

# The Rose Times

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

SUMMER 2022

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We should always  
remember Dean  
Samuel Hole's  
words . . . . .

"He who would grow  
beautiful Roses must  
have them in his  
heart"

Queen Elizabeth II  
1926 - 2022

## From the Secretary

Well, if that was summer . . . . .

Our own summer was largely spent at one show or another; Windsor was the first where as well as putting in a few roses, we put up a Society stand. This was followed by our Summer Rose Festival at Squires in Shepperton. On then to R V Rogers in Pickering for the Rydale Rose Show. The Royal Norfolk was our next stop before heading across to Wales and the Rhondda Rose Show. The Society's Little Rose Show at Pelsall is a members-only show which has become a favourite event for many (that may be on account of the cream and jam scones!). We attended and exhibited at Sandringham Flower Show on the Royal estate for the first time this year, a traditional flower show in every sense and returning for the first time since the COVID outbreak. Taunton Flower Show was this year returned to Vivary Park and was a great success. Another show returning to the calendar this year was Shrewsbury Flower Show which is normally a real highlight of the show season. Add to these events, judging the rose trials at Rochfords in Hertford and the Tollcross Park Trials in Glasgow and a thoroughly enjoyable Society weekend in Shropshire at Chris Warner's and a visit to David Austin Roses in Albrighton. All in all, it's been a busy and hectic year; so far! We still have rose shows and society stands to build at the Harrogate Show in Newby Hall and at RHS Malvern Autumn Show. I'm not listing our exploits for any reason other than, from personal experience, to highlight the effect that this extraordinary year has had on rose shows, shows in general and what has really been regarded as a great British institution.

The involvement of the exhibitors was, at the start of the season, very impressive. There seemed to be a real enthusiasm to be back to show business again after two years of limited activity. The early season's fine weather was producing a fine early crop of excellent roses. The show at Shepperton was a riot of colour and quality exhibits. By June the terrible events in the Ukraine was having an effect of fuel costs and exhibitors who often travel great distances to share their roses at rose shows would be experiencing increasing expense to fulfil their show intentions. The fine weather that helped the early season blooms was now turning into a drought and we were able to chart the reduction in available flowers for showing as our roses struggled to cope without regular watering.

At Shrewsbury the uncertainty after COVID led to a drastic reduction in the number of trade stands. Exhibitor numbers were significantly low in the whole show and to add to the woe, the normally spectacular fireworks were cancelled due to potential fire dangers in the drought conditions!

The over-riding feeling amongst the organisers of shows up and down the country is



that a combination of COVID, drought conditions and spiraling travel and accommodation costs have dealt a severe blow to the very British tradition of, 'The Flower Show'.

We obviously realise that flower shows and rose shows or being an exhibitor is not to everyone's taste. However we do feel that our shows give us the chance for a shop window for the public to see roses grown to their finest. Our exhibitors really do that, sometimes setting almost unachievable standards but none-the-less showing how good roses can look.

There are just two shows left on the calendar for 2022; Harrogate Autumn Show at Newby Hall on 16, 17, 18th September and RHS Malvern Autumn on 23, 24, 25th September. We have our own Autumn Rose Show at Harrogate and will have a Society Information stand at both shows. As always, we welcome any volunteers to help at either shows. We really need members to step up and help on the stands so that we can fully engage with members of the public and try to encourage rose growing.

We'd like to thank all members who responded to the recent members survey that we sent out. As a committee we want to provide exactly the kind of rose society that you, the members, want. Once we have digested the results we will let you know exactly what we have learned.

Later in this newsletter you will read of the latest recipient of The Dean Hole Medal. Taking on the responsibility for awarding this medal, the most prestigious in the rose world, was not done lightly. This year's Dean Hole winner confirms that we were right to do so and more importantly, that we got the correct result! The Dean Hole Medal will only ever be awarded by us if there is a suitable recipient, inevitably some years there may not be one. Let's see what the Honours Committee decide next year.

This edition of The Rose Times was purposefully delayed to allow us to gather all relevant news items from this hectic summer.

We could not have imagined that in so doing would be reporting on the passing of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II. For many of us our Queen had been an constant throughout our lives. Her devotion to duty, her compassion, wisdom and sense of humour has been a mark of her incredible reign.

Our front cover features the rose '**The Queen Elizabeth Rose**', bred by the American hybridizer Dr Walter E. Lammerts in the early 1950s; it has proudly born the Queen's name for 70 years.

The events of this year have been repeatedly described as unprecedented. Now if I were rose breeder I think that would be a great name for a new variety . . . . .

Unprecedented

# The Chairman Notes

**September 2022**

Each year we experience different growing conditions and 2022 has certainly given us a year to test our ability to grow healthy roses. Here in the West Midlands, we have experienced long periods of dry weather. I have been able to irrigate my HT beds but the remainder of my garden where I grow the cluster flowered varieties and lots of perennials have had to rely on the few showers during the summer months.



There was little disease apparent during this time, but with some rain in late August and heavy rain in the first week of September Black Spot has appeared and caused leaf drop as usual. I think because of the hot dry period I have been complacent and not kept to my regular spraying programme with Uncle Toms Rose Tonic and SB plant invigorator.

My best HT variety has been the very healthy Dickson rose 'Isn't She Lovely' which has produced a succession of quality roses and is still doing so as I write. This is closely followed by a Chris Warner HT variety 'Ray the Rose' not yet commercially available, but in my opinion needs to be released soon. The 2021 Rose of the Year Belle De Jour in my cluster flowered beds has been extremely healthy despite the conditions and is still blooming well.

My favourite rose this year however must be a climbing rose given to me by Chris Warner in memory of my late wife Vera at her funeral last year. I have redesigned the area around the obelisk and replanted the circular surrounding bed with ten bushes 'You're Beautiful'.

The new rose is a clear pink semi double which I have named 'Vera May'. It has been planted to grow up one of the six upright posts and has reached approximately four high to date. The foliage is glossy dark green and is healthy this year, so I look forward to seeing how it performs when established.

With the easing of the covid pandemic the summer Rose Society activities have been able to recommence. It was good to meet up at our summer show at Shepperton where we were able to put up a very worthy rose show with an entry that

exceeded our expectations. This was followed in July with a show at Pelsall in late July, but by then the roses were suffering from the hot dry summer. However, as a one day show and social event it was enjoyed by all who attended.

For me the highlight of the summer events was the visit to Warners Roses when 34 members attended and given a guided tour of the Greenfields nursery, breeding house and trials. During the afternoon, at the presentation lunch, Chris Warner was presented with a Dean Hole Medal for his extensive and successful breeding programme and his devotion to roses. A full report is detailed elsewhere in the newsletter. Congratulations to Chris it is very well deserved, and he is a worthy recipient.

A conducted visit to the David Austin Gardens and breeding houses on the Sunday wound up a wonderful 'Rosy' weekend. Grateful thanks to Chris and Catherine for arranging and making it so enjoyable.

I now look forward to meeting up at our Autumn events particularly my favourite, the Malvern Autumn Show, our last chance to get together and meet face-to face before the winter.

The committee are also planning to hold a series of Zoom video talks and lectures to keep our interest going during the long dark days of winter. I hope you have all completed Membership Secretary Liam's survey which should assist us planning the future activities.



The Chris Warner bred climber 'Vera May'

*John Anthony*



**Derek Lawrence, Executive Director of the World Federation of Rose Societies and Rose Society UK Committee member**

**Praises;**

## **CLIMBING ROSES FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY GARDEN**

Designers and landscaper gardeners' often use their acquired skills to ensure that the

masterpiece they've created is an extension to the house. In many cases, the client is seeking an area to merely relax or yearns for a place to host barbecue parties. The aim is to create a room or series of rooms. The boundaries of the garden, which in most cases are walls and fences, are usually covered up to reflect the decorated walls inside the house. If obelisks and pergolas are incorporated, they will act as homely ornaments. Their presence gives welcomed structure and the vertical emphasis created adds height to the overall design. To effectively complete the coverings of these additional components, climbing roses could be the answer.

Surfing through the internet or consulting a traditional catalogue, suggests that climbers are limited in the varieties readily available compared to their rose bush counterparts. But what they lack in numbers is more than compensated for by their beauty and versatility. Their value as essential 'third dimensional' plants with aerial colour and fragrance, is much desired. While selecting a suitable location, it is important to remember that the rose will require a reasonable amount of daylight and sunshine to thrive successfully. Cold, windy and heavily shaded areas must be avoided. This is particularly relevant when the wall faces north or east. When choosing a cultivar, bear in mind that the life span of an average rose is upwards of thirty years and therefore it must fulfil your requirements. It's good to be mindful of the colour required and how well it'll blend into its surroundings. Next, it is wise to select varieties whose habits and lengths of growth will fit comfortably into the space allocated. The size of the bloom or clusters of blooms carried by the plants must be considered to achieve sufficient impact from whence it's to be viewed. If you're lucky enough to choose a variety with a divine fragrance, ensure that the plant is in within smelling distance!

Most climbers are trained to ascend brick walls, fences or wooden trellises. The general guidance when planting a climbing rose is to ensure that the plant is at least 18 inches away from its structure, because if it's placed too close, it's liable to dry out quickly, and

can cause death to a maiden bush. A rose planted at a foot of a wall or fence, if left to its own devices, will tend to grow upwards and create a 'bird's nest' of blooms top of the plant. The intention is to train the plant to produce lateral growth that will enable it to produce blooms at various levels; giving even coverage. This can be achieved by purchasing straining wires and wall nails to create strong supports at different levels to encourage sideward growth. The purchase of a wooden trellis would be an ideal solution if wires weren't a preferred option. Most cultivars have reasonably flexible growth, so it's advisable to bend the stems side-wards and loosely tie down using soft twine or string. As the plant gradually establishes itself, it will form a permanent sound construction where it'll thrive contentedly for many years.

In some cases, the use of other structures can achieve graceful balance to any garden design. Arches are an excellent device to use at entrances; the fragrance and beauty created would welcome any unsuspecting visitor. I must confess that I'm particularly fond of using metal obelisks. There are a reasonable number of suitable rose varieties available to cloth these frames to great effect. Ideally, it's best to locate the obelisk where it'll receive nearly 360 degrees of sunshine – if you're ever fortunate enough to own such a garden. When this be the case, the rose will repay you will be bevy of delectable blooms in all angles!

Once your climbers have become fully mature and established; pruning can be a straightforward process. I prune my climbers in early March. It is merely a case of cutting back the side shoots on the main framework, and to continue to train any new growths in a lateral direction. Any long, rigid stems that fail to conform with the training regime can be disregarded, and then it's just a simple case of tidying up the plant to create a tidy foundation.

I thoroughly recommend that you have at least one climbing rose in your garden. It will give you years of endless pleasure and prove a sound investment of time and effort.

I have chosen a few varieties which could be worthy contenders to furnish a 21<sup>st</sup> Century garden:

### **Mm Alfred Carriere**

A very strong, reliable and repeat flowering variety. The blooms are large, cupped and creamy-white with a tint of pink. It has a delicious Tea Rose fragrance. It may be an old-timer, but many modern climbers fail to mirror the performance of this classic gem. The stems are rather upright, but careful training can overcome any stiffness. 3.6 m / 12 ft





### Blush Noisette

An old classic repeat flowering variety with small Rambler-like lilac-blush coloured cupped blooms. It has an appealing strong clove fragrance. This cultivar has a tendency to remain short and busy and will require a wall to encourage it to achieve additional height of up to 3.5 m / 12ft. In my own garden, I've trained it around a wooden post and it gives enormous pleasure throughout the summer months.



### Graham Thomas

One of the most well-known of English Roses. It has medium rich yellow cupped rosette styled flowers. Its fragrance can be justly described as lovely Tea fragrance. The foliage is upright and light green. It is an extremely healthy variety. 3m / 10ft



### Compassion

Traditional well-shaped Hybrid Tea salmon pink, with tinted apricot blooms that have a heavy fragrance. The growth is bushy with dark green foliage and reaches an average height of 3m / 10ft. It is a lovely acquisition in my garden.



Iceberg

The climbing sport of this famous floribunda lives up to the high expectations of its parent. Healthy light green foliage with white elegant clusters of medium-sized blooms. It would look stunning against a dark backdrop and most certainly give a statement. A worthy challenger. 3 m /10ft

Coral Dawn

This charming variety has pretty coral- pink blooms, opening to medium-sized, which are held in large clusters. The flowers are sweetly scented. The growth is vigorous, with plentiful dark green foliage. Excellent variety for a pillar or used as a small climber. Suitable for north walls because it will tolerate a certain amount of shade. 2.4 m /8ft

*Derek Lawrence*

Membership number 007 – With a License To Grow Roses

Image of Mme. Alfred Carriere supplied by kind courtesy of David Austin



## David Kenny, Our Man in Tullow wins again . . . .

### Great Minds and like thinking

The importance of a rose trial cannot be overstated. Before a new variety is released upon an unsuspecting public, it's entirely reasonable that we should be confident that this new rose will perform in our garden and above all, be as healthy as possible.

The trial grounds at Rochfords in Hertford were set up under the guidelines of the World Federation of Rose Societies with the sole intention of testing roses that were yet to be released on the commercial market.

During their time on trial, the rose is often 'bulked up' meaning that the numbers being grown are increased for sale once the rose has completed a its trial. Clearly, some varieties do not fare well in the trials and never make it to our garden centres and nurseries. That is how it should be.

So, what has come out on top? The results are shown in the pictures below.

Top of the pile is a red floribunda bred by David Kenny. Now its trial has finished the rose will be released as Trudy (KENholmes). David also placed the variety on trial in Baden Baden and it's now no surprise to see that it is a double winner as it also won the Golden Rose and Gold Medal at Baden Baden. Clearly, great rose minds do think alike!





Rochfords  
International  
Rose Trials



Rochfords  
Plants to the landscape industry



**Gold Award**  
Floribunda  
KENholmes  
David Kenny, Ireland



**Gold Award**  
Floribunda  
Voila  
Jan Spek, Netherlands



**Order of Merit**  
Floribunda  
KO 10/7711-08  
Kordes, Germany



**Order of Merit**  
Floribunda  
KO 05/1745-06  
Kordes, Germany



**Trial Ground Certificate**  
Shrub  
VISpumapa  
Martin Vissers, Belgium



**Trial Ground Certificate**  
Floribunda  
KO 09/3029-02  
Kordes, Germany



**Trial Ground Certificate**  
Shrub  
KO 10/7443-01  
Kordes, Germany



**Trial Ground Certificate**  
Miniature  
KO 07/2080-99  
Kordes, Germany



**Trial Ground Certificate**  
Floribunda  
KO 08/2842-26  
Kordes, Germany



**Trial Ground Certificate**  
Floribunda  
KENpopeye  
David Kenny, Ireland



**Fragrance Award**  
Floribunda  
KO 09/3029-02  
Kordes, Germany



**Climber Award**  
Climber  
CHEWpopeye  
Chris Warner, UK



## **Rochfords International Rose Trials - Trial 2 Results and Update 2022**

This trial was planted in winter 2019, the plants have been judged over the past two years and in spite of Covid 19 playing havoc, the results are in. We had some 75 varieties in this trial from breeders all over Europe, including some amateurs alongside the big names in roses including Kordes, Mielland, Dicksons, Lens, Warners and David Kenny, to name but a few.

The roses have been in place for the past 3 years, with no spraying for any kind of disease, and only where a large infestation of aphid was seen, one blast of SB plant invigorator was used to help keep the aphid numbers from becoming too high. We had a late frost in 2021 which did produce a small amount of die back, but the plants recovered well and for the winter just gone, we experienced a much lighter frost period. The summer of 2022, as most of you will know, has been a hot and very dry one, but with the drip irrigation we have been able to get the watering amounts just right so that the roses during the periods of very extreme heat didn't suffer, unlike us! This trial has produced some stunning roses and some very worthy winners.

As ever, we are very grateful to our team of judges: they represent as wide a spectrum of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm as possible and we welcome enquiries from those who would like to get involved. Once the scores are received, they are collated and checked a small panel led by the Chair of Judges, Adrian Pickett, and the winners are announced.

Results attached.

We are now getting ready to accept roses for trial 5, which opens for entries in November 2022. We are keen for more amateur rose breeders to submit entries and would welcome any enquiries. For more details, email the team at [roses@rochfords.net](mailto:roses@rochfords.net)

Our thanks to Paul Rochford, Kerry Austen and the Rochfords team for running and looking after this superb facility

All results, photos and report supplied by Rochfords



## Pauline's Rosy Ramblings

### Chair of Shows and PR

As I write this in early September it still remains dry in the South East and our roses have decided to call it a day for this year. I do hope some of our exhibitors will be able to muster a few blooms for the Autumn show in Newby Hall.

Our Summer shows were a great success, and we probably had the best supported Summer show at Squires that we have had for many years. We were also very fortunate to have 4 teams of judges and volunteers to steward from the local horticultural Society. I was very grateful to our judges and volunteers. Neil Duncan won the Dean Hole championship and gained the most points in the



*Society President Colin Squire OBE DHM makes us all so welcome at Squires for our Summer Show Pictured here with John McCarthy*



*New to the UK this year, miniflora 'RGB' (named to honour Ruth Bayer Ginsburg) won for Neil Duncan and is sure to be in great demand*

show. He also took the Silver Medal for the best exhibit in the show with three vases of 5 floribundas. Ivor Mace the Miniature and Miniflora championship bringing some superb roses down from the valleys of South Wales. Phil Hildred won the most points in the classes for growers of less than 150 roses with some excellent exhibits, great to have you back at the shows Phil.



*Ivor Mace's vase of miniature 'Daddy Frank' was a superb exhibit*



*Happy show visitors leaving after the 'sell off' with all proceeds going to Colin Squire's chosen charity*



*President Colin presenting certificates for Open Championship to Neil Duncan, the miniature Championship to Ivor Mace and 150s Championship to Phil Hildred*



*The show is all cleared up! A cup of tea and off home!*

*Volunteers; John McCarthy, John Anthony, Steve James, Colin Squire, Ray Martin, Steve Durham, Lisa Lopez, Sarah Baily and the Squires staff.*

*Our sincere thanks to Colin and Sarah for their continued and valued support*  
 The Pelsall show attracted exhibitors from across the UK with exhibitors from England, Scotland and Wales. It is always a very friendly show and an opportunity for novice exhibitors to get advice from experts at a smaller show. Again, Neil Duncan took the Dean Hole and most points in the open section. Phil Thrush won most points in the 150's section and got the silver medal for best exhibit in the show with 3 stems of the Dickson climber 'Checkmate'.



*John Anthony presents Phil Thrush with his Best in Show Silver Medal for this vase of 'Checkmate' and his 150s Champion certificate*





*We couldn't manage without our lovely volunteers; like Steve and Jane Durham*



*'Mr Taunton', David Bryant brought some beautiful roses up from Burnham-on-Sea and picked up a Darlac garden tools voucher*



*Iain Silver and John Anthony (Society Vice and Society Chairman)*

*Iain explaining how he'd won best hybrid tea bloom for two years on the bounce!*



*Daniel Myhill was overjoyed that he'd entered a whole artist's palette of persicas and that he'd won a First Prize card*

Everyone was treated to a buffet lunch with afternoon tea of Scones, jam and cream and cakes. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all.

The society will be setting up an information and advice stand at Newby Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> September and at Malvern Autumn show on 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> September and

we will of course hold our national show at Newby Hall.

Now is the time to think about next years shows if you feel the urge to enter a few roses. Always buy your roses bare root from a reputable rose grower and plant in the ground between November and March. If you have an unheated greenhouse, you could grow some roses in pots for entering into the National Spring show at Malvern Three Counties. Ask at [info@therosesociety.org.uk](mailto:info@therosesociety.org.uk) for more advice and information on cultivation or chat to exhibitors at the shows.

If anyone would like to become a Rose Society UK judge please get in touch with me [pauline@therosesociety.org.uk](mailto:pauline@therosesociety.org.uk) . and of course we welcome new exhibitors – the schedules are on the website.

## Members Weekend

### A visit to Chris Warner's Greenfields and a visit to David Austin's

It was an excellent weekend at the end of July when many of our members attended an event very kindly held at our Vice President Chris Warner's home. Chris is a well know rose breeder who has bred many varieties that are household names such as the miniature climber 'Open Arms' and the lovely persica 'For Your Eyes Only'. A feature of all Chris' roses is health, and he prides himself in producing super healthy varieties. Members were treated to coffee and croissants before being given a guided tour of the trial greenhouses and outside beds. It was a fantastic opportunity to see the work that goes into breeding new roses. Chris's new employee Catherine



*Chris welcomes everyone to Greenfields*



*Chris with his Dean Hole Medal flanked by two more DHM recipients*

*Colin Squire OBE DHM and Ken Grapes DHM*



*Eric Miller and John dodging the showers at Greenfields*



*Kash and Neil Mallaby, sunshine, cream teas and roses at David Austins - perfect!*



*Chris Warner DHM with 'Open Arms' at David Austins*

organised the event with the help of our secretary. She expertly organised a lovely meal in a church Hall a couple of miles down the road where we were thrilled to be offered insights into Roses for today and tomorrow presented by Chris followed by an interesting presentation by Michael Marriot entitled 'Rose Gardens of Europe'.

Chris was totally surprised to be awarded the Dean Hole Medal for services to the Rose Society UK and the rose. Derek Lawrence, the Rose Society's Chair of the Honours Committee read a citation and our current president Colin Squire OBE DHM presented him with his medal.

We were blessed with the weather and after a damp start and after a stay in a nearby hotel, some of us we were treated to a behind the scenes look at the David Austin breeding programme at their nursery in Albrighton.

Everyone had a wonderful weekend, and we are working toward having many more outings and events. Please let us have your ideas for any places or events you think members would like to go in future.

*Pauline Martin*

# The Dean Hole Medal Winner 2022

## Citation Chris Warner, DHM

**By Chairman of 'Honours Committee': Mr. Derek Lawrence**

The Rose Society UK is delighted to announce that Chris Warner from Greenfields, Shropshire to be bestowed with the 'Dean Hole Medal'. This gentleman has given outstanding contribution to the rose world with his sheer wizardry and infinite skills in breeding exceptional cultivars, which adorn gardens around the globe.

During his early years as a qualified teacher, he began breeding roses as a hobby, with a particular interest in climbers. He was first attracted to them during a tour in the Cotswolds with his late wife Barbara, where they saw an impressive display that clothed a wall. In 1987, Chris made the bold decision to retire from teaching and took up breeding in a professional capacity. He was mindful that, on average, many gardeners have limited space to cultivate plants and thus began to concentrate on creating a new miniature climbers to satisfy their requirements. His hard work and determination proved fruitful. In 1992, he launched 'Warm Welcome' which was duly recognised by the RNRS with a Gold Medal and the President's International Trophy. The short climber became an instant commercial success. This inspired Chris to continue with his quest and within a few years, the breeding house of Warner produced such inspirational compact growing varieties as 'Laura Ford', 'Gloriana' and 'Love Knot'.

Other noteworthy climbers which have been granted Awards are 'Alfresco', 'Alibaba' and 'Gardeners' Glory'. In 2017, 'Scent from Heaven' was announced as the winner of the prestigious 'Rose Of The Year' award by the British Association of Rose Breeders.

He was a founder Member of the *Amateur Rose Breeders Association*, and has steadfastly maintained an excellent and favourable relationship with amateur breeders ever since. He is renowned for giving lots of friendly encouragement to budding hybridisers. He has generously shared his wisdom and advise by helping amateurs to get their rose seedlings into commerce. He saw the potential in such gems as 'Rhapsody In Blue', 'Eyes For You' and 'Rambling Rosie'. As a result of his input and enthusiasm, these cultivars are enjoyed by millions of rosarians and

gardeners around the world. Over the years, Chris has been proactive in becoming involved in the judging process at various International Rose Trials. His experience and expertise have been of immense benefit to the rose fraternity and the general public.

In his absolute determination to further the development of the rise of the popularity of the Persica hybrids, he exchanged seedlings with ARBA Members and gradually new floriferous types started to emerge. Chris has had success with such varieties as, 'Eye of the Tiger', 'Smiling Eyes' and 'Bright as a Button' which won the highly coveted RHS Award of Garden Merit. His hybridising skills and diligence was recognised in 2015 with 'For Your Eyes Only' being acknowledged as the 'Rose Of The Year'.

One of his abiding principles is to produce strong growing vigorous varieties which demonstrate exceptional disease resistance. His nursery is a haven for Downey Mildew, so Chris ploughs in all his energy and resources into developing seedlings highly resistant and immune to this unfortunate disease. His proven track record of numerous awards, are testimony to his endless vision and work.

We know that if Reverend Samuel Reynolds Hole remained in Office as the Dean of Rochester in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, he would have greatly admired the sheer selfless persistence and heartfelt passion of Mr. Chris Warner. He is a truly remarkable rosarian, and an immense inspiration to those who fully appreciate the exquisite charms of '*The Queen of All Flowers*'. In recognition for Chris' life-long service to the rose, the prodigious Dean Hole Medal is splendidly presented, and richly deserved.

*Derek Lawrence*

Chairman, Honours Committee 2022



**We are often asked about the problem that we call “Rose Replant Disease”**

**Here our member Dr John Howden gives an insight based on his experience and his extensive work and studies at the University of Bath**

Old gardeners used to say “Don’t plant new roses in old rose beds” and “If you have to plant them there, completely replace the soil with new soil from another part of the garden well away from the rose bed”. This used to work quite well but this immense task is beyond most of us, even if we had the room and resources to do it. The problem we face is – What is soil tiredness and how does it occur?

If you imagine farmers who grow large areas of food crops or areas of grass for grazing, they have to leave their land fallow every third or fourth year. Is this to let the soil recover or to re-establish the nutritional systems back into the soil to enable future crops to grow? Gardeners too will have come across this phenomenon in the vegetable patch, where they are advised to rotate vegetable crops every year. Soil becomes “tired” after continuous cultivation.

Compare this with a bed of roses; here the plants are expected to live in the same soil for years, often over 20 to 30 years. No wonder they show signs of poor health, build up of diseases and lack of vigour. The question is WHY? What can be involved? The purpose of this article is to offer some thoughts on what might be involved.

Next, it is important to differentiate between Soil Sickness and Soil Tiredness; they are quite different. Soil Sickness is the accumulation of rose diseases and the detrimental effect that they have on the roses, their health, vigour and debilitation. Soil Tiredness on the other hand, concerns the soil which appears to be exhausted and includes soil condition, nutrients, humus, its pH, water

content, drainage and aeration. However, these conditions often overlap and many of the discussions and solutions in this article cannot be separated and are treated together.

The complete answer might be very complicated with many causes coming into play but, straight away, as a pathologist used to studying diseases, I think of how diseases are spread and build up over time.

Rotation and Fallowing in agriculture prevent diseases building up inoculum potential over time and with a break in cultivation, diseases find it harder to spread from year to year. After harvest, farmers often plough crop fields to turn the disease spores into the soil where they are digested. Traditional rose beds from Victorian times grow roses continuously and intensively, so close together in fact, that this greatly favours the build-up and spreading of rose diseases. The modern way of growing roses, as specimen plants in mixed flower borders, makes it more difficult for diseases to thrive and puts the advantage more firmly in favour of the rose plant.

This type of cultivation in mixed borders also reduces the chances of diseases overwintering and reduces the chances of spores being optimally placed to infect the new growth in the Spring. Blackspot is a good example of this accumulation because it is spread more locally and depends on its close proximity to infect these new growths. So too, does the Common Rust on roses which accumulates its overwintering spores around the plants' bases and are similarly placed to infect the new growths in the Spring. Some researchers have suggested that these diseases interfere with the plant's hormonal systems which makes the whole plant debilitated and look sick.

Distancing between plants (like Covirus), also reduces the chances of infections spreading from elsewhere and it reduces the humidity around roses which is essential for disease spores to germinate.

But, what else could be involved? Do roses give off toxins or waste products into the soil which accumulate? No one has yet been able to identify such compounds in "tired soil" but I bet they could be involved in some way.

The big debate amongst rosarians is, What nutrients do roses really need from the soil to thrive and bloom? And How should these nutrients be best applied?

Victorian gardeners applied fertilisers “add-lib”, thinking that the more you applied, the more “food” you give, inferring that the better the roses will grow. Really? This approach was like feeding a baby at the time – but even babies get sick if you feed them too much. Roses will clearly not develop Heart Disease or Diabetes but over-feeding can have a detrimental effect on them by causing an imbalance of nutrients in the soil.

Remember, that soil is a living, natural entity; it is a careful balance between friendly bacteria, beneficial fungi, invertebrate animals and insects which live harmoniously between ancient rock particles. This balance can so easily be disturbed; modern agriculture is already feeling the adverse side-effects of too many chemical fertilisers and the environment is already suffering from excesses of NPK disturbing this balance and entering our water-courses. The “Quick Fix” that fertilisers gave agriculture a few years ago were to increase yields in the short term but some scientists now consider that this was at a cost.

What can chemicals do to our soil?

The delicate balance in soil will be affected by excesses of particular nutrients; for example, this imbalance from too much of one nutrient can affect the uptake of other nutrients.

An excessive use of chemicals could cause the build up of chemical salts in the soil, to the extent that their increased concentration has caused “Reverse Osmosis” which extracts essential water from the plant. This has been reported in Royal National Rose Society Annuals for years where growers showed that rose plants had died due to the lack of obtaining moisture from the soil.

Some growers have suggested that fertilisers can alter the pH in soil which can also upset this natural balance of essential nutrients.

Organic material, or “Humus”, is a vital component to condition soil. It sustains the soil’s flora and fauna, it aerates the soil, provides a balance of nutrients, aerates the soil, provides better drainage and sustains our plants with a regulated supply of water. Humus is being constantly broken down by living, aerobic organisms over time to supply essential nutrients and it maintains the natural balance of life. When you examine soil from old, tired rose beds under the microscope, it appears very impoverished. Soil structure is very fine, living organisms seem very scarce and there is an apparent lack of organic material.



This makes it look “out of condition”. Is this what makes it “Tired”? This was reported by Dr Douglas Duthie who was the Soil Scientist on the Rose Research Team at Bath University.

Other reasons suggested for soil sickness could be:-

A lack of the trace element Boron in the soil. However, in the early 60's, I tried several times adding a dilute solution of Household Borax around roses in tired beds and it had no effect whatsoever. Therefore, I am not convinced that this deficiency is the reason for tired soil.

Also suggested is the build up of Nematode (Ascaris) worms in the soil which could be feeding on delicate plant roots. Nematodes occur as parasites throughout both the animal and plant kingdoms and are found everywhere. This is why you should never throw potato peelings onto the rose bed or use them in the compost heap as they love collecting around potato tubers (potatoes are usually grown in Lincolnshire where high levels of Nematodes have been reported). However, they are very easy to spot with a magnifying glass. Just make up a water solution with suspected soil, pour into a glass dish and look for worms wriggling. Usually they are up to 2 “ long, thin and colourless. However, please be careful not to touch them and put your fingers near to your mouth, or you too, will become infected !

To summarise; what seems to be the causes of soil tiredness and sickness in established rose beds?

Most likely an imbalance of nutrients in the soil with an omission of one or more nutrients. This depletion will occur over time and creep up on rose growers without them knowing.

Most important is a lack of Humus in soil which is essential to support life and to aerate soil by providing better drainage. Dr Duthie showed from many years' work and observations that organic matter is the most important ingredient to condition soil and provide a reservoir and balance of nutrients. Soil also maintains supplies of ground water for your roses and prevents fluctuations in the available amounts. He also showed that where traditional rose growers applied excessive chemical fertilisers every year, their soil needed ample supplies of Humus to neutralise any harmful effects. This cushioning feature of Humus helps to absorb excesses of any particular nutrients, re- establish the natural balance and release them back into the soil over time and in the correct proportions.

Diseases too can build up over time causing debility and ultimately the death of your roses. Good husbandry and careful control methods will help to reduce the effects of disease infections that contribute towards soil sickness.

### **What can we do to avoid soil sickness and tiredness?**

Firstly, plan where you are going to continue growing roses. Do you really need those intensive rose-growing beds which inevitably lead to soil sickness, disease and much more work? Try growing any roses as specimens in mixed borders; their better isolation helps to reduce the causes of soil sickness. When they too ultimately show signs of soil sickness, lift them in the Autumn and plant them at another part of the mixed border. Perhaps any severely debilitated plants could be replaced if necessary.

Most important is the regular and ample addition of Humus. This is even more important if you use chemical fertilisers on a regular basis. The key to overcoming both soil sickness and tiredness is to provide ample supplies of Humus throughout the year. This must be in the form of composted Humus because fresh supplies give the soil and plants a quick fix of nitrogen which will lead to tender growths.

The best source of Humus is composted horse manure which can be used in Spring as a rose compost and as a mulch directly around your rose plants. A two to three inch layer of mulch, particularly covering the "union" where the rose was budded on to the stock, will help to blanket the soil and prevent any surviving, overwintered spores infecting the new growth. Dr Duthie calculated that this mulch of composted horse manure was sufficient to supply all the essential nutrients and trace elements for the plant for the whole year.

Worth noting is that Victorian gardeners also applied large amounts of Horse manure to established rose beds in the Autumn to combat soil tiredness. Was this an attempt to combat soil tiredness or to delay its onslaught?

The next problem is:- How do you locate supplies of Horse manure? Horses are getting much scarcer today and Garden Centres seem to only sell "Blended Horse Manure". What do they mean by "Blended"? The Mushroom industry uses large amounts of horse manure each year but to favour the high pH needs of

mushrooms, they treat the manure with large amounts of lime. This mix can only be used once, so after the mushroom crop has been harvested, large amounts of blended horse manure are cheaply available and sold through Garden Centres. An easy way to tell, is that sacks of blended horse manure usually carry the warning that it is “unsuitable for ericaceous plants”. As roses favour a pH of 6.5 (slightly acid) I consider that blended horse manure is also unsuitable for roses, it will increase the soil pH and influence the uptake of nutrients.

Farmyard manure is often available at Garden Centres and is free from the additions of lime. Is it more suitable? No, because cattle and pigs are treated throughout life with antibiotics to produce a better quality of meat. Will these antibiotics accumulate in the animals’ droppings? If they do, then this farming practice may kill the beneficial bacteria which are so essential in soil.

So what can we do? I was lucky because my daughter had a horse and now helps out at the local stables; the owner was only too willing to help me out. Perhaps, you, could inquire locally? Before this was available, I used to mix blended horse manure with ericaceous compost in a ratio of 1 to 4. This mixture I used as a rose compost and as a mulch on established rose beds in the Spring without any detrimental effects being observed. It is also worth noting that if your soil is alkaline (above pH 7), try using only ericaceous compost in rose plantings and as the Spring mulch. Whatever you treat your roses with, it is always a good idea to have your soil tested beforehand and to use the most appropriate compost. This is also important if you use chemical fertilisers.

In association with the above, careful disease management is also essential to reduce rose diseases and their debilitating effects they have on roses. All these have been mentioned before and consist of good, general practices. Most are geared towards the Spring which is the most difficult time for the disease to re-establish itself.

In Autumn, collect all rose leaves and petioles from the soil surface and dispose of them in the fire or dustbin.

Ruffle the soil surface with a trowel to mix any remaining overwintering spores into the soil but be careful not to damage any surface roots of the roses.

Prune out any stems which show the wavy, black infections of Blackspot.

In Winter, (if you decide to keep growing an intensive bed of roses), apply large amounts of composted Horse Manure, or equivalent, and lightly fork into the soil.

In Spring, after giving your roses their final pruning, apply two to three inches of mulch on the soil surface, paying particular attention to cover the union where the rose variety was budded onto the rose stock.

On all roses, pick off any leaves showing new infections of Blackspot and look out for any orange spots of rose rust occurring on both sides of the leaves and leaf petioles. Destroy them. Also, look out for and remove any, completely infected growths of rose shoots which are white and covered with Powdery Mildew. These occur mainly on Rambler roses. Keep looking and removing, then you will have a disease-free start in the Spring.

In Summer, on a regular basis, look out for orange spots of rust on the undersides of leaves, black lesions of Blackspot on leaves and stems and the discoloured blistering of leaves associated with the white columns of Powdery Mildew. Carefully remove so as not to further distribute any spores and destroy them.

No simple fix to soil sickness and soil tiredness, I'm afraid; the answer seems to be, composted Horse manure and yet more composted Horse Manure. However, good management and cultural practice in how you position and grow your roses will go a long way in reducing these problems.

HAPPY ROSE GROWING

*John Howden*

Formally the RNRS Rose Research Scholar and part of the Rose Team at the University of Bath.

Formally, Chairman of the West Yorkshire Advisory Committee for the Environment Agency.

# Eye of newt, leg of toad . . . . .

One of the reasons that we love roses so much must surely be their diversity.

From micro-miniatures, with their blooms measuring just a few millimetres, to giant bushes like the Lady Banks rose in Tombstone Arizona that spreads across a huge 9000 square feet; it's clear to see why we love them. However, just as there is great diversity in the plants themselves, we are aware of a great variation in the methods and ideas used in the way they are cared for.

In a national weekly garden magazine this week we were advised by one reader;

## **Flour to help the flowers**

When treating blackspot organically, there's the old fashioned method of using cornflour. It's so cheap and easy to do and you can see by my roses it works. At the end of winter, just before the roses start coming to growth sprinkle cornflour on all the ground underneath the roses and then cover that with some old compost. Sometimes, if ever there's a light outbreak, I repeat the process later in the year and that does the trick.

On Facebook we had another method questioned;

“Has anyone tried with any success, spraying milk for the control of blackspot, thrips, greenfly, powdery mildew and rust?”

Well in truth, I've tried neither but would love to see the results of a controlled trial. I admit that I'm no Mary Berry but I'm pretty sure that using both cornflour and milk at the same time would be messy! We can really only recommend the continued use of Uncle Tom's Rose Tonic (Farmfos) as an effective aid to growing healthy roses.

Which, by the way, is still available in our website shop. A great idea for Christmas presents for all rose growers!

[Uncle Tom's Rose Tonic - The Rose Society UK](#) - web link

## Jeff Wyckoff looks at roses that travel to the New World



### Coming to America

Nineteenth Century America was, to say the least, not replete with rose hybridizers. Probably the only one to make a significant impact on the rose world was John Champneys. Never heard of him? He was the man who bred 'Champneys' Pink Cluster', a vigorous pink cluster-flowered rose with long canes that was a purported cross between *r. moschata* and 'Parson's Pink China' (a.k.a. 'Old Blush'). Around 1810 Champneys sent the plants from his garden to one Phillippe Noisette, then curator of the Charleston Botanical Garden. A few years later a chance seedling of 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' emerged. While the possible pollen parent of this rose has been much debated, there is no consensus, and most authorities list its parentage simply as a "seedling of 'Champneys' Pink Cluster'". However, what was to become 'Blush Noisette' is remontant so we know that its pollen parent was not a species.

In 1814 Philippe Noisette sent plants of 'Blush Noisette' to his brother Louis Claude Noisette, a nurseryman and rose breeder in Paris. Through Louis Claude's own efforts and those of other French nurserymen with whom he shared cuttings, the Noisette family of roses took off exponentially, until by the mid-1820s there were reportedly over 100 varieties on the market. The rest, as they say, is history.



Blush Noisette

So, with a dearth of domestic production, American nurserymen had to turn to Europe, especially France, the center of the rose world, for their varieties for both the cut flower and the gardening market. This is clearly borne out in *Prince's Manual of Roses* from 1846, wherein nearly 100 Noisettes appear in the catalog of Prince Nursery on Long Island, NY. A cursory examination of this list indicates that almost all varieties originated in France or from an unknown breeder.

Some 30 years later a more notable immigrant (?) arrived in America. In 1888 a new rose was introduced by Bancroft and Field Bros., a deep pink/light red hybrid perpetual named 'American Beauty', purportedly from the garden of George Bancroft. However, soon after its introduction, the rose was identified (by whom?) as 'Mme. Ferdinand Jamin', bred by the Frenchman Henri Ledechaux in 1875.



American Beauty

From that point on the debate continued about its true identity. Rose historian Brent Dickerson, in *The Old Rose Advisor* accepts the theory that **American Beauty** was a seedling raised by Baltimore nurseryman, Anthony Cook, and that Bancroft's daughter saw the rose in bloom at his nursery, bought the plant, and planted it in Bancroft's garden. He cites the *Journal des Roses* from 1886 that the two are different roses. *Modern Roses* however credits the rose to Ledechaux.

Whatever its origin, 'American Beauty' quickly became the rage on the cut flower market, emerging as the best selling rose in the United States until the 1920s. It was in such demand that it commanded a price of at least two dollars per stem right from its launch in 1886. *E. Gurney Hill*, a leading grower of indoor roses, said that 'American Beauty' was grown by the hundreds of thousands. "Some places," he wrote, "are given over entirely to this one variety. It brings the highest price of any cut Rose, and is eagerly sought on account of its fragrance, its long stiff stem, its grandly beautiful foliage, as well as the loveliness of the bloom."

Bred by Hoopes, Bro. & Thomas Co., a rose entitled 'Climbing American Beauty' appeared in 1909. But it is classed as a Hybrid Wichurana with 'American Beauty' as its pollen parent.

As history often repeats itself, or as Yogi Berra may have put it: "It's déjà vu all over again", another rose came to America some years later by a similar route. This time there was no debating the name or the origin of this deep pink hybrid tea, as it was bred by Marie Louise Meilland and introduced in France in 1965 as 'Maria Callas', [MEIldaud] a cross of 'Chrysler Imperial' x 'Karl Herbst'. However Conard Pyle Roses apparently thought that 'Maria Callas' was not a suitable (or saleable) name in the U.S. and introduced it in 1967 as 'Miss All American Beauty'.

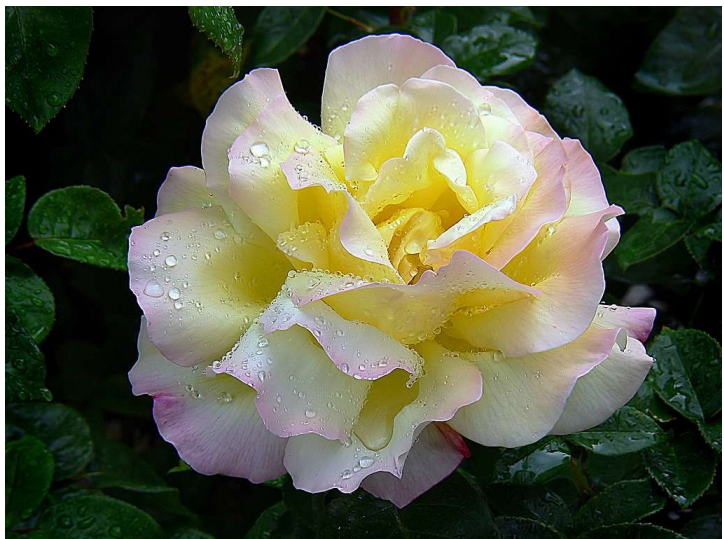


Miss All American Beauty

'Climbing Maria Callas' [MEIldaudsar] a sport of the bush form, appeared in 1969.

'Maria Callas' has been described as: "a variety with strong, bushy growth, can be up to 90 centimeters tall. The rose is well double and has 45 to 50 petals. Extraordinary floriferousness and long blooming period. Beside several other awards she has received a Gold Medal in Courtrai in 1965."

French roses have been coming to American for the last eight decades. Early in the 1930's Conard-Pyle Roses (now Star Roses and Plants) entered into an agreement with the house of Meilland that has endured to the present. Their first import was the yellow hybrid tea 'Golden State' in 1938 and two of their most recent have been 'Canyon



Madame A. Meilland aka Peace

Road' [*Meiscarlebo*] a.k.a 'Scarlet Bonica' and 'Gilded Sun' [Meilanycid] a.k.a. 'Rayon de Soleil'. Certainly their most significant was 'Madame A. Meilland', which became the immortal 'Peace' in 1945.



With the present scarcity of American hybridizers, Will Radler and Christian Bernard being the only two working for major nurseries, we may see roses from other European breeders becoming more common. Star Roses is now the



Daybreaker

distributor of Kordes plants, while varieties from Delbard, Tantau and Orard are also making their appearances. Unfortunately there has been little presence from U.K. breeders since the introductions of Fryer's 'Day Breaker' and Harkness' 'Easy Does it' some years ago.

*Jeff Wyckoff*

We caught up with Gareth Davies in Treorchy, at the Rhondda Rose Society Rose Show in Yneswyn.

I was very pleased to be able to present Gareth with his richly deserved Silver Tudor Rose Award, recognising his work as Vice Chairman for the last five years since the Society was started in 2017. Gareth and Eirona were unable to attend the AGM when we announced the award.



The Welsh show was small in size but the quality of exhibits was high. Some of the country's best exhibitors staged some superb roses with the honours shared fairly evenly.

Our yearly trip to Wales is always a pleasure for us.



## **Our rose sleuth, Brian Schofield has put away his microscope this time to enlighten us about the way to successfully grow the classic hybrid tea rose Admiral Rodney**

Without doubt one of the most outstanding exhibition roses seen since its introduction 50 years ago has been the very beautiful hybrid tea 'Admiral Rodney'. Where its name originated from I do not know, its parentage is unknown also, but it was introduced in 1973, here in the UK, by a breeder named Trew.

The rose is described as having bushy growth, but not too robust, of medium height with glossy dark green foliage. Its fragrant blooms of classical shape are a rosy pink in colour with a deeper reverse, a subtle bi-colour in fact. Scent is described as moderate, but personally I find it extremely fragrant, almost on par with 'Fragrant Cloud'.



The rose was sent to St Albans for trials, but unfortunately did not manage to complete the three year period necessary there and apparently was rejected. Subsequently, its potential was realised by some astute exhibitors and within a short time had made an immediate impact on the show scene. It then quickly established itself as one of the major varieties suitable for showing in both classes for large specimen blooms in either box or vase, as well as with the other lovely varieties used primarily in bowls and vases.

The classical high centred bloom does have immaculate form. Form being defined in the Show Standards for an individual Large Flowered bloom such as 'Admiral Rodney', as :- the bloom should be half to three-quarters open with the petals symmetrically arranged within a circular outline. The outer petals surrounding an upright and well-formed conical centre. Such is its form that very little dressing, if any, is necessary to obtain this, apart from the odd cotton wool pellet strategically placed, now and again, to acquire the circular outline. **Size**, which should be of average for a well grown plant, is fairly easily obtained also and **Substance** referring to the petals, which should be firm, smooth and of good texture, neither coarse nor flimsy, comes quite naturally too. So, including for **Freshness, Brilliance and Purity of Colour**, in the decorative classes the points awarded per receptacle, against these standards, is 10 points in total and 5 points per bloom in the specimen bloom classes.



A box of 6 Admiral Rodney

Therefore, 'Admiral Rodney' could best be described as a 'banker', when well grown, as it is very conducive to producing top quality blooms, which are easily capable of obtaining these standards.

Over the past 45 years I have been quite successful and privileged in winning premier show awards at National Level, such as two Star of the Show Medals, both with blooms of 'Admiral Rodney' and two Bloom of Merit Rosettes for 'runners-up', one with 'Admiral Rodney' and the other with 'Keepsake'. For me 'Admiral



Rodney' has performed extremely well over this period of time and has now proved itself a very reliable 'grower', brought about, I believe, **through the initial early training of the bushes.**

I originally obtained the variety quite some while ago now. At first, good flowers were produced but not in any real quantity. Hard pruning, for exhibition purposes, seemed to be resented by the plants and overall they appeared very reluctant to produce the good strong basal growth favoured by the exhibitor, instead forming thinner spindly growth and smaller flowers. Additionally a lot of die-back was experienced, especially on stems pruned in the Spring of the year, until finally the bushes, in some cases, died or were considerably less productive and eventually dug out. They were replaced though, simply because I felt it was a variety I had to grow.

The next batch of 'Admiral Rodney' I budded myself, in situ, as a block of twenty-four, with all of the budding material being chosen from near perfect blooms, ie no split centres etc.

These were then duly headed back the following year resulting in quite good **maiden** growth on most of them, but not all, some still wanted to make the thinner

growth I had experienced with my previous bushes, as this time they were not allowed to flower on it. The buds I removed at a very early stage of development, so subsequently some stems were not allowed to flower at all, they were simply stopped. Apart from this the bush was allowed to go its own way, but any flowers produced were restricted to only reasonably good stems.

The following Spring, the first year proper as far as pruning went, any thin or twiggy stems were removed completely together with most of the lateral growth, the remaining stems, now mostly upright, were only lightly pruned back to a height of between 40/50cm and then as in the previous year any subsequent thin or substandard growths were not allowed to flower, no matter how hard they tried. The stems and foliage again being allowed to remain on the bush to assist in channelling energy into the remaining flowering areas and to help produce new basal growth.

The next year, i.e. for second year pruning, the pattern was beginning to evolve, all sub-standard growth (thin and twiggy etc) was cut out, the new basal growth from the previous year was again only lightly pruned to around 40/50cm high, but the new growth, i.e. the green laterals, on the previous year's lightly pruned stems was now hard pruned back to about two buds.

Working to this pattern over the years, through a balanced mix of light and hard pruning linked with disbudding, the bushes can build up to near shrub proportions and become quite capable of readily producing the large specimen blooms seen in the National Shows.

Old and diseased wood would still have to be removed and the bushes will still try to produce flowers on thin spindly growth, but in the main they will become much more robust 'growers' flowering in some instances at 1.25m height.

'Admiral Rodney' need not necessarily be solely an exhibitor's rose, for with this sort of training, it could even now, make a very good garden rose and having such a beautiful highly fragrant bloom makes it the perfect cut flower for a single vase in the house.

However, from an exhibitor's point of view, once well and truly established it is a very satisfying and rewarding rose.



# Our Sponsors

Lockdown and the COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all.

Many businesses are in severe difficulties and are struggling to maintain anything like a normal service, this is particularly the case in the horticultural industry.

Many of our sponsors are offering an on-line service to purchase potted roses and other rose-related items. Some are offering local deliveries too.

Please remember that our sponsors support The Rose Society UK and we should do likewise at this difficult time to support them



International Rose Specialists



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We close this edition of The Rose Times with our back page image of the new David Austin rose; 'Elizabeth'. Named to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Seventieth Jubilee. As we come to terms with the loss of our beloved monarch we will never forget her whilst we grow and love the roses that bear her name;





*'Elizabeth'*