to a bucket of water and let them infuse for an hour.

3. **As a Mulch**

This is the cheat's way... simply chop the comfrey leaves into small pieces (approx. 1 inch is good) and pop them around the base of plants in a 2-inch layer. This is particularly good for fruit trees and bushes.

Bees

This is the first of two articles on bees.

Of an estimated 25,000 known species of bee worldwide only seven species are honeybees.

Honeybees have been on earth, making honey, for about 100 million years. Modern humans have only been around a fraction of that time, 200,000 years.

Honeybees are unique in storing honey to allow them to overwinter as a colony or to support lean times. No other type of bee does this.

Honeybees pollinate a significant percentage of our vegetables, fruit and flowers. Efficient pollination leads for better cropping, feeding not just people, but also many animals, birds and insects.

Honeybees evolved as tree-dwellers and still need to gather the majority of their pollen from trees and shrubs rather than from garden flowers or wildflowers.

Honeybees are vegetarians. They visit flowers to gather pollen (protein to feed their brood) and nectar (carbohydrate for energy) which they turn into honey to feed adult bees as well as to lay down winter stores. Every year, each hive needs to gather around 50kg (110lb) of pollen and 200kg (440lb) of nectar just to survive before any honey crop can be taken.

All worker bees are female. Male bees (drones) do no work in the hives, their sole purpose in life is to fertilise a queen.

Honeybees' antennae detect sound and give them an amazing sense of smell, allowing them to detect specific forage sources up to 1.5km (1 mile) away. They also use them like cats' whiskers, as a physical gauge of space.

Honeybees tend to forage within a 4.5km (3 miles) radius of their hive. They can fly further afield but the energy requirement to do this leads to diminishing returns for the hive. They navigate using a variety of means, including physical landmarks, the position of the sun (which their polarising eyes allow them to see even on cloudy days) and a magnetoreceptor in their abdomen that senses the Earth's magnetic field.

Scout bees locate sources of forage and return to the hive with samples to share. If samples pass muster, the scouts then communicate the whereabouts by 'waggle dancing' the directions to their sisters.

Honeybees have five eyes, a large compound eye on either side of their head and three small eyes (ocelli) on the top of their head that act as a navigation system. They see in colour, but are most sensitive to the blue end spectrum and into ultraviolet. Hairs between the compound lenses detect wind conditions, helping them to stay on course.

An individual honeybee visits 100 or more flowers in a single foraging trip. Unlike many other pollinators, honeybees will only forage on a single type of flower on any one trip.

To be continued...

Gardens Worth a Visit

If you are in the area, stop at Aston Pottery at Bampton, Oxfordshire, OX18 2BT. A lovely garden (not large) with long colourful borders 72 meters long, consisting of hot colours (more of a Dixter type garden), a large number of pots which change with each season. The garden is quite young only 5 of 6 years old but you can pick up a sheet showing the

planting scheme and take inspiration from this. For 2019 there was a new border of annuals – more than 120 to show what can be done plus a new tropical border. Plenty for all.

A lot of time and effort has gone into this garden. The owner got all of his dahlia cuttings from the National Dahlia Collection and has a wide selection (over 130) although the single dahlias take centre stage.

In addition, there is a very good tea room providing lunches or afternoon tea together with a shop selling their pottery.

Hot Cross Buns

Wednesday 8th April 2020 Sue & Tim Edwards invite all members and friends to an Open Garden and Coffee Morning in aid of the Friends of the Children's Trust at The Firs, The Hoppety KT20 5RQ from 10.30 am -1pm. There will be Plants for Sale and a Raffle. Sorry, No Parking in The Hoppety except for those with walking difficulties if you let them know beforehand.
suehortsoc@btinternet.com for more details.

Hints and Tips

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Culinary tips with herbs

If you are baking a cake, placing a single leaf from a lemon-scented geranium under greaseproof paper lining before baking will perfume the whole sponge.

The edible flowers of pinks can be used in salads, vinegar or to decorate cakes.

To dry herbs instantly place them in the microwave for a few seconds. This works especially well with parsley.

Make sure your parsley stays green – only add it to sauce once the liquid has boiled. Chew fresh parsley to get rid of garlic breath.

Freeze parsley on its stem in a clear plastic bag. When you need it, remove it from the freezer and rub between your fingers. Your parsley is automatically chopped.

To keep flies away place fresh mint on the windowsill.

To clean up any spills in the oven, sprinkle some salt and cinnamon over the spill. It will easily lift off with a spatula.

Float borage flowers in a glass of Pimm's to decorate. Young leaves have a slight flavour of cucumber and can be chopped up and stirred into soft cheese and salads.

How to grow carnivorous plants successfully

Insect eating plants or carnivorous plants are usually found growing on land or water which is deficient in nitrogen, for example acid bogs. Their distribution is worldwide, including covering parts of the Tropical Rainforest in South East Asia and inaccessible place on plateaux in South America.

Over thousands of years these plants have developed clever ways of making up nitrogen deficiency by catching insects. The majority of plants are perennial, terrestrial (living in soil) and long lived, so they make very interesting and fascinating subjects to grow yourself. You can easily create an environment similar to that in nature and start a collection.

Six points to help you

1. These plants like wet growing conditions, so always stand pots in a tray or pot of rainwater (tap water is too limey) if possible, or cooled boiled water, 1" – 2" deep during the flowering season which is March to October.
2. Never apply fertilizer, either as spray or in the compost, they are excellent fly catchers and get all the protein from insect extracts. Tropical plants e.g. Nepenthes and Heliamphora require different feeding and growing conditions.
3. Compost is made up of moss peat and lime free sand 50:50, the use of Perlite is also

- incorporated. Always pot on or divide your plants in spring if necessary.
4. Stand your plants in full light, to obtain an optimum growing environment ideally in a greenhouse, conservatory and house, with a south or west facing window sill, where flies are always abundant! Some varieties are hardy and can be planted permanently outside in shallow water or boggy areas.
 5. To keep your collection looking good and healthy, remove any old or dead foliage, ventilation where possible will ensure against fungal attack especially in winter. Aphids in spring can be a nuisance and may damage young growth, it can be dealt with easily using a Pyrethrum based pest spray. (Use as directed on the bottle)
 6. During winter give your plants less water (on most plant types) so that the compost stays damp, and cooler temperatures (4°C) so they go naturally dormant. Cut down old foliage as the plant rests and the new season in March brings very quick new growth and flowers and fly catching begins again.

This Edition's Poem

Mr. Gardener

He always comes at crack of dawn
 And always starts to mow the lawn
 When you are only half awake
 "Oh stop that noise for goodness sake!"

You always pay him by the hour
 And if you want to pick a flower
 To make a nosegay or a wreath
 He snarls at you and shows his teeth

There are some things he likes to do
 And some he likes to leave to you
 While he is putting in the seeds
 You will be pulling up the weeds

2020 Committee

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

Hon Secretary – Keith Lewis (01737 210707)

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

Show Captain (Vacancy)

Show Secretary – Gill Ross (01737 362675)
g89ross@gmail.com

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

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

Trips and Plant Sales - Marion Mason (01737 819964)
Marionamason165@gmail.com

Newsletter Proofreader and Plant Sales - Jennie Page

Show Tea Station Captain - Anne Bance

If anyone else is interested in helping out please contact Graeme as above.

Further Information

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

That's all for now, the Committee wish you all a very enjoyable and productive 2020 gardening season and look forward to catching up with you at various events.

FORM TRIP 1

COACH OUTING TO HERTFORDSHIRE

Please reserve me ____ seats for which I enclose a non-returnable deposit of _____ (being £40 per person). The balance, £35 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 **9.30 am**

b) Tadworth Bridge by the Traffic Lights **9.35 am**

c) Lower Kingswood The Fox **9.40 am**

 Address:

 Phone:

 Email:

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

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STANDING ORDER

1. Your details	
Reference: Please use your surname and postcode as the reference	
Your full name	Bank branch name
Address	Sort code
Telephone number	Account number
2. Details of your standing order	
Recipients name: Kingswood Walton and Tadworth Horticultural Society	Payment amount (please delete as appropriate): £4.00 single membership or £7.50 joint membership at same address
Recipients bank and branch name: TSB, Station Approach, Tadworth	First Payment Date: 01/02/2020
Recipients Sort Code: 30 98 43	
Recipient's Account Number: 00031352	Further payments: ANNUALLY
3. Your Agreement	
I authorise you to debit my account in accordance with the details in Section 2	Your Signature: Date:
PLEASE GIVE THIS TO YOUR BANK OR INSTRUCT ONLINE	

