

# The Rose Times

VOLUME 6, ISSUE

WINTER 2023

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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"

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF



THE  
**ROSE**  
SOCIETY UK



Our cover rose this issue is the 1998 Delbard shrub

“Hanky Panky” (*picture credit Styles Roses*)

available from Style Roses of Holbeach, C and K Jones of Tarvin and a good garden centre near you!

## From the Secretary

Well, that’s Winter over! At least as far as the calendar is concerned. As I write this (late again I’m afraid) the weather forecast for early March promises an icy blast to remind us that Spring is not actually here yet.

We are all looking forward to getting out again after the winter and are busy planning the society events.

We have had a couple of Zoom events and both were well supported. Daniel Myhill was first up with a fascinating presentation about his National Collection of Persica Roses. Daniel has been building up an impressive collection of Persicas since he and his wife Hannah, moved to their new house in Kenninghall, Norfolk. His talk detailed the development of this attractive new strain of roses whose origins trace back to *Hulthemia persica* or *Rosa persica*, a subgenus of the Rosa family native to Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia. Whilst rose breeders all over the world are developing new varieties of persicas, rose breeders in the UK are at the forefront of development with, Chris Warner, Colin Dickson, Ronnie Rawlins, Maurice Guest and many others all producing lovely new varieties.



For Your Eyes Only bred by Chris Warner



Daniel Myhill



Michael Marriott

In January we were fortunate to have Michael Marriott deliver a Zoom presentation on entitled;

“What have Old Garden Roses Ever Done For Us?”

Michael took us on the journey of rose development from the China roses that found their way to the west on the old tea clippers, to the modern floribundas and hybrid teas and of course the combination of old and new; the David Austin and ‘English’ style of roses.

We had so many tuning into Michael’s talk that we exceeded our Zoom license and some visitors were

unable to get entry. We learned from this experience and will now be buying a new Zoom license that will hopefully accommodate all those wishing to attend future events. We were able to record both Zoom talks and they are available to all of our members via the Members Area of the website.

Our first ‘real’ event of the season took place this week at the Sunbury Walled Garden. A report of our first Pruning and Rose Care Workshop is later in this newsletter.

A show season kicks off in May at RHS Malvern Spring Festival. Our show for greenhouse grown roses will feature at Malvern with our information and educational stand. A genuine invitation for any members to help and take part in this event is, as usual, extended to everyone.

In addition to Malvern, we will hold our other National Amateur Rose Shows at Squires Shepperton, Pelsall and Harrogate/Newby Hall. We always want and always encourage new exhibitors to have a go and try their hands at showing their roses. If you need and information about our shows then please contact Pauline on;

[pauline@therosesociety.org.uk](mailto:pauline@therosesociety.org.uk)

We are busy planning our summer event in July. Following the success of last year’s visit to Chris Warner’s Nursery, Greenfields and David Austins, we have arranged this year’s event to be held at the UK’s largest and most respected wholesale nursey; Robert Whartons in Norfolk and the world renowned Peter Beales nursery in Attleborough. Further details appear later in this newsletter. We are very excited about this event and confident that demand for tickets will be high.

We are delighted to announce that we have agreed a new, three year sponsorship arrangement with Swiss Garden Tools manufacturer Felco. The World Federation of Rose Societies already have a sponsorship deal in place with with Felco and our new arrangement brings us into line with the WFRS and we will be able to jointly promote our brands.



Burton McCall are the UK agents and distributors for Felco and we will be working closely with them at future events. We were very pleased to meet their Southern England & London representative Nick Gammon at Shepperton when he attended our Rose Pruning event.

Our Annual General Meeting 2023 will be held in Pelsall once again on 16th April, full details later in this newsletter.

A reminder to our Affiliate Members and Societies; please let us have details of your shows and events. We are very happy to publish them in our newsletters, on the website and on our social media platforms.

It was reported in the press and on social media last week, that Colin Dickson had been honoured with an MBE, presented to him by the Princess Royal at Windsor Castle. As many will know, Colin is the 6th generation of Dicksons who has produced roses from their Newtownards nursery in Northern Ireland. Sadly he will be the last of the line as his two daughters have followed different career paths and will not be carrying on the business. With just a few more of his creations still waiting to be released, Colin is certainly going out with a bang! Apart from receiving his 'gong' last week, one of his newer varieties Secret Smile (a personal favourite of Mrs Martin) did 'quite well' at the Tollcross Trials in Glasgow last year. Iain Silver reports on these trials later in this edition.



Speaking of rose trials, the Rochford International Trials at Hertford go from strength to strength. Under the watchful eye of Kerry Austen and hosted by Paul Rochford at Letty Green. The 2023 trials are growing away nicely. We'll be reporting on the trials as the season progresses. The third trial ground for roses in the UK is in Belfast. I've never been lucky enough to attend but if any of our members find their way to Lady Dixon Park in Belfast, we'd be very pleased to publish a report.

In spite of reported impending wintery weather, our roses need pruning so that's what my immediate gardening future looks like. Whatever you're doing with your roses in the next few weeks, the best of luck and let's all hope for a rose filled Spring and Summer.

*Ray Martin*

## The Chairmans Notes

What a very mixed Winter we are experiencing with widely fluctuating daytime temperatures of plus 10°C to minus 6°C overnight, a mean 16°C difference here in the West Midlands. We have also to date had three periods of more than seven days with sub zero temperatures both day and night making the ground hard and unworkable. Fortunately I was able to complete my replanting during in one of those mild periods. There doesn't appear to be any damage to the rose canes in my garden as a result of these severe periods. I guess time will tell however when I begin pruning the bushes at the end of the month. Some of our members have experienced considerable blackening frost damage and for them very hard pruning will be necessary.



It is a bright mild sunny day as I compile these notes and the forecast is for a welcome few days of mild weather. This will allow me to continue pruning my climbing roses which I have allowed to become overgrown with lots of deadwood in them. To illustrate the extent of my pruning this year I have taken the adjacent pictures. The roses on the circular obelisk and adjoining trellis have been pruned with the newer stems trained and carefully tied to the lattice and curved sections.



Some of John's climbers and ramblers are already pruned, tidied and ready to burst into life



Over the nearby patio is the rose Alister Stellar Gray which is spectacular in full flower and covers an area 6mtrs x 2mtrs, but had really got out of hand. To get it under control it has been heavily pruned and all the new stems have been carefully tied down to the overhead horizontal members. If we are treated to some long warm summer evenings, then perhaps I can look forward to a fragrant canopy with maybe a glass of wine! However, there's still more climbers to be pruned and then it's onto the rose beds and borders all before early march, then afterwards I shall look forward to the new Rose season.

During the dark nights of winter, we have been treated to excellent Zoom video presentations, with more to come soon. The first was in December, given by Daniel Myhill on rosa Persica hybrids thoroughly researched and very informative. I enjoyed hearing how breeders are creating many colourful new introductions.

Michael Marriott who is always a fount of rose knowledge followed in January with entertaining talk and because of Michael's reputation was oversubscribed. If you missed it, then it's now available from the website as are all our Zoom presentations.

Our Annual General meeting is to be held on 16th April at Pelsall and formal notice is given elsewhere. It will be another occasion for our members to meet in each other's company rather than on a Zoom platform. The date will be close to the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our society on 27th May 2017. It gives me great satisfaction to see how the Society has grown and developed in that short time. Do try to attend.

I have several roses in pots in my unheated greenhouse growing on for the spring



competition at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival in May. With the ever-lengthening days they are now making good growth and I am optimistic of a few blooms for the competition. We shall be mounting our usual advice and information stand at the show and look forward meeting members at the event.

Happy rose growing

*John Anthony*



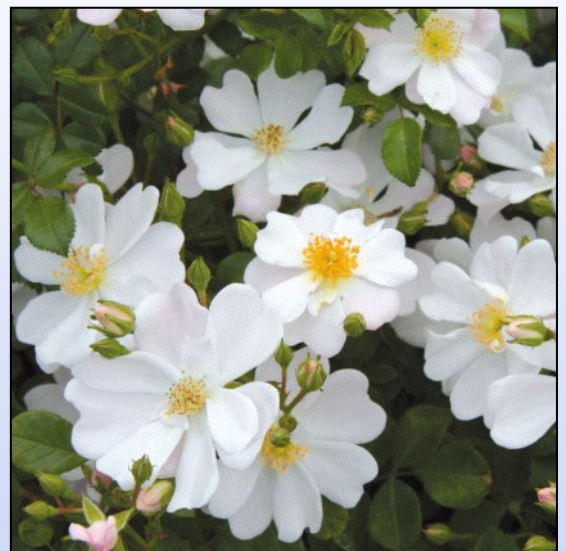
**Derek Lawrence, Executive Director of the World Federation of Rose Societies and Rose Society UK Committee member**

**DELVES INTO THE POSSIBILITIES OF.....**

## **GROUND COVER ROSES**

During the 1970's something secretly was brewing under the glass-covered rose breeding houses in central Europe. A new race of roses was about to be launched which courted the attention not only of the avid rose lover, but also for superintendents of many Parks departments. This new genus wasn't an entirely new concept. Ground cover roses may seem to be a modern notion, but some wild roses grow in this manner in their natural habitat. Prostrate or spreading type roses were used by previous generations of gardeners' in the form of *R wichuriana*. Its more compact offspring *Max Graf* was released in 1919 and years later, *Nozomi* from Japan was launched in style during 1968. Although these early flowering cultivars were highly regarded, they failed to repeat flower. In order to make the species more desirable to the gardener, breeders set about creating new robust varieties which would give ample soil coverage and have the ability to bloom from early June, until the frosts of late autumn. As the decade ended, a new generation of ground covers emerged. From France, Meilland produced "Swany" and "Fiona", but this was just a foretaste of goodies which would catapult them to the height of popularity.

By the end of the decade, the 1980's saw a surge of new introductions from Harkness, McGredy, Dickson, Meilland and Mattock. Jack Harkness bred a number of variants from the dainty cultivar "The Fairy", with such appropriate given names as "Fairyland", and "Fairy Damsel". Poulsen of Denmark created some noteworthy varieties that have stood the test of time, namely "Pink Bells", "Red Bells" and "White Bells". Pat Dickson produced an eye catching yellow spreader named "Tall Story" which has the reputation of producing excellent cut flowers. However, the market was to be dominated by two major series that has retained their height of popularity. Kordes of Germany introduced both remarkable 'Game Bird' series, with the wide-spreading varieties such as "Partridge", "Grouse" and the fledgling 'County'



Grouse



series of cultivars, which celebrates the fine English counties such as “Hampshire”, “Surrey” and “Worcestershire”.

As the demand grew, so did the pursuit to find the perfect disease-free cultivars. This quest was eventually achieved. In 1989 a new race of healthy ground cover roses was released from the Noack nursery in Germany. Originally named, “Heidetraum” this sterling pink performer became known as “Pink Flower Carpet” in English speaking countries. It has proven track record for exceptional disease resistance against blackspot, mildew and rust. It is also act as a very floriferous short climber, if desired. For those who do not wish to deadhead spent blooms, “Flower Carpet” will form tiny orange hips in the autumn.

Sadly, rose breeder Werner Noack died in his hometown of Güterslot on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022. He not live to see his very popular creation to be inducted into the World Federation of Rose Societies highly acclaimed “Hall Of Fame” in the October of that year; and be subsequently announced as the world’s favourite rose. At the official presentation ceremony conducted in Adelaide, Australia his son, Reinhard Noack accepted the Award on behalf of his late father and said, ‘Such a success is not the merit of only one person – three generations of the Noack family, our employees and national and international partners have all contributed to make Flower Carpet Pink a true rose of the world’.



Reinhard Noack (on right)



Scented Carpet

Back in 1997, Werner Noack introduced a paler sport which they named “Sommermelodie”. Since then, the nursery has continued the flower carpet series, with such inspirational varieties as “White Flower Carpet”, “Amber Flower Carpet”, “Coral Flower Carpet”, “Ruby Flower Carpet” and “Flower Carpet Sunshine”. In 2001, Chris Warner introduced a new concept with fragrant twist, which was appropriately named, “Scented Carpet”. In essence, the ‘Flower Carpet’ series has arguably become the most successful ground cover rose genus in the world.

The ground cover roses have gained much esteem within the ranks of the rose world. “Kent” and “Blenheim” were bestowed the RNRS President’s





Worcestershire

over the ground. Incorporating a cluster of these types will give a stunning effect and, given time, will smother any bare soil. Ground cover types develop a thicket of orderly growth. Massed in groups they look effective, and are not too labour intensive to achieve and maintain a neat and tidy landscape. However, be mindful that in most cases they do not consistently suppress underlying weeds, such a dandelion; which may eventually emerge.

A light pruning is required very spring, with the usual regime of incorporating a well balanced feed. This will ensure that the bushes will generate prolific flowers and foliage throughout the growing season.

These gems have proven to be stalwart planting champions for a huge number of UK



Noak's world beater - Flower Carpet AGM

International Trophy respectively in the early 1990's. The Royal Horticultural Society has granted it's 'Award of Garden Merit' to all of the 'Flower Carpet' series and a number of cultivars in the 'County' series. They have also been recipients of various prestigious international awards conducted in European countries and Australasia.

Botanically, ground-cover roses are termed as procumbent because of their ability to trail



Swany

parklands and public gardens over the last few decades. For the amateur gardener who has restricted free time or mobility issues, these types could be the answer to creating an impressive rose garden. In all cases, they are an interesting group and will add a new dimension to growing roses. Their trailing habit can be used to furnish terraced borders, pots or window boxes with great effect.

Images of the groundcover roses for this article, were kindly supplied by courtesy of David Austin Roses.

Visit: [www.davidaustinroses.co.uk](http://www.davidaustinroses.co.uk)

In the next edition, I shall recall my experiences of enjoying the “roses down under”. Last October, the cosmopolitan City of Adelaide and the National Rose Society of Australia proudly hosted the 19<sup>th</sup> WFRS World Rose Convention. Brollies and notebooks in hand; over 260 delegates descended upon aboriginal soil. Although the *genus rosa* is not indigenous to Australia, the event proved to be a truly inspirational and scintillating occasion for rosarians from all corners of the globe.

*Derek Lawrence*  
007 

Derek is still very proud that he is  
member number 007 *Ed*



## World Federation of Rose Societies

### News

I am excited about being appointed by the World Federation of Rose Societies as Chairman of International Judges. As most of you know I have been involved with roses for over 50 years and latterly I have been heavily involved in setting standards for judging at UK rose shows. I am accredited judge both in the UK and the USA and Ray and I currently run the amateur shows. I have been actively showing roses for over 45 years and am looking forward to supporting members of the WFRS to establish some common standards.

One of the roles of the Committee is to work with member countries to accredit judges to gain international recognition so if any of our experienced accredited judges are travelling abroad to other rose shows they can apply.

I will be putting together a Judging Seminar from 7.00pm – 9.00pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 via Zoom to give our existing judges an opportunity to develop and hone their judging skills as well as ensuring consistency for our exhibitors. Gareth Davies and Ray Martin will be supporting discussion. The Seminar will be for 2 hours and go through the official Rose Society UK Little Black Book Judging and Showing Roses. If anyone would like to become an accredited rose judge please do get in touch with me on;

[pauline@therosesociety.org.uk](mailto:pauline@therosesociety.org.uk).

*Pauline Martin*





David Kenny, our man from Tullow, and an accomplished breeder of fine roses tells us some of . . . .

## The Trials and Tribulations of Rose Breeding

A conversation I had with Daniel Myhill made me realise that many members wanted to have some explanation about how to grow and breed of roses. I hope this article and further articles (if the editor allows) will be of help to those wishing to breed roses.

Breeding roses is easy. Breeding good roses is a little harder and breeding good, healthy commercial varieties is a whole new ball game.



Inside Dave's greenhouse

In the UK, Ireland and in most of Northern Europe although you can make crosses outdoors you need a greenhouse or polytunnel to do so successfully. This is because of the cool climate and to control the conditions in which the parent plants are grown. It will also bring the plants into flower earlier and ripen the hips faster.

Most amateur breeders don't have much space in their greenhouses so while you can grow your parent plants in the ground you will soon find that they take up too much space. It is better to grow your parents in pots. This has two benefits. They take up less space and you can move out parents which you are using for pollen only and those which will not set seed.

All you need to begin are two different varieties. Preparation is simple enough. It takes time and practise to learn when a variety is ready to cross and to shed its pollen but a general rule of thumb is to take off the petals when the bloom is half to three quarters open. I prepare the parent plants the evening before or early in the morning of the day I will make the cross. To prepare the pollen parent take off the petals and then cut the anthers and put them in a container. I have used old film cartridges, petri dishes, make up



A pollinated bloom

jars and yogurt cartons (see attached photo). All have worked. Leave the anthers in a warm place over-night and in the morning shake the container and the pollen will be there. The variety used as seed parent is treated in the same way except to leave the stigma as it will receive the pollen. I use my fingers to apply the pollen and just lick the pollen off when I'm finished so as not to mix it up.

I have made crosses successfully at all times of the day. Now that I'm retired, I usually do my crosses from midday to early afternoon. As a rule of thumb, it is best to make the crosses from

about mid-morning to early afternoon. It is not always possible to do this due to having to go to work.

Varieties that are easy to try for learning purposes are 'Sexy Remy', 'Red Finesse' and, 'Storyteller'. Most of the Persica hybrids are great to use as they are single, and you'll learn fast from them.

In the next article I'll deal with taking care of the hips harvesting and sowing the seeds.



Colin Dickson's Storyteller

Sláinte

*Dave Kenny*

Dave Kenny and John Baxter (former Treasurer of Amateur Rose Breeders Association) are currently in discussion with the Rose Society UK with respect of residual funds following the winding up of ARBA. These funds will be used to promote and support continued amateur rose breeding in the UK.

The situation has been highlighted by the passing of two former ARBA members; Derek Everitt and Frank Cowlshaw. Chris Warner and Dave Kenny share their thoughts on the lives and achievements of these two skilled rose breeders.



## Derrick Everitt

I met Derrick in the mid 1960's when he was working for David Austin. It was a Plant Show and he was looking after the Austin stand. Our chat soon led to hybridising and I was invited to visit his home in Shifnal. I moved teaching jobs from Birmingham to Newton Abbot and Derrick came to stay with his family the following Summer when in an 8' x 7' lean to, hybridising had started. Derrick was a few years ahead and already had interesting seedlings. Visits to St. Albans followed and our seedlings were viewed with

excitement, but also trepidation. In the early 70's St Albans announced that Amateurs could only enter one variety, but this would increase if the Amateur won an award. We both thought this was unfair so we wrote to every Amateur who sent to



The Golden Age

the Trials and at a meeting in London in 1976, The Amateur Rose Breeders came into being. Derrick became the Secretary and Derek Bracegirdle, the first Chairman.

Due to Derrick's diligence ARBA became a success with an early meeting with the President and Jack Harkness leading to an increase in the number of entries for an Amateur in the RNRS trials. Newsletters were produced and Derrick always wrote in an entertaining fashion with a quirky sense of humour. ARBA grew in numbers and shared knowledge and shared seedlings led to some significant progress. Inspired by a talk from President of RNRS, Ted Allen, The ARBA species breeding project was started.

Newsletters became Annuals and membership grew beyond 100. Derrick meanwhile was raising around a thousand seedlings every year and he had one of the very earliest brown roses. Following in the footsteps of people like Albert Norman [Ena Harkness] Derrick was an innovative and creative breeder whose greatest success was probably The Golden Age which won the Gold Star of the South Pacific, New Zealand's premier award. A Golden Holstein x Baby Love seedling. Derrick reached the grand age of 95 and is survived by 2 daughters Melaine and Stephane.



Cheerfulness

## Frank Cowlshaw

Frank Cowlshaw was a dedicated and hard working rose breeder who enhanced the rose world with his creations.

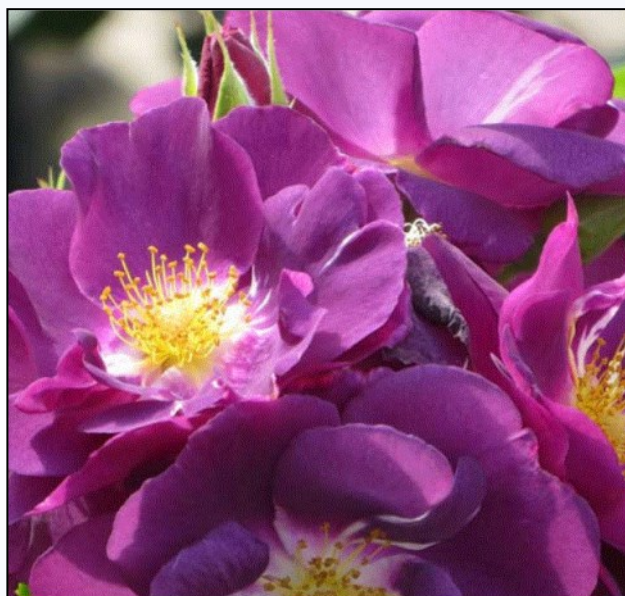
Frank gave a huge amount of service to ARBA (Amateur Rose Breeders Association). At different times he was joint editor (with Bernhard Mehring) 1989-1991, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the association 1993-2000. He wrote several articles which were entitled "Chance would be a fine thing" for the annual. In these articles he examined every aspect of rose breeding both practical and scientific.

One of his first successes was 'Summer Love' which won the Torridge Award and a TGC in the RNRS trials as well as winning the first ARBA trials in Cheadle. His great interest was in breeding and developing a good healthy line of "blue" roses. He hit the jackpot with 'Rhapsody in Blue' which won the RNRS Gold Medal and a Special Prize and Fragrance Award in The Hague. Why it wasn't awarded the President's Trophy by the RNRS I'll never understand.

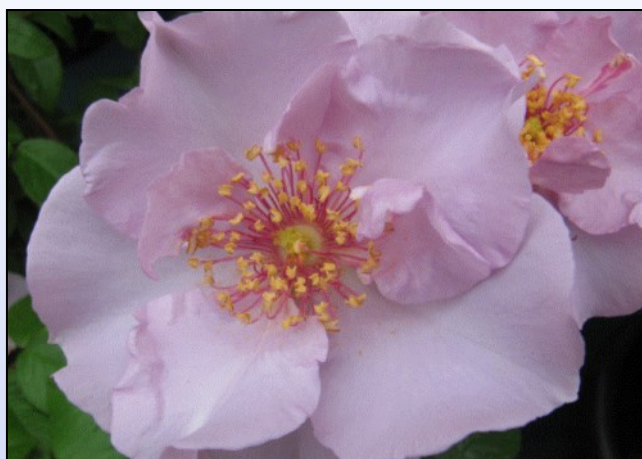
Rhapsody is such a novel, different variety. There is no other rose like it. It has stood the test of time and is probably the most successful amateur bred rose ever. It is grown all over the world and has been used by most hybridist to try and breed the next generation of "blue" roses.

Frank also bred a nice line of climbing roses which are sold under the "Skyline" label. He has left a fine legacy.

Frank joined ARBA very soon after its formation.



Frank's wonderful *Rhapsody in Blue*



*Odyssey* - a favourite in our garden

It soon became apparent that Frank was a thinking and experimental hybridist. I remember him debating ploidy's with Ted Allen at an early ARBA meeting. Frank subsequently became the Chairman and Editor of the ARBA Annual and successfully raised the profile of both.

I remember my visit to St. Albans when this new seedling tall and rangy, but with the most stunning new shade of Purple Blue ageing to violet made its first appearance. My good

fortune was that detective work traced it to Frank and he had not sent any plant material to anyone else. Subsequently it won a Certificate of



Merit and became Rose of the Year. It was a best seller nearly everywhere, but it was unhappy in heat and did not do well in hot Countries. The parentage involved Summer Wine as the seed parent, but the pollen was from a succession of seedlings involving initially the old purple rose Violaceae and then International Herald Tribune added to this line.

Frank let Peter James have one of this seedling line and crossed with Len Scrivens Natural Beauty gave rise to Blue for You. Both of these unmatched in colour in my opinion to this day.

Frank died at the end of January in his 94<sup>th</sup> year. His other contributions to the

rose world have include Summer Love named for his wife Pat, the Skyliner series of which the best is probably Purple and the attractive lilac mauve floribunda Odyssey. Others include Chester Cathedral, With thanks and Franspray, named Louise on the Continent.



Climber Purple Skyliner

Frank was always amiable and very good company because he applied an analytical mind to all his breeding endeavours and was happy to share them.

Our sympathies to his wife Pat and children

*Chris Warner*

*Dave Kenny*

We're determined that the work and legacy of these and many other 'amateur' breeders must continue.

Whilst we're saddened by the loss of two more of our so talented rose creators The Rose Society UK will do all it can to encourage new and future rosarians to produce new varieties and types of roses.

Keep track on our website at [Rose breeders group - The Rose Society UK](#)

If you have tried or wish to have a go at breeding roses, please let us know

# Rose Society UK

## Summer Event

**29th and 30th July 2023**

Following the success of our visit to Chris Warner's Greenfields Nursery we are pleased to announce this year's Summer Event.

Our event this year will be a visit to Whartons Roses.

Whartons are the UK's largest grower of garden roses, propagating over 1.5million roses a year.

The visit will include, on **Saturday**, a chance to see the rose fields which will be in full bloom. A buffet lunch will be provided at the nursery.

The afternoon will include talks by Whartons and a 'guest speaker' (to be confirmed) afternoon tea and chance to mingle.

**Sunday** we have a visit to Peter Beales Roses in Attleborough where we'll have a guided tour of the garden by Simon White and a chance to indulge in the Rosarium Restaurant.

We have negotiated a preferential rate at the nearby Holiday Inn near Norwich for those who wish stay over.

Full details and costings are being prepared now but to register your interest in coming to this special event please email;

[info@therosesociety.org.uk](mailto:info@therosesociety.org.uk)



# never give a sucker an even break

As regular readers will know, we are in the process of replacing all the roses in the Sunbury Walled garden. The rose bed was originally planted in the late eighties and were really looking their age. This was partly due to inexperienced gardeners pruning the bushes badly and, in particular removing all new basal growth believing them to be suckers. This is a common problem and one that we are regularly asked about.

Many of our members bud their own roses and it struck me when looking at my own briars that I headed back (removed top growth) in January. They are all starting to shoot now but as this picture shows, even when cut back correctly suckers can appear from anywhere!



Suckers can appear from any part of the original briar. Traditional thinking is that they can and do come from the roots but as you can see, any part of the root stock can produce shoots. These of course will, if left, go on to grow into a fine specimen of (in this case) *Rosa laxa*. At this stage it's a simple matter of just rubbing them out with your thumb.

Another question we are regularly asked is how to deal with side shoots on standard roses. These side shoots are suckers, just like in the example above and should be rubbed out.

So the simple rule is - Never give a sucker an even break - rub it out!



Our Vice Chairman Iain Silver is on the Permanent Judging Panel of the **City Of Glasgow International Rose Trials**

Here's his report on the 2022 results

## On Trial in Tollcross

This is the 34th year of the Trials which are held in Tollcross Park in the east end of the City. As well as being a valuable evaluation of new rose varieties the trials are quite a spectacle in their own right, bringing many visitors and Glaswegians alike to admire the roses. A bright oasis in a part of the City which is home to the City's second best football team - though strangely they seem to be at the top of our league !!

Assessed in the 3rd year after planting by a Permanent Panel who carry out a number of visits over the season and an International Panel who visit in late August, the roses are examined over a full season which is important as it allows any vulnerability to disease to be picked up as the season progresses.



### **GOLDEN PRIZE OF THE CITY OF GLASGOW**

#### **“THE LORD PROVOST’S CUP”**

The top award in the Trials was awarded to Secret Smile from Dickson's. A strong-growing Floribunda which was outstanding this year and last - the first time that the Permanent Panel scored it. Finishing a full 5 points in front of the second placed entries it always looked a likely winner. The trusses are generally 7 - 9 blooms and hold their colour well, with only a little fading as they age. Some scent.

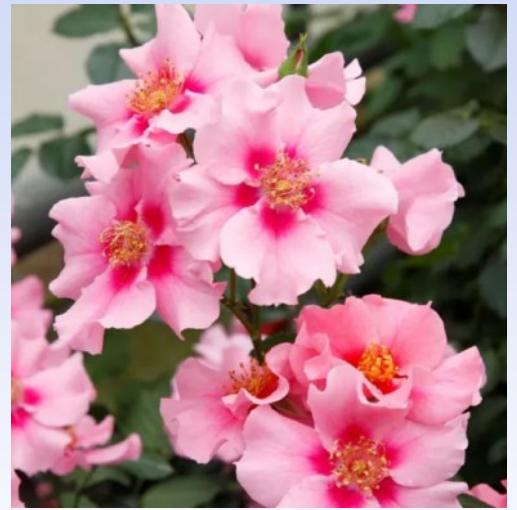




## Gold Medals

There were two Gold Medals awarded with both varieties gaining the same number of points .

Kordes " See You in Pink" was one. A Persica. As the name suggests it is a mid-pink with a distinctive dark pink eye. Persicas in my limited exposure to them seem to fade quickly but this one holds it's colour well. Again nice trusses of 7 or so flowers on a strong bush with typical Kordes health. Might tempt me to get a couple of Persicas if they are going to be like this



The other GM winner was "The Theodore Fondan Rose " from Rosen Tantau. . . . . Me neither! To save you the effort, apparently he was a 19th Century German Novelist and Poet.

The rose is a burnt orange colour with a loose semi-double bloom which is reasonably weather resistant.. Strong healthy grower



## Silver Medals

Again we had two awards in this category

"Mid-Summer Snow" from Martin Vlssers is a pure white Floribunda , blooming virtually all summer on a healthy bush. Flowers are flatish, about 2" in diameter and grow in nicely spaced groups. Reasonable scent .



The other variety here was "Volcano" from Kordes. An HT but growing in small clusters of orange, red and yellow coloured flowers which seemed to get better as the season progressed. some fragrance . Again a healthy bush of shorter than average height



### **Tollcross Fragrance Prize.**

The winner here was another Martin Visser rose - "Passion Forever". A medium pink Floribunda with quartered rosette type blooms it was also a freely blooming variety according to my notes



### **The Peoples Choice**

This is awarded to the most popular variety selected by members of the public who visit the Park during the course of the season

The winner was an un-named variety from Rosen Tantau - "RTT14823"

As you can see it's a pale pink Persica with a faint eye. I remember it as a strong grower which got good marks for Health and General Effect. Only a slight fragrance evident to me





## Best Established Rose

One of the good things about the Glasgow Trials is the fact that you can see how varieties perform over time. This award is made after 10 years in the Trials, just before they are replaced. It is surprising how some varieties performance is reduced after a few years. This year there was no shortage of strong performers. Outstanding and the winner was "Meipeporia" from Alain Meilland . Now in commerce as "Cherry Bonica" a compact, bushy rose 4' tall, with dense dark green foliage and sprays of semi-double, cherry-red blooms continuously and in abundance from summer to autumn. This was outstanding.



An honourable mention goes to "Mind Games" from Colin Dickson. In my scoring this pushed the winner very hard - both are roses which I need to add to my garden



## Certificates of Merit

Three awards in this category

"Mango " from Kordes orange-pink Floribunda free blooming with a slight scent but it's health dropped off a bit in August with some black spot



"Passion Forever" already mentioned above

"Pinocchio" another from Rosen Tantau. As the name suggest this is a short floribunda with ample light pink flushed darker pink. Extremely healthy with masses of blooms.



## *Iain Silver*

Thanks Iain, as a post script to this report, I have to say what a pleasure it has been to judge the trials at Tollcross. We've been lucky enough to visit on many occasions over the years and were delighted to return to Glasgow last year after the enforced stop caused by COVID. The trial beds in the park are laid out in the shape of the iconic Charles Rennie Macintosh rose



At the event in August last year I found myself in a wonderful, colourful bed of Secret Smile which, unsurprisingly went onto winning the coveted 'Lord Provost's Cup'





# Pruning and Rose Care Workshop at Sunbury Walled Garden

We held a very successful day in Sunbury in March.

Our President Colin Squire very kindly hosted the event at the Squires Shepperton Orangery and the practical part of the day was carried out in the Sunbury Walled Garden.

Twenty members travelled to Squires to take part in the day and I believe that everyone had a good time.

We were particularly pleased to welcome Nick Gammon, Sales Executive Southern England & London for Burton McCall as part of our new relationship with Felco secateurs. Nick was able to show attendees the Felco range and highlight important aspects of maintenance, care sharpening.

Four of the society's 'regulars' were available to share their knowledge and experience.



Pauline, our Shows Chair, and recently appointed WFRS Chairman of International Judges; Neil Duncan, Dean Hole National Amateur Champion and Show Committee Member; John Anthony, our Society Chairman and myself.

The day was a relaxed mix of demonstrations and practical, hands-on pruning. Squires sponsored the replanting of part of the garden in 2019 and the roses are looking really good at the moment, providing plenty of opportunity for us to demonstrate and for our members to practice their pruning techniques.

A light buffet lunch was provided by the catering staff at Squires who ensured that the event ran smoothly.





Colin, Ray and John welcome the group to Sunbury Walled Garden



Neil showing how to deal with a 'sucker'



John explaining secateur principals



Pauline organising the group pruning





We demonstrated bare root rose planting - explaining the anatomy of a bare root rose and the proper way to treat them



In the Orangery we covered the basics of rose care; feeding, soil samples, pruning techniques, pruning times and rose planting to an attentive audience



Pauline's 3D COW fairy cakes were very well received (you really had to be there!)





Our sincere thanks to Colin Squire and to his P.A. Lisa Lopez who did so much of the 'unseen' work to ensure the day went smoothly



Sue, Martyn and Paul helping clear up the rose prunings with Spelthorne staff member Serena

One of the most satisfying aspects of the day was that it highlighted the importance of the society's sponsors.

Our new sponsors Felco providing technical help with the tools

The Nutrient Company supplying the MycorrPlus for the planting demonstrations

Uncle Tom's Rose Tonic, our goto for all nutritional needs for our roses

Greenacres, for their range of Sulphur products to keep our roses healthy  
and of course

Squires Garden Centres for their continued and appreciated support





Mark McGuire has been growing miniatures and miniflora roses in his native Australia for over 30 years. He is an accomplished exhibitor and qualified rose judge. Here, he shares a few of his thoughts and tips . . . . . many will sound very familiar to our UK growers

## HOW I GROW POTTED ROSES

by Mark McGuire from Australia

Before I go on any further there is no magic formula, be it soil mixtures, fertilisers or whatever. Rosarians still succumb to the belief that there is ... well, if there is, I don't know of any!

One should first of all pay particular attention to hygiene and safety. A face covering mask and gloves are essential as potting mixes can contain organisms that are or can be detrimental to one's health.

For best results a black plastic container of 400 mm or 16 inches is my preferred size. Yes, you can still use smaller pots; however, the results will not be as good. If you were to drive around your suburb on rubbish collection day then maybe you can be lucky enough to acquire them for free. I have accumulated some 100 or more pots over the years this way.

Make sure you thoroughly clean out the pots that you intend to use and that they have several weep holes so as the water can easily disperse. Otherwise the roots will become water logged and your bare rooted rose will suffer accordingly and perhaps soon die. Another good idea is to use some shade mesh cloth or pieces of broken tiles or some such matter placed over the weep holes as this will stop your soil mixture leaching out the bottom.

My preferred mixture is to use a high quality potting mix such as one of the better Debco products, costing around \$12-\$15 or so. This 30 litre bag usually contains Saturaid wetting agent, controlled release fertilisers, water retaining crystals, and combination of trace elements and growth stimulants. Sounds marvellous. Remember you only get what you pay for.

You will notice on nearly all bags of Potting Mix on sale now have the Australian Standard Certificate printed on the bag, which is a rectangle of some 5 ticks on a red label for the



Benardella's Ruby



pH and Moisture meters

premium mix which is what I suggest you use for best results. When you see 5 ticks on a black label means you are getting a standard type mixture. The larger Supermarkets and Nurseries sell these for around the \$4-5. So now you have your premium potting mix and from here I suggest you buy some premium garden soil. Mix together in approximately 50-50 proportions and add a few handfuls of the Neutrog product Seamungus, which is a blend of seaweed, fish, huric acid and manure. This is an Australian product and no doubt those living overseas can source a similar product.

It is always in your best interest to purchase a Gardman pH tester meter which can cost about \$12 - \$15 to test the potting mix when purchasing. It should read about pH7 and if much lower than you have a lesser quality potting mix.

This tester is essential for

testing your pH during the growing season. A similar Gardman Moisture Meter probe can be purchased for a similar cost for checking your water levels in your pots. See photo. I have compared the very expensive testing meters costing in the \$250 plus range and results have almost been identical!

Next place your mixture in the pot leaving about a 100 mm gap between the top of the soil and the rim of the pot. Place in your bare rooted rose, or if taken from a smaller pot, check over the root system for any damage and if so trim back. Fan out the roots and place the plant into the soil making sure the bud union is slightly above the top of your soil mix. Over time the soil will descend in the pot.

With limited pressure make sure the plant is sitting firmly in the centre of the container. Apply a couple of soakings of water and then add about 50mm of cow manure, making sure it is kept well away from the trunk of the rose, and then place on top of the manure as much Lucerne hay as the pot will allow without spilling all over your yard. Cow manure is by far the best to use and readily available whereas Lucerne Hay (Alfalfa) is head and shoulders above any other mulch.

So yes, during the growing season keep topping up your pots with these two products. Maybe you may have to pay a little extra for the above with the results being worthwhile. Do not be misled by the nurseries as they tend to steer you onto an alternate product



Magic Show

all over your yard. Cow manure



which will be cheaper. No doubt you wish for results that are worthy of all your effort, so this is my recommendation.

By using this method you will induce worms to multiply and greatly benefit your soil mix. Take note there is no soil in potting mixtures and therefore no worms. If your garden has an abundance of worms it will mean your soil is rich and productive and that is what you need in your pots. Pure garden soil in a pot would soon become too solid (hard) and detrimental to the growth of your plant. To stop your pot from overheating be sure your newly potted plant container is not making contact with the concrete or tiles underneath.

Raise your pot by using a few small bricks or small terracotta feet that can readily be purchased in the nurseries. Never place your pot in a saucer type dish that will retain water as this will also eventually lead to root rot.

I have not used any commercial fertiliser since 2006-7 and it is now 2023! All rose growers firmly believe that they should add some recommended nutriment to their pots. This is not the case. So after reading this article you may change your mind!

When do we need to feed? I suggest after potting/planting a good six months or so. Very little fertiliser is best. If the manufacturers recommend 100 grams then only apply about 20% of that every couple of months. I recommend that you use a liquid fertiliser rather than pellets or granules. Whatever you do, be sure to give the pot a good drenching before hand and a good soaking afterwards. Water is still the best fertiliser!

If you wish to grow the bigger Floribunda's or Hybrid tea roses then follow the same procedure as above. You will need to use a larger pot, something about the size of a half beer barrel, which is about 20 litres, (9 gallons).

When do we re-pot? Rarely ever have I done so. None of my pots have been re potted over the last 28 years and yet my results are great, or so I think.

A black plastic pot becomes some 15 degrees warmer



Mark's potted miniature roses

than a terracotta pot on a very hot day and one may need to water twice daily when this occurs. To delay or prevent blackspot always water before midday. Don't be misled that when rain appears that your pots do not need watering... how wrong can you be!

The combination that I have recommended for your pots is best served by using a hand-held rose wand making sure the water spreads all over the top of the pot. If you tend to use a drip type system, you will soon notice that it tends to make what I refer to as "ant tracks".

Meaning the water flows down these little tracks without spreading over the whole mix, this is not what you want. The nutrients contained need a good soaking all the time. No, don't go looking for ants...this is just a saying. Water flowing at a fast rate from the bottom of your pots is not a good sign. No doubt you will encounter problems with your roses such as blackspot, aphids, mildew etc and if so, you should contact your Rose Nursery for the best advice. Your pots may occasionally show a low reading of pH, if so, add some Iron Chelates. If your leaves tend to yellow then add a liberal dose of Dolomite.

Your combination of potting mix, garden soil topped up with cow manure and thick application of Lucerne Hay should retain the water enough to leak away slowly. Lastly you will need to check the pH of your potted soil every so often or if you suspect why the plant is not performing as it should. The ideal pH is 6.5 to 7. This is rather hard to accomplish, however, if you follow my recommendations it is attainable. Below pH 7 the soil is acidic and rose's best perform when so. Whilst above pH 7 the mix is considered alkaline. I have two different manufacturers pH kits so that I can compare my results. However I must admit they both give identical readings of the same soil. There are some less expensive test kits available and they can last forever. Follow the instructions and if you are having a problem consult the horticulturist at your local nursery.

In most cases when seeking advice always approach the top person, yes the very top dog, in that particular field whether it is the exhibitor, judge, breeder, soil environmentalist or whoever. Most are only too willing to offer advice, so do not be afraid to ask.

If you wish to become competitive by exhibiting in shows then you have to devote much more time to your roses. People such as Roger Federer, Sachin Tendulkar, Ashley Barty or anyone else in their chosen field never became famous without going on and taking that extra step to achieve their goals. More effort will render better results.

With winter pruning there is no right or wrong way. Prune high or low as the results will be nearly identical.



Figurine



Low pruning appears to give more water shoots whereas cutting higher tends to produce more flowers. Keep your bushes clear of deadwood and dieback during the growing season, whilst you must dead head regularly (removing spent blooms). They look good on the bush however they are detrimental to the future growth and reproduction of more flowers.

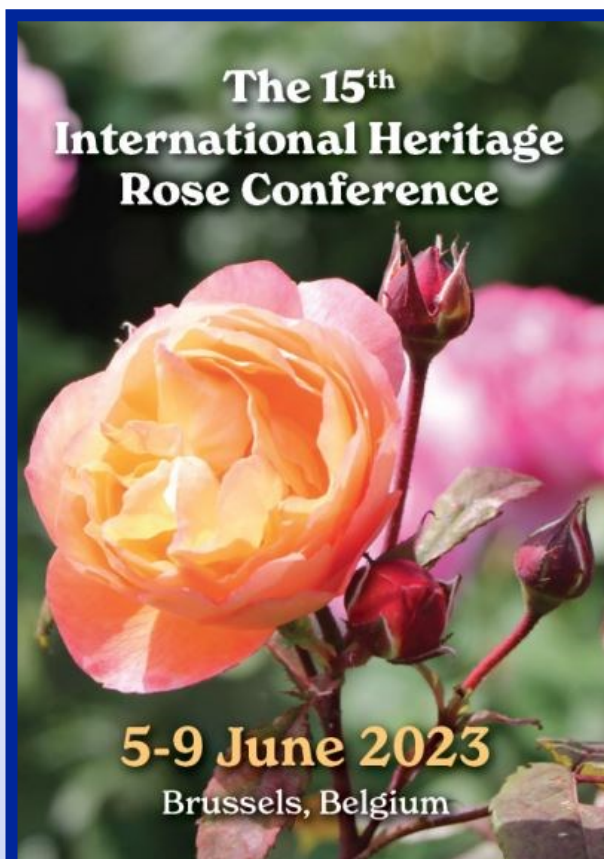
Be aware some roses do not like pots. I have struck this problem on very few occasions. Once placed out in the garden they have taken off and become potential Champions!!

*Mark McGuire*

Thanks Mark, obviously some of the products available 'down under' are not available here in the UK. Although a few years back we were able to get hold of Neutrog. It was trialled by several UK rose growers with good results but it was removed from sale due to a change in the company's trading model.

Other than that, as we always say, "Roses cannot read" so whatever brand it says on the label, it's what's in the NPK that counts! And of course, which ever side of the equator you're growing your roses, a pH of about 6.5 is always going to be beneficial to the roses.

Keeping with the Australian theme, next month our own 007 (aka Derek Lawrence) will be reporting on the recent WFRS Convention in Adelaide, Australia. As a newly qualified Rose Society UK Rose Judge it will be interesting to hear how the shows in Australia differ from our UK rose shows.



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OK everyone, it's crisis time.

I'm struggling to fill these newsletter pages! This newsletter is a place for your news, your stories, your photos, your roses.

Please don't think your news isn't of interest, it is! Please don't think that you can't do it, you can! We won't criticise your spelling or grammar (hopefully we'll correct it)

Please send your news to; [info@therosesociety.org.uk](mailto:info@therosesociety.org.uk) anything we can use, we will!



**YOUR NEWSLETTER  
NEEDS  
YOUR NEWS**



# Stars in Stripes

Why do roses continue to top the national polls of favourite plants?

Maybe it's something to do with the huge selection and variety of rose types?

Roses come in many colours, shapes and sizes and they can be used in such a wide number of places in the garden.

Persicas are the 'must have' style at the moment but not far behind them are the stripes.

They've been around for quite a while now but still seem to be very popular.

Here is a small selection, many more are available with new ones on the horizon.



*R. gallica versicolor* also known as  
Rosa Mundi (found before 1581)  
a pink blend with stripes. Strong fragrance  
Large, semi-double blooms (9-16 petals)  
Once-blooming spring or summer.

Ferdinand Pichard - Hybrid Perpetual

Pink, crimson stripes Moderate fragrance

Medium, semi-double to double 25 petals,  
borne mostly solitary, in small clusters,  
cupped bloom form

Bred by Rémi Tanne (France, before 1921)





Brushstrokes ([GUEscour](#))

Floribunda - Yellow and red, stripes

Mild fragrance Full blooms (40 petals)

Bred by [Maurice Guest](#) (UK 1999)



Hanky Panky (WEKtorcent)

Floribunda - Orange and white, stripes

Mild, apple fragrance

Large blooms double (17-25 petals)

Bred by Tom Carruth (United States, 2000)



Rock & Roll (WEKgobnez)

Grandiflora, Hybrid Tea

Striped and splashed burgundy, red & white

Strong, fruity, rose fragrance. Full bloom (35 petals)

Bred by Tom Carruth (United States, 2006)





Please try to attend our AGM

**The Rose** A  
**Society** G  
M

The 2023 AGM is on  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April

The 6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of The Rose Society UK

Will take place at;

11am, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in St Michael's Church Hall, Pelsall, WS3 4JN

The hall will be open at 10.30am when drinks will be available

A light buffet lunch will be provided at 1.00pm

From 1.45pm onwards will have an illustrated talk by



Gillian Taylor

on

**“For The Love of Roses”**

Tea, coffee and cake will then round off the day and time for an informal chat with your fellow members

Please let us know if you will be coming so that we arrange catering

We appreciate that it will be impossible for many of you to make

BUT please let us know if you plan to attend by

phone on 01394 670519 or 07867973229

or email at [info@therosesociety.org.uk](mailto:info@therosesociety.org.uk)



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