

Kingswood, Walton and Tadworth Horticultural Society

Early Summer
2024 Newsletter



Chairman's Jottings

Welcome to the second newsletter for 2024.

Now the weather has been a little better the grass has just taken off, with rain, sun, rain, sun for the last month, the herbaceous borders have been very slow the daffodils finished quite early, I lost my special collection of daffs, they just rotted away, too much rain.

Now I must just have a good old moan about peat free compost, I had a lot of trouble with seed germination and I think it was down to the compost which looked dry on surface but very wet underneath. A few other tips to think about is slugs, everyone is talking about beer traps and nematodes, I am going to go down the beer traps idea, I will let you know, it is all down to the wet weather.

I must not mention the names but really some of the seed and potting compost consists of 90% wood chip and some coir as mentioned by Chris Beardshaw and Christine Walden on Gardeners Questions Time a couple of weeks ago.

My dwarf runner beans and climbing French beans germinated excellently with my home-made compost including peat! With Chelsea now behind us do not forget the Chelsea Chop on your Phlox, Sedums and generally other taller herbaceous plants.

The compost I use for small plants and would recommend is Westlands Multipurpose with John Innes. As for Sylva Grow do not ask but it should be in the Which magazine with a do not buy label!! For potting on small plants, I use my own home-made compost with added bracken fern I collect from the New Forest in Hampshire. Run the lawn mower over it and it is just like peat! With a small handful of BFB or Growmore, I will bring a small sample to the next show.

Happy Gardening – Graeme

Dates for your 2024 Diary

Gardeners Delight

22nd 23rd June

Early Summer Show

29th June

(The Tadworth Art Group will be selling cards at this show)

Self-drive to Tollsworth Manor

11th July

Visit to West Dean (Coach)

25th July

Annual General Meeting

14th August

Late Summer Show

24th August

Talk by Steve Edney

28th September

Talk by Caroline Halfpenny

2nd November

Spring Show

The first Show of the year was held on Saturday 13th April and the winners were

John Grant Memorial Trophy Jean Bye

Kemp Narcissi Cup Michael Rowlands

Spring Cup Dot Carter

Spring Floral Cup Virginia Perkins

Bonsor Challenge Cup Margaret Haslam and Pam Harrison

Attendees 131 (69 members and 62 non-members)

2023 attendees 104 (51 member/53 non-member)

2022 attendees 84 (43 member/41 non member)

It is lovely to see the numbers increasing but success comes at a price and we need more help at the Shows to assist with the raffle, in the kitchen, assisting in the morning with the judging and clearing up afterwards. If you can spare an hour (or two!) in June or August please let us know.

Gardeners' Delight

See last page for more details of this event.

Sociable Gardeners Group

This year's programme is available with nine visits to member's gardens, running from May through to September. Please contact Jasmine for details.

Coach Trip to West Dean 25th July

Our coach trip this year is to West Dean Gardens near Chichester.

This is one of the best restored gardens today. Originally started in 1622, with many changes over the years, go and admire the walled kitchen garden, Victorian glass houses, Edwardian pergola, arboretum, sunken garden, river garden and much more. The garden is mainly flat but West Dean only have 2 manual wheelchairs (these cannot be pre-booked and the gardens are over a large area). There is a restaurant and coffee shop but do check their website (www.westdean.ac.uk) for more details.

Pick up will be Walton Ponds – 9am, Tadworth Bridge – 9.05am and Kingswood – 9.10am. We will aim to leave West Dean at 3.30pm so back approximately around 5pm.

The cost will be £32 per person. To secure your space we will require a deposit of £10 per person and the balance of £22 by 13th July. (The cost of hiring the coach has increased this year).

Please contact Cathy and David for more information.

Annual General Meeting 14 August at 7.00pm followed by a talk 'Beekeeping and the Asian Hornet' by Pauline Lane

This will be held at St John's Church, The Avenue, Tadworth, KT20 5AB

Self-Drive Visit to Tollsworth Manor, Chaldon 11th July

We have arranged a self-drive visit to Tollsworth Manor on 11th July at 2pm. The maximum number that can be accommodated is 21.

As we already reached our maximum, we have created a reserve list in case of cancellations or we could arrange a second visit if there is sufficient interest.

Talk by Steve Edney 28th September - The Long Border

Please see web site for more details. We will issue an email reminder late August. If you are not using email or the internet you may miss out on information about the Society so if you have an email address, please do let us know. Steve is a very popular speaker on the society circuit so book your chair now as we expect a 'full house'.

Talk by Caroline Halfpenny 2nd November.

Again, please see website for more details. We will email out more information nearer the date.

The price of compost and a look at Hugelkultur

If you are busy constructing new raised beds for the growing season, the prospect and price of filling the beds with compost can be dauntingly expensive. You don't need to fill the whole container with compost, depending on the depth of the raised beds. Many vegetables are relatively shallowly rooted.

To improve water retention and add some filling, start by lining with shredded newspaper or cardboard. You can add all sorts of organic matter including twigs, tree clippings, leaf mould, straw, spent compost (such as from spring bulbs) and then top it with layers of compost. This is along the lines of [Hügelkultur](#), which Wiki defines as mound culture. In its original form, it works as a mound composed of various organic materials, starting with logs and twigs, creating a mound and then planted at the top. Equally, you can use it in reverse to fill a raised bed. It is a big topic, there is lots of info around, and it is food for thought if you are working out how many bags of compost you need and at what price.

Poem

Granny's in the garden
Down upon her knees
Head down, bum up
Elegant, she
Granny's in the garden
Laying waste to weeds
Hacking back, digging out
Dead things, roots and weeds
Granny's in the garden
Were those weeds or flowers
Hecks this is getting boring
And it's taking hours
Granny's in the bathroom
Drinking something white
Soaking all the aches away
That's it for tonight.

Gardens to Visit

I went to the NT garden Woolbeding. It is a bit of a performance to go as you can't just turn up but have to book first, park in Midhurst and go by complimentary mini bus to the garden. But it is so worth the effort. It is so well looked after and I found the plants very interesting. I will make another visit later in the season.

Marion Mason (former Committee member and KWTHS member since 1998)

If you ever visit Norfolk, one must go to garden is East Ruston Old Vicarage. Bought as a blank canvas (literally) in 1973, this is now a 32-acre garden widely featured in several gardening magazines and has been developed by the owners. It is truly wonderful.

Get it?

I can't remember how to write 1,1000, 51, 6 and 500 in Roman Numerals.

IM LIVID

RHS Shows

The RHS have announced changes to their summer shows (excluding Chelsea). Look out for future copies of The Garden magazine or refer to their website late in the year for more information. The main change for most of us in the Society is that Hampton Court will become biennial and in 2026 will hold the Show at Badminton in the Cotswolds returning to Hampton Court in 2027.

Late Spring and Early Summer

Your seeds have been planted, so what next? Here we help you to ensure you're growing really healthy seedlings that produce productive and happy veg plants.

1. Start with quality seeds: Begin with high-quality seeds from reputable suppliers or nurseries. Healthy seeds give your seedlings a strong start.
2. Use a good quality, peat-free compost: Whilst seeds themselves contain all the nutrients they need in order to germinate, seeds will need nutrients from the soil as they grow.
3. Provide adequate drainage: Ensure containers or seed trays have proper

- drainage holes to prevent waterlogging, which can lead to root rot.
4. Optimal temperature: Most vegetable seedlings prefer warm soil for germination. Maintain the recommended temperature range for the specific vegetable you're growing - this info is on seed packs.
5. Proper watering: Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. Overwatering can lead to fungal diseases, while underwatering can stunt growth.
6. Provide adequate light: Place seedlings in a location where they receive plenty of natural sunlight or use grow lights if growing indoors. Insufficient light can result in leggy, weak seedlings.
7. Thin seedlings: If multiple seedlings sprout in the same container, thin them out to ensure proper spacing. Overcrowding can lead to competition for nutrients and stunted growth.
8. Feed your seedlings: Once the seedlings develop their first true leaves, start feeding them with a diluted [1/4 strength], organic feed according to the package instructions. Avoid over-feeding, as it can damage the delicate roots.
9. Maintain airflow: Good air circulation helps prevent fungal diseases and strengthens seedlings.
10. Harden off seedlings: Before transplanting seedlings outdoors, gradually acclimatise them to outdoor conditions by exposing them to increasing periods of sunlight and outdoor temperatures over several days.
11. Protect from pests: Keep an eye out for pests such as aphids, caterpillars, and slugs. Remove any pests by hand or use organic pest control methods to prevent damage to the seedlings.
12. Monitor for diseases: Regularly inspect seedlings for signs of disease such as yellowing leaves, spots, or wilting. Promptly remove and destroy any infected plants to prevent the spread of disease.
13. Transplant carefully: When transplanting seedlings into the garden, handle them gently to avoid damaging the roots. Plant

them at the appropriate depth and spacing for their specific requirements.

14. **Mulch:** Apply a layer of organic mulch around seedlings once they're established in the garden to help retain moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.
15. **Water wisely:** After transplanting, water seedlings deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth. Avoid overhead watering to prevent fungal diseases

8 Top Tips for Pelargonium Care

Caring for pelargoniums involves several key steps to ensure they thrive and bloom abundantly. Here are some tips to help you care for your pelargoniums:

1. Sunlight

Pelargoniums thrive in bright, indirect sunlight. Place them in a location where they receive at least 6 hours of sunlight per day. In hotter climates, some afternoon shade may be beneficial to prevent scorching.

2. Watering

Allow the soil to dry out slightly between waterings to prevent root rot. Water pelargoniums thoroughly when the top inch of soil feels dry to the touch. Avoid overhead watering, as wet foliage can lead to disease.

3. Well-Draining Soil

Plant pelargoniums in well-draining soil to prevent waterlogging. A mixture of potting soil, perlite, and coarse sand works well. Ensure that containers have drainage holes to allow excess water to escape.

4. Temperature

Pelargoniums prefer moderate temperatures between 65-75°F (18-24°C) during the day

and slightly cooler temperatures at night. Protect them from frost, as they are sensitive to cold temperatures.

5. Pruning

Regularly pinch back the tips of stems to encourage bushier growth and more blooms. Remove spent flowers and yellowing leaves to promote continuous flowering and maintain plant health.

6. Pest and Disease Control

Keep an eye out for common pests such as aphids, spider mites, and whiteflies. Treat infestations promptly with insecticidal soap or neem oil. Ensure good air circulation around plants to minimise the risk of fungal diseases.

7. Overwintering

In cooler climates, bring potted pelargoniums indoors before the first frost. Place them in a bright, cool location and reduce watering during the dormant period. Alternatively, you can overwinter pelargoniums by taking cuttings from healthy plants and rooting them indoors.

8. Repotting

Repot pelargoniums every 1-2 years to refresh the soil and provide them with adequate space for root growth. Choose a slightly larger pot with good drainage and fill it with fresh potting mix.

By following these care tips, you can enjoy healthy, vibrant pelargoniums that brighten your garden or indoor space with their beautiful blooms and foliage.

I want to tell you about a girl who only eats plants
But you've probably heard of herbivore

How can you tell when a plant is scared?
It soils itself

I can cut down a tree just by looking at it
It's true! I saw it with my own eyes.

Why was the cucumber mad?
Because it was in a pickle!

My wife told me I planted the wrong flowers...
oopsie daisy

What part of a plant has the most friends?
The Bud

What games do herbs play at parties? Pass the
parsley

What is small, red and whispers? A horseradish

Which vegetable is always shivering? A chilli

I was really impressed by the gardener I saw the
other day.
He was out standing in his field.

What kind of vegetable do you get when an
elephant walks through your garden?
Squash

What did the George Michael say to the
gardener?
Rake Me Up Before You Hoe Hoe.

Why did the cabbage win the race?
Because it was ahead!

What grows when fed but dies when watered?
Fire.

Salvias

There are so many different salvias available to gardeners, the genus includes about 900 species known to Herb growers as "Sage" from the mother of them all *Salvia officinalis*, the green cooking sage for sage and onion stuffing.

Flowers are tubular with a lower split petal, colours vary from electric blue, bright red and lemon yellow, purple, white and there are great bi-colour versions such as 'Hot-lips'.

Foliage shapes and colours are also very varied but they all are scented when crushed. The *Salvia* covers many species from the Culinary edible sage to tender varieties which can be used as an annual in a bedding scheme or to fill a gap in the border.

There are many hardy herbaceous salvias such as the Shrub varieties 'Microphylla', 'Gregii', 'Jamensis' as well as the perennial varieties 'Argentea', the 'Wishes' series and everyone should have at least one in the garden but with such choice why not have many.

Where and How to Plant to your *Salvia*

All *Salvias* prefer full sun ideally south-facing and they will reward you with flowers lasting from mid-summer to the first frosts and they are loved by both bees and butterflies too. They are not particularly fussy about soil and will tolerate a fairly poor soil although they prefer clay. They will tolerate a coastal position and can deal with drought conditions once established.

Add plenty of grit to the hole when planting to improve drainage, being a Mediterranean plant, they do not enjoy getting their feet wet in winter.

All *Salvias* can be grown in containers why not grow edible species near the kitchen in a pot nothing is quite like fresh sage in a stuffing or fry the leaves until crisp and scatter over a pork chop yum!

For more tender varieties it's a great idea to grow in a pot as you can move the pot into the green house or conservatory before the first frosts to protect over winter. Keeping them on the dry side during winter.

Depending on the type of *Salvia* you have care will vary. Annual varieties will not overwinter you can try in the greenhouse but generally it is best to buy new each year.

Hardy perennial types can be cut back hard in spring or autumn, all Salvias can become leggy if not pruned it really is essential to keep your plant looking at its best.

Half-hardy herbaceous are best pruned in Spring ideally after the risk of frost has passed.

Shrub varieties may be pruned in September/October, reducing the shrub by 1/3rd and shaping to what you feel comfortable with. A further trim in Spring of any dead or damaged stems will result in a free flowering beautiful shrub. A further trim in May /June will produce a flush of growth and more flowers (cutting off the flowers at this time will benefit in the long term!!)

Another poem

When April steps aside for May
Like diamonds all rain-drops glisten
Fresh violets open every day
To some new bird each hour we listen

Lucy Larcom

2024 Committee

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Kingswood, Walton & Tadworth Horticultural Society
proudly presents its annual event

A Gardener's Delight

Sat 22 & Sun 23 June 2024

from 2 - 6pm

**Tickets available at
all gardens are
valid on both days**

**Adults £7.50 each
Children free entry**

For more information
visit our website:
www.kwthortsoc.co.uk

101 Foxley Lane, Purley	CR8 3HQ	Sun only – opens 11am	Plants
87, Tattenham Way	KT20 5NE	Sat only	Teas, plants
128 Brighton Road, Burgh Heath	KT20 6AQ	Sat only	Teas
The Copse Lodge, Brighton Rd	KT20 6BL	Sun only	Teas
37 Shelvers Way, Tadworth	KT20 5QJ	Sun only	
41 Shelvers Way, Tadworth	KT20 5QJ	Sun only	
75 Shelvers Way, Tadworth	KT20 5QQ	Sat & Sun	Teas, plants
15 Tadworth Street, Tadworth	KT20 5RJ	Sat & Sun	Teas, plants etc
The Firs, The Hoppety (no parking)	KT20 5RQ	Sat & Sun	Plants, wooden crafts
Meon House, Meon Close	KT20 5DN	Sun only	Teas
Mellows, Lothian Wood	KT20 5DQ	Sat & Sun	
38, Meadow Walk, Walton	KT20 7UG	Sun only	Teas, plants
3 Nyefield Park, Walton	KT20 7QR	Sun only	