

# Kingswood, Walton and Tadworth Horticultural Society

Spring 2025  
Newsletter



Welcome to the 2025 Spring Newsletter.



The Committee would like to start this newsletter with a request or two!

Cathy and David have been editing the newsletter in this format since Summer 2017 and they would now like to pass over the baton to somebody else. They would be happy to discuss what is required so if interested please let us know. They will continue to circulate the newsletter to the members via email and post to those members who do not have access to this.

We also need to find someone to host the raffle table at the shows and talks. This does not need to be the same person all afternoon but if you can help for an hour or two during these events it would be appreciated.

Are you able to donate a raffle prize for either the Shows, or at one of our talks? Many of us receive “unwanted” presents or duplicated books etc. for Christmas and Birthdays which could be used as prizes. Just let us know as the Committee are happy to arrange collection.

At the last Show it was clear that the two ladies in the kitchen required additional help. If you could assist here (even if it is for an hour or two, please let us know).

Marion has indicated that she is no longer able to look after the plant table so we need to find volunteers please. Contact us and will let you know what is involved.

Lastly, maybe it is about time to consider social media to advertise events, promote the Society and keep members informed. If there is anyone who fancies setting up a presence on Facebook, Instagram etc. please let one of the Committee know.

We have a number of activities planned for this year with the dates below.

Please take a look at the website as there is much more information about the society's activities.  
<https://kwthortsoc.co.uk>.

**Talk by Lynne Moore, Moore and Moore Plants**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March @ 3 pm

**Spring Show**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April

**Self-Drive Shamley Wood Estate**

22<sup>nd</sup> May (pm)

**Gardeners' Delight**

21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> June

**Early Summer Show**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June

**Coach Trip Wisley**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July (all day)

**Annual General Meeting and talk by Simon Horrill**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August @ 7pm

**Self-Drive to Titsey Estate, Oxted**

20<sup>th</sup> August (pm)

**Late Summer Show**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

**Talk by Caroline Halfpenny**

4<sup>th</sup> October @ 10.30am

**Talk by Barry Newman**

1<sup>st</sup> November @ 10.30am

---

**Talk by Lynne Moore of Moore and Moore plants. Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Church Hall Doors open at 2.30pm. Talk @ 3pm**

**A Blessing in Disguise** - A shady spot is the perfect place to grow some unusual and beautiful

perennials.

Lynne runs a nursery in Essex specialising in shade tolerant and woodland plants but they also have a choice selection of plants which are a magnet for pollinating insects. There will be plants available to buy. Lynne has gardened for as long as she can remember. Her first memories are picking snowdrops from her grand-parents garden (snowdrops are still a favourite). Always encouraged by her grandad Jack, her knowledge and enthusiasm grew until such times that she had her own little garden at her first flat. Grandad duly propagated a number of plants to fill this little plot, many of which Lynne still has today in her current garden. "Without my Grandad I wouldn't be doing what I am. I owe him so much." She's a complete plantaholic who's always on the lookout for something new, different or unusual to grow. Lynne gave up working as a Senior Fingerprint Expert in the Metropolitan Police Forensic Directorate in February 2016 after 25 years' service, to work with the plants full time. "I love what I do. I'm so lucky."

Please email to reserve your space.

---

**Talk by Caroline Halfpenny 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025 @10.30 in the Meeting Room**

**Garden Design Techniques - the use of plants in Design**

This a return visit by Caroline who talked about scented plants in the garden in 2024 which was a delight to attend and very interesting.

Caroline is passionate about gardening and the landscape; she began her horticultural career with Gravesham Borough Council with responsibility for the Grounds Maintenance Contracts from the Riverside out to Camer Park. In addition, she managed to secure the role of Allotments Officer which she loved, as she enjoys growing fruit and vegetables and wandering round allotments was a dream job. She was guilty of organising the

daffodils growing through the verges from Meopham to Gravesend (cheeky as it was her route to work).

She then became a self-employed gardener while she completed her degree in Landscape Management and became a Mum.

From 2007 to 2014 she managed the Diploma in Horticulture at Hadlow College at both the Tonbridge and Canterbury site, in addition to lecturing at all levels from schools and Foundation through to Higher Education. She still lectures part time today as well as running Growth Matters, which covers all her loves Gardening and Education.

---

**Talk by Barry Newman 1<sup>st</sup> November @ St Johns Church Hall 10.30am**

### **The Modern Kitchen Garden**

A general talk in three parts, covering the traditional approach to growing vegetables then moving on to container growing for those with limited space and finally to raised bed cultivation which Barry regards as the modern way ahead for those wishing to grow for the table.

Barry is a well-known grower, exhibitor, lecturer and judge. He is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Fruit, Vegetable and Herb Committee and a former Chairman of the National Vegetable Society. As well as being a senior NVS judge, Barry serves on the judging and lecturing panel of the RHS he is also a Britain in Bloom judge.

Barry was formally trained in horticulture at Pershore, York and Bath. Much of his working life was in local authority amenity provision around the country, retiring in 2005.

In 2022 Barry was awarded the Kew Guild Medal for distinguished service to the horticultural industry.

More to follow nearer the date.

### **Showa Gardeners Gloves**

We have a limited number of gardeners gloves still available at £5 per pair but only in extra-large. At present, we do not expect to have more gloves available at the Shows in future.

### **Gardeners' Delight**

This will be held over the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June. If you are interested in opening your garden for this event, please contact Sarah Azhashemi at [saazh01@gmail.com](mailto:saazh01@gmail.com).

### **KWTHS Bank Account**

For those members who pay their subscriptions by bank transfer or for payments towards the trips etc. here is the Societies Bank Account held at TSB Bank plc (Tadworth Branch).

KWTHS  
S/c 30-98-43  
A/n 00031352

### **2025 Subscriptions**

If you do not pay by Standing Order, your subscriptions are now due. These remain at £4 for one member and £7.50 for 2 members at the same address. If you can pay by bank transfer it would be preferable and save the Committee time in view of the number of bank closures in recent years.

### **Sociable Gardeners Group**

The programme for the Sociable Gardener's Group visits during 2025 is being organised. If you wish to join this group which visits member's gardens to enjoy coffee and cake etc., please contact Jasmine.

## **Our New Show Captain – Jayne Guy**

We are pleased to announce that Jayne Guy has agreed to be our new Show Captain and will be at the shows going forward to assist you with laying out your exhibits and answer any questions you may have. By way of an introduction, we asked Jayne to write a few words about herself.

“I am an avid gardener, in my head... and I try to bring those thoughts into fruition. Which doesn't always work!

My garden is relatively large with 11 apple trees - tended by my husband Stuart - and a large central border - tended in the main, by me.

We've lived in Walton 41 years - with two gaps abroad for Stuart's work.

I got involved with the shows at KWTSH a couple of years ago. I thoroughly enjoy them and I'm absolutely thrilled if I get any sort of prize. I want to do more and win a cup!!

I am thrilled to be able to be involved as Show Captain and hope I can bring something to the whole set up.”

## **Self-Drive to Shamley Wood Estate**

Our first self-drive will be to Shamley Wood Estate, Guildford, Surrey, GU5 0SP on 22<sup>nd</sup> May @ 2.30pm which only opens by appointment.

A relative newcomer to NGS, this garden is worth visiting just for the setting! Sitting high on the North Downs, the garden enjoys beautiful views of the South Downs and is approached through a 10-acre deer park. Set within approximately 3 acres, there is a large pond and established rose garden. More recent additions include a stream, fire pits, dry garden, heather, cutting garden and woodland walk. There are a number of

sculptures to find, including hippos and several pieces of driftwood art.

The cost per person will be £9.00 (entrance and tea/coffee and cake). Facilities available

Let David/Cathy know if you would like to attend and arrange payment of £9.00 by bank transfer, cheque or cash. According to Google Maps the Estate is about 45 minutes from Tadworth via A25.

## **Self-Drive to the Titsey Estate, Oxted**

Our second self-drive will be to the Titsey Estate in Oxted on 20<sup>th</sup> August where we can visit the gardens and then there will be a guided tour of the house at 3.30pm included in the cost.

Dating back to the mid-sixteenth century, the home of Sir John Gresham and then the Leveson Gower family, Titsey Place is set in beautiful gardens and parkland with stunning views over the Surrey countryside. Titsey Place and its Gardens were first opened to the public by the Trustees of the Titsey Foundation in 1993. Titsey Place is striking in appearance from the outside, marked by the grand battlemented tower. The interior of the house features rooms such as the oak panelled sitting room, the Old Hall, and the gallery bedroom. Titsey is noted for its collection of family portraits and marvellous set of four Canaletto pictures. The extensive gardens provide an idyllic setting, with the North Downs in the immediate background. The Walled Garden has been reinstated as a working kitchen garden. The terraces provide spectacular views over the rose garden and lakes, stretching to the park and plantations beyond.

The Woodland Walk is open every day of the year with two routes around the plantations. The shorter route is about 2.3 miles and the longer route negotiates steeper paths and is about 4 miles. There is no charge for the woodland walks and the walks are always open unless maintenance/forestry work is being conducted (check the website for the latest update).

**Accessibility** The gardens are gravelled throughout and are therefore extremely difficult for wheelchairs. Three disabled car parking spaces next to the tearoom and accessible WC. Dogs allowed on lead in the car park and picnic area and throughout the public woodland only.

More information to follow.

## **Coach Trip to Wisley 17<sup>th</sup> July**

This year we will visit Wisley. We will leave Walton Ponds at 9.30am, Tadworth Bridge 9.35am and Lower Kingswood at 9.40am. The aim will be to get back to Walton Ponds at 5pm.

In 2024 RHS commissioned Piet Oudoff to re-design the area he originally set out in 2021 which featured two borders displaying perennial plants laid out in a naturalistic style. The area has been better designed to reflect his signature style with meandering paths and over 150 different perennial plants providing interest throughout the year.

The fruit garden was under development in January and may be completed by the time we visit.

We will leave Wisley at 3.30 pm.

The cost of this year's trip will be £20 per person. We would ask for payment in advance by 28<sup>th</sup> June either by cheque payable to KWTHS, bank transfer or cash at the Early Summer Show.

Please contact David/Cathy to reserve your space, confirm pick up point and if you need a mobility scooter, as these need to be pre-booked.

## **Annual General Meeting 14 August at 7.00pm followed by a talk by Simon Horrill**

You may recall that Simon was a trained ballet dancer who then decided to train as a garden designer. We have had Simon twice in the past and this time he will be presenting one of his new talks about colour.

## **A Brief History of some of our Cups and Trophies.**

### PART ONE

**John Grant Memorial Trophy.** John Grant was a professional gardener working in Kingswood. The cup was presented to the society by his employer.

**Copping Memorial Cup.** O. H. Copping lived at The Lodge Red House Brighton Road. He may have been the gardener there, after Cosmo Bonsor moved to the Red House in 1911. See below for an additional article covering Cosmo Bonsor.

**Duke Cup.** Mr Duke was a Professional gardener. Not much more is known about Mr Duke.

**Bernard Caswell Delphinium Trophy.** Bernard Caswell lived for while in Shelveys Way Tadworth and was a neighbour of Keith Lewis. He was prolific exhibitor, showing many annuals and delphiniums. He also entered many other local shows.

**Beatrice French Memorial Cup.** Beatrice French was a good supporter of the society. She lived in The Warren Kingswood. Her gardener was Stan Harding who our Chairman, Graeme remembers.

**Songhurst Cup.** Peter Songhurst lived in Tadworth and was a professional gardener. He was very active in the society for many years, including being Chairman.



**Corfield Cup** Mr R. M Corfield lived in The Warren Kingswood in the 1950s.

**Sam McCready Plaque.** Sam McCready was an Irish rose grower & Chelsea Gold medallist. They gave away rose bushes to be trialled by amateurs. Keth Lewis did this for about six years.

**Durlacher Cup** Mrs Durlacher lived at Pinfold, Nursery Road Walton on the Hill in the 1950s. We don't know much more than this.

**St James Cup.** This cup was presented to the society by David Eason, who was an active member of the society. He was trained at Wisley. The cup is named after the garage owned by Mr Eason.

**Strachan Cup.** Mr Strachan was a keen member and became President of the society. He lived in a large house and garden called Pathways which was at the end of the footpath that runs from Station Approach to The Avenue. When this was sold and the house demolished, two houses and a block of apartments were built. Mr & Mrs Strachan held Coffee Mornings in their house for the Society. He also kindly stored all the large trestle tables in a shed in his grounds.

**Chinthurst Cup.** This cup was presented to the Society by the school.

**Fawcett Cup.** Felicia Fawcett was a lovely lady who lived in a house overlooking Mere Pond in Withybed Corner Walton on the Hill. She was a very accomplished flower arranger.

**Joan Clover Photography Cup.** Joan Clover was a member of the committee for many years.

### **A brief synopsis of Cosmo Bonsor**

The Kingswood Warren Estate was bought in 1885 by Henry Cosmo Orme Bonsor.

The new owner was born at Polesden Lacey in 1848. He was educated at Eton, where he played

in the football eleven and rowed for the school team.

In 1872 Cosmo Bonsor married Emily Fellowes, of Dorset, who bore him four sons and two daughters. Emily died in 1882 and in 1886 he married his second wife, Mabel Brand, of Sanderstead, Surrey, by whom he had two more daughters.

In 1894 he joined the Southeastern Railway Board, of which he became Vice-Chairman in 1898.

Cosmo Bonsor was a driving force behind the construction of the Chipstead Valley Railway line, which officially opened as far as Kingswood in November 1897. *The Tadworth Line was opened as a single track in 1900.*

Cosmo Bonsor was a shrewd financier and businessman. A director of the Bank of England and Conservative MP for Wimbledon until 1900. He also used his considerable skills to further a number of good causes which were close to his heart.

He was a man of imposing physical appearance and of a jovial disposition. He was much loved by everybody who knew him and tales of his generosity towards local people abound.

In 1906 as a result of rising maintenance costs Cosmo Bonsor decided to put the Kingswood Warren estate on the market. The estate failed to sell in one lot at auction and was later broken up and disposed of in smaller lots. In 1911 the Walton Heath Land Company, set up by Cosmo Bonsor, acquired the mansion and some 640 acres of land. In 1912 the mansion together with 102 acres were sold to the mill owner Joseph Rank while the Walton Heath Land Company retained the rest of the land for development purposes.

After the sale of the Kingswood Warren estate, the Bonsor family moved to the Red House, along the Brighton Road, and remained there until the death of Lady Bonsor.

Cosmo Bonsor died in Nice in 1929 and is buried in St Andrew's churchyard, Kingswood.

***We do not know if the three Bonsor Cups were presented to the Society by Cosmo Bonsor or in memory of Cosmo & Emily Bonsor.***

### **Did you know?**

Wet snow is much denser and does far more damage than fine, dry snow. On average 25 cm of snow weighs as much as 2.5 cm of rain, but wet snow, although it forms a thinner layer, is twice as dense.

John Innes is not a commercial brand. It is a recipe that was developed by the John Innes Centre in 1933 following problems with the germination of *Primula sinensis* seeds. The John Innes Centre never produced the composts commercially or benefitted financially from their production; It just supplied the recipe. John Innes contains seven parts loam, three parts peat and two parts sand, so it drains well and yet retains moisture.

The nautical term 'A square meal' comes from when in good weather, the crew's mess was a warm meal served on square wooden plates.

'Rummage sale' comes from the French marriage, the word for a ship's cargo. Damaged cargo was sold at a "rummage sale".

### **Roses**

If you're thinking about adding some stunning roses to your garden, you need to consider the wonder of Bare Root Roses. They might sound complicated, but they're actually one of the simplest ways to start your rose-growing journey.

### **What Are Bare Root Roses?**

Simply put, Bare Root Roses are dormant rose plants that are shipped without soil around their roots. This might seem a bit intimidating at first,

but it's actually a great way to get high-quality roses at an affordable price.

### **Why Choose Bare Root Roses?**

1. **Easy to Plant:** Without the soil, these roses are lighter and easier to handle. You can plant them in early spring, and they'll quickly establish themselves.
2. **Cost-Effective:** Bare Root Roses are typically less expensive than potted roses because they're cheaper to ship.
3. **Wide Variety:** You'll find a broader selection of rose varieties when you shop for bare root plants, giving you more options to beautify your garden.

### **Planting Bare Root Roses**

Planting Bare Root Roses is straightforward. Follow these easy steps, and you'll have beautiful blooms in no time:

1. **Soak the Roots:** Before planting, soak the roots in water for about 24 hours to rehydrate them.
2. **Prepare the Soil:** Dig a hole that's wide enough to spread out the roots, and deep enough for the graft union to be just below the soil surface.
3. **Planting Time:** Place the rose in the hole, spread out the roots, and fill in with soil. Water thoroughly.
4. **Care:** Water regularly and mulch to retain moisture. Prune as needed and enjoy the stunning blooms.

### **Final Thoughts**

Bare Root Roses are a fantastic option for both novice and experienced gardeners. They offer a cost-effective, easy way to bring vibrant colours and delightful fragrances to your garden. So, don't be intimidated - embrace the simplicity and beauty of Bare Root Roses!

## Nymans

Have you visited Nymans recently? Throughout the history of Nymans there have been many different rose gardens. The original rose garden was created in the 1920s. It was laid out by Maud Messel and contained her treasured collection of old roses. In the 1960s, Lady Rosse redesigned the garden, and while Maud's rose garden had been planted more with a view to sentiment than display. Lady Rosse adopted the planting and added arches and pillars to create a better display without sacrificing the treasured roses. In more recent times, there has been more emphasis on repeat flowering roses.

Currently the garden is in decline. Unfortunately, a combination of disease, challenging weather and an ageing rose collection has resulted in many losses and poor plant health. Traditionally rose gardens require a lot of feed and water and bare soil can lead to problems with soil health. In Spring 2025, the National Trust will begin the process of replacing all of the roses and adapting the planting. They want the strongest, most long lived and drought tolerant species while adopting a new scheme which will include more early summer flowering perennials to compliment the roses. Research is also being carried out to determine which old roses can be introduced.

The project should be completed in 2027.

## Rosemary – A How to Grow Guide

*Rosmarinus officinalis* is a woody, perennial herb plant with fragrant, evergreen, needle-like leaves typically it has blue/purple flowers but we have varieties with white and pink flowers which generally appear in late Spring and early summer and if you prune after flowering a second flush later in the year can appear.

Rosemary is one of the most popular Mediterranean herbs. It is a very aromatic herb with the ability to evoke memories of a Lamb Sunday Roast.

Rosemary is a fabulous plant to have in your garden, as it is an excellent culinary herb as well as an exceedingly attractive addition to the border or in a container. Whether you are looking for a substantial upright variety, or a compact creeping plant, there are a wide variety of rosemary plants for sale to suit any garden,

Apart from the common variety *Rosmarinus officinalis* there are a large number of other variants that range from Creeping to Upright, including Ginger, Blue, White, Pink and variegated.

When and where to plant

- Rosemary is easy to grow outside in the garden, it also does well in pots, but needs a little more care. It is sensitive to over-watering, developing brown tips on its needle-like leaves. The brown leaves will grow out if you allow the plant to dry out between watering and to be just moist when you do water.
- Grow only on well-drained soil, add plenty of grit and it does not require a nutrient rich soil, being from the Mediterranean it needs a position in full sun.
- It flowers in spring/early summer, after which it flushes with new growth.
- Rosemary is an evergreen and can be harvested all the year round for culinary and medicinal purposes. The flowers are also edible.
- If Rosemary becomes pot bound, the first sign is yellowing of the lower leaves. Re-pot into a larger pot with fresh growing medium and it will soon recover.

## History and Herb Usage

The name "rosemary" derives from the Latin for "dew" (ros) and "sea" (marinus), or "dew of the sea", and the origins of this are said to be because it needs no water other than the humidity carried by the sea breeze to sustain it. It is a must for any herb garden used by cooks and



apothecaries alike for culinary and medicinal purposes

The leaves of the Rosemary plant are extremely aromatic, and can be finely chopped and used to flavour a variety of dishes, especially stuffing, stews and in with a roast as it will tolerate a long cooking time. Many cooks simply cut sprigs of rosemary and place with roasted meats, especially lamb, pork, chicken and turkey. Beautiful when chopped and added to roasting potatoes, or to tomato-based dishes.

The leaves of the plant can be made into a tea to aid digestion, or dried to add to dishes later.

You can also use the leaves in an infusion for bath water too, to aid relaxation of muscles whilst stimulating the mind. It is of course distilled into an essential oil and added to many cosmetic products. The Rosemary herb plant is said to help memory and indeed in the language of flowers it is used to denote remembrance. It is said also to prolong life!

## **Pruning and Maintenance**

If left unpruned Rosemary can become straggly and untidy so should be pruned after flowering to keep it compact. As a guide, prune after the first main flush of flowers. Regular picking of the leaves especially the tips of the branches for cooking acts as an ongoing pruning regime and helps keep the plant bushy and compact.

Even if pruned annually, older Rosemary plants can still become woody and leggy You can try to revive an old plant by either taking cuttings from the younger growth or by layering the plant. If you can bring a branch down to ground level and scratch the bark back on the woody stem just until you can see green underneath as close as you can to the new growth then pile compost onto the woody stems up to the level of new growth keep well-watered and hopefully in a month or so it will root and you can use this to

replace the plant you have or move to a new area.

## **How does a Gardener Grow**

'Tis odd, but very true indeed  
A Gardener does not grow from seed  
Nor from a bulb, nor from a shoot  
Cut from a well-developed root.  
His slow beginnings who can trace  
He springs from a peculiar race.  
The child of hope, and second sight,  
Born of despair and of delight.

Nursed by uncertainties and guesses,  
Nourished by failures and successes,  
From ceaseless toil in sun and shade  
He is evolved - but never made.

## **Books**

### **A Year Full of Pots by Sarah Raven**

Month by month Sarah takes us through what to plant/sow and how to do this. She talks us through what will be in flower and gives us inspiration as to what to plant with what.

The photography by Jonathan Buckley is superb and makes this feel like an irresistible menu to choose from.

It is a book to dip in and out of throughout the year. Container planting is always very popular and something most of us do.

### **Gardener with Winter Plants by Tony Hall**

A good winter garden is a magnificent thing. Keeping interest in our gardens throughout the seasons is something most gardeners now want to achieve. Books that focus on Winter gardening are not plentiful, but this book from Tony Hall takes its place centre-stage as an inspirational guide. We are taken through berries and foliage, to the bulbs and shrubs that will add value to our gardens. We are told about the importance the Winter Garden has for wildlife and how fragrance draws in the pollinators. The photography, also by Tony Hall, fits

perfectly with the text that tells us what we need to know about each plant discussed. We are told the plants foibles, where best to plant it, when it flowers and how hardy it is. This book is filled with good advice and information so that we will enjoy our gardens all year round.

### **This edition's jokes**

Why don't gardeners ever tell secrets? They can't help but spill the beans!

What do you call a stolen yam? A hot potato!

Why was the tomato blushing? Because it saw the salad dressing!

How do trees get online? They just log in!

What do you call a gardener's assistant? A budding gardener!

Why do melons always have weddings? They cantaloupe!

What's a tree's favourite school subject? Geometree!

Why did the gardener plant a lightbulb? He wanted to grow a power plant!

What's a worm's job in the garden? The underground!

Why don't flowers ever drive? They're always putting their roots down!

### **2025 Committee**

Chair - Graeme Boast (01737 832395)  
[gboast@gboast.co.uk](mailto:gboast@gboast.co.uk)

Hon Secretary – Keith Lewis (01737 210707)

Hon Treasurer – Ian Garrett (01737 362610)  
[lc\\_garrett@hotmail.com](mailto:lc_garrett@hotmail.com)

Show Captain – Jayne Guy.

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

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

Lesley Milne

Show Secretary (non-Committee) Gillian Ross (01737 362675) [g89ross@gmail.com](mailto:g89ross@gmail.com)

