

Kingswood, Walton and Tadworth Horticultural Society

Coronavirus Newsletter



Welcome to an interim newsletter to keep you advised.

Chairman's Jottings

I trust you are all enjoying this lovely gardening weather, not socialising, but a nice walk in the countryside keeping your 2-meter distance from your friends, listening to the birds, no cars or aeroplanes.... But we could do with a drop of rain. Shame about the events that have passed us by. I had some of the best daffodils this year, I had some of the best this year, I think it was all the rain we had this winter. Also, we have missed out on our main fund-raising event "Gardeners' Delight". Never mind there is always next year, if September is not possible.

Speaking of rain we must spare a thought for the farmers that could not even get on their land to plant their crops in some areas, also our favourite garden centres as all the plants are coming up to their peak and we have not even had too many frosts to set them back, but perhaps we will be celebrating a happy healthy autumn as the perennials and my dahlias are looking good at the moment. I trust you have all been beavering away in your gardens, I know a few in Shelveys Way have, also Cathy and David have been working 24/7. I do not want to mention the virus, it is unbelievable and I hope and pray you and all your families do keep clear of it.

Take care, Regards

Graeme – Chairman

Dates for your Diary

Early Summer Show

Saturday 27th June
CANCELLED

Late Summer Show

Saturday 22nd August
Church Hall, Tadworth
UNDER REVIEW BUT LET'S HOPE!

Annual General Meeting

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

Spring and Early Summer Shows

In view of the pandemic sweeping the country, the Committee took the decision to cancel the Spring and Early Summer Shows. As a result we will not be able to offer a member's challenge this year as we have been unable to distribute the plug plants.

2019 Gardeners Delight

It has also been decided to cancel this year's fund raising event which was due to be held on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st JUNE. We are aiming to put some pictures of the gardens due to open on our website and consideration will be given to organising a late summer early autumn event assuming the country returns to normal by then.

Please contact Sue Edwards on 01737 813025 or suehortsoc@btinternet.com if you would wish to be involved.

2020 Coach Trip

The first Coach trip for 2020 was due to be on Wednesday 10th June but this has also been cancelled. We may organise a trip to the Hyde Hall autumn Flower show but again this will depend on the situation across the country. More information to 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.. As at 1st April, there were 56 households who had not paid their subscriptions and they have not therefore been issued with a membership card or revised schedule.

☞ We now have only 31 members where we do not hold an email address. In these un-precedented times communicating by email is both more expedient and saves the Society the cost of postage which increased on 23rd March. If you have email and have not communicated this with the Society please contact David or Cathy at kwths@btinternet.com please do so quoting your name and address.

Membership subscriptions were due in February and many of you would have paid by cash at the early Spring Show. In view of the virus we prefer not to handle cash at present so you can pay your 2020 subscription either:

- By bank transfer directly into the Societies account numbered 00031352 and sort code 30-98-43.
- By paying into our account at TSB in Tadworth using the aforementioned details ***BUT*** please advise us if this is what you have done so we can keep track of the amounts otherwise the deposit is treated as anonymous..

- By sending a cheque to David and Cathy payable to KWTHS at **101 Foxley Lane, Purley, CR8 3HQ.**

Once your subscriptions have been received, your new membership card will be issued together with the new schedule.

Sociable Gardeners Group

The programme is currently 'on hold' and Jasmine will advise when it will be restarted. Meanwhile Jasmine has organised a weekly quiz. Jasmine can be contacted at jasmine.heath@btinternet.com or 01737 814291.

Flittons Nursery, Wallington

Flittons are offering a home delivery service. This is a family run nursery located opposite Barnes on Woodmanstearne Lane in Wallington. They will deliver to the Tadworth area. Telephone 0208 647 5615 www.flittonnursery.co.uk

Why gardeners should keep buying plants online

Many keen gardeners will already have favourite suppliers, but if you need some guidance then John Hoyland, gardens advisor at Glydnebourne, names some of his favourite nurseries across the country. (Courtesy of 'Country Life')

Ashwood Nurseries, West Midlands

Unusually, this modest-looking garden centre appeals to amateurs and leading designers alike. Alongside a range of great garden plants, owner John Massey stocks world-class selections of hellebores, hepaticas, hydrangeas and snowdrops and specialises in winter-flowering shrubs, including *Cornus officinalis*, the Japanese Cornelian .

www.ashwoodnurseries.com

Edulis Nursery, Berkshire

Plant hunter Paul Barney initially specialised in unusual edibles, which he collected from around the globe: *Berberis empetrifolia* came from Patagonia in 2000. His eclectic range now also includes other rare plants, such as wild, hardy herbaceous and shady specimens.

www.edulis.co.uk

Knoll Gardens, Dorset

Neil Lucas is a world-leading authority on ornamental grasses and, although it's worth visiting his nursery for those alone, you'll find a range of top-notch flowering perennials, too. A new introduction last year was *Luzula Snowflake*, a native snowy wood rush selection.

www.knollgardens.co.uk

Special Plants, Wiltshire

Plantaholic Derry Watkins began her nursery about 25 years ago as a way of justifying her obsession and plant-hunting trips to exotic climes. She specialises in tender perennial plants, plus rockery, hardy herbaceous and seeds. She popularised *Verbena officinalis* Bampton.

www.specialplants.net

Remembering former friends

Sadly, we have to report that the following have passed away.

Betty Dutton (Member 1976 – 2019)

Geoff Robinson (Member 1964 – 2016)

In memory of Betty Dutton

"Dark roads and no streetlighting"

My memories of Tadworth reach back 56 years to 1937 when I moved here with my parents from Balham. I can remember my mother saying, when faced with dark roads and no street lighting, "Where have we come to?" We lived for a short time at the corner of Tower Road opposite what used to be the Gas Company, and then my father became the licensee of the wine stores in Station Approach next door to the Willow Cafe (now Gemini). We were very soon absorbed into village life, and I was sent for a short time to Tadworth School (now no longer standing). This necessitated a lovely walk across the Heath. I can remember playing marbles en route, and buying sweets, gob stoppers, at the little sweet shop owned by the senior members of the Chappell family, and situated near the corner of Chapel Road and opposite the Heath.

My teacher at Tadworth School was Mr. Wood - a delightful man and very kind to the shy little girl that was me. Many of my memories come back in the form of flash-back pictures, and I can vividly recall the milk being delivered from Headley Jersey Dairies by Mr. Jones and the pony drawn cart. Lucy was the name of the pony and she was the recipient of many a sugar lump on her rounds. Other memories were of the icy cold winter mornings before central heating, scraping the ice off the windows and marvelling at the exquisite patterns Jack Frost had wrought during the night. There was no garden at all behind our shop, only a yard. My parents' priority therefore, was to create an area in which they could grow flowers. This was done gradually and roses and a variety of other flowers were introduced. One particularly bright memory is of accompanying my mother to Meare Close Nurseries to choose pansies. What a joy that was! Perhaps it woke an enthusiasm that has grown and flourished through the years.

When I was 7 and a half, I was sent to Vernon House School in Shelveys Way. The Headmistress was Mrs. Bishop; a lovely lady whom I remember with great affection. She had a vast knowledge of folk songs which she endeavoured to impart to us children. We also had elocution lessons from Constance Shacklock who later became a famous

singer. To get to school I walked along Tadome Road which at that time was not made up, and full of pot holes, but not many houses. It was a perfect place to be ambushed by aggravating small boys, one of whom I remember particularly pursuing me with hard snow balls, and on another occasion pushing me into stinging nettles.

A lot of my memories from the age of 9 relate to wartime, and air raids etc. These held little fear for us children but it was a nuisance to have to cycle home in a hurry when the siren sounded, if I was playing on the Heath with friends. At this time, one could wander on the Heath without fear of molestation, and there was little or no traffic on the roads. We had an air raid shelter at the end of our garage, and during the Blitz and the time of doodlebugs and V2 rockets this was where we slept - my grandmother as well, and very stuffy it was. One night incendiary bombs fell on our shop and the Willow Cafe, but were put out without too much damage. It was on the same night that a bomb fell on the Heath between Walton and Tadworth, and permanently damaged the little pond which until then had flourished.

My father wasn't fit enough for the army but belonged to the Auxiliary Fire Service. During the worst raids he had to go up to London to fight fires - I can remember how anxious my mother was, and how he returned from the Elephant and Castle covered in black soot and exhausted after one raid. To help out with the rations my parents kept rabbits and chickens in the back yard, and ducks in the area beside the shop, and these Khaki Campbells were constantly escaping down Station Approach. My parents also had an allotment on land belonging to the Shands - a family living in The Avenue. To reach it, we walked through a gate situated where St John's Church now stands, and through a bluebell wood which was sheer magic to me. Part of this "Lothian Wood" was later sold to Mr. and Mrs. Strachan, and became part of the "Pathways" garden around which there has lately been so much controversy. The two elderly ladies - Miss Atkins and Miss Mossop who owned the Willow Cafe were also extremely enthusiastic vegetable growers, and could be seen every evening come rain or shine making their way under an umbrella to their allotment.

Before the D-Day landings, there were several Canadian Units stationed in the area, and my parents' shop was a very favoured venue to young soldiers a long way from their homes. The shops grouped round Tadworth Station were mostly owned by friends of my parents; Reg and Cil Chappell, Ron Chapman and his mother and sisters, and the Andrews family. The Dairy, situated where there is now a flower shop was run by the Jones sisters. Kays the fishmonger occupied a corner site by the bridge, before much later moving to its present position in High Street. At that time Miss Smith's was a small Drapers Shop next door, later to be expanded to provide valuable service to the inhabitants of Tadworth for many years.

More memories are re-awakened by thoughts of the thankfulness and excitement at the announcement of the end of the European war, which coincided with the Rosebery Day celebrations at the Grammar School I attended in Epsom. Later there was the relief at the end of hostilities in the Far East, and the hopes for peace and prosperity in the post war years. The WI occupied a prominent position in the activities of village life, and I sometimes accompanied my mother to Social events organised by the WI. I can remember much fun and laughter evoked by Vi and Rene and the Drama Group, and most enthusiastic and lovely singing from the choir led by Margaret Allanson.

In those days there were many Craft classes, and my mother was especially good at leatherwork for which she gained several accolades. The Church of the Good Shepherd was the nucleus of the village, and as I grew older, I became a member of the Youth Fellowship which was a very lively organisation led by the Rev. Cruickshank. Later Rev. Muir succeeded him and became a wise and greatly respected vicar. My memories of Tadworth became less vivid as I went away to Training College and then to teach at Croydon, but in 1956 Rev. Muir officiated at the ceremony when Keith and I were married. We lived for 8 years in Walton on the Hill, on the corner of Sandlands Road, during which time our daughter and son were born, and baptised in the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Tadworth was still at this time the familiar village that we knew and loved before the onset of the infilling that progressed so inexorably. The pram was

pushed regularly across the stretch of Common between Walton and The A venue, and Keith ran every morning across it, often in the company of Frank Bourne, to catch his train to London. We had a gap of 12 years living in Epsom, but when we moved back to Tadworth it was like coming home, and for the last 17 years, that is exactly what it has been; a warm and friendly home, with no excursion to the shops without a familiar face to greet or chat with, Much has changed, but thank goodness much is as it always has been.

Betty Dutton

Extracted from 'Memories of Tadworth' published in 1995. With thanks to Anthony and Jasmine Heath together with Ian Garrett for providing this for the newsletter.

Message from the RHS

'Wisley has now closed and all staff are, where possible, working from home. Please do not try and contact the RHS offices at this time.

Sadly, all of our gardens are now closed and all events up to the end of June have been cancelled. This is an unprecedented situation but please refer to the RHS website for further information and updates.'

Mix and Match Global Roots

Match the plant to where it originated

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Petunia | A South East Asia |
| 2 Pelargoniums | B The Americas/Mexico |
| 3 Garden Sage | C Central Asia |
| 4 Zinnia | D Middle East |
| 5 Bougainvillea | E South America |
| 6 Phormium | F Mediterranean |
| 7 Rhubarb | G Brazil/Argentina |
| 8 Apple | H South Africa |
| 9 Houseleek | I New Zealand |
| 10 Aspidistra | J China |

Answers in the next newsletter.

Jobs for May

If you find that some of your herbaceous plants are growing too tall for your border once they have had time to settle in then you can give them the 'Chelsea chop.' The name 'Chelsea chop' is only a way to help you to remember that you can cut some of your plants down in May around the time of the Chelsea Flower Show. This is not an exact science and it would not matter if you cut them down a little later in May or early June but leaving it any later than this would not be wise.

The taller flowered herbaceous perennials that usually flower in late summer or into autumn are often the varieties that grow tall and need staking, especially if your garden is windy. Cutting down your plant by about a half or a third of its growth in May will ensure that the plant will not grow as tall as usual. This is extremely beneficial if you don't want to stake your plants. This technique can also encourage the plant to grow bushier. Be warned however - your plant will flower a few weeks later than usual and the flowers may be smaller. If you don't mind this then go ahead.

Once your plant is well established you can also cut just some of the plant stems down and leave the rest as normal. This will then prolong the plant's flowering time. The uncut stems will flower as normal and then the stems that were cut back will flower later. Sedum, Rudbeckia, Echinacea, Helenium and Solidago can all be given this treatment

This Edition's Poems

Lady into Birds

There was a lady I have heard
Who wished she had been born a bird.
This lady fancied, I've no doubt,
That she could merely hop about.
Eating fat worms and things like that,
She didn't think about the cat!

And sometimes, in an idle hour
I've longed that I might be a flower.
A fragrant bloom you could wear,
Upon your breast, or in your hair.
And yet, suppose I found one night,
I had been eaten by the blight!

Short but Sweet

In March we long for April
In May we long for June
Don't be in such a hurry
It will be gone too soon.

2020 Committee

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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

Final request. Is there anyone out there who would be willing and able to develop and maintain the website. We are grateful to Louise Sear for her assistance over the past few years however she would now like to take a step back. If you would like to get involved (you won't have to join the Committee) please email kwths@btinternet.com.

That's all for now, the Committee hope you all stay safe and where possible enjoy your gardens. Stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives.