

# Kingswood, Walton and Tadworth Horticultural Society

## Early Summer 2025 Newsletter



A warm welcome to the second newsletter of 2025. Let's begin by saying a huge thank you to those who helped at the Spring Show in April assisting in the kitchen, baking cakes, setting up and clearing away, running the raffle and plant stands. All much appreciated, **if there is anyone else who feels that they can assist at future shows please let one of the Committee members know** as we are always looking for people who can help the Society as many hands make light work and it would be helpful to build up a group of members who we can call on to help.

We had 119 visitors this year, slightly down on last year but it was still a successful afternoon, much enjoyed by all.

The winners at the Show were.

KEMP Narcissi Cup = Michael Rowlands

John Grant memorial Trophy = Jill Doubble

Spring Cup = Jayne Guy

Spring Floral Cup = Joanne Farnham

Bonsor Challenge Cup = Sue Williams

It is so pleasing to see that new members can win trophies, well done Joanne and Sue.

The raffle was another big success and if you are able to donate anything that can be given as a

prize it would be much appreciated. Please call us as we are happy to collect.

For next years Show, the nominated daffodils will be Carlton and Geranium. Both will be shown in the next schedule but if you are beginning to buy next year's bulbs, please look for these.

Our first self-drive visit was to Shamley Wood and are pleased to report that we were joined by 24 members to this 50-acre estate near Guildford, a truly magical place and well worth the drive. Our next self-drive will be to the Titsey Estate, near Oxted, in August.

### Dates for your Diary

#### Gardeners' Delight

Saturday/Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> June – more details to follow.

#### Early Summer Show

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June

#### Coach Trip Wisley

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

***[If you are not a member of the RHS this is an opportunity to visit Wisley paying only the cost of the coach]***

#### Annual General Meeting and talk by Simon Horrell about colour in the garden.

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

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

Wednesday 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

Garden design techniques and the use of plants in design

### **Talk by Barry Newman**

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

The Modern Kitchen Garden

Details of all of our events are on the website

[www.kwthotsoc.co.uk](http://www.kwthotsoc.co.uk) – Do give it a tour!

**We are still looking for some assistance in producing the newsletters in 2026** so if there is anyone who could help, please let us know.

### **Gardeners' Delight**

Over the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June there will be 10 gardens opening for the annual Gardeners' Delight. As soon as the final information is available, we will circulate more details.

### **SURREY HORTICULTURAL FEDERATION 2025 Garden Visit**

Their 2025 GARDEN VISIT is on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025** to 'Lower House', Bowlhead Green, Godalming, Surrey, GU8 6NW  
(By very kind permission of Georgina Harvey).

This large private garden will be open on this day exclusively for SHF Clubs of which KWTHS is one

Garden entry from 2pm to 4.30pm

Teas Available on the Terrace

Entry £8 each, which will be donated to the owner's charity. Free parking and plants for sale.

Gertrude Jekyll's 1916 plans resonate throughout the garden with recent additions. Topiary area with Buxus and white roses, and climate change areas of drought-resistant, pest and disease-free species. Many unusual shrubs, trees, and roses, kitchen garden and greenhouses. Routes available for wheelchair users.

To find it:- Take the main A3 south from Guildford, leaving at the Thursley/Bowlhead Green junction (shortly before the tunnel), then follow Bowlhead Green sign left into French Lane and approx. 1 mile until the small green. Turn left into Lower House Lane and follow until the end. Alternatively, take the A 286 from Milford to Brook, then follow Bowlhead Green signs, turning right at the small green. Both ways are very narrow roads, please take care!

**ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (RHS).** If you are not a RHS member you can enjoy, a 50% discount on entry costs to two stunning RHS Gardens; Wisley, near Woking, Surrey and Hyde Hall, near Chelmsford, Essex. You will need to borrow the Society's pass obtainable from the Hon. Secretary, Keith Lewis 01737 210707.

### **Coach Trip to Wisley 17th July**

Book your place on this year's coach trip which is to 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 by 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 together with a new trial garden for vegetables.

We will leave Wisley at 3.30 pm.

**We know many of you drive yourself to Wisley but if you are not a member of the RHS this trip is excellent value as it includes your entrance fee which is over £19 so if you know someone who isn't a member please encourage them to come along as we would like to fill the coach.**

The cost of this year's trip will be £20 per person. We would ask for payment in advance by 28th June either by cheque payable to KWTSH, 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.

### **Unearthed: The Power of Gardening**

An event running at the British Library (just outside St. Pancras Station) between 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Entry £12 per person for over 60's.

Among an incredible collection of books, manuscripts, photographs, artworks and historical tools, highlights include:

- **the first English gardening manual:** Thomas Hill's 1558 guide on how to tend a garden
- **Charles Darwin's vasculum**, for collecting plant specimens on the Beagle voyage

- the only surviving illustrated **Old English herbal**
- an oil **portrait of John Ystumlllyn**, one of Britain's earliest documented Black gardeners
- **Gertrude Jekyll's boots:** a trailblazing gardener, writer, artist, and one of the 20th century's most influential garden designers
- striking **botanical art** by European, Indian, Chinese and Caribbean artists
- **four short films** following Coco Collective, an Afro-diaspora led community garden that opened as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic
- **a Victorian Wardian case**, the mini travelling greenhouse that enabled thousands of living plant specimens to be moved around the world.

*Unearthed* celebrates gardening as a force for creativity, resilience and community through the remarkable stories of the people and plants that shape our gardens.

### **Lily Beetles**

With some effort, Lily Beetles can be controlled in the garden.

The red beetle overwinters in the ground and will emerge in late March. Their eggs are laid on the underside of the plant's leaf from late April until mid-summer. This is when the damage starts as the larvae feed on the foliage. When done, they return to the ground to pupate, leaving a covering of what looks like bird droppings on top of the soil and the plants. They emerge as adults in mid-summer when they carry on the feeding damage.

I have read that scent does play a part in their spreading, although I am not totally convinced. Science is not always helpful in our gardening practices; horticulture is generally too far down the food chain to claim the required resources. Much of what we do has to be based

on experience, passed along tips and trial and error.

Here are a few pointers that may help: -

Remove any larvae from the underside of the leaves as soon as it appears

- The beetles will immediately fall from the plant if disturbed. Place an old white sheet under the plant for them to be visible when they drop; they are a challenge to catch if they fall on bare soil.
- If you find evidence of the larvae in the soil (it looks like bird droppings on the surface) cover sparingly with cooking oil, this will help prevent the new adults from emerging.
- If all else fails, resort to spraying. This should be only done late in the day after the full strength of the sun has passed, to avoiding any burning of the plants.

## **Tulips**

Once the tulip has finished flowering, it is important to deadhead the flowers, as you do not want any energy wasted in the production of seeds. The plant should then be left to die back naturally. If grown in pots, make sure the soil is kept evenly moist. This is most important after the dry weather we have had. A tomato plant feed, every 2 weeks, helps with the growth of the new bulbs. When the foliage starts to yellow, the plant has reached the end of its growing season, and the bulbs can be lifted. Any disturbance to the root structure before this will prematurely end the growing of the new bulb.

You can lift your bulbs from the container now (if you need it for other plants) and heel them in somewhere in the garden, provided the roots are not disturbed. Try to lift the whole clump as one.

When you lift tulips, you will find a new bulb has developed flanking the old flower stem. There will also be smaller offset bulblets that have grown from dormant buds on the basal plate of the mother bulb. Unless you are going to grow these on for several years, they can be discarded.

Once lifted, the bulbs should be cleaned of any soil and stored in nets until replanting in the autumn. A garden shed or garage is ideal.

## **Did you know?**

Dogwood is an old name that was recorded in the early seventeenth century. It is thought to have derived from the West Country word “dawk”, meaning skewers because wood did not taint the meat. John Evelyn thought – wrongly – that the plant was called dogwood because it was not fit for purpose. The black fruits are known as dogberries or hound berries.

## **Daffodils**

The appearance of daffodils is often the first sign of the changing seasons. These flowers have long been associated with fertility and new life, and a gift of daffodils is traditionally considered auspicious.

Historical records show that Druids utilised these native flowers extensively, as noted by Pliny the Elder, who documented their application in treating bronchitis and skin ailments, as well as their use as a general tonic.

The mythological significance of daffodils is particularly evident in fairy folklore. A widespread belief holds that fairies seek sanctuary within these flowers during times of danger. This has led to the traditional warning against stepping on daffodils, in case you disturb a fairy resting within its petals. Some

modern interpretations suggest that fairies use daffodils as communication devices.

The connection between fairies and daffodils is beautifully captured in Marjorie Barrows' verse: "When the winds of March are wakening the crocuses and crickets,  
Did you ever find a fairy near some budding little thickets...  
And when she sees you creeping up to get a closer peek  
She tumbles through the daffodils, a-playing hide and seek."

The daffodil was significant in classical antiquity with Greek dramatist Sophocles referring to it as the 'chaplet of the infernal gods. More famously, the flower became known as Narcissus, referring to the mythological youth transformed by the gods after becoming entranced by his own reflection in a spring of the River Lamus. The flower is also seen in the myth of Persephone, daughter of Demeter, where the goddess's gathering of daffodils precedes her descent into the Underworld.

### **Observations!**

Gardening seems to consist of greed and indigestion. Greed because you can't resist buying a plant. Indigestion because there is no more room for it.

Some garden work is better left undone. Remember that a human being does at least as much damage relatively to a slug!

**Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People (QEF)** are delighted to invite you to a very special event, which is the second part in their new 'In conversation with' series, newly launched in 2025 to mark our 90th anniversary.

Join them for an exclusive opportunity to dig into the minds of gardening experts at their Expert

Garden Panel. Whether you're a seasoned green thumb or just a beginner, this event will be packed with insights to inspire every gardener.

### **Meet the Panel:**

**Jim Butress** - Renowned horticulturalist, judge on The Great Allotment Challenge, and appeared in The World Garden at Lullingstone documentary.

**Peter Mills** - Gardening Consultant, Writer, Broadcaster (BBC Radio Surrey), and RHS Advisor.

**Ben Pope** - Head Gardener, lecturer at the Chelsea Physic Garden, writer (Gardens Illustrated), RHS Herbaceous Committee.

**BBC Surrey's breakfast presenter James Cannon will be their Compere!**

**James Cannon** - Hosts the BBC Radio Surrey Breakfast Show every weekday morning between 6am and 10am. His career started as a print journalist before getting behind the microphone. He is a regular at the RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival where he hosts the Get Growing stage interviewing some of the biggest names in horticulture and hopefully gaining a bit knowledge along the way.

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Thursday 12 June 2025

**Venue:** Tithe Barn at Loseley Park Gardens

**Price:** £35.00

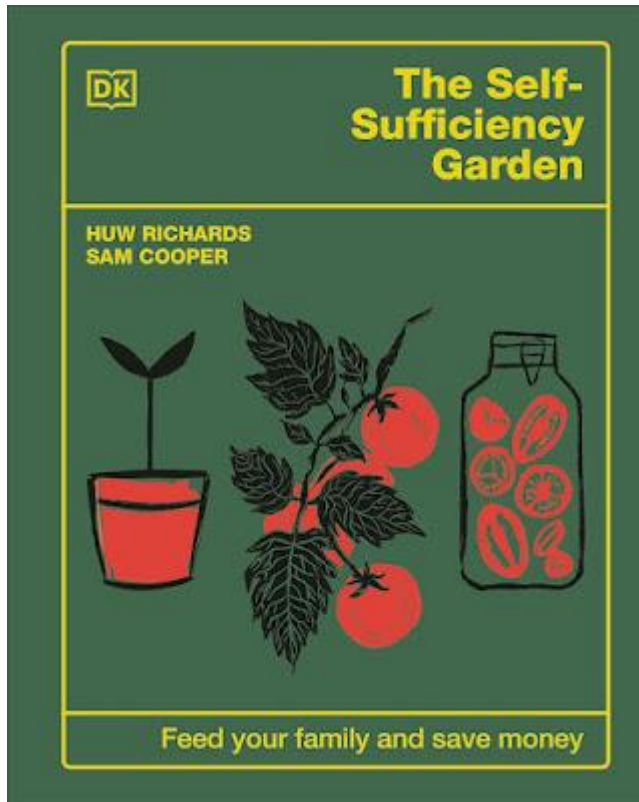
### **Ticket includes:**

Gardening Q&A with our expert panel  
Tea, coffee, and pastries.

FREE entry Loseley Park Gardens (usually £11.50 per person).

Tickets can be purchased on our website here: <https://www.gef.org.uk/events/gardening/> or by calling 01372 841 151.

### **The Self-Sufficiency Garden by Huw Richards and Sam Cooper**



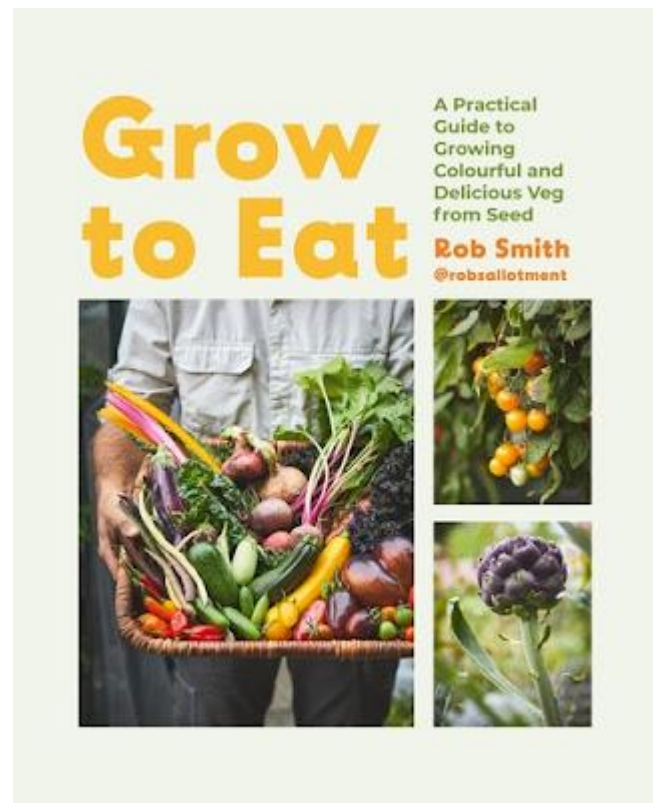
If you are thinking about growing your own food this book will be useful for you, if you want to go the whole 'Tom and Barbara' (age related reference) then this book is very much for you.

This book is a handy size; it is not too big or too weighty yet is packed full of information. The paper is not shiny, it feels compostable (no you do not have to compost it). This book is its no-nonsense approach. Huw and Sam know that space is an issue for most gardeners: we don't all have acres. The garden they base this book on is roughly half and allotment in size and of course you can choose how much you want to go down this route. It is not all or nothing. If you do want to go down the full self-sufficiency route this book is very well explained and very

detailed. There are plans, planting rotations, monthly sowing plans, how to grow and the tools you need and projects to create some of the equipment you might need such as hooped planting covers and hot beds. You are taken carefully through the seasons, what you need to do and when. There is also the necessary information on how to store your produce and some fabulous recipes. There are useful plans and excellent photographs to demonstrate and inspire. Even if you just want to grow a few carrots then this book has useful information in it.

The Self-Sufficiency Garden by Huw Richards and Sam Cooper is published by [DK Books](#)

### **Grow to Eat by Rob Smith**



Still on the theme of growing your own food, this new book from Rob Smith is a fantastic guide to growing your own food. This book focuses on how to grow from scratch familiar and some not so familiar vegetables. This book

is full of wonderful photographs showing how beautiful vegetables can be. The advice is spot on, with how to sow, grow, harvest and store plus some top tips such as to successional sow peas every few weeks so that you lengthen the harvesting time. Rob recommends varieties to grow; which is very useful as there are so many in the catalogues. Similar to the book above it is a nice size which I think really matters with reference books. This is an excellent book for someone new to vegetable gardening and also someone who always can learn more.

Grow to Eat by Rob Smith is published by [Quadrille Books](#).

### **Poem – Gone in a Night**

Gone – my prize pansy buds  
All in a night!  
Gone to appease  
Some fat slug's appetite

Base epicureans!  
Why can't they eat weeds  
Dandelions or nettles  
Should meet all their needs

Choice food for such vagrants  
Is really absurd  
If they ate ground elder  
I'd not say a word!

### **2025 Committee**

Chairman - 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)  
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Membership Secretaries – David Dunning and  
Cathy Varney (0208 660 9242)  
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Show Captain – Jayne Guy

Show Secretary – Gill Ross (01737 362675)  
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Sociable Gardeners and Minute Secretary –  
Jasmine Heath (01737 814291)  
[Jasmine.heath@btinternet.com](mailto:Jasmine.heath@btinternet.com)

Lesley Milne

Show Secretary (not Committee)  
Gillian Ross  
[G89ross@gmail.com](mailto:G89ross@gmail.com)

Information

For more information about the Society, please refer to our website [www.kwhortsoc.co.uk](http://www.kwhortsoc.co.uk)