

The Rose Times

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SPRING 2023

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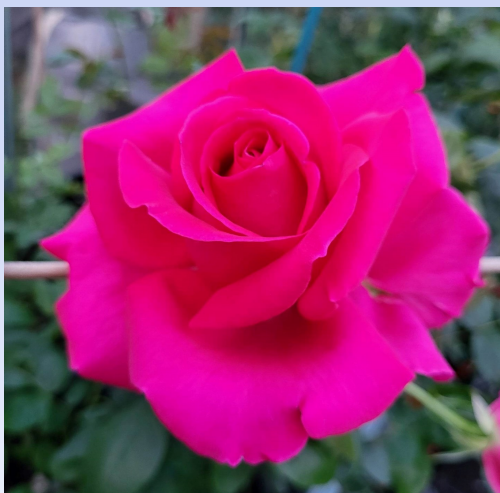
We should always remember
Dean Samuel Hole's words . . .

"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 2011 introduced hybrid tea by Gareth Fryer

“All My Loving”

available from Fryers Roses, Peter Beales Roses and a good garden centre near you!

From the Secretary

As I mentioned in the previous email, we (I) am very late with this edition of The Rose Times. In my defence, I have been waiting for a couple of pieces and of course, we've been very busy. Malvern Spring Show was a successful event with our stand awarded another RHS Gold Medal and our little rose show for greenhouse grown rose. Sadly, little is the correct word as we are getting fewer and fewer members who are prepared to try a few potted roses in their greenhouses and join in the fun of the show. More of that later in this edition.



We report on the AGM that was held in April. Another smallish affair but we do appreciate that AGMs are not everyone's cup of tea. But we do actually offer a cup of tea! And cakes, and a light finger buffet. And entertainment. I hope that all those who attended, had a good day with the chance to meet our rose friends. Obviously travel is getting expensive these days and we appreciate travelling to an AGM can be difficult. However, we are obliged to have an AGM and an 'in person' meeting is we believe the best way to do it. We'll plan to have next year's AGM in April 2024 at the same location in Pelsall which is as central a venue as we can find.

The Spring Season wouldn't be the same without the Chelsea Flower Show. Love or loathe it, the show is part of our gardening calendar and our roving reporter Daniel was at hand to mix with the stars again and send us some videos via Facebook live from the show. Daniel's report is on page 29

The 15th International Heritage Rose Conference is being held from 5th - 9th June 2023 in Brussels, Belgium. I understand that several of our members are planning to attend this World Federation of Rose Societies event. We will feature a report in our next Rose Times in August.

We have been invited by The National Trust to attend their Rose Monograph event on 14th - 16th June at Mottisfont Abbey and Hinton Ampner. The purpose of the event is to give

the Trust staff some hands on rose knowledge and experience that will hopefully translate to their many gardens around the UK. Over 100 of the Trust staff are scheduled to attend the event which will include lectures delivered by some of the countries leading rosarians



Neil Duncan - 2022 Dean Hole
Challenge winner
picture Mike Thompson

and, for fun, the Trust gardeners are asked to enter a rose show. We have been asked to help set the show up and there's no one better than our National Champion, Neil Duncan who will be on hand during set up, to assist and advise the gardeners how best to enter the roses that they bring. It is a fun event but I'm certain there will be a competitive edge between the different Trust gardens. On the Wednesday evening Michael Marriott will be delivering the keynote speech at a dinner for all attendees.



Michael Marriott

Our summer rose festival will take place once again at Squires Garden Centre in Shepperton. Hosted once

again by our President Colin Squire OBE DHM.

We would really love to have as many members join us at the event on 24th and 25th June. Whilst we appreciate that 'exhibiting' is not for everyone; we do have some really easy classes at our shows. Putting a few blooms cut from your garden into the show can make such a difference. You never know, if you try it just once, you may find you enjoy it! More details later in this edition.

Our Summer Event at Whartons Roses and Peter Beales Roses in Norfolk is an event that I'm really looking forward to. Whartons produce over 1.5 million bare root and potted roses to UK garden centres and nurseries. The quality of their product is first class and their facilities are superb. The rose fields will be at their magnificent best on Saturday 29th July as we get a chance to tour them. A cooked lunch at a nearby Pennoyer Centre and then an afternoon of talks and discussion - details in this edition. On the Sunday we are invited to visit Peter Beales Roses in Attleborough for a guided tour of the rose garden and, I believe, a recreation of their Chelsea stand. All details on page 21

We still need more input from you, the members; with your roses now starting to burst forth, what better time to send us your thoughts and pictures. You know the address!

Ray Martin

info@therosesociety.org.uk

The Chairmans Notes

Visitors to John's garden in early summer will know why his column should really be called

John's Rosy Ramblings

I began my notes in February commenting on the weather variations of the winter and still the pattern continues as I'm writing now in late May. We are still experiencing the variable temperatures of our changing climate. These seem to be alternating with long dry spells followed by very wet times. Looking back at my records I note my roses are about 10 days later than 2022. I grow about 50 pots of roses in my greenhouse for the Society Spring competition at Malvern in May. Fortunately, this year the date was a week later because of the Kings Coronation, Had the event been week earlier I would have had very few blooms. Such are vagaries of growing roses in UK, for sure the extra week of growing was of great benefit for my entries.



The Rose season for me begins at the Malvern Spring Festival by promoting the Society with an Information and Educational stand. We were awarded an RHS Gold medal as you may be aware and reported elsewhere. I enjoyed working on the Build-up, spending time there, meeting with members and generally giving advice on rose cultivation.

The successful medal award came as a result of the hard work by Ray and Pauline with their talent for presentation.

This year it became with quite a trauma for on arriving at our site the stand had not been constructed due to an oversight by event staff. Following a few embarrassing conversations, the staff built the stand with a lot of help from Ray and John McCarthy in record time. In the event we were two hours late beginning to stage, but the result was there for all to see, for we were rewarded with the Gold Medal a great team effort!

I must add that after all upsets of the day setting up the stand Ray and Pauline went about staging their own exhibits when they became Spring champions. Their miniature basket of 'Irresistible' was outstanding, being awarded the Silver medal for Best Exhibit in Show. All in all, a happy Society event.

I was pleased to see good turnout for the AGM on 23rd April, for Annual meetings aren't always popular. At the meeting Steve Durham took over the role of Society Treasurer and I know he now is busy changing our bank account authority.

Daniel is chairing a new breeder's group when the funds and some activities of the former

Amateur Rose Breeders Association (ARBA) are transferred to the society. Daniel is keen on the current Rosa Persica breeding programme and I'm sure his enthusiasm will be beneficial to the society's activities.

Personally, I have never found time to make rose breeding crosses myself. However, in 2021 I picked some seed off 'Show me Dancing', being open pollinated seed pods from my garden. After germination I moved them into 1 ltr pots last autumn and as the pictures show there are two pots of interesting purple/lilac coloured seedlings which appear healthy, so I intend grow them on.



two of John's seedlings

The roses in my garden do seem to have put a spurt on now but were a bit reluctant to grow until the current spell of warmer dry weather came about. Now we are crying out for rain here in the West Midlands. Why is it that gardeners and in particular Rosarians are always complaining about the growing conditions?

The some of the early flowering Ramblers and climbers are starting to put on a show now with 'Pompom de Paris' flowering well and 'Alberic Barbier' showing good colour over my entrance gate. Of the climbers on the trellis Sutter's Gold and Alibaba are beginning flowering now.



John's welcoming Albéric Barbier
climbing the entrance gate

The society has events planned during the summer months where we can meet. The weekend visit to Whartons and Peter Beales roses in late July will be a good opportunity. Details appear elsewhere in the newsletter; also, a further opportunity will be the members day and show at Pelsall on Sunday 23rd July

Happy Rose growing

John Anthony



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

Reports on his WFRS Convention Trip

DOWN UNDER

PART ONE

Delving into historical manuscripts confirms that the natural geographical spread of the *genus rosa* lies in the Northern Hemisphere regions of the world. Although there are no rose species indigenous in South Hemisphere countries, mankind travelled extensively bearing plant material, and by the 1820’s the rose graced its presence on the shores of Australia. For a nation renowned for such diverse and rich natural heritage which contains



Chris Warner’s
For Your Eyes Only in Adelaide

huge plains; vast sub-tropical territories and distinctive wildlife such as kangaroos, snakes and cuddly koalas – I was wildly curious to discover how the rose has progressed over the past two centuries. As soon as I stepped onto Australian soil, I became aware that the detrimental effects of global warming seemed apparent. During the previous summer, the country had experienced extreme hot temperatures subsequent drought and devastating bush fires. This was evident during sightseeing tours around the remote charred foothills that surround the

landscape. My visit towards the end of October 2022, was to conduct my duties as Executive Director of the World Federation of Rose Societies at the 19th World Rose



International Rose Garden
Adelaide



Rose Arches
in Adelaide



Perfume Perfection

Bred by Dr. Keith W. Zary

Convention being held in Adelaide. It was springtime, where traditionally, this fine city experiences sunnier climes and increasingly warm temperatures. However, the skyline remained grey with unseasonably low temperatures, and frequent showers. Undeterred and full of my usual enthusiasm, I joined other likeminded rosarians. Armed with a brolly, camera and notebook we headed off to our rose filled adventures in Aus.

One of the highlights was visiting the Adelaide Botanic Garden and Herbarium, which nestles in the heart of the city, and was opened to the public on 4th October 1857. Over the years, the site has experienced eight directors, the construction and demolition of many buildings and the constant arrival of many rare and interesting horticultural treasures. In many respects, it reflects other prestigious



Cliff Richard

Bred by Van Geest



Brush Strokes

Bred by Richard and Ruth Walsh

botanical collections, such as England's Kew Gardens. Features include a Australian Native Garden, Dahlia Garden and a Mediterranean Garden, where many of the cultivars are able to conserve water, and therefore tolerate dry conditions. The garden contains excellent plantings of jasmine, bougainvillea, solanum and a stunning collection of succulents. As I wandered through the garden, I discovered the diversity, resilience and beauty of these plants. Although impressive, I was exciting about seeing the roses maintained by the team of on-site gardeners'.

The 1.5 hectare Adelaide International Rose Garden opened in the year 2000. As I entered the garden, which contains over 2,700 bushes and more than 350 different rose cultivars, it became apparent that the roses are planted in groups, such as Tea roses, Bourbon roses, Noisette roses, Hybrid Perpetuals and ramblers. The sound structure and design includes a circular garden, sunken garden and several graceful pergolas; which act in perfect visual harmony to the adjacent Bicentennial Conservatory. Mixed companion plantings give extra visual

impact and additional colour throughout the season, especially during the dark days of winter. It soon became apparent on how the rose has successfully adapted to the Australian climate, and how it has progressed by the wizardry of the hybridisers. I stumbled upon some impressive striped coloured cultivars. In the past, I've never been overly keen with stripes roses – but seeing these types has made me seriously reconsider their merits and attributes. Obviously, the breeders have worked extremely hard to produce such amazing types. One Australian variety named 'La Fillette' commanded my attention. I was literally bowled over by vibrant and breath-taking blooms! Other cultivars which I revelled in were: 'Ringlet', 'Nellie Neil', 'Maurice Uille', 'Grimaldi', 'Claude Monet', 'Henri Matisse' and the stunning Australian variety, 'Shirley's Rose'. In 2004, Sir Cliff Richard visited the site to be greeted by a large group of excited fans whom had assembled in the heart of the garden. He ceremonially planted a UK bred variety named in his honour, whose sales raised monies for a charity organisation. It was also great to see immense plantings of Chris Warner's variety, 'For Your Eyes Only' looking so vibrant and healthy.



Australian Beauty

Bred by Bruce Brundrett

The National Rose Trial garden was created in 1996. It is reputed to be the first of its kind in the country, where the bushes are tested for their suitability for Australian climates. This was a joint venture between the Botanic Garden, the National Rose Society of Australia and the rose industry. The roses are usually assessed by a panel of ten experienced rosarians, who judge them over a period of two seasons. The results are then publicly announced at the end of the trial and awards are subsequently granted. I felt honoured



Ringlet

Bred by Alister Clark



Nelly Neil

Bred by George Dawson



Judging the National Trial Garden

English roses, and a host of vibrantly striped cultivars that would certainly add a sense of drama to any garden! I enjoyed every minute of it. At the end of our deliberations, we had the pleasure of attending the annual NRTGA Awards Ceremony and Cocktail Party, where new varieties are granted highly acclaimed awards from the National Rose Society of Australia. I was absolutely delighted to observe that a number of recipients were of amateur rose breeder status.

The City of Adelaide was established as a new British Colony in 1836, and was named in honour of the Queen Consort of King William IV. She married William in July 1818, that formed part of the strategy to secure the British succession of the Royal family. During my tour around the rose garden, a splendid new memorial sculpture of Queen Adelaide was unveiled to an enthusiastic large group of visitors. It depicts Queen Adelaide clutching her rose; and the statue is graciously encompassed by the white 'Queen Adelaide Rose,' which was launched by Meiland Roses in 1983.



Queen Adelaide sculpture

In the next edition, I visit a garden which is tantalisingly rather English, meet dignitaries with Royal significance and revel in the sheer beauty and fragrance of the blooms at the National Rose Show hosted by the National Rose Society of Australia.

Derek Lawrence



Website shop

Please don't forget to visit our web shop

We sell all kinds of society branded merchandise including polo shirts, sweat shirts, fleeces, jackets and hoodies. New items will be included shortly including bodywarmers, caps and beany hats.

Our range of organic rose growing products including, Uncle Toms Rose Tonic, MycorrPlus and Sulphur products are all available to order on-line. We'll also be launching our own brand of liquid feed to supplement Uncle Toms to ensure healthy, happy roses!

Click on [THIS LINK](#) or use the QR code to go straight to the shop



As you can tell from the lateness of this newsletter, our meagre human resources are stretched to breaking point BUT we will be adding more content to our Members Area as soon as we can.

Registering for the members area is easy.

Pick an easy User name, like a name and initial such as Rose S

Then choose a memorable password such as your road name Langer

and you're all set. Any problems? Email Ray on info@therosesociety.org.uk



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

The Trials and Tribulations of Rose Breeding (Part 2)

I make most of my crosses between mid- May to late June (usually finishing up around June 21st). This allows plenty of time for the hips to set seed and ripen. Inevitably some crosses won't succeed due to stale pollen, cool temperatures, damage to the pistils when making the cross and due to dull, damp conditions at times in the greenhouse.



Seedlings start appearing in the benches

After a few weeks you notice the hips swelling and growing. The hips on some varieties ripen more quickly than others and this is why I leave the hips on for anything between sixteen and twenty weeks. I have very little scientific knowledge and when the hips are red or orange and I take them off. I have

found that yellow varieties tend to take the longest to ripen.

There are several ways of dealing with the seed once you harvest the hips. The "Golden Rule" is to take the seeds from hips asap. It is believed that rose seeds need a cold period before they will ripen. Many breeders put the harvested seeds in a fridge for anything from six to eight weeks before sowing them. This is a must in places like Australia, New Zealand and USA where the climate is warmer than in Northern Europe. Breeders then sow the seed in trays and wait for germination before transferring the seeds to benches. Others sow directly into the benches once they take the seeds from the fridge.

My method is to immediately sow my seeds directly into my benches. I was advised to do this by Sam McGredy as he believed the climate in Ireland was cold enough, even in a greenhouse to give the seeds a nice cold spell. IT WORKS FOR ME. My benches are 7' (210cms) long by 3' (90cms) wide (photo attached). I use a mixture of a peat based potting and seed compost with Osmocote added for fertiliser. I will have to change the compost as peat will no longer be available. I only use heat at night in Spring when frost is forecast. This year I have had a disaster due to the very cold nights in April and not leaving the heater on. This stopped nutrition getting to the young plants and consequently many seedlings died and others were set back in growth. I have tried to fix the problem with foliar feeding and things have improved.

When the seedlings start to bloom selection begins. This is the most critical period for the



breeder as one must decide what to keep and what to discard. I look for good clear, strong colours, novel, different colours and good growth. Each day the best looking seedlings are marked and the others are pulled out to give the "goodies" room to grow and show their true colours. From the 3,000-4,000 seedlings I select

around 100 and in July/early August I bud three each on to Laxa root stocks.

The following year the seedlings are tested outdoors and the fun usually begins. Outside a whole different criterion is used to select and judge the seedlings. That's for the next time.

Dave Kenny

Sláinte

John Baxter

We were saddened to hear recently of the passing of John Baxter.

John was Treasurer of ARBA when they closed last year and had served the Association well in that role for many years. John's involvement in roses came about due to his late wife Elizabeth's love of roses.

Since her passing, John was a familiar and much loved figure at rose events both here in the UK and further abroad with the WFRS.

Our condolences to John's family and friends. We will greatly miss John's cheery appearance at future Rose Society UK events.



The Rose Society UK - Rose Breeders Group

One of John's last tasks as Treasurer of ARBA was to transfer the remaining funds from the ARBA account to The Rose Society UK.

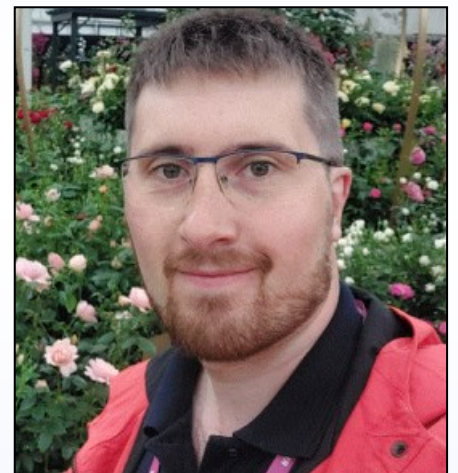
At the recent AGM (see page??) Daniel Myhill was elected as Chair of the Rose Breeders Group. Daniel's remit is to manage the ringfenced ARBA funds and, with a small committee, promote and encourage rose breeding in the UK.

Future events, publications, tutorials and news will appear on the Society website on this link; [Rose breeders group - The Rose Society UK](#)

The fantastic work and legacy of the UK's 'amateur' breeders must continue.

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

daniel@therosesociety.org.uk



The AGM 2023

The fifth AGM of the Society was held at Pelsall on 16th April.

35 members attended our annual event where the main business of the day in the morning was followed by an entertaining illustrated talk by Gillian Taylor.

The most important news from the day was announcing the retirement of our Office Administrator, John Godward. Running the office for the Society for the last four years has been invaluable and we are going to miss his hard work on behalf of the Society.

We have not been able to find a replacement for John and have decided that we must redefine our officers roles to enable the 'slack' to be picked up without compromising the running of the Society or overburdening any one officer.

The Treasurer's role will now include all day-to-day financial updates to our Club Treasurer account and will be more 'hands on'.

The Membership Secretary role will now include receipt and management of all new and renewing memberships.

After two years in the Treasurer role Daniel Myhill has decided that he will stand down as Treasurer due to his work and personal commitments now that the Treasurer's role will be more demanding. In his absence Daniel was thanked for the work he has done whilst in position in charge of the society finances which are in a good position.

Daniel's Treasurer's Financial statement can be seen in full in the website Member's Area.

Steve Durham has agreed to take on the Treasurer role and in Daniel's absence showed the attending members the Financial statement. Steve was unanimously elected as Society Treasurer.

Liam Beddall is the society's Membership Secretary and is prepared to carry on in the role, and is happy with the increased demands on his position. He was unanimously elected as Society Membership Secretary.

All other Society officers were re-elected.

The closing of ARBA has been reported previously and The Rose

Society UK is now custodian of the remaining ARBA funds. We have agreed to use the funds which will be ringfenced, to help promote and encourage rose breeding in the UK. To manage the fund, arrange events, produce publications, update and report on the Society website the Committee that a sub committee and Chair should be added to our constitution. At the AGM Daniel Myhill was elected unanimously as Breeders Group Chair. Daniel has agreed to form his committee and update the membership.

An important feature of our AGM is to present our Society awards.



Treasurer - Steve Durham

Honours Chair Derek Lawrence's reveal of the 2023 Dean Hole Medal recipient was met with great approval as Michael Marriott was announced. Unfortunately Michael was unable to attend the AGM and we have managed to fix a date to present him with this most prestigious of awards. Derek and Colin Squire will attend the National Trust Rose Monograph in June after Michael delivers his keynote speech at the event. I have spoken to Michael and he is honoured to be this year's recipient, we will take photographs, hopefully have some press coverage and I'm certain Michael will respond in the next Society newsletter.

Derek also announced the Gold and Silver Tudor Rose award winners which Vice President Chris Warner presented on the day.

Gold Tudor Rose Award;



Ray Martin and Pauline Martin

Derek read the citations and Chris presented the awards which we were honoured and a little embarrassed to receive.



Silver Tudor Rose Award;



Jim Anderson

Maurice Guest

Ronnie Rawlins

David Kenny

Derek and the Honours Committee chose amateur breeders as three of this year's recipients of the Silver Tudor Rose Award and a very deserving, hard working rosarian;

Maurice Guest has produced and continues to produce many roses that are in commerce today.

Ronnie Rawlins also has many of his creations available to today's rose gardener but his early work in the development of the Persica hybrids and his generous support of The Rose Society UK makes him a very worthy winner

Dave Kenny is a renowned and very successful amateur breeder. His roses regularly winning awards at rose trials across the World of roses. A member of ARBA and editor of its Annual until its close. A worthy recipient of the Silver Award.

The fourth Silver Tudor Rose Award winner was James (Jim) Anderson. Jim has been an active rosarian for over forty years. A regular exhibitor at RNRS, Rose Society UK and numerous regional shows. Jim is a certified rose judge and (with wife Carole) can often be found helping set up and clear down the Society stands at the shows. Our congratulations to these worthy winners.



Jim Anderson receives his award from Vice President Chris Warner



Maurice Guest receives his award from Vice President Chris Warner

Dave Kenny who could not attend the AGM will be presented with his award at a summer event and Ronnie Rawlins who was also unable to travel to the AGM had a surprise visit from Jim Anderson who presented Ronnie with his award



Jim Anderson kindly agreed to travel to Huddersfield to present Ronnie Rawlins with his Silver Tudor Rose Award

As you can see, Ronnie was thrilled with his award was typically humble in wondering what he'd done to deserve his recognition

Jim was equally thrilled by the array of jam tarts and biscuits that Ronnie's wife Marlene laid on.

Thanks Jim, for making Ronnie's day and thanks Ronnie for your dedication to roses and your support of the Rose Society UK

Derek Lawrence's full citations can be seen on the Society website

And finally from the AGM awards, Derek Lawrence announced this year's recipient of the Society's most prestigious award;

The Dean Hole Medal

Michael Marriott, DHM

Michael Marriott is a distinguished and highly respected rosarian on global proportions. On graduating from the University of Reading in 1976, he worked in the world's Pacific regions growing such crops of cocoa, rubber and palm oil. But underneath his absolute passion was for the rose, and decided to seek a career in pursuit of his aspirations.

In 1985, he joined David Austin Roses. During his highly successful 35 year tenure at the Company, he worked closely and supported the late Mr. David Austin, whose wizardry created more than 230 modern English roses. In recognition for his exceptional work, Michael was appointed as Technical Manager and Senior Rosarian. His in depth knowledge and experience of English roses has made him an accomplished lecturer and author.

In recent years, Michael revised and fully updated David Austin's classic book, "English Roses" and of late, the Royal Horticultural Society's Inspirational Rose Guide, which has become a best seller, and testimony to his rose prowess.

Michael Marriott's wisdom and talented skills have made him an exceptional garden designer, not just within the British Isles, but abroad. His work can be admired at Windsor Castle, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Queen Mary's Rose Garden in Regent's Park, Hampton Court Palace, Princess Grace Rose Garden, Monaco, New York Botanical Garden, the David Austin garden in Japan and the Expo Rose Garden in Korea. There are numerous private gardens where his design skills have been cleverly defined amongst the many roses that now grace these sites.

He is an advocate of organic gardening and environmentally conscious. Notably he has advised His Majesty the King on his organic endeavours at his Highgrove estate, in Gloucestershire.

Michael has been described as "one of the world's leading rose experts". I am certain that Reverend Dean Hole would've been highly impressed by Michael's selfless determination, motivation, professionalism and devotion. In essence, Michael Marriott has all the exceptional qualities and ingrained beliefs that Dean Hole nurtured long ago.

He is a worthy recipient of the Dean Hole Medal; which truly exemplifies his outstanding work ethic to enhance our remarkable planet with the sheer beauty, infinite charms and divine fragrance of the rose.

Derek Lawrence

Chairman of the Honours Committee

The Rose Society UK

Michael will be presented with his medal by President Colin Squire OBE DHM at the National Trust Rose Monograph event on Wednesday 14th June

From My Inbox

Searching for Clare Grammerstorf

Dear Ray,

I hope you can help me in what to me is an important quest. I have

added a number of roses to my collection over the last few years and most of the

ones I like best owe a lot to Clare to the extent that I really want one in my garden.

I have searched in all the obvious places with no luck and am hoping you can help

with your extensive knowledge and number of contacts.

Regards Jim Rusk

Whilst I'd certainly question my extensive knowledge, I'm more confident that our members may be able to help?

Please email info@therosesociety.org.uk if you can help in any way



On a successful note

Beverley Sayers, our member in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, has been on a mission recently to rediscover the rose variety named after his home county, **'City of Gloucester'**.

Well, the story has a happy ending as Bev has managed to secure some cutting material and now has some cuttings growing at home. We caught up with Bev when he visited our stand at Malvern and discussed ways to get a few of the variety budded for him to share with fellow 'Glostonians'. That said, I recall the rose being quite a shapely hybrid tea in its day and much favoured by exhibitors; so maybe one could find its way back onto the show benches. The rose was bred in 1970 by John (Jim) Sanday of Almondsbury near Bristol. Saffron- yellow blooms on a 3 foot bush, it is a cross between *Gavotte* and *Buccaneer*.

The more senior of our members will also recall Jim's other noteworthy varieties, *Gavotte* and *Fred Gibson* both popular show winners in their day. I budded a couple of *Gavotte* last year and hope to get a bloom or two from them this year. I understand that Bev also has *Fred Gibson*.



This image of City of Gloucester was taken by our friend and society member Cliff Orent in California. The colour isn't quite as I remember it but the quality of the bloom is undeniable. The full story of the quest for *City of Gloucester* can be seen at;

[The Quest for City of Gloucester](#)

Another 'desperately seeking rosa' enquiry came via Colin Dickson

Hello

I'm very much hoping that you can assist me in locating a particular rose. I've just spoken to Dickson Roses who started breeding the rose many years ago but have now stopped and they suggested I contacted you and ask for the help of a Mr. Ray Martin and maybe he could put out a search online for anyone who still sells it or maybe someone who has one and I could possibly take a cutting from.

The rose is called PEEK A BOO it would mean a great deal to me if you could possibly help in any way, I would very much appreciate it.

Thank you

Regards

Amanda Waldron

Any info or suggestions? Please send to me or directly to amandajane47today@gmail.com

Our rose sleuth, Brian Schofield also regularly gets all kinds of rose enquiries and requests which is a job can that can take time and perseverance. Keep up the good work Brian.

You can contact Brian at;



click the microscope
for email

The Trials of a Rose

It's vitally important that new rose varieties are tested and trialled before being released on an unsuspecting British public! We are very fortunate to have three trials running in the UK to do just that; in Glasgow at Tollcross Park, in Belfast at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park and at Rochford's International Rose Trial in Hertford. Look out for all results of trial winners because these are the varieties that we're sure will flourish in your gardens.



The 35th year of the trials will be held at Tollcross Park, Glasgow in 2023 but sadly there will be no International Judging Day this year due to a clash of dates with the City Council. The rose results will be published when we have them. Our Vice Chair Iain Silver will keep us posted on all developments



Belfast City Council in conjunction with the Rose Society of Northern Ireland will be once again running their rose trials in Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park and International Rose Garden in 2023.

The International Judging Day will be held on 14th July 2023



Rochfords International Rose Trials



will be trialling new roses again this year We'll keep you up-to-date with all the results

The International Judging Day is on Friday 11th August

Full details of how you can visit or judge at the trials from Rebecca;

roses@rochfords.net



Members Rose Weekend

At Whartons Roses
and Peter Beales



**Now is the time to book your space for
Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th July 2023**

A weekend of rose delight

Saturday 29th 10:00am - Meet and greet, introductions a cup of tea or coffee and a welcome to Whartons Roses
 10.30pm - The Rose Fields - all attendees will be guided (some transport available - ask for details) around the rose fields which should be in full bloom
 12:00pm - Move onto the Pennymore Centre for a two course lunch
 14.00pm - Afternoon programme of speakers;

Talk One

The Whartons staff will explain exactly what it takes to produce quality rose plants for the UK rose market. From mapping the fields, planting the briars, preparing and budding, plant care, lifting and bare root sales, potting and distribution and trialing new varieties

Talk Two

Our second speaker is a real treat! Martin Stott was a journalist for 20 years. He made programmes for the BBC World Service and Radio 4 in 21 countries and has written for most of the UK's national press. Martin is passionate about roses and garden history in general, he has also written for Gardens Illustrated and the Historic Roses Journal. He is a particular fan of Dean Reynolds Hole, the Nottinghamshire vicar who founded the National Rose Society. Martin will give us an insight into the life and roses of the man that Lord Tennyson dubbed, 'The Rose King' with his talk

"The Humour of Dean Hole"

Additionally, there will be the chance to discuss the upcoming ban on peat based products for the home user. Whartons are currently moving their operation to peat-free pot roses growing in preparation for the upcoming trade use ban.

The facilities at Whartons are truly second to none and we are very lucky to be given access and to be hosted by Whartons who are tremendous supporters of The Rose Society UK



Day 2 - Sunday 30th July

10.30am We have arranged for a guided tour by Simon White of the World Famous Peter Beales Rose Garden and Garden Centre in Attleborough, Norfolk. Peter Beales Roses are serial Gold medal winners at Chelsea Flower Show and Simon will be on hand to explain how it all comes together and to show you some of the roses that are growing in the garden.

The rest of the day is yours to;

- Shop for roses
- Enjoy a meal in the Rosarium Restaurant

Just sit relax and chat amongst the roses

Members price of just £35 per person - includes both days and two course lunch on Saturday (menu choices available on booking)

OR £45 PER PERSON FOR non members (remember it's just £10 to join! Single and Double membership)

Why not make it a weekend break? Need accommodation?

We have negotiated a preferential booking rate at The Holiday Inn in Ipswich Road, Norwich NR4 6EP, just a few miles up the road from both venues.

A room rate of £129 can be booked by calling the reservation team on; 0333 209343 and ask for Johanne - please quote **RS2** and *The Rose Society UK*
The rooms reservation will be on offer until 16th June 2023

If you have any questions about arrangements or details for the weekend please email;
daniel@therosesociety.otg.uk
pauline@therosesociety.org.uk
or call Pauline on 07867973214

Don't wait - book your place today

Pauline's Patter



We have held one national show in Malvern and are now looking forward to our main event at Squires Garden Centre Shepperton. The Summer Rose Festival hosted by Squires incorporates our national summer show. We look forward to welcoming exhibitors from all over the UK. I expect to see many beautiful roses grown by our best amateur growers.



Chawton Cottage

Over the past few years my shows committee have worked hard to adjust and amend the schedules to make the classes attractive to both experienced growers and those who may only have one bloom.

All our shows are free to enter for members and schedules are available on the website or as a hard copy if you contact me, I'll send you one. pauline@therosesociety.org.uk All vases, bowls and baskets are provided so all you need is your roses. There will be plenty of us around to help you enter and

give advice. Do come along and support the show. I just need to know you are coming with a rough idea of what you intend to enter – no need to decide on classes until you arrive.

I know many of our members grow classic type rose such as the Austin or old garden type. We have a number of classes that you could enter your roses in. The show is not just for perfect HT blooms. Contact me for a chat if you think you'd like to try exhibiting.

If you are unable to come to Shepperton why not think about coming to our one-day show at Pelsall in the Midlands on 23rd July. This is a smaller show which is very informal and where you can sit and chat



Open Arms

to other rose enthusiasts. We give everyone a free cream tea and lunch for exhibitors. Judges assessments, both practical and theory can take place at Pelsall if there is demand.

Anyone who would like to become a qualified National Rose judge please contact me. There are often opportunities to shadow experienced judges at our shows.

That's enough about shows – lets talk about super roses that I would recommend as good garden roses. There are far too many to mention them all but the following are some that I have grown and would recommend.



Rosarium Uetersen

Secret Smile – Floribunda by Dicksons – Floriferous and healthy

Timeless Purple – Healthy – a great cut rose and fragrant

Chawton Cottage – A reliable short climber – persica type rose with an eye.

Summertime – A lemon yellow Chris Warner patio climber

Open Arms – In my opinion the best miniature climber – covered in apple blossom-coloured flowers from top to bottom.

The Pilgrim – Lovely soft yellow with white edge

A Whiter Shade of Pale – Strong fragrance pale pink floribunda.

Buff Beauty - bred by Pemberton in .. a lovely apricot shrub that will make a stunning hedge.

For your Eyes Only – a very healthy persica type rose that will make a good hedge – no fragrance and not good for cutting

Rosarium Uetersen – My favourite climber – will grow to around 8' fluorescent salmon pink English rose type blooms on super healthy foliage.

Pauline Martin



Summertime

Everyone can be an exhibitor

. don't just swipe past please!

We must make it absolutely clear that our society is not “Just about rose shows”. However. The National Rose Society began life in 1876 in a very different world. Rose growing enjoyed boom years and everyone grew and very many exhibited their roses in a way to share with the public their favourite flower. Today’s world of instant gardening and social media is very different although as can be clearly seen on TV on the Chelsea coverage and also from our efforts at Malvern and Newby Hall; the public still love a flower show and flock in their thousands to see them. Our Facebook Group is very popular and in the coming weeks will be awash with everyone’s rose photographs and that is brilliant BUT yes there is always a BUT; coming to a rose show as an exhibitor or as a visitor is simply different.

We see at every show, the joy and enthusiasm that people get when they see the exhibits. It’s good for the soul! The visitors don’t always agree with the judges; they’re looking at the roses from their perspective. And that’s fine.

Encouraging our members to have a go at showing is a many sided coin; of course we want more exhibits on the bench, that’s a given, but we’ve seen first-time exhibitors win a prize (maybe not a first, maybe not even a second) but the pleasure of achievement is clear to see. Then they want to improve!

You don’t have to be Neil Duncan to have a go either. We’d obviously love to have three four or even more Neil Duncans (his wife Paula might disagree) but you really only need a

couple of roses and the don't need to be 'show roses' to enter our shows these days. In fact any of the roses Pauline recommended above, would be perfect for the floating and simple classes. As we've shown on our website and on Facebook, we have some really easy-to-enter classes; a simple rose floating in a glass; a rose in a picture frame; a small bouquet of roses in a picture frame. There are many classes that are fun and easy to enter. We're honestly not "All about exhibiting" but anyone who's ever put in an entry will have seen how much fun it can be.



A bloom floating in a bowl



A bloom in a frame

We provide all the bowls, frames and vases and we'll even show you how to do it on the day. So don't be intimidated, scared or in any way reluctant. We want our shows to continue, we need more members to share their roses. Oh yes, it's good for the soul too!

That's it, advert over; but if you have any interest, please contact our shows manager;

pauline@therosesociety.org.uk

SHOW EXTRA

DID YOU MISS

SHOW EXTRA

Daniel Myhill's talk on Persica Roses

Come to Squires Shepperton on Sunday 25th June and he'll be doing it LIVE!

MIDDAY in the Orangery - FREE !!



Saturday 10 June 2023 • 10am-6pm • Windsor Great Park SL4 2BS

Download a schedule here; <https://8izeefoq2w5.typeform.com/to/DmfNRoO5>

This is not a Rose Society UK show but we'll be there with our advice bureau,
why not drop by and say hello?

Do Not Miss

The Rose Society UK Summer Rose Festival

24 and 25th June 2023

Show Opens at Midday Saturday and

All day on Sunday

Admission FREE

Rose Show, Jazz Band and did we mention ROSES

Come with your roses - Come and see roses

Support Our shows - Support the Society

Wonderful News

We have just received confirmation that Adam Frost has agreed to become a Patron of The Rose Society UK.

You will all know Adam of course from his appearances on Gardener's World and other programmes on TV but it was a while back that Adam first came to our attention. One of his first jobs when he started his landscaping business was a commission from the now defunct RNRS. Adam was tasked with making the large beds of roses more accessible and I think it was fair to say that the improvements he made, with new paths and walkways,



Sarah Squire welcomes Adam to Squires Garden Centre in Milford

Image courtesy of Squires Garden Centres

meant that the gardens at the final closing, never looked better and importantly; we were able to get right in and see the roses. What a tragedy when the gates were closed for the last time in 2017.

Since then of course Adam has gone onto bigger and better things, with garden design, Chelsea gardens and a place on the nation's favourite gardening programme as one of its most popular presenters.

Adam was doing his stuff last Saturday at Squires Garden Centre in Milford where he was greeted by Squires MD (and Rose Society UK super supporter) Sarah Squire. Feedback, as you would expect was excellent as Adam entertained the visitors and passed on his passion for gardening.

I've always believed that anyone who gets mud on the knees of his jeans and compost on his hands and under his nails, is my kind of gardener.

A warm welcome to the Rose Society UK Adam, let's hope we can do great things together in the future.

RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023

It is always a pleasure to be at the Chelsea Flower Show and see some of the finest roses in the Great Pavilion! David Austin Roses, Peter Beales Roses and Harkness Roses were all present, with each nursery launching new roses at the show, as is the custom. The introductions are available as bareroots from this autumn – so if you want one, I'd suggest getting your order in quick as some are likely to be very popular!

David Austin Roses:

Austin's excelled again with their 27th Gold Medal for their stand in the Pavilion, which was full to the brim with spectacular English roses. The colours were particularly intense this year (Photo 1). Austin's launched their new rose 'Dannahue®' (Photo 2) after The Black Gardener, Danny Clarke's birth name (Photo 3). The apricot rose is in Austin's signature English-style and has a wonderful fruity scent. It is acknowledged to be similar to some previous varieties, like the retired 'Jude the Obscure', but this new rose boasts better health. Austin's are recommending it for containers and shaded areas, giving it the versatility for use in urban, as well as cottage gardens. £10,000 from the sales of 'Dannahue®' will be donated to Grow2Know, a not for profit which Danny works with to reclaim London-based community outdoor spaces.



Austin stand showing intensity of colour



Dannahue® named after Danny Clarke

Peter Beales Roses

Beales also had success with their 28th Gold Medal for their stand with signature metal arches and obelisks smothered in blooms. They also had a potting shed draped with 'Paul's Himalayan Musk', 'Bobbie James' and a super-interesting specimen of *Rosa cymosa*. The smallest rose in the whole showground ally left a lasting impression on many who attended, including garden designer Ann-Marie Powell, who I bumped into at the pub post-show and exclaimed it the rose of the show! Tiny star-shaped flowers were like white jewels. It is generally once flowering, and only for a few short days, so it is horticultural



Photo 3 – Danny Clarke and Daniel Myhill

magic from Michael Baldwin at Beales to coax it to perfection for the show!

Beales introduced two new roses at the show – ‘*Louise Peel*’ and ‘*Beryl Felicia Manthrop*’. Beryl Felicia Manthrop was a beloved Norwich dance teacher who founded the Guildhall School of Dancing at just 18 in 1939 and continued to teach right up until her passing at 99 years old. This floribunda rose with elegant, semi-double apricot blooms honours her legacy. The rose is said to grow to 3ft.

‘*Louise Peel*’ is named in loving memory of a truly wonderful daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend whose life was cut short by Motor Neurone Disease. Her husband Marcus was at the show as Beales launched it alongside Carol Klein. I spent a long while talking with Marcus and its clear Louise was a special lady, who now has a special rose as her legacy. The rose has large, soft peach, double blooms with a fantastic scent. It will grow to about 4ft, repeat flower and be super healthy – as we expect with new rose introductions.

Harkness Roses:

Harkness came away with a Silver-Gilt medal for their stand showcasing their roses.

Harkness launched a massive FIVE roses at show including ‘*The Menopause Charity Rose*’, ‘*Sense and Sensibility*’, ‘*Dr. Susan Michaelis*’, ‘*Rosemary Day*’ and ‘*Margarette Golding*’. A brief review of each:

‘*The Menopause Charity Rose*’: For me, one of the best introductions at the show. The rose has light candy pink flowers exhibiting an English-style, with an absolutely phenomenal scent. The rose is worthy of a place in anyone’s garden on the scent alone! It looks to be a healthy, robust plant with sprays holding a



The Menopause Charity Rose

large number of blooms! £2.50 from the sale of each rose will help the said charity raise funds to develop online and live chat services, to provide vital support to women and people experiencing menopause symptoms. It will also ensure that family, friends, co-workers, employers and health care professionals have the information and resources to provide appropriate support. A worthy cause.

'Rosemary Day': The best rose introduction at the show? Well, for me I am always on the look out for the unusual and this stripey climbing rose fits the bill! The rose is named after Dr Rosemary Day, who was a passionate plants woman that served on the Board of Trustees for Plant Heritage from 2017, including as Vice Chair, who passed away in 2020. Discussing the plant's own heritage with Philip Harkness, its clear that *'Crazy For You'* forms part of its lineage. The flowers start coral pink in colour, opening up with all manner of stripes in deep scarlet and carmine. The climber will grow to about 2m and is said to be super healthy – I guess I best find a space for it!



Rosemary Day

'Sense and Sensibility': This rose forms part of Harkness's Jane Austin collection and is a repeat-flowering rambling rose. Its clear these roses are popular, with the type championed by our very own Chris Warner, with several introductions, as well as Kordes having introduced their Siluetta range and Tantau roses having introduced their Perennial range over the years. This new Harkness rose has clusters of small blush pink, fading to white roses with a pleasing scent. It'll make 8ft and be perfect to scramble across a fence, or be happy trained up an obelisk.

'Dr. Susan Michaelis': A new hybrid tea! This is a classic HT with 40+ petals in a deep cerise pink with a silvery reverse. Perhaps one to try on the show bench for those inclined! It is named after the former airline pilot who was diagnosed with Invasive Lobular Breast Cancer (ILC) in 2013 and who then initiated the *'Lobular Moon Shot Project'*. £2.50 from the sale of each rose will be paid to The Institute of Cancer Research, London (ICR) to support their lobular breast cancer (ILC)



Sense and Sensibility

research fund.

'*Margarette Golding*': A buttercup yellow shrub rose named after the found of the Inner Wheel, one of the largest women's voluntary service organisations in the World that celebrates its centenary. The repeat flowering rose will grow to about 4ft and has a delicate, spicy fragrance. As the blooms open to reveal their stamens, it will certainly attract the bees.



Beales Potting Shed



Louise Peel

So that's Chelsea for 2023, next stop Hampton Court

Daniel Myhill



News from the North

Everyone who knows Tony Bracegirdle will be saddened to hear that he has had a few cardiac issues of late. But great news! Tony was recently fitted with a pacemaker and chatting to him this evening, he sounded full of beans and is feeling 100% better. No showing for him this year but who knows? Once he is back to full fitness anything is possible!

Best of luck Tony from all your friends

FRANK KINGDON-WARD

THE MAN AND THE ROSE

Frank Kingdon-Ward is often described as the last of the great plant hunters. He was born in 1885 and from an early age would have been surrounded by plants as his father was Professor of Botany at Cambridge University and where he himself went on to study Natural Sciences



in 1904. He also developed a great love of geography, exploring and adventure but it was when he overheard his father talking to a colleague just back from the Far East saying that “There are places up the Brahmaputra where no white man has ever been” that he became determined to get out there as soon as he could.



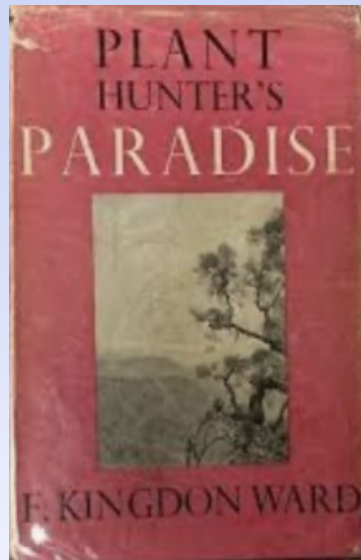
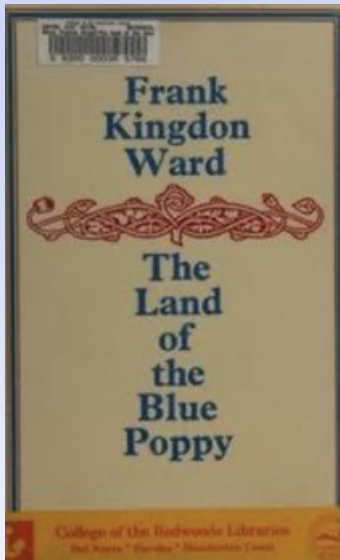
Blue poppies - *Meconopsis betonicifolia*

He took on a job as a teacher at a public school in Shanghai which at least was closer to the Brahmaputra than London. After 2 years of boredom he eventually was able to join a zoological expedition to western China giving him the first chance to do some plant hunting. In 1911 he was commissioned by A.K. Bulley of Bees Seeds to collect plants from Yunnan and Tibet. On that trip he collected 200 different species of which 22 were new to science. This was the first of 22 expeditions that he led or at least was part of in his 45 year plant hunting career and during which time he discovered many plants, the most famous of all being the superb blue poppy, *Meconopsis betonicifolia*. He

also found two wild roses *R. gigantea* which is one of the very original parents of the roses we grown in our gardens today and *R. wardii*. Both have white flowers, the former a gigantic climber, the latter a shrub.

During his various expeditions he had many life threatening experiences including falling onto the edge of a precipice in the middle of the night and being at the epicentre of one of the most severe earthquakes ever recorded. He also had the habit of wandering off the path and getting seriously lost. But he survived them all with patience, immense energy, resolution and endurance.

He was a great writer and I remember reading some of his books many years ago and



longing to walk in his footsteps. He had an extremely readable style and felt that you were really there with him. His books had wonderfully romantic titles, his best known being 'The Land of the Blue Poppy', 'Plant Hunting on the Edge of the World' and 'Plant Hunter's Paradise'.



The rose Frank Kingdon-Ward was bred by Viru Viraraghavan and introduced in 2012. It is one of many roses bred by Viru whose aim is to develop evergreen varieties suitable for the tropics. In his breeding programme he uses two species, *R. gigantea* and *R. clinophylla* and crosses them with an array of different varieties. The parentage of FKW is quoted in HelpMeFind Roses as the Hybrid Tea *Carmosina* crossed with *R. gigantea*.

It is a vigorous and extremely sturdy climber growing easily to 10ft/3m with dark green glossy leaves. The flowers are not too full and have a beautiful classic Hybrid Tea form. It is a lovely soft pink with soft yellow shadings. To celebrate the naming of the rose one was planted in the churchyard at Grantchester near Cambridge where he was buried in 1958. There is also one growing against a wall surrounding the rose garden at Borde Hill in Sussex.

A special rose commemorating a special person in the horticultural world

Michael Marriott

Malvern Spring Show May 9th to 14th 2023

The Rose Society UK held our first national show of the year at the Three Counties showground as part of the Grow and show at the RHS Malvern Spring show.

The Society stand was awarded a Gold Medal and the advice and information stand was extremely busy throughout the four days of the show. The rose show was well supported but as usual there is only a small number of exhibitors growing roses under glass for the show.



Irresistible

Ray and Pauline Martin were National Spring Champions winning most points in the show, most points in the miniature and Mini flora section as well as the best exhibit in the show for a stunning basket of Irresistible. The HT Section was won by Gareth Davies who had some superb blooms of Piccadilly which also won the best Exhibit in the HT section. Pauline and Ray won the best exhibit in Cluster flowered with 3 lovely stems of England's Heroes.



England's Heroes

This was the first show where Felco sponsored the Star Classes. Neil Duncan won the best HT with a lovely bloom of Ring of Fire, an American rose bred by Chris Greenwood in California. The best Mini flora was also won by Neil Duncan with a beautiful bloom of Miss Mabel. John Anthony had the best miniature with a perfect bloom of Renegade. Pauline and Ray Martin won the best Cluster Flowered with a stem of



Ring of Fire

England's Heroes and they also won the best clustered flowered miniature with a stem of Irresistible.

John McCarthy had some stunning blooms of Dancing Flame which won him the bowl of twelve minis and Ivor Mace had his usual high-quality blooms.

The show was judged by a panel from all over the UK Derek Lawrence (England) Iain Silver (Scotland) and Mike Thompson (Wales)

The Society are grateful for the support from both exhibitors and judges that enable the continuation of the shows.



End of the show break-down crew!

Thanks to;

John and Margaret McCarthy,

Linda Nutbein,

Jill Rose,

Gareth Davies,

John Anthony and Us (Pauline on the camera)

Did you book your Summer Rose Event Tickets Yet?

You're nearly at the end of this news-
letter better go back to page 21

[CLICK HERE](#)

Our allies, the birds

In the course of co-editing *By Any Other Name*, the heritage rose journal of the World Federation of Rose Societies, I read dozens of rose newsletters from around the world.



At various times of the year there is an endless round of useful articles on how and when to prune roses, what to feed them and how to protect them from pests. Often the advice for dealing with aphids is the same – spray them with water (sometimes with washing up liquid added).



Robin with aphids

But here are three tips I'm surprised to yet see: install some bird boxes, a feeding station and a bird bath. My best friends in the battle against greenfly in our garden are a gang of sparrows and a pair of nesting great tits. We recently had a willow warbler hopping from one bush to another, nibbling away.

Some roses are worse than others for being swamped in aphids – they much prefer 'New Dawn' on one side of the garage than 'The Pilgrim' on the other. 'Zéphirine Drouhin' needs keeping an eye on. Occasionally I have to pump up the Wilko sprayer and give a hand, but it is usually only the roses nearest the doors and windows that need my intervention.



Climber New Dawn

To many of us, I'm sure, these small birds are friends. But they were not always seen that way. William Watson, editor of *The Gardener's Assistant*, had a particular aversion to them.

He wrote in 1900: "The sparrow, or 'Avian Rat', is the most troublesome and mischievous of all British birds, whether in the corn or seed-fields, or gardens... Incessant war should be waged against the sparrow, the worst of all feathered pests."

From the 18th century onwards, many agricultural parishes had "sparrow clubs" whose members were paid for destroying the birds and went into battle with typical Victorian excess. The Bucks Herald reported in May 28th 1892 that the "Tring and District Sparrow Club made a record of destroying 5,345 sparrows in the last five months. 20,000 were destroyed over the whole area and prizes were given."

It is difficult to understand this hatred for sparrows, but Watson and his ilk were not

unopposed. Many Victorians understood the value of the birds in eating caterpillars and keeping down garden pests – a pamphlet from the Royal Agricultural Society of England and Wales published in 1862 makes this clear: “Even sparrows may be included in the list of useful birds, notwithstanding the damage they cause at times to the orchard or cornfield, because they feed their young (which have very good appetites) exclusively upon larva, grasshoppers, caterpillars, beetles, worms, or ants; and both old and young at the end of summer are constantly filling their crops with the seeds of weeds. A couple of sparrows will consume in food for their young about 3000 insects weekly, each parent bringing a bill-full 30 times an hour. These services are well worth a few cherries. The field-sparrow does not, moreover, eat cherries, and a small number of these birds will soon cleanse many shrubs and rose-trees from the aphid.”



Zéphirine Drouhin - for some a rose to avoid -
for others, a beauty

In 1865 The Gateshead Observer, responding to news that one individual at a sparrow club in southern England had killed 6,000 birds, quoted the President of the Naturalists' Field Club, the Rev G. C Abbs, who calculated that those 6,000 sparrows would have eaten 6,307,000,000 caterpillars. And noted: “While the clodhoppers of Sussex are killing sparrows by the thousand, the Australian colonists are importing them at considerable expense from England, to act the part of protectors of the crops.”

Others pointed out that farmers had themselves to blame if there were too many sparrows – they had also killed the sparrow hawks that kept populations in control. The lesson about ecological balance was not learned. In 1958 Mao Zedong launched the “smash sparrows campaign” in China to protect crops. So many were killed it resulted in a surge in the locust and insect populations, which stripped the fields, causing famine.

My sparrows are house sparrows. Watson was writing mainly for landowners and the owners of stately homes (or their armies of gardeners). The sparrows he was contending with may have been tree sparrows (which the ONS records show have declined by 90% since 1970 in the UK).

Maybe their numbers were so great that they were a pest. But for a humble town gardener like me, these birds are a rich blessing.

Martin Stott is co-editor of By Any Other Name for The World Federation of Rose Societies. In his town garden he has squeezed in over 70 bushes. He cites The Rose Society UK as a bad influence because he feels he now needs more and is considering the allotment solution! It's good to be this kind of bad influence!

Who's who in the Rose Society UK

President Mr Colin Squire OBE DHM

Vice President Mr Chris Warner DHM

Patron Mr Adam Frost

| | | |
|------------|--------------|--|
| Chair | John Anthony | info@therosesociety.org.uk |
| Vice Chair | Iain Silver | iain@therosesociety.org.uk |
| Secretary | Ray Martin | infotherosesociety.org.uk |
| Treasurer | Steve Durham | treasurertherosesociety.org.uk |

General Committee

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--|
| Membership | Liam Beddall | memberstherosesociety.org.uk |
| PR & Shows | Pauline Martin | paulinetherosesociety.org.uk |
| Breeders/Soc Med | Daniel Myhill | danieltherosesociety.org.uk |
| Honours | Derek Lawrence | |
| Trials & Ireland | David Kenny | |
| Wales Rep | Gareth Davies | |
| Researcher | Brian Schofield | briantherosesociety.org.uk |

Shows Committee

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Jim Anderson | Steve Durham | Gareth Davies |
| Neil Duncan | John McCarthy | |

Postal Addresses

Please direct all mail relating to membership and general payments to;

The Treasurer - The Rose Society UK
38 Kintyre Drive
Thornaby
Stockton on Tees
TS17 0BY

Please direct all other mail to;

The Secretary - The Rose Society UK
66 Langer Road
Felixstowe
Suffolk
IP11 2HS



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