

Kingswood, Walton and Tadworth Horticultural Society

Early Summer 2020
Newsletter



Welcome to the third of your 2020 newsletters.

Chairman's Jottings

I trust every one's garden is looking good with not a weed in sight. When will we be able to get back to socialising in the garden, holidays and things we enjoy. We must keep safe and alert and spare a thought for all those unfortunate people who have suffered and lost loved ones we spare a thought for our NHS, carers, helpers and all other key workers who have been doing a fantastic job.

On a more happy horticultural note it has been a learning curve for the green fingered of us to grow more things like beans, lettuce and salad vegetables, it is a thrill to see the seeds germinate, now the soil is warmer I have already cropped a row of radishes, lettuce and the beetroot is swelling and I picked my first small bunch of sweet peas. Supplied all my neighbours with tomato plants, courgettes and runner beans.

We have enjoyed all the bulbs I planted in the early spring, the Dog's-tooth Violets, Camassia and the Alliums have made a great show in patches in the garden, and now the Foxgloves are just coming out. I have just pricked out the Foxgloves for next year, quite a few varieties and as I always say "we could do with a few nights of warm steady rain". Another job I must do is plant my Wallflowers soon, I grow Siberian mixed, they are yellow and oranges and stay nice and compact (DT Brown). My Dahlias are now in, all these jobs are a good distraction from the thought of the virus. Shading the greenhouse is a job for today as the sun is hot and bright.

Hope everyone is as busy as we are, just keep going (weeding and watering).

Happy Gardening

Graeme

Dates for your Diary

Late Summer Show (Hopefully)

Saturday 22nd August
Church Hall, Tadworth

Annual General Meeting

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

2020 Virtual Gardeners Delight

The Kingswood Walton and Tadworth Horticultural Society proudly present their 2020 VIRTUAL GARDENERS DELIGHT Open Gardens live on the website www.kwthortsoc.co.uk from SATURDAY 20th JUNE 2020 - just follow the link. All your usual favourites will be on show plus one new opener. We are hoping to hold an AUTUMN EVENT if restrictions are lifted in time and to be able to welcome you back into our Gardens. Keep safe and Virus free, best wishes from Sue suehortsoc@btinternet.com

2020 Coach Trip

Everyone will appreciate during these unprecedented times we will not be organising the coach trips in 2020. Marion will look to reorganise the two trips next year however the gardens she is talking to say it is too early to plan at present. Further information to follow in next year's Spring Newsletter.

Membership Matters

We currently have 239 paid up members with the majority paying by bank transfer.

📧 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.

Sociable Gardeners Group

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. We still hope to hold some events but we will need to await government advice.

Gardening information (click on links for an additional gardening fix)

<https://www.nowness.com/series/great-gardens>

<https://www.annagreenland.co.uk/blog>

<https://www.youtube.com/lovelygreens>

Answers to the quiz in the Interim Newsletter

1 Petunia	E South America
2 Pelargoniums	H South Africa

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

Now try this one.

There have been numerous gardening movements and styles throughout history. Can you unravel these anagrams to reveal a style or theme of gardening?

1. Cirqueupset
2. Sqaredgene
3. Gelshin claapdens
4. Iliatan craniasense
5. Rats dan freast
6. lomfra
7. Shinla tatogee nragde
8. Satiricaltun
9. Nhefer quorabe
10. Dismmentor

Answers on last page.

Bees

Part two.

Flowers give off a positive electrical charge for some time after being visited by a bee and the bees also leave a chemical 'footprint'. These and

additional signals alert other pollinators not to bother visiting the bloom for nectar at that time.

Honeybees will visit about two million flowers and fly around 80,000km (50,000 miles) to make a 454 g (1lb) jar of honey.

During its entire lifetime, a single foraging bee will collect enough nectar to make one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey.

The normal top speed of a worker bee is around 32-32km/h (15-20 mph) when returning fully laden. The 'buzz' that a bee makes is the sound of its wings, which beat up to 16,000 times per minute.

Year round, the bees keep the core hive temperature at between 32°C and 35°C (90-95°F). In hot weather, they dispel heat by fanning their wings. In winter, they isolate their flight muscles, using them to generate heat through 'shivering' without wing motion.

In high summer, a busy hive can contain as many as 70,000 female worker bees plus the queen and several thousand drones (males). In winter, the colony will drop to around a quarter of its summer size.

Spring and summer born worker bees perform a series of predetermined jobs during their five-six-week lifespan (bees born in the autumn will live through the winter until spring). In the first three weeks of their lives, they progress from cleaning the comb and feeding larvae to receiving pollen and nectar from incoming bees. Only in the last stage of their lives do they leave the hive to work as a forager.

Bees do not hibernate. In autumn the female workers throw the drones out of the hive to avoid feeding them through the winter. The remaining colony clusters around the queen and will fly whenever the outside temperature is above 10°C (50°F).

Drones die in the process of mating, which takes place in flight. The queen makes just one nuptial trip in her life, during the course of which she will mate with many drones. She collects a lifetime supply of sperm, which she stores in her abdomen.

The queen is larger than the workers and has a fertile life of three to four years. Her key function is to lay eggs, which she does mainly in the spring and early summer peaking at the summer solstice in June when she might be laying as many as many as 2,000 eggs a day. As she is unable to care for herself, attendant bees follow her around to feed her, groom her and take away her waste.

Every queen has her own unique pheromone signature which is spread throughout the hive from bee to bee. Amongst their many functions, her pheromones act as a 'password' so that intruder bees from other hives can quickly be recognized.

A tip from Marion

Heleniums are the best garden plant for bees, replaces nectar used in AM during the afternoon.

A Bloom for Every Year

Wedding anniversaries are a time for celebrating love and remembering vows. Each year the celebration is marked with a different name – an item that symbolises the various stages of married life, such as paper, ruby or diamond but here is a list by flower of each year.

1st anniversary – Carnation

A couple's first anniversary is symbolised by Carnations. In their red form, carnations symbolise admiration, whilst in their white form, they represent innocence. Carnations are a long-lived flower that embodies the promise of a lifetime spent together.

2nd anniversary – Lily of the Valley

With their white hue and delicate petals, Lilies of the Valley are known as a sign of purity and have symbolised devotion for centuries. According to legend, a nightingale will only return to the woods in spring once the Lily of the Valley is in bloom – just as a spouse in their second year of marriage will eagerly await their partner's return when they're away.

3rd anniversary – Sunflower

Sunflowers are the emblem of the third year of marriage. Their strong stems symbolise a strong foundation of a relationship while their sunny hues

represent the warmth shared between lovers. Sunflowers turn their heads to follow the direction of the sun, symbolising loyalty.

4th anniversary – Hydrangea

Hydrangea symbolises the growing understanding between two people along and is given on the fourth year of marriage. It also symbolises gratitude and is the perfect way to thank a spouse for another year of happy marriage together.

5th anniversary – Daisy

The meaning of Daisies is “forever love”. Whilst they may appear simple or even boring at first glance, a closer inspection reveals an intricate texture and petal structure.

Just as a couple in their fifth year of marriage may begin to slip into mundane routines, the Daisy is given as a reminder that there are still surprises to be found.

6th anniversary – Calla

The Calla Lily is an elegant and colourful bloom symbolic of growth. In its pink form, it carries connotations of admiration and appreciation and as the flower associated with the sixth anniversary, it is traditionally gifted as a promise of passion.

7th anniversary – Freesia

Traditionally a trying year for couples, many look to avoid the seven-year itch by presenting their loved one with a Freesia, a symbol of trust and faithfulness.

8th anniversary – Lilac

With its enchanting scent, pretty purple petals and heart-shaped leaves, Lilacs are a symbol of first love. Traditionally given on the 8th year of marriage, Lilacs are gifted to remind couples of the fiery romance shared in the early days of a relationship.

9th anniversary – Bird of Paradise

The 9th wedding anniversary is embodied in the Bird of Paradise flower – an exotic and magnificent flower symbolic of freedom and joy. It connotes faithfulness and thoughtfulness and represents having a good perspective on life, as a couple in their ninth year should.

10th anniversary – Daffodil

Daffodils are often used to signify memories not forgotten and are the symbol of a decade spent in wedlock. They also symbolise new beginnings and therefore presenting your spouse with a bouquet of Daffodils is a reminder of the memories shared throughout married life and a promise of more to come.

25th anniversary – Iris

A notable flower for a notable milestone. The 25th anniversary is represented by the Iris, which signifies faith, wisdom and promise. The Iris is also the symbol of France and heavily associated with Paris, the city of love. It also represents respect and compliments – a fitting flower to mark the occasion.

50th anniversary – Yellow Rose and Violets

The only anniversary that is marked by not one but two flowers. The contrasting colours of Yellow Roses and Violets symbolises the coming together of two people that complement and support each other despite their differences.

Yellow Roses are symbolic of beauty and prosperity whilst Violets represent humility and commitment. Excellent traits of a long and healthy marriage.

Old Wives Tales

Planting Garlic

The flavour of young garlic, an old herbalist says, will be sweeter (whatever that may mean) if you crush the clove a little before planting to bruise them, and also if you set olive stones amongst them.

Banana Skins

Laid just below the surface of the soil, banana skins have long been said to be very good for roses, and scientists now approve the practice, having found that they are able to provide, as they rot quickly, a considerable quantity of calcium, sulphur, phosphates, sodium and silica.

Step on it

An old gardener was told when he was a lad, speaking about small creatures in the garden ‘If it

moves, step on it; if it doesn't, leave it - it'll probably kill something else'.

Tea leaves

Old wives, when they finished telling fortunes, save their tea-leaves to put as a mulch on camellias, which benefit particularly from them.

Lock down tittle

Here, we take a look at the history of gin and tonic, a drink which is finding a new generation of fans across the world.

'The gin and tonic', claimed Winston Churchill 'has saved more Englishmen's lives, and minds, than all the doctors in Europe.' One imagines his tongue was planted firmly in his cheek when he made it, but the remark chimes with the way a lot of people feel about 'G&T' at the moment. The nation's favourite tittle is experiencing a surge in popularity during lockdown – suitably enough for a drink that originated as a medicine.

How old is gin and where did it originate?

Many people are surprised to learn that the quintessential British tittle actually originated in the Low Countries. 'Jenever', or 'Dutch gin', was a liquor distilled from malt wine and flavoured with juniper berries (used for their medicinal properties). The first reference to it crops up in a 13th-century Flemish encyclopaedia, but the drink first became popular in the mid-17th century – ironically for gout and kidney ailments (which it aggravates).

The British taste for gin started when English soldiers fought in Holland against the Spanish, drinking it before they went into combat (whence the expression 'Dutch courage'). During the reign of William of Orange it was introduced more widely as a tax-free alternative to French brandy. Thereafter consumption rocketed, mainly among the poor (as depicted in the famous drawings of Hogarth) until laws were brought in to curb its impact.

What did tonic water come from?

Many equate the history of gin and tonic with the colonial British sitting on their verandas in India sipping on the beverage as the day passes by. In

many ways, this is true. The quintessentially British cocktail was first consumed in the 19th century as a prophylactic against malaria. Tonic contains quinine powder, a substance extracted from the bark of the cinchona tree, which the burra- and memsahibs of India used to imbibe in copious amounts to stave off the dreaded 'fever'. By 1840, 700 tons were being sold in India annually, most of it mixed with sugar, water and a dash of gin to soften its notoriously bitter edge.

It was a London entrepreneur named Erasmus Bond who first patented the idea of aerating the water, in the year after of the Great Indian Mutiny (or 'First War of Independence' as it's referred to locally), when the colonial officials of the Empire must have been in dire need of a pick-me-up. Hot on his heels came the Schweppes company in 1870, still recognised for its tonic water today, who had invented a process to carbonate mineral water and found it worked a treat with Bond's recipe. They named the tonic water Indian Quinine Tonic and the mixer made a fortune for the firm as the British Empire reached its peak.

The discovery of quinine's anti-malarial properties, however, is credited to the Quechua Indians of Peru. In the 17th century a Jesuit priest called Agostino Salumbrino (1564–1642), noticed local indigenous people used the bark of the cinchona plant to treat fever-induced shivering and sent some to Rome, where malaria had been a scourge since the time of Augustus. When quinine was later used to cure King Charles II of the disease its popularity grew in London, just at the time when trade was expanding rapidly across the world under the auspices of the East India Company.

Peru maintained a monopoly over quinine until the Dutch managed to smuggle cinchona seeds to Java in the mid-19th century. Thereafter, Indonesia became the world's principal source, followed by British plantations in Sri Lanka, the Nilgiris and Darjeeling.

Widespread resistance to quinine in the anopheles mosquito means that it's used less as a malaria prophylactic these days than for making tonic water. The quantity added is much smaller (you'd have to drink a whole litre of modern tonic to get your daily medicinal dose), but the taste remains integral to the classic flavour beloved of gin drinkers.

Sayings

The perfect gardener is defined as the person who does the right thing at the right time.

What a man needs in gardening is a cast iron back with a hinge in it.

One sure way to lose another woman's friendship is to try and improve her flower arrangements.

A weed is no more than a flower in disguise.

The best place to look for a helping hand is at the end of your own arm.

Vicar: 'It's marvelous what God can do in a garden with a gardener's help'

Gardener: 'Yes but he makes a hell of a mess of it if he's left to himself'.

Questions and Answers

Raspberries

Q I've been growing raspberries for a few years now but for the first time the canes seem to have been infested and I'm not sure why this has happened and what do I need to do about it?

A There's no question about it – raspberry plants are worth growing.

That being said, there are many diseases which can affect raspberry plants.

Canes turning brown are a common symptom.

One of the first things is to understand the difference between a primocane and a florican. A primocane is a leafy stalk formed during its first year on a raspberry plant. It may produce buds but doesn't typically produce fruit. You let the primocanes grow and then overwinter for producing flowers and fruit in the second year. During the second year of this cane's life, it is called a florican. Floricanes produce flowers and fruit. They typically die or become non productive after that. You should cut floricanes down to ground level after

you harvest your berries. Leaving these uncut can lead to unnecessary raspberry plant problems.

Bacterial disease include fire blight and bacterial blight. Both of these diseases cause significant browning raspberry canes – very dark or burnt looking stems and leaves are a sure sign. They need a wound opening or pruning cut to infect the plant. It is best to cut out the infected plant below the diseased area. Destroy the plant material. Do not compost it.

Some important fungal diseases that lead to raspberry canes turning brown include spur blight, cane blight and anthracnose. Spur blight starts in the leaves or at the node where the leaf attaches to the cane.

Cane blight is caused by wounds in the stem. The wounds form reddish brown streaks and can eventually girdle the entire cane causing cane death. All three diseases are spread from cane to cane rather than root to cane. Splashing water spreads the fungi in all three diseases.

The keys to controlling these diseases include

- Reduce moisture and humidity in the area.
- Keep your rows narrower than 18 inches.
- Remove non productive finicanes every year
- Don't prune if you expect rain in the next few days.

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More sayings

"I consider every plant hardy until I have killed it myself."

Politician and botanist Sir Peter Smithers

"A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows."

American columnist Doug Larson

“If you have a garden and a library you have everything you need.”

Roman philosopher Cicero

“I plant daffodil bulbs about eight inches deep. I don’t use a ruler. As a married woman, I know perfectly well what six or eight inches looks like. This mental measurement makes planting time much more interesting than it might be otherwise.”

American TV gardener Cassandra Danz

“You know you’re a hardcore gardener if you deadhead flowers in other people’s gardens.”

Writer Sue Careless

“The great French Marshal Lyautey once asked his gardener to plant a tree. The gardener objected that the tree would not reach maturity for a hundred years. The marshall replied, ‘In that case there is no time to lose. Plant this afternoon!’”

John F Kennedy

“Plant and your spouse plants with you. Weed and you weed alone.”

Commonly attributed (somewhat unconvincingly) to philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau – who did write extensively about gardening

“Hand-weeding is not the terrible drudgery that it is often made out to be. Some people find in it a kind of soothing monotony. It leaves their minds free to perfect the brilliant repartee with which they should have countered a relative’s latest example of unreasonableness.”

Christopher Lloyd

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WD40

When caring for your secateurs, use any oil not WD40 as this is a water dispersant not a lubricant. (MM)

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Culinary tips

Chocolate courgette cake

Courgettes make a cake moist and sweet, a little as ground almonds do.

Ingredients

- 120g softened unsalted butter
- 125ml sunflower oil
- 100g caster sugar
- 200g soft brown sugar
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 130ml milk
- 350g plain flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 4 tbsp cocoa powder
- 450g courgettes, peeled & finely grated
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
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Method

1. Preheat oven to 190°C/Gas 5. Grease a 20x35cm baking tin and line with baking parchment.
2. Put the butter, sunflower oil and both sugars in a bowl and beat them together until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in the eggs and then the milk.
3. Sift the dry ingredients together and fold them into the butter mixture. Stir in the courgettes and vanilla, then spoon the mixture into the tin.
4. Bake for 35–45 minutes, until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean. Cut into squares whilst still warm

This Edition’s Poems

Family Affairs

The moth that flutters round the light
Upon a sultry summer night
Is often thought to be the moth
That lives by biting holes in cloth.

Such idle talk can be disproved
These moths are cousins, twice removed
God save us all from relations
And such unpleasant accusations.

This poem written in 1869, reprinted during 1919
Pandemic. It was written in 1869 by Kathleen
O'Mara:

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.

Reprinted during Spanish flu
Pandemic, 1919

Anagrams Answers

1. Picturesque
2. Gardenesque
3. English Landscape
4. Italian Renaissance
5. Arts and Crafts
6. Formal
7. English Cottage Garden
8. Naturalistic
9. French Baroque
10. Modernist

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

Further Information

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