

The Rose Times

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

AUTUMN 2023

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

"He who would have beautiful
roses in his garden must have
beautiful roses his heart"

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF



THE
ROSE
SOCIETY UK



Our front cover rose this time is Bee Gold

A light yellow patio / floribunda bred by Leen Leus and introduced in Belgium by Best Select before 2020.

We saw this little 'bee-friendly' beauty when we visited The National Botanical Garden of Belgium in Meise as part of the World Federation Conference in June of this year.

Sadly not available (yet) in the UK but maybe with relaxed Brexit regulations, it may be one for the future.

From the Secretary

It seems incredible that this is officially Volume 7 Issue 1 of our newsletter since our first faltering steps, way back in 2017.

So much has happened since then; not least a World Pandemic. The society has enjoyed steady growth and huge steps since our first meeting in Pelsall, when we weren't even sure whether we would have a society at all.

Being accepted by the World Federation as a full member, and as the UK's national society, was an affirming step. The society has now gone forward and will hopefully continue to do so into the future.

The future needs to be considered and we have to make provisions and plans to continue our good start. A very small group of individuals continue to handle, voluntarily, all the affairs of the society and this is something we are addressing, and will continue to improve going forward. We would love some of the important jobs that have to be done, shared out between a broader group of people, to share the load and to ensure continuity; future-proofing our society for years to come.

Our on-line shop which operates through the website, provides valuable funds that help to fund the society and keep our membership subscriptions at an affordable level. In the last few weeks Mark Nash has taken over as Shop Manager and now handles all stock control of all shop items and dispatch of society goods such as badges, medals, books etc. Nick Baldwin, who is MD of one of our major sponsors, Greenacres Direct, has kindly taken over dispatch of 'heavy' goods such as Uncle Tom's Rose Tonic, Sulphur Products and TNC Mycorrhizal. This has meant that our dining room and garage are now being used (for the most part) for the purpose that they were built! We are indebted to both Mark and to Nick as this has seen a huge burden lifted from Pauline and myself. We are still on first-name terms with our local Post Office but we do have fewer visits!

The newsletter, we hope is well received by the members. I feel that we should be including more of member's personal rose news but we can only publish whatever we



receive. Now, if we have any talented members who could spare the time and have the desire to take over as editor for any future editions, your offer will not be refused! We will not be pressurizing anyone into this but if you have a talent and can help in this task please get in touch. We are very aware that the newsletter needs 'refreshing' and perhaps a fresh pair of eyes would be how we can progress?

The Committee, like most committees I imagine, were almost press-ganged into service. All of us, I believe, are happy to serve as members but most would be happy to give 'someone' else a chance to stand should 'anyone' be willing to offer their services. The AGM in April seems a long way off but, if you feel that you have the time and enthusiasm to serve on the next committee, then please contact me at the usual address.

Our Treasurer, Steve Durham has done a fantastic job since taking over after the last AGM. Now that we don't have John in the virtual office any more, Steve has taken over the day-to-day accountancy duties and that means that there's something to do nearly every day. Additionally he is putting together the necessary information and taking the appropriate steps for us to apply for charity status. This will benefit us in many ways which he will explain as we get nearer to completion of our application. We will also be offering payment of our subscription by direct debit. Our membership subscriptions and records are currently handled by Membership Mojo. This works well enough as the subscription reminders are sent out automatically. We do realise that on occasion a request for payment will be sent out after a payment has been made. It is not a perfect system but one which fits our budget and works. Once we have a Direct Debit payment offered, Member Mojo requests for subscriptions will simply say, "If you pay by DD please ignore this request". Again, when Steve has the new system ready to 'fly' we will inform members directly. We hope that our members will find Direct Debit an easier way to go. We will of course continue to take other payment methods.

The autumn show season was a busy one with our National show at Newby Hall and the RHS Autumn show at Malvern.

Newby Hall is now the venue for the Harrogate Autumn Show and once again we held our own Autumn Show as part of the event. We were hopeful that our members would support this year's show after a poor 2022. The number of exhibits showed a marked increase this year but most importantly we were pleased to welcome some new exhibitors. Pauline will round up the results and prizewinners later in the newsletter so I won't steal any of her thunder other than to say congratulations to all those who entered. I will just mention the fact that our society did manage to win a Premier Gold medal and was awarded best in show for Specialist Societies. Particular thanks to Eric Miller again for lending muscle and expertise in the building of the stand.

That's more than enough from me.

The 'Winter' edition should be published in February; with little activity during the cold dark months, we'd like to hear from you! What are you planting? What are you planning? Where will roses be taking you in 2024? Your newsletter; your news! Let us know what you are doing.

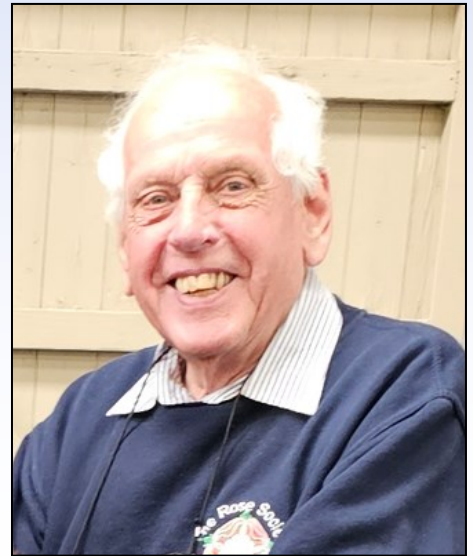
For my part, we'll be heading back to the UK in just a few days time after a wonderful break in California doing loads of 'rose stuff' and also a bit of sightseeing. So, as I dig out my cold weather gear for the journey home, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and rosy New Year

Ray Martin

The Chairman's Rosy Ramblings

Looking back our wonderful early warm Summer of 2023 which turned into a very wet autumn. As I write these notes suddenly, we have now been jolted into frosty weather with below zero temperatures. I must admit I had been casual in getting the tender summer patio pots into greenhouse protection but hurriedly managed to get them inside before much damage was done.

The growth on the roses planted last winter had made healthy foliage during the summer with varieties such as Lucky and Secret Smile becoming this very tall. Both the bushes are normally about 1mtr with me, but this year have



reached 1.8mtr (6ft). looking like tall shrubs! A result of the early hot summer and subsequent wet spell, I think. The lax foliage has also made reducing tall growth to prevent wind rock damage a bigger job than usual.

Another task I have just completed is gathering leaves particularly the Oak and Beech to make leaf mould compost. The leaves are gathered from the glorious Pelsall common in front of my cottage annually each Autumn. These are mixed with the lawn mowing's in 1 metre square compost bins of which I have three and each is emptied annually to mulch the rose beds.

I have recently completed another most important job; this was to get my pot roses into the Alton greenhouse in preparation for our Spring show at Malvern in May. I enjoy growing for the competition but, just growing a few pots in a cold greenhouse to flower in early May whether exhibiting or not is very rewarding. Taking a few blooms to the Malvern

Spring Show is always a pleasure although it's competitive the event is much more relaxed and friendly than the hectic frenzy of staging at the larger summer shows later in the year.

The Alton greenhouse I use is a 10 ft x 18ft Cedar Dutch light style which I acquired about 1980 second-hand. I'm not too sure how much of it is original now, because various sections have been replaced and repaired over the past forty years or so! It is however very practical for spring roses, because timber greenhouses tend to maintain a degree or so higher temperature than Aluminium ones but may need more maintenance.

You may be able to see from the photograph that I have insulated the lower panels with

foil backed polyurethane panels from the local DIY store. The panels are also laid on the floor in the area where the pots are placed. Only the back end of the greenhouse is used initially which allows the pots to be grouped closer together then moved around as the growth develops. All my pots are place

on staging raised at various hights depending on the type of roses. Placing the pots on staging allows air

circulation around the pots from beneath this allows the compost in them to keep an even temperature.

All this helps me to create the best conditions when growing my roses in the cold greenhouse without any heat. I don't use any Bubble wrap or insulation to the glazing either but do ensure the glass is cleaned inside and out before the rose go in. I'm sure that the daylight as the days lengthen in February is the most important factor in obtaining blooms in early May.

When I'm planting new roses in pots again this year, I shall be experimenting with peat free compost in some pot in order to compare their performance with those grown over the years in traditional mediums. To date my results have been mixed and I'm still looking out for the best alternative to the peat-based ones I have always used.

The society have some Winter Zoom talks planned to look forward to please join in. I always enjoy watching my rose pots develop under glass it seems to help the Winter along. I'm sure we shall have Spring will be upon us before we know it!

Happy Rose growing,

John Anthony

John Anthony





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

Salutes

The Ultimate Showman

It was with a certain amount of wonderment that I ambled down the concealed narrow lane, which led me to the allotment where National Amateur Rose Champion, Neil Duncan grows his stately blooms. The plot is located in the village of Appleshaw, north-west of the county of Hampshire, which is renowned for its pleasant rural walks and charming thatched ‘chocolate box’ cottages. Over the years, I have always marvelled at the sheer workmanship and skills of the Society’s dedicated, small band of exhibitors, who never fail to impress. They are the unsung heroes – and justly deserve to be applauded by their due diligence and perseverance. In total respect to all of the team, I decided to visit Neil to fully understand the mindset and work ethics of the exhibitor; to fully appreciate what is involved. Behind every accomplished exhibitor, there is a story. And with Neil, this is no exception.



A basket of floribunda England’s Heroes



Neil surveying his potential show-winning blooms

On leaving school, Neil worked at the stables of Captain Ratcliffe based in Lew in Oxfordshire. The establishment was well-known for the training of horses owned by the Queen Mother. The Captain expected a hard day’s graft from his apprentices, and when they were not attending to the horses, they were given various maintenance tasks. Although Neil had no horticultural experience or interest in gardening, he was given the task to care for the Captain’s onsite rose

garden. This is where he first became acquainted with the rose.

When Neil was 21 years old, he moved to Fyfield to work for equine director, Toby Balding. This move would prove a pivotal moment in the young man's life. During his term with his new employer, he met two people who was destined to change his life forever. He met Paula, who eventually became his wife and an older gentleman named Bill Gould. Bill happened to be an accomplished dahlia exhibitor. Despite the difference of age, they become close friends. When Neil and Paula moved into their property, they decided to grow a few roses in their modest garden. Neil purchased the varieties, 'Sentimental', 'Margaret Merril' and 'Commonwealth Glory' from Pococks Rose Nursery. These gave the newly-weds much pleasure during the summer months.



Neil was given some tulip bulbs to furnish their garden, from the yardman at the stables, who had managed to source them

from a breeder in Ukraine. In the springtime, the tulips flourished and gave an exquisite display. On visiting the site, his friend, Bill persuaded Neil to exhibit the blooms at the local spring show. Bill was a wizard in the exhibiting world and did his utmost to introduce Neil to the pleasures of what this rewarding hobby can bring. With Bill's guidance, Neil's tulip display impressed the team of judges. Reflecting back, Neil is



A general view of Neil's allotment plot

conscious that this is where his obsession began. In his own words, he explained, "I went straight into showing; it was never about gardening." Whereupon, Bill fervently handed over his beloved allotment to Neil, to encourage him to grow stunning exhibition flowers. Over a period of four years, the friends jointly exhibited such plants as pansies and fuchsias at larger flower shows being held in Salisbury, Shrewsbury and Taunton. When Neil turned 30, Bill gifted him membership of the Royal National Rose Society.

One evening, Bill rang to advise Neil that the BBC were to broadcast a special 'Gardeners' World' programme which focused entirely on rose culture. With immense eagerness, Neil tuned in. Part of the programme included a brief visit to Tony Bracegirdle, who was then the current National Amateur Champion. His allotment in Ramsbottom, Lancashire was positively brimming with many hundreds of specimen blooms. During the interview for this article, Neil revealed that: "I found Tony's ten minute presentation truly inspirational. From

that moment, I was absolutely hooked!”

Shortly afterwards, the pair drove to Scott’s Roses in Somerset to obtain some roses which were recommended primarily for exhibition purposes. Varieties included: ‘Red Devil’ and ‘Silver Anniversary’. Bill freely gave his prodigy lots of guidance. Looking back Neil admitted that, “The training that I’d gained from showing horses, gave me the momentum to hone my skills to become a showman to exhibit rose blooms.” In many respects, Neil is a born exhibitor.

His first showing was at the RNRS National Show held at Squires Garden Centre in Badshot Lea 2008, but Neil wasn’t actually present, because he was racing a horse at the French Championship hurdle. With a wry smile, Neil recalled, “The horse actually fell at the practice jump!” Bill and Paula exhibited the blooms, in his absence. During Neil’s attempts to improve his exhibiting skills at various shows, he met many experienced exhibitors whom were more than happy to give guidance, and share their wisdom. Life-long friendships and strong bonds were formed, from such experienced rosarians as Ken Ellis,

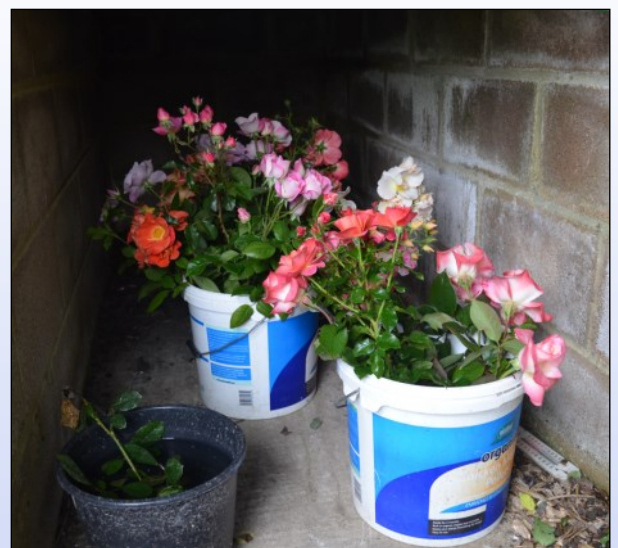
Dave Bryant, Jim Anderson, Ivor Clark, Ray and Pauline Martin. However, I feel that I must emphasize that in due course, Neil and Tony Bracegirdle became the greatest of friends. Neil simply wanted to follow in Tony’s footsteps and become a National Champion.

Amongst Neil’s earlier exhibition cultivars were, ‘Summer Lady’ and ‘Valencia’. His breakthrough came in 2010 at the Rhondda Rose Show. It was for a bowl of 12 of ‘Red



Covering blooms with one pint glasses
a laborious weekly task

Devil’ and also bowl of 12 ‘Sally Holmes’ . He won the 250 RNRS Championship in 2011. Sadly, Bill Gould passed way earlier in the year, and did not live to see Neil achieve his new found status. In total respect to the memory of Bill, Neil decided to expand his allotment, and consulted C & K Jones Roses and R V Roger to obtain advise about which varieties to grow. Ian Roger was particularly generous in teaching Neil to bud roses; to increase his exhibition stock. His sheer determination paid off in 2013, with the announcement that Neil Duncan had been crowned as the new RNRS



Some floribundas stored in the ‘bunker’

National Amateur Champion. For Neil, it was an extremely proud moment. He openly admitted, “No one can ever imagine what the feeling it is, to win this highly prestigious Award.” He has won the Award consecutively, ever since. However it should be noted that the criteria was changed by the RNRS in 2014, the prize is now known as the ‘Dean Hole Challenge Cup’. The silver cup is presented to the exhibitor who has received the most points, in all of the Dean Hole Classes at each Rose Society UK show, and officially handed out at the AGM.

Neil is justly proud of his beloved allotment. With a twinkle in his eye, he stated, “My vision of the plot is akin to Willy Wonka taking a curious visitor on a tour around the chocolate factory!” As he attentively took me around, I became aware of his open sided potting shed,

that nestles neatly at the top of the gently sloping site. It is home to a large fridge, and is bedecked in countless hanging brightly-coloured Award ribbons, numerous RNRS, TRSUK and various other show certificates. At the back of the shed, there is a concealed cold bunker, where Neil carefully stores his pristine floribunda blooms; to keep them in peak condition, in readiness for transporting them to the showground. Generally, it takes an average of 7 days from an initial green bud to become a worthy show bloom. Clear plastic cups cover his precious rose blooms. He revealed that he covers all of his of blooms, because Tony Bracegirdle had advised his young friend that weather damage is a serious fault on the show bench! Neil explained, “I cover my best blooms on a Thursday, to be picked for the following Thursday or Friday. In the case for floribundas, we can pick and store them on a Monday, because in the coolness of the bunker, they develop slower, and should keep in perfect condition for a Saturday show.” He carefully uses cotton wool to protect his blooms, and places them into milk crates, using only about an inch of water. Less water greatly reduces the weight of the crates. Paula usually acts as his assistant and driver. Neil openly admits that they are the perfect team. He openly acknowledged that Paula is exceptionally supportive to his aims and ambitions. They often arrive at a showground early in the evening; heading into the floral marquee for Neil to stage his blooms overnight, in readiness for the appointed judges to commence their duties by the increasingly light of dawn.

He pointed out that the varieties, ‘Andrea Stelzer’, ‘Sunderland Supreme’ ‘Julia’s Kiss’ and the ‘Wainwright rose’ have proved to be great stalwarts over the years.

I observed that a few of his bushes seemed to be suffering from deficiencies. Neil explained that this problem has arisen due to overfeeding the plants over a number of



Neil receiving prize vouchers from our President, Colin Squire OBE DHM



A box of six hybrid tea
Andrea Stelzer

years. Parts of the site have a high PH and an excessive phosphorus count, which causes subsequent iron deficiency. Recent infestations of spider mite and rust make him feel exasperated, although blackspot remains absent. He remarked, "Showing roses can create a lot of hardship. You treat the roses as a crop, and not as an ornamental plant." Surprisingly, later on he said, "Would I grow roses if I wasn't exhibiting them? Probably not."

His showmanship prowess was recognised a few years back when the high class retailer Selfridges, approached Neil about using his precious blooms for a photo-shoot at their famous store in London's Oxford Street. Neil was naturally happy and proud to oblige.

I was curious to know whether Neil has ever explored any other rose avenues to enhance his passion further? He revealed that a few years ago, he bred a few miniature roses in the hope that he'd create something worthy for the show bench. 'Glory Hunter' was his most successful cross, and it grows proudly in a corner of the site.

Over the years, he hopes that he's inspired the public and helped gardeners' to grow better roses. Giving a warm smile he said, "As a Society, we need to support each other. We are Members' because we're all rose enthusiasts. I would encourage anyone to have a go at exhibiting



Neil's rose *Glory Hunter*

one of his first attempts at rose breeding

roses – even if you grow just a handful of bushes. There are classes at our shows, that only require just one bloom. It can be fun. It'll open the door to make new friends and enhance your passion further." He confessed that luck plays a fundamental part in winning any Awards. Over the years, he's been plagued by adverse weather conditions, which caused damage to the blooms, prior to a show taking place.

British weather can be rather unpredictable. He laughed and

said, "One year, I drove to the Malvern Spring Show with just one bloom. When I arrived at the showground, I realised that the stem had been broken during transit!" I chuckled, but privately hoped that poor Paula haven't been driving the vehicle at the time!

But this incident didn't put Neil off his endeavours. One year, he travelled over 5,000 miles to show his blooms around Britain's numerous flower shows. On average, Paula and



Neil in 2016 with the Dean Hole Cup



A bowl of the floribunda

Sally Holmes

myself participate at 16 shows per year. He openly admits that he still gets a thrill of the prospect of exhibiting at a show, irrespective whether it's a huge national event, or a more modest local flower show. He never lets the required high standards slip – being mindful of how he continues to feel immensely privileged to have been indoctrinated by the likes of Tony Bracegirdle, and other legendary exhibitors. His future aspiration is to beat Tony's incredible 17 year reign of holding onto the Dean Hole Cup, and for being known as the National Amateur Rose Champion.

Derek Lawrence

007 



We are delighted to give advanced notice of next year's Summer Weekender Event.

Our National Amateur Shows Champion, Neil Duncan, has very kindly offered to open his Hampshire allotment for the first part of our weekender. Neil has showed nearly every part of his plot, sharing all his growing 'secrets', on Facebook over the last year but here's the chance to see Neil's roses "in the flesh". Neil has also booked the lovely village hall in the village of Appleshaw (right next to his allotment) for an afternoon of talks and rose know-how. Gillian Taylor has very kindly volunteered to help Neil with all 'on the ground' arrangements and is looking for suitable gardens for us to visit on the Sunday to complete the weekend.

It promises to be a very interesting and fun weekend and an extremely rare opportunity to visit an Exhibitor's Garden just a week or so before the shows begin. Neil is unlike many amateur exhibitors, who tend to keep their cards close to their chests. Neil is an open book and his roses will be a delight to see. Over 1000 bushes just (hopefully) coming into bloom.

The date of the Summer Weekender is 15th and 16th June. Once again we will seek out local accommodation and try to secure a preferential rate.

Full details and costings will be shared once they are finalised.

Based on the success of our first two weekender events we are expecting demand for tickets for this event to be high and we are sure it will be a great weekend for all rose lovers.



For those who wish to make a proper 'rosy' weekend of it, we will be checking the availability of local hotels and trying to secure some preferential rates.

Now that's a Champion idea!

Come down and see how Neil grows his roses next June!

facebook Love it or Loathe it

we really can't get away from it! But I have to say that our Facebook Group does stay pretty active through all the seasons and thanks to the efforts of our stalwarts like Neil and Daniel, most of the information shared on the channel is mostly on point and accurate. Of course we have no control over what appears and often have to step in to remove inappropriate content but overall I'd say it has a positive effect.

Many (most) of the Facebook members do not realise or care that this is not the actual Rose Society UK but on the other side of the coin many have joined the society and are becoming valued members.

One such member is Helen Smith from Cumbria who has been extolling the virtues of planting bare root roses which is a topic that encourages much discussion and a variety of opinions. Helen has been dispensing great advice to the Facebook Group. She's been planting some Dicksons roses in her garden and they look to be fine specimens too!



Varieties shown are Lady Adriana, Miss Kate and Stannard Beauty. Such a shame that we will not be seeing more new roses from Colin now that he has officially retired from breeding. Great advice Helen, to use mycorrhizal fungi when planting bare root roses and we'll forgive you for not 'product placing' our TNC MycorrPlus on this occasion! Click [HERE](#) to get to the shop to buy some for your bare root bushes.

We also understand that a 24 hour rehydration soak in Uncle Toms Rose Tonic can also prove beneficial.

Another Facebook Group member and now fully fledged Rose Society UK member is Christina Gamble from Northamptonshire. She's been busy creating a smashing new rose garden detailing step-by-step how she got the roses in. Christina posts regularly on Facebook and both ladies are doing a grand job!

Welcome to the Society!



When it's Spring Again I'll sing again

It's time for the Malvern Show! Actually its about 23 weeks away but our lovely exhibitors are already thinking of spring roses. And yes, Spring roses can make your heart SING!

It's well known that I love and prefer the spring rose show. It signifies the start of the blooming year and fills us all with promise and excitement for the coming season.

Sadly there have been too few of us at recent Malvern Spring Shows but we sense a change in the air! We have a few new exhibitors, keen to try their hand at Spring Showing.



Matthew Pitt has been busy erecting a new greenhouse and has already potted up 15 new roses for the show. Matthew took his show bow at Shepperton this year and did very well as reported in the last newsletter. Buoyed by his success he has been digging a new rose bed on his allotment and also has some new roses in the ground too! Good luck Matthew nice to have you on board.

We look forward to seeing the results of your labour at next year's shows.

We also hear rumours of other members getting rose-ready for Malvern. Beverley Sayers has been ordering from R V Rogers and from the look of his order I think Bev really means business this year!





Looks like you have some first classes bushes there too Bev? Some for the greenhouse and some for the allotment.

Even some of the elder 'statesmen' of the Malvern Show have been busy recently. Our Chairman John Anthony has been doing some reparatory work on his 'Malvern' greenhouse and he has it ship shape and ready to be filled with his potted roses.

Remember, most of us grow these early roses in the greenhouse **without** heat or artificial lighting. May roses are very possible and are a real treat when they bloom.

If you don't already grow roses in your greenhouse, you really should try. Even if you have no plans to try your hand at exhibiting, it's still worth it to have your own clean and healthy blooms in May.

Bring them to the show and get free entry into the show ground on Preview Day! What a bargain!

For more Spring Show info contact;
pauline@therosesociety.org.uk

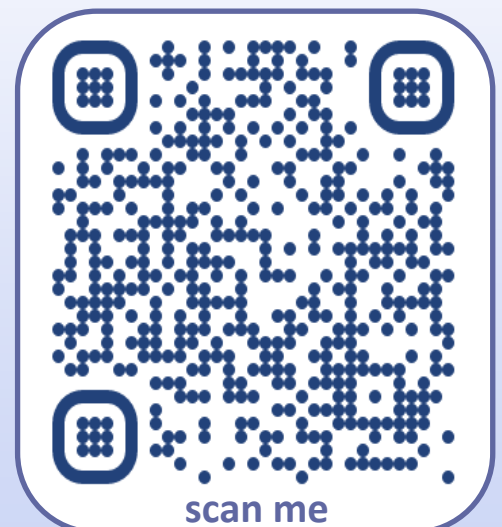


John Anthony's Spring roses greenhouse

filling up nicely!

Please don't forget to visit our web shop

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





Jeff Wyckoff was ARS President 2009 -2012

A well travelled, knowledgeable rosarian, he shares his thoughts on

British Roses with American Legs

Rose business and movement of varieties between the U.K. and the U.S. is sporadic at best. While the former seem to have little trouble getting American roses through C & K Jones and perhaps other providers, we can obtain a few varieties from Chris Warner while most others are available from Canadian nurseries, Hortico and Palatine, but there are problems with both of these. This means that if you have a variety from the U.K. that you dearly love you'd better take good care of it because your chances of finding a replacement are rather small.

As many of you are aware, we (and you) have access to the *Combined Rose List*, a yearly publication of nearly all roses available in the U.S. and overseas. Since many of these sources are own-root nurseries, we often have to deal with waiting lists and very small plants, not insurmountable but annoying when we want blooms the next growing season (who doesn't?).

However, there are few British roses that are so good, or at least so loved and grown that there are as many, if not more, purveyors in the U.S. than there are in the U.K. These are the varieties that have "legs", what the dictionary calls "the ability to endure, stay relevant, or continue to maintain interest."

The U.K. rose with absolutely the most legs is John Sheridan's 'Sheila's Perfume' To begin with it is carried by 20 American nurseries, while still available through a half-dozen in the



Sheila's Perfume

U.K. It is rated at a very high 8.1 by the American Rose Society (anything over 8.0 is considered a “very good rose”).

Then there is the fragrance, hard to quantify but certainly present, as well as the beautiful blend of colors. Unfortunately, it is classed as a floribunda rather than a hybrid tea, despite its size and exhibition form. However the Seattle Rose Society broke the rules a while back and allowed one-bloom-per-stem floribundas to compete with the hybrid teas; since then ‘Sheila’s Perfume’ has won two Queens of Show.

Another great import is the hybrid tea ‘Elina’ from either Pat or Colin Dickson (HelpMeFind.com lists both as hybridizers.) We Americans were quite amused with its original name of ‘Peaudouce’, the title of a European diaper/nappy, but there’s no dispute over the quality of the rose. Rated at a very high 8.4 it is carried by a dozen U.S. outlets and a like number of European ones.



Elina

Gareth Fryer comes in on the “legs” list with two roses, the first of which is ‘Sunset Celebration’.

Starting out in 1994 as ‘Warm Wishes’ it was obtained and renamed by Sunset Magazine in the U.S. to celebrate its 100th anniversary. Picking up awards, as well as more names, in Europe it does very well in the U.S., carried by some nine nurseries and rated at 8.0

The second Fryer rose to make an American impact is ‘Day Breaker’, a very nice and colorful floribunda that won an AARS award in 2004. In the Pacific Northwest the blooms set into very well-formed sprays with exhibition-form flowers that maintain its popularity. The varieties of Fryer and Harkness were available through Pickering Nursery in Canada for years before they went out of business, so fortunately I was able to get a number of these prior to that time, one of which was ‘Jam and Jerusalem’, another great floribunda.



Gareth Fryers’ excellent
Jam and Jerusalem

Another one with less availability (4 U.S. nurseries) and only a 7.5 rating is Harkness’ ‘Yesterday’, an award-winning polyantha that can grow to polyantha-plus proportions in the right climate.

Finally, we have Cocker's 'Silver Jubilee' one of the great roses of our time, with an ARS rating of 8.3 that should be higher. Not as highly available as it should be it still qualifies as a bearer of legs.

Jeff Wyckoff



Silver Jubilee

Thanks Jeff, as Brits travelling in the USA, there's nothing we like seeing more than a British-bred rose doing well in the gardens and at the rose shows. We saw the Peter James bred Blue For You picking up the floribunda Queen award at the recent Orange County show





THE
ROSE
SOCIETY UK

Winter Zoom Meetings

Meet the Experts Series

2023/24

12th December 2023 7.30pm GMT

All About Rose Breeding

The Experts

Chris Warner David Kenny Calvin Horner

Hosted by

Dan Myhill

Rose Society UK Chair of Rose Breeders Group



Join us for two hours of questions and rose chat with three of Great Britain's finest rose breeders

All About Breeding Roses

This event run by The Rose Society UK is free but limited to 100 spaces so register now to avoid disappointment

To register you will need to log onto the ZOOM platform by clicking this link;

[ALL ABOUT BREEDING ROSES](#)

It's fairly straightforward but if you have any difficulty, please email the Secretary at; info@therosesociety.org.uk



Gareth Davies reports on The Rhondda Rose Society summer rose show and laments the decline in exhibitor numbers over recent years. The roses are still the stars of the show as Gareth explains

The Ynyswen Welfare Hall near Treherbert in the Rhondda Valley was the venue for the Rhondda Rose Society Show on Saturday, 1st July

In bygone years the Rose Show has been well supported by many exhibitors but sadly in recent years the exhibitor numbers have dwindled. Despite this, the exhibits staged by just seven exhibitors were of a very high standard and the quality of the roses on display was greatly appreciated by the visiting public. Particular mention must be made of David Bryant, Neil Duncan and Ray and Pauline Martin who travelled considerable distances and played a major part in helping to stage a colourful display of quality roses

Neil again justified his position as National Champion by winning fourteen classes including the Champion



England's Heroes by Neil Duncan



A basket of Tickled Pink by Gareth Davies

Rose of Wales award for which he received a solid brass miner's lamp donated by E Thomas & Williams Ltd of Aberdare. His wins also included three Dean Hole classes, four Crystal Glass awards, one for a superb bowl of twelve HTs and a £15 rose voucher kindly donated by RV Roger Nurseries, Pickering Rhondda's own Ivor Mace won nine classes mostly in the miniature and miniflora section

with some outstanding exhibits gaining the most points in this Section and won yet another Burton McCall Felco Secateurs for his efforts plus a crystal glass award and a £15 rose voucher. In addition Ivor also won two of the Dean Hole classes.

Ray and Pauline Martin travelling from Felixstowe on the East coast have for many years been loyal supporters of the show and this year they won 5 classes gaining a Crystal Glass award for a beautiful basket of eight HTs

David Bryant from Burnham-on-Sea, another loyal supporter of our show, gained prizes in eight classes some of which featured his new seedling roses

Two of the older stalwarts of the Rhondda Rose Society, myself and Mike Thompson, exhibiting less these days, staged roses of quality, Mike with a beautiful box of six miniatures and me for a basket of floribundas (which was really lovely - Ed) for which I also won a crystal glass award

In the restricted Section for growers of not more than 100 roses all the first prizes were awarded to David Davies who gained the most points and received a £20 rose voucher again kindly donated by RV Roger

As in all aspects of life, it's the quality that counts, and this was certainly true of our rose show this year and thanks must go to all those who exhibited and also to the sponsors for their generous support of the Show.



A basket of Isn't She Lovely
by Pauline and Ray Martin



Bowl of hybrid teas
by Neil Duncan

Gareth Davies

In the last Rose Times, we saw how Henry Bennett changed the face of modern roses with his hybrid tea creations in his Pedigree Hybrids series. This time we have a personal reflection, by his son, on another of our amateur breeders Edward Smith.

Edward Smith

Rose Breeder extraordinaire

His story by son Alan Smith

A success story of passion, commitment, highs, and lows, but above all a legacy of beautiful roses.



A story of rags to emotional riches for a determined Derbyshire lad with a burning and obsessive desire to create roses that went beyond the accepted and into the richness of colour, health, and growth than most of what had gone before.

Born into a poor, working class family in the industrial Midlands town of Ilkeston, Dad earned his family keep on British Rail as an Engine Driver. During this time we moved into a new council house and Dad was keen to fashion the rubble of a garden into a place that we could enjoy. Disappointingly several planted roses did not do well, and he learned from a fellow rail colleague the art of rose grafting.

The obsession began.

From digging up wild briars by the side of the railway track to buying stock from Holland, budding, and selling a few, and giving others to relatives, began a mini rose business that grew to 10,000 plus rose bush sales per year.

But that was not enough.

His curiosity deepened from reproducing existing varieties into researching methodology into creating new strains and forensically studying rose parentage with ever increasing trips to the library; never previously known for an individual who left school aged 14 and struggled to read and write.



So all monies from his rose sales was now ploughed into two large greenhouses at the back of our, by now, new family home.

And then came the downsides. From the many who know about hybridizing there is neither an easy or guaranteed formula and the next few years was consumed by trial and error with little to show for his dedicated focus.

I remember, over successive seasons, visiting the greenhouses and looking at his barren peat seed beds and the large sparse patches of poor or non-existent seedling germination. And his headshaking and puzzled disbelief.

However, despite the setbacks, the one overarching positive was Dad's undimmed motivation and his determination to succeed and get it right.



the hips after crossing



ripening hips just before harvesting

And then it began to happen.

Slowly but surely the germination "take" improved. Previous seasons greenhouse sparse seed beds were now becoming peat fields of healthy, abundant, green seedlings and, most importantly, intriguing, and different varieties of colour, health, and vigour. Dad had found the magic formula of optimum hybridizing timing/conditions on cross pollination, stratification, planting, temperature, and the seedlings loved it!

Coincidentally, a few miles from our Nottinghamshire home was the hugely successful rose nursery of the charismatic and world-renowned rose entrepreneur, Harry Wheatcroft. Dad knocked on his door and asked if he would like to see some of his results.

There began a very special and long-standing relationship with Dad's varieties introduced via Harry into the wider world of roses including Dale Farm, Jubilee Celebration, and Baby Bio.



Harry Wheatcroft

The latter was a massive success and the Gold Medal winner at the prestigious Rome trial grounds. I remember we had the awesome privilege of receiving a telegram from the Vatican requesting 60 rose bushes for the Pope and his Papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, Italy.



Baby Bio

Edwards Smith's patio or dwarf floribunda

At the time Harry desperately wanted to get Dad on board as his Chief Hybridizer and offered him a salary, car, and other perks way beyond his BR Engine Driver remuneration. Dad turned the offer down citing that his name as creator was all important to him.

Following Harry's death in 1977 Dad went on to have good relationships with other local large growers over the next few years before working closely with Robert Wharton in Norfolk.

It was during this very positive relationship in the early 2000's that Dad bred without doubt his most beautiful, successful, and popular rose; Special Anniversary. Recognized by UK growers and gardeners as one of the best rose scents ever produced. A gorgeous true and healthy pink HT with outstanding foliage and vigour. The variety has gone on to sell many thousands of trees and continues to be one of the UK's top selling and most popular roses.



Special Celebration
and creator Edward Smith

Sadly, Dad had a massive stroke in 2005 and remained in a nursing home before his death in 2008. He once told me when we were looking at his latest crop of seedlings in the greenhouse that if he couldn't do this he would prefer to pop his clogs.

Well those clogs were big ones to fill and his legacy continues well after his death, thanks to Robert Wharton and Chris and Margaret Styles of Style Roses.

At the time of Dad's stroke in 2005 I inherited some very promising seedlings that he had been working on and, following further trials in Spalding, Style Roses has progressively introduced more of Dad's varieties including Edwards Rose, Orange Blossom Special, Dear Dad, Wonderful friend, Wonderful you, Loving Mum, Golden Moment, Bobby Dazzler, True friend, Bride and Groom, The Coventry Cathedral Rose, and others.

There is a poetic irony to the place where, for many years, Dad grew and nurtured most of his beloved roses. It was a field that he rented from the local church in the village of Sandiacre, near Nottingham. The field was eventually required by the church for the local people who had passed away.

Dad's grave is in that field – he would have liked that – also the words by the graveside:

*If you dream of roses
And dream and dream again
If you create a new one
And dream to do again*

*If your life is sweeter
Thro dreaming rose anew
Then Edward lived the sweetest life
That man could ever do*

The second of our **Winter Zoom Series** will be

All About Growing Roses

18th January 2024 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Pauline Martin will be our host for the evening and will be introducing our rose experts who will include;



Rose Society UK Patron Adam Frost. Adam is a Gardeners World regular and credits roses as giving him his start when he began his landscape business.

Stewart Pocock CEO of Pococks Roses and The Cornish Rose Company

Stewart has spent his working life with roses and is a sought after speaker



Adam, Stewart and some additional panel guests will be in conversation and will be happy to answer all your rose questions

We will take questions on the night but would welcome your questions in advance via email at info@therosesociety.org.uk

Full details of registration and log in details will be emailed to all members nearer the date

So for now just mark your diaries

18th January 2024

2023 Farewells

2023 will go down as the year that we said goodbye to two of our most famous nurseries and breeders.

Cants Roses of Colchester have been in the rose business since well forever! Officially listed as the oldest rose nursery in Britain when the business closed this year. The company was established as a general nursery by Benjamin Cant in 1765 in Myland, Essex. The family nursery initiated a rose breeding programme in 1875. Early rose varieties include 'Ben Cant' (1901) and 'Golden Ophelia' (1918). The company's most successful new rose cultivars include 'Just Joey' (1972), 'Alpine Sunset' (1973), and 'English Miss' (1977).



'Benjamin R Cant & Sons' of Mile End Colchester and 'Frank Cant & Company' of Stanway, Essex became 'Cants of Colchester' under the leadership of Cant family descendants, Roger and Angela Pawsey. The company remained in the family until its closure in September.



Dicksons Roses were a true family rose business; the world's oldest rose breeding family that began with Alexander Dickson in 1836 and ended with current rose goliath and sixth generation breeder, Colin Dickson. Colin's retirement brings down the curtain on a rose growing and breeding tradition that has given us such legendary rose varieties as Red Devil, Elina (officially the World's favourite rose in 2006). Since its inception, Dicksons have supported the Rose of the Year trials and have been successful in picking up ten of the prestigious awards culminating in 2022 with It's A Wonderful Life.

The Rose Society UK would like to wish Angela and Roger Pawsey and Colin Dickson the happiest of retirements. So long to you all and thanks for all the roses!



Daniel Myhill reflects on The year that was.....

Happy New Year! Yes, you did read that right. The last of the roses are still blooming, heavy with dew and the first signs of frost, and it is not yet Christmas, but already it feels like the year in the garden has finished and a new one begun...

Bareroot orders are beginning to arrive, seeds extracted from hips and under-going stratification, and the greenhouse being prepped for sowing! So already there is excitement for the year. Before we get ahead of ourselves, I thought I would take stock of the year that was!

For me, it's been a busy year and at times it seems like a blur! My "Chelsea Round-up" (Rose Times Spring 2023) is old news, surpassed by the joys of judging rose trials at Rochford's, Wisley and a trip to Belfast, as well as memorable events including working with Plant Heritage at RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival in July to celebrate the charity's 45th Sapphire anniversary, and a brilliant rose-filled weekend at Whartons and Peter Beales Roses! That's before I recall the fun we had at our Rose Shows in Pelsall and Shepperton! So where to start...

Trials and Tribulations

I am more than fortunate, and privileged to judge at several rose trials here in the UK. Rochford's International Rose Trials in Hertford is always a highlight, reviewing seedlings not yet in UK commerce. The international judging and awards day in August was a spectacle to behold. It was particularly enjoyable to meet Thomas Proll, Head Breeder at Kordes Rosen, alongside David Kenny, who had both made the trip to Rochford's alongside Chris Warner.

The winning rose of the trial was "Flamingo", bred by Kordes Rosen, which received a Gold Medal. It is robustly healthy and a beautiful salmon pink shrub



Kordes Head Breeder Thomas Proll with Gold Medal winner "Flamingo"

rose growing to about 1.5 m in height over the two and a half year trial. Two other roses also received Gold Medals, just being pipped to the post as the best in trial by “Flamingo”. One was Colin Dickson’s rose “DICsolar” – this has to be the stand-out rose of the year for me. It has semi-double bright yellow blooms with the health you would expect from Colin. I was fortunate to also see this rose in Colin’s rose field on a visit to Belfast, where I was part of the international judges panel (more on that later). It is fitting that Colin should receive a Gold Medal given he is retiring once this bareroot season is complete. So, I would recommend buying some bareroots from him if you have not already! The third gold medal went to our very own Chris Warner for his rose “CHEWreflection”. Though, to much amusement, Chris could not remember the rose in question!



Looking at Colin’s rose field

Kerry Austen, Colin Dickson Daniel and Dave Kenny

The awards day is always a highlight, with Rochford’s laying on a lunch for the judges, breeders, and invited guests. There is always a “Best Rose of the Day”, which went to Calvin Horner for his rose “HORduchess”. The rose also won best Amateur bred rose, so many congratulations to Calvin! The rose is a cross between Dave Kenny’s Newflash and one of Calvin’s own seedlings [(Golden Future x Baby Love)x (Sweet Magic x William Leach)].

Calvin Horner with fellow breeder
(and Mum) Heather Horner

Dave Kenny also won a trial ground certificate for “KENcheers”, with the society also presenting Dave with our Silver Tudor Rose Award to celebrate all the work David has done in promoting the rose! This follows on from Dave receiving the Fellowship of the Rose Society of Northern Ireland earlier in the summer! Congratulations Dave – well deserved!



Dave Kenny

Besides Rochford’s, I have also been to and from RHS Wisley judging the red rose trial. It has cropped up several times in conversations as to why the trial is for red roses. This theme was picked by the RHS prior to appointing the forum panel, working on the idea that red roses are very popular – just think of the many red roses gifted for Valentines! It is also



"Eternity"

fair to say that red roses, over the years, has generally proved the least healthy. So it is worthwhile demonstrating to the public which red roses to buy, and importantly which ones to avoid! The trial ground at Wisley is showing just that – standout varieties currently include Dickson's "Lovestruck" and "WB Yeats", as well as Kordes' "Cayenne", "Milano" and "Red Finesse", and Noack's "Eternity". Other highlights include "My Valentine", which is classic HT. One variety – "Precious Ruby" – is a fine shrub rose with deep red foliage turning dark glossy green, smothered in ruby red

blooms. It is a recent introduction and is particularly healthy up and until late August, whereby it quickly breaks down having succumbed to the usual diseases. This, to me, is a great shame as in all other respects it is a fine rose.

Lastly, I particularly enjoyed a trip to Belfast with Hannah to see the trials at Lady Dixon Park, joined by Ray & Pauline Martin, Kerry Austen, as well as meeting Dave Kenny and



"Better Times"

Colin Dickson there. Thank you to the Rose Society of Northern Ireland and Belfast Council for their hospitality. The judging and awards day was, unfortunately, a wet one. BUT that did not put us off. The best rose in the trial was "Better Times", bred by Kordes Rosen, with other award-winning roses including "Baby Schneewittcher", "See You In Rose" (a persica hybrid!) and "Romantica Siluetta" all from the stables of Kordes! The weekend also included a trip to Colin Dickson's rose field, where it was a privilege to walk the field with Colin and completely nerd-out discussing all things roses (much to Hannah's bemusement). Our thanks to Colin and Corina for

their hospitality in hosting Hannah and I for lunch. The weekend itself was rounded off with a night out sampling Belfast's finest establishments with Kerry and her sister. A fun time all round!

Hampton Court Highlights!

Plant Heritage celebrated its 45th anniversary this year! As part of the celebrations, the Plant Heritage stand at the RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival showcased the

development of national collections through the ages, from the first ones in the 1980s to the latest ones today, with our 700 National Collections having been established so far! The stand shone a light on collections including Astilbe, Heather and Ferns from the 1980s, through to Streptocarpus in the 1990s, Lavandula in the 2000s, Achillea in the 2010s and Rosa persica hybrids from the 2020s. I was honoured that my collection was chosen to



showcase the latest collections, and as part of that, I was asked if I would also curate a feature bed to sit in front of the main stand – I jumped at the chance!

The feature bed was to focus on the Rosa persica hybrids, but I did not want it to be just another bed of roses... For me, roses need to be grown shoulder to shoulder with companion plants to give a kaleidoscope of colour, texture and life! Therefore, in keeping with the celebration of National Collections, I planted the bed with a whole host of plants from other national collections, including Agapanthus (Hoyland hybrids), Dahlias, Lavandula, Nepeta, Salvia, Clematis and much more! The purples of the Salvia Caradonna's and the Nepetas always provide a great accent to roses like Angel Eyes and Smiling Eyes.

The raised bed was supplied and built by Squires Garden Centres, with further support from Melcourt Industries and sponsorship by the Shanly Foundation. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience to be given free-reign to plant the bed as I pleased, and showcase how I grow my roses at home – so I must extend my thanks to Plant Heritage for the opportunity. The cherry on the cake was a RHS Silver-Gilt medal for the stand and feature bed!

Whartons & Beales

The Society enjoyed a fantastic rose weekend visiting Wharton Nursery near Harlston, Norfolk and then Peter Beales Roses in Attleborough. This was a local visit for me and was great to see Paul Wharton and Jo Davey, who must be congratulated and thanked for the effort made in hosting us. The visit included a tractor and trailer ride around the rose fields, gazing out up on over a million roses in bloom, as well as a tour of their facilities. The afternoon was rounded off by lunch and a series of talks, including from Martin Stott



on the Rev. Dean Hole's life – much amusement was had!

Rose Showing!

A round up of the year's activities cannot forget the wonderful rose shows that the society puts on. I was at Shepperton and Pelsall this year where I was pleased to win a smattering of 1st's, 2nd's and 3rd's totting up to £13 in prize money! Almost enough for a rose! For me the prize money is not the important part – it is the meeting up with friends and having a good time. It was great to see several new exhibitors with roses on the bench, including Stella Morris, Matthew Pitt and Martin Scott. Even if you've just one or two roses, why not bring them to a show and see what all the fun is about – keep an eye out for the 2024 schedule!



The Year Ahead...

A couple of dates for the diary for 2024:

I am holding an open day on Saturday 8th June for people to visit the national collection of *Rosa persica* hybrids here in Norfolk. I would love to see you! More details to follow.

The Breeders' Group are holding a "how to..." workshop on Saturday 25th May 2024 in Shropshire. This will be limited to 12 places only as it will be a hands-on workshop, learning how to breed roses. Therefore, please register your interest with me by email at daniel@theroseociety.org.uk. The workshop is aimed at those who are actively breeding and at those who would like to start.

Daniel Myhill

Society Calendar

We have had many suggestions and enquiries about producing a Society calendar.

Well we agree!

Two very import considerations needed to be resolved before we embarked on this project

Firstly, who would actually organise it and secondly where would we get the photographs from?

They say that one volunteer is better than ten pressed men (or women) and 'they' are almost certainly correct! The good news is that we do actually have a volunteer to organise, collate and produce a calendar. Rosalind Hunt has stepped up and we will be giving her all the help we can to ensure that all goes well.

Now the photographs. Well that's down to you! The picture on the back cover was taken by Daniel Myhill during the recent cold snap and is an example of what we need! Get your cameras (and mobile phones) out and get snapping roses in every location and every season. We will pick the most suitable and use them (as many as we can fit in) to produce our very own calendar in 2025.

For now, just keep snapping and we (Rosalind) will share details of where and how to send your pics into us later in the New Year.

Pauline's Rosy Roundup



Paulines Patter

Well, believe it or not I'm finishing my article off in sunny California.

Thoroughly spoilt by seeing so many beautiful roses over the last few weeks along with judging rose shows in Arizona and Orange County CA and being privileged to present programmes to a couple of well supported ARS local societies.

I can never see enough roses or talk to enough of the beautiful people who are passionate about roses. Every day I find out another fact or see another rose that enriches my life. I can honestly say that I don't know what Ray and I would do without our passion for roses.

This quarter I'm going to focus on growing roses for the Spring Show in May 2024.

I may be going over the same ground as previous years but this time I have a couple of insights from successful springtime exhibitors. Ray and I are the current National Spring Champions and have been successful over the past few years at getting roses in bloom for the show. Gareth Davies has nearly always has a good number of HT's in bloom resulting in his many times winning The Gardener's Company Cup for most points in HT's and Floribundas section

John McCarthy, a member of the Shows Committee, has also offered some advice for potential exhibitors; over many years he has consistently grown some splendid miniatures for the spring show.

So where to start. First an insight into the growing of HT's by Gareth Davies, another member of the Shows Committee

Growing HT roses for Malvern Spring Show by Gareth Davies

Approximately 52 years ago my wife and I moved into our present home and I immediately set about the task of landscaping the garden and filling large areas of it with modern roses. Some of these were varieties of HT's which were suitable for showing and for many years I exhibited successfully at both local and National Shows. Over the years I have had to replace most of those earlier varieties due to their loss of vigour and owing to a shortage of ground I have had to re-plant with new bushes in the same ground. I have



employed various ways of reducing 'soil sickness' such as re-plenishing the soil with farmyard manure, isolating the new root systems in fresh soil in large cardboard boxes, as well as treating the rose roots with preparations of mycorrhizal fungi. Although the new bushes grew well for a few years they eventually decreased in vigour, and I had no alternative but to remove them. Floribundas have been treated in a similar fashion but because of their genetic constitution their growth has been more encouraging, and they continue to thrive.

I eventually concluded that if I was to enjoy growing the classic shaped HT's I would need to grow them in pots for the early Spring Show. This would allow me to have control over the growing medium and nutritional requirements of the roses in a controlled environment like a greenhouse. I then set about the task of collecting florist buckets such as those that hold the cut flowers in the supermarkets who are only too glad to part with them for a small charge. Drainage holes are drilled in the bases of the buckets and the growing medium prepared by mixing equal parts of a soilless compost and one containing loam such as John Innes No.3 to which a preparation of mycorrhizal fungi is added. The roots of the roses are trimmed and planted in the buckets in mid-November and then left outdoors for about a month. Approximately a week or so before Christmas the pots are moved into the greenhouses of which I have 2, a wooden one and an aluminium one. The roses are hard pruned and about 15 pots are placed in each greenhouse and watered sparingly for the first month or so until new shoot growth is apparent, and the watering is then gradually increased, adding a balanced liquid feed at each watering, changing to a feed higher in potash as the flower buds appear. I have found that the correct balance between light intensity and temperature is critical at this stage in growth, so I try to maintain greenhouse temperatures within the range of 5-10° C. However, despite adopting these methods of control the chances of timing the blooms for the Spring Show in Malvern in early May is very much 'in the lap of the Gods'. Nevertheless, the efforts are worthwhile when you are able to cut those unblemished blooms early in the year and take them to the Show.

In recent years the following varieties of HT's have proved most successful for me in achieving those early blooms:

Jan Guest, Admiral Rodney, Hot Princess, Lowri, Darling Jenny and Gemini

*I have also had occasional blooms of **Gavotte, Our Millie and Silver Anniversary***

And now an insight into John MacCarthy's method of getting miniatures out for the Malvern Spring Show.

A guide to getting roses ready for the Spring Show by John McCarthy

I start in October ready to put them in the greenhouse in November- a cold (unheated) greenhouse in a sunny position in the garden, is all I have and works fine for me. I grow mainly miniatures for the spring show (due to them taking less space) but recently have added a



John McCarthy's "Dancing Flame"



few minifloras. I use a mixture of homemade compost mixed in with a good quality multipurpose compost and a handful of perlite and mix in plenty of grit for drainage. I use 15 litre pots for the miniatures and 20 litre for miniflora roses. I give them a light prune and refresh the compost in the pot before placing them in the greenhouse in November. You only need a few miniatures (I prefer the hybrid tea shaped varieties) leaving some of them to form single blooms and some to grow into clusters; a few mini flora and you are ready to go. I stand

the pots on gravel on the floor of the greenhouse for drainage. When you see some buds appearing after a month give a feed of either Uncle Toms Rose Tonic or a seaweed feed. You can use both of these together for a spray (foliar) feed. It's important to keep the greenhouse well aired to avoid diseases and botrytis

*My preferred varieties are **Dancing Flame, Behold, Irresistible and Joy** but I have found that Joy does better later in the season as it can burn easily. You may find, depending upon location and weather conditions, that you need to shade to avoid burning the new foliage and blooms.. A miniflora that I like is **Buttercream** which responds well to blooming early. Keep fed and watered well and watch out for early aphids! I hope this will inspire you to have a go and see how you get on - good luck. **John McCarthy***

Our Vice Chairman Iain Silver has collated data from other growers and produced a list of

some roses that have proved best for growing under glass and flowering early. You will notice that some varieties are not commercially available but these can often be shared between exhibitors and grown as cuttings or budded onto rootstock**. In my experience growing for the Spring Show in an unheated greenhouse is very much trial and error and each year we find more roses that do well under glass. I grew England's Heroes for the first time in the greenhouse and it thrived and won me numerous awards at the show- not least star floribunda in both single and three stem, so any rose is worth trying as a pot rose.

Hybrid Teas

Piccadilly

Grandpa Dickson

Stephanie Diane – Not available

Hot Princess

Secret Lady – not available

Jan Guest

Lincoln Cathedral

Cluster flowered miniatures

Peter Pan

Rosa Banksia lutea – outside in flower in May

The Fairy

Weegopop – Not available

Stacy Sue – Not available

Fired up - Not available

Radiant

Marry me

Cider Cup

Floribundas

Hakuun

England's Heroes

Blue for You

Mind Games

Miniatures

Irrestistible

Hot Tamale

Bob Martin – Not available

Behold

Luis Desamero

Dr Tommy Cairns

Glowing Amber

Dancing Flame

Joy

Magic Show

Minifloras

Buttercream

Show stopper

Dr John Dickman

Miss Mabel

Toots – Not available

Whirlaway – Not available

Wright Touch

It will be noticed that some varieties have never been available or have been removed from nursery lists. We have found a solution to this perennial problem and will be announcing news regarding ordering these 'hard to get' varieties in 2024.



What's in Santa's sack for you, your family and friends this year?

In the website shop you can purchase things to keep your roses healthy and to help them grow. You could buy membership as a gift. Or what about our branded clothing?

Our new Shop Manager, Mark Nash will be restocking and increasing the inventory in the New Year with updated copies of the Society's books and more. And don't forget all profits benefit the Society.

Pop along to the shop at; <https://www.therosesociety.org.uk/shop2/>

or scan this QR code



It's Christmas, so what better way is there to treat yourself ,
than to buy yourself a rose?

Let me give you a few to think about

To start with - a beautiful patio climber 'Open Arms' bred by
Chris Warner. It grows to around 8 ft high by 6ft wide and
flowers constantly all summer long. Grows in almost any as-
pect and resembles apple blossom colour.



Another rose that is really worth growing is the Austin rose 'Tottering by Gently' – It's a stunning single rose that attracts bees and flowers well all summer. Not much fragrance but in my opinion very healthy and a good bush to grow with companion plants. I've seen it grown as a hedge and it looks superb.



If you want a reliable little floribunda I recommend 'Secret Smile' bred by Dicksons , a Gold trial ground winner in Glasgow and a COM at the Hague. Lovely hues of orange, red and pink, the colour changes as it grows. Not a tall growing variety only around 2'6" x 2'6" but I have seen it grow taller. Much depends on pruning.

Finally, a Hybrid Tea that has stood the test of time is Chandos Beauty bred by Harkness. very fragrant and a subtly coloured peachy cream . Grows to around 3'. What's not to like. I grow it alongside salvia's with a back drop of blue agapanthus. A word of advice – if you are planting companion plants with your roses make sure the roses are established first as many rose will struggle to compete with vigorous annuals or perennials.



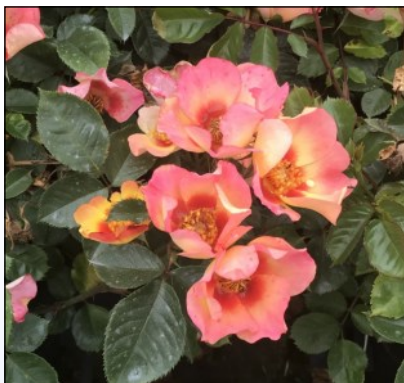
Pauline Martin

It's bare root season

This is THE best time to plant roses. Bare root season runs on until March and if you plant new roses now, you will be rewarded in every way!

The roses will love it! Planted in their dormancy, they will grow new roots during the dark cold months of Winter and get off to a head start in Spring and produce a wonderful, colourful bloom filled show for you in Summer. Bare root roses are cheaper (you're not buying a pot, or compost or for the cost of tending them as they grow! In most cases there will be more choice, particularly if you get your orders in NOW!

All good nurseries will be offering bareroot roses now, many of the nurseries listed will offer Rose Society UK members favourable prices on bare root roses; just mention the society and quote your membership number when you place your bare root order this season.



C and K Jones are know for bringing us new roses and this year is no exception. *"Your Lovely Eyes"* is just one of their offerings this year. A persica hybrid from Weeks in USA and bred by Christian Bedard this will be a stunner in your garden



David Austin may be more expensive than some nurseries but buying them bare root will certainly help your pocket! This season's new introduction *"Dannahue"* will be a fine introduction to any garden.



Fryers Roses launched new roses at Hampton Court Flower Show this year and none caught the eye. Bred by Tantau in Germany, Mottisfont is named in honour of the National Trust Garden of the same name.



Pococks Roses and The Cornish Rose Company have new offerings for 2023 and this one is from Ne Zealand breeder Mike Athey. Flower Bomb is a low growing floribunda, perfect for the front of the border.



Trevor White Roses in Norfolk have a great selection of roses ancient and modern. This one is Camaieux, a Gallica rose bred by Vibert in 1830.



R V Roger is a North Yorkshire nursery that have been growing for 110 years. They offer a wide selection of roses including this beautiful floribunda, England's Heroes, from amateur UK breeder Bob Webster

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	info@therosesociety.org.uk
Treasurer	Steve Durham	treasurer@therosesociety.org.uk

General Committee

Membership	Liam Beddall	members@therosesociety.org.uk
PR & Shows	Pauline Martin	pauline@therosesociety.org.uk
Breeders/S. Media	Daniel Myhill	daniel@therosesociety.org.uk
Honours	Derek Lawrence	
Trials & Ireland	David Kenny	
Wales Rep	Gareth Davies	
Researcher	Brian Schofield	brian@therosesociety.org.uk

Shows Committee

Jim Anderson	Daniel Myhill	Gareth Davies
Neil Duncan	John McCarthy	

Postal Addresses

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

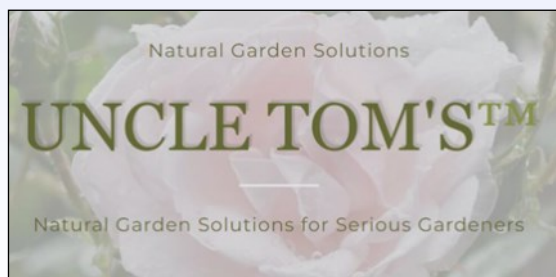
The Treasurer - The Rose Society UK
38 Kintyre Drive
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Stockton on Tees
TS17 0BY

Please direct all other mail to;

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



to our SPONSORS





Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year

To All of our

Members