

The Rose Times

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WINTER 2024

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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 Meteor®

Meteor® is the 2024 Rose of the Year.

A floribunda bred by Thomas Proll from the famous Kordes Rosen of Germany. Meteor® is described as a yellow blend but I think it is more than that! Fire orange hints and a slight fragrance and the health that Kordes roses always have, will make this a popular garden rose. It will grow to around 70cm (28 inches for the non-metric amongst us).

With the distinct dark green foliage that Kordes roses have, this will I'm sure be used everywhere; in borders and even pots. Don't be surprised to see it in a rose show either; our bushes are already in the ground and budding out nicely!

Photo credits - Roses UK and Whartons Roses

From the Secretary

Welcome to our Winter Roundup, a look back at all things rosy.

Now officially in meteorological spring on 1st March it's perhaps a time to look forward to rose blooms and gardens but even during the winter we still had a lot going on.

Our Winter Zoom Talks - Meet the experts - were very popular with members. All About Rose Breeding, hosted by Daniel Myhill, Chair of our Breeders Group attracted a good audience of 70 plus members as we looked at, and tried to untangle the mysteries of rose breeding. Our experts, Chris Warner, Dave Kenny and Calvin Horner shared their experience and knowledge and hopefully inspired many of our members to 'have a go'. The one thing that we hoped would come out of this meeting was that even open pollinated rose hips (those harvested from rose bushes where the crossing had been done by the birds and bees) are worth trying. You may not produce a World-beating new rose (you may?) but just to produce your own, unique rose will surely encourage you to join the Breeder's Group and try again! Email Dan for details of the group and activities on daniel@therosesociety.org.uk.



For our second Zoom Talk in January, we welcomed our Society Patron Adam Frost, retail nurseryman Stewart Pocock (Pococks Roses and the Cornish Rose Company) and Jo Davey from wholesale nursery Whartons Roses. The evening was hosted by the multi-talented Martin Stott who led our panel around the topic All About Growing Roses.

The participation from the Zoom audience was fantastic as Martin invited panel and guests alike to choose their Desert Island Roses. Nearly a full house enjoyed 90 minutes of rose chat and hopefully a little rose education.

Martin was once again at the helm for our third Zoom Talk; All About Rose Gardens. Our panel this time included, from David Austin Roses, Senior Rose Consultant, Liam Beddall and former head gardener from Albrighton, Richard Stubbs.



Panellists, garden designer Jo Thompson and from The Garden Society of Gothenburg - Emmelie Georgii

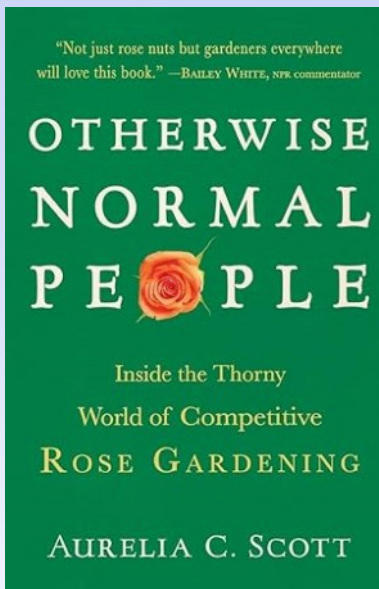
We also were pleased to have on the panel, Chelsea garden designer, author and rose fanatic, Jo Thompson (we also welcome Jo as a new member of the rose society UK). Completing the panel we had from Emmelie Georgii, one of the gardeners at The Garden Society of Gothenburg . We were delighted that Emmelie could join us and give those lucky enough to be attending the WFRS Regional Convention & Heritage Roses in

Sweden a preview of one of the many rose gardens that will be visited. Once again attendees were invited to share their favourite rose gardens and I know everyone left with ideas of where to visit and what they could do in their own rose gardens.

Our last Zoom Talk of the series will be a look into the world of rose shows. We realise that rose showing is not everyone's thing but we hope to be able to show our members that we're not all as mad as you think. Whilst the number of exhibitors is now quite small, the shows that we put on for the public (and the huge numbers of public who come to see the exhibits) are a very important part of sharing the love of roses with a wider audience. The evening will be hosted once again by Daniel, himself a fairly newcomer to showing roses, and we'll have some of our most experienced and passionate exhibitors to 'show and tell' what we do and why we do it! Please don't be put off because the meeting is about Rose Shows, if you love roses, maybe we can show you that there is no better place to see great roses; up close and personal!

I'd like to extend our sincere thanks to all the panellists who gave their time and knowledge to make these events such a pleasure to attend. Also of course to our hosts for their time in preparing and their skill in keeping the meetings flowing.

We've had a suggestion from our Vice President Chris Warner, that we could have another Zoom meeting in May. His suggestion is that we should invite a few rose breeders



to share with us, the new roses that will be on offer to us in the next twelve months - All About the New Rose Releases. Martin has agreed to host and we are looking into possible panellists; your suggestions would be welcomed.

Returning briefly to the topic of rose shows and the people who show; I'm reminded of a book that was published in 2007.

Aurelia C Scott writes articles for amongst other publications, The New York Times. On her website she says; "In 2007, my tale of encounters with crazy rose gardeners, **Otherwise Normal People**, won Best Book Award from Garden Writer's

Association". It's a book that I can recommend, not just because it gives an insight into our crazy showing world but because

many of the real-life characters in the book are personal friends.

In the spirit of our aims to encourage and educate everyone to grow great roses, the Society have this year run three pruning workshops.

Firstly, we returned to Sunbury walled garden, in association with Spelthorn Council and hosted by Squires Garden Centre at Shepperton. A full day of instruction and advice with hands-on pruning practice for our attendees, which helps the council's team who have over 1000 bushes to look after in this garden alone.

A joint venture with the National Trust this year allowed our members to visit Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire for pruning two workshops. As well as the pruning, our members were able to have a short look around the gardens which extend to 98 acres. The property includes a country house, built on the remains of a priory, (it never was an actual abbey) gardens, landscaped grounds, and a working mill. We have also been asked to attend the garden again in June to present more workshops on summer rose care. This is another great opportunity to promote roses and the Rose Society UK.

So, it's been a very busy winter period one way or another and that's my reason for the newsletter, once again, being a week or two late! We have the usual story; lots to do and too few hands on the pump! Remember, we always welcome volunteers!

Just a final note to say thanks to two of our wonderful volunteers.

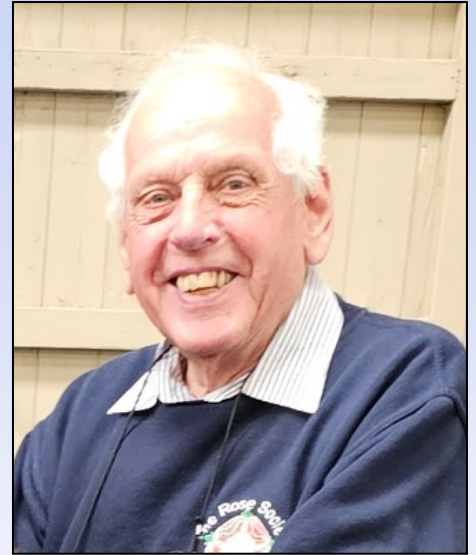
Shop Manager, Mark Nash has now taken over dispatch of basic shop items as well as stock control of 'heavy' shop items such as Uncle Toms and other rose-care products.

Nick Baldwin, as well as being a valued member and sponsor of the society (Greenacres), now dispatches all 'heavy' shop items for us. This has relieved considerable pressure from Pauline and myself whilst ensuring that the income stream from the shop provides valuable funds to keep the society viable and subscriptions as low as possible.

Ray Martin

The Chairman's Rosy Ramblings

It is late winter as I sit here writing these notes on a bright sunny cold morning giving me optimism to get on to get on with my pruning. The ramblers were done in late autumn and the climbers completed in mid-February. I now have bending and kneeling job to do in getting on with pruning the bush rose beds. Fortunately, I have a good friend who is assisting me with this task as to my bending and getting up and down is these days painfully slow as many of you will know!



The past winter has been very wet like most of the country here in the West Midlands. This has made the planting of new roses a slow process in choosing drier days and the right conditions to get on with the job. I mainly plant Floribunda varieties to give a good garden display, although some maybe cut for the show bench occasionally.



One of John's magnificent miniature ramblers - "Dreaming Maiden" for last year's Malvern Spring Show

I am looking forward seeing my new plantings this year and have chosen two new varieties that gained awards at the Rochfords International Rose Trials in Hertfordshire. The first one from the 2022 awards is **Volcano** a bright intense Orange/red floribunda. The other is Rose of the Year 2024 **Meteor**, peachy yellow in colour Both these roses are from the Kordes stable and showed good plant health and stood out in the trials.

Amongst my other plantings this season were **Absolutely Fabulous**, **Champagne Moment**, and **You're Beautifull** all of which have given me reliable results recently.

Looking back during the past the winter months we have had been treated to a series excellent talk on the zoom platform all of which I have thoroughly enjoyed. It is sign that the society is growing in stature and attracting first class speakers giving us the benefit of their advice. We were fortunate to have our new Patron Adam Frost giving us an insight on how he came to be involved with roses. He designed the new Rose Garden for the former Royal National Rose Society along with Designer David



Stevens which sadly has all gone now. These talks have helped the winter along keeping us involved with Rosy subjects.

It was a pleasure to be involved with our pruning and rose care events. The society has become heavily involved at the Sunbury walled garden development with our President Colin Squires, but I was unable to take part this year. However, I was more fortunate to be present on the first day at the event held in conjunction with the National Trust at Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge. The two-day event organised by Ray and Pauline was well attended with good feedback from those who attended.

Looking forward to our Spring events; the Society's Annual General Meeting is to be held at Pelsall

again on 21st April. This meeting is important, and a good presence always helps to give the committee confidence to keep carry on with the good work of promoting the society. A notice of the meeting appears elsewhere in the Newsletter but if you have any questions or nominations for the various appointments do, please let the Secretary know.

The first major show event for me is also on the horizon when I plan to be at the Malvern Spring festival with the society membership stand. This event is always friendly place to meet up with members and offer advice on rose culture.

We are staging the society's Spring Show for roses grown under glass as usual and several new exhibitors are hoping to stage exhibits. Hopefully we shall have good show for all to enjoy the effort put in to raise blooms in May. I have some pots of roses growing nicely in my greenhouse and my "Dreaming Maiden" is hoping to be there too!

Happy rose growing



John Anthony



DEREK LAWRENCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES & ROSE SOCIETY UK COMMITTEE TRAVELS TO HAMPSHIRE TO REJOYCE IN.....

THE MAGIC OF MOTTISFONT

Mottisfont Abbey located near Romsey in Hampshire has many attractions on offer. Sheltered in the valley of the River Test, it's a splendid twelfth century Priory and country estate, with surrounding imposing landscape and resplendent gardens. It was gifted to the National Trust in 1957. A swift flowing tributary of the River Test runs through the grounds, emitting copious supply of water to the estate. Over the centuries, this immense asset gave rise



The entrance to the Walled Garden



A general view of the Walled Garden

to the name Mottisfont – “the meeting place by the fountain”. However, the “jewel in the crown” of the grounds is shrouded within the confines of the Victorian walled garden. During midsummer, rosarians and like-minded rose lovers converge through its gates to revel at the masterpieces and treasures that form the ‘*National Collection of Old Fashioned Roses*’. Visitors are able to enjoy the subtle colour tones and heavy fragrances

emitted by the blooms, that has been captured in the past in by the finest Dutch masters, and by such assiduous rose collectors like Empress Josephine at Malmaison.



Alain Blanchard

The collection within the walled garden was created, through the diligence and dogged determination given by the eminent rosarian and Gardens Advisor to the National Trust, Graham Stuart Thomas. He was a great advocate of the heritage roses. During the 1960's, old varieties were generally out of favour with the public, but as a distinguished plantsman and author, Mr. Thomas felt compelled to write a trilogy of rose books between 1955 – 1965 to ensure that everyone could become fully aware of the fine characters of older types. His diligent literary efforts proved fruitful, and the public became mesmerised by the charms that older cultivars have to offer.

The primary objective at Mottisfont was to conserve the old French varieties, but over the years, many rare and unusual historical cultivars have been added. Graham Stuart Thomas was mindful of the site's immense potential. The area

was originally the site of Kitchen Garden and contained established trim boxed hedges, crossing central pathways, which focused on eight sentinel Irish yews around a pool and fountain. It was a superb example of perfect geometry. The large walling not only embraced the overall design, but would protect any vulnerable rose species from

prevailing strong winds and bouts of heavy frosts. The Trust's Centre in Winchester were most supportive of the project by arranging a joint appeal with assistance from the Royal National Rose Society to raise the sums required to purchase the roses and plants required to furnish the garden. Rosarians from around the world acknowledged their passion for older types, by generously donating money. By 1972, the garden was



Debutante

reasonably well established, and thus opened its gates to an adorning public. Initial visitor numbers were very encouraging, which was testimony for their growing appetite for antiquated cultivars. The herbaceous borders were cleverly planned by Graham Stuart

Thomas, where they admirably demonstrate the virtues of restricted palette of colours, to enable subtle harmony with the gentle hues from the roses. Over half a century later, Mr. Thomas's skilful legacy lives on. On careful observation, the visitor comes conscious of how perfectly schemed the plantings are.

In 1982, a decade after the garden was initially opened, the adjacent land to the north became available. This enable further expansion of the collection; to accommodate rare varieties; which had been acquired by Mr. Thomas, from the German National Rose Garden at Sangerhausen. The box hedge line paths and stepping stones invite visitors to move from the perimeters of the garden between the masses of herbaceous plants, which provide ample colour and interest after the majority of the roses have finished flowering. Fine examples of the plantings include: campanulas, dianthus, hardy geraniums, peonies and aquilegia. The

latter are allowed to self-seed, but are thinned out when they germinate. Several old apples trees and surrounding walls support lanky growers and old climbers. Varieties to swoon over are: 'Lady Hillingdon' (1917), 'Gloire de Dijon'(1850), 'Alister Stella Gray' (1894) and 'Seven Sisters'(1817). A number of magnificent climbing cultivars adorn the arches



Golden Wings

which gracefully cloth the walkways. These include: 'Princess Marie'(1829), 'Mme Sancy de Parabéré'(1873) 'Blush Boursault (1824) and 'Adélaide d'Orléans' named after one of the daughters of Duc d'Orléans' by the Duke's gardener, in 1826.

As you stroll around the gardens, it makes you feel that you're drifting back into the passages of time. A treasure trove of roses await to be discovered by the unsuspecting visitor; whether you are a seasoned expert of old



Honorine de Brabant



Jacques Cartier

'Général Kiéber' (1856), 'Gloire de Mousseux' (1852), 'Lsmeii' (1845) and 'Mme Landeau' (1873).

Hybrid Perpetual types are crosses between Bourbons, Chinas and Bourbons. Queen Victoria's reign saw a proliferation of the genus, which have quite large blooms. In many respects, they were the forerunners to the Hybrid Teas, and would have been exhibited on the show benches during Dean Hole's tenure as the first President of the National Rose Society. As I wandered around the site found these superb HP cultivars: 'Desirée Fontaine' (1884), 'Her Majesty' (1885), 'Lady Stuart' (1851), 'Duke Of Edinburgh' (1868), 'Magna Charta' (before 1875) and 'Rose du Roi' (1816).

Other curious and jewel-like treasures to enjoy are: 'Prosperity' Hybrid Musk (1919), 'Victor Permentier' Gallica (pre 1847), 'Pink Gruss an Aachen' Floribunda rose (1930), 'Jacques Cartier' Portland (1868), 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam' Hybrid Tea (1882), 'Little White Pet' Poly-Pom (1879) and Sir Joseph Paxton, Bourbon (1852).



Lady Mary Fitzwilliam

Mottisfont's Victorian walled garden is more than a mere rose

roses, or new to the notion of growing these gorgeous legendary varieties. The collection is so inspirational, it simply encourages you seriously consider the concept of preserving these cultivars for the enjoyment of future generations.

I must confess that I have an increasing fondness for Moss roses. Botanically, they are in fact Centifolias, that have developed a moss-like growth on the sepals of their blooms. If gently stroke the prickles, they emit an additional resinous scent. These masterpieces were very popular during Victorian times. Fine examples to be seen are:



Mme Delarach-Lambert

Derek Lawrence

007 

Thanks Derek for another uplifting, rose-filled article. Signing off as 007 has become Derek's 'signature' since I reminded him at Squires in 2017 that his society membership number was in fact 007 and that his then avatar picture was of Derek in a formal suit looking very James Bond - hence his tag, 'a licence to grow roses'.

Having such a low membership number further reminds me that Derek has been with us at The Rose Society UK from the 'get go', adding his experience and support both personally and from a World Federation perspective. I am even further reminded that Derek has sent me a contribution for every Rose Times that we have issued and for that fact, I am more than grateful. Filling the pages with worthwhile content never gets any easier (without repeating and regurgitating old articles). I am so very grateful for every contribution that I receive; please keep them coming in. But on behalf of all our members, (but perhaps from me mostly), thanks Derek; please keep them coming.

My Rose Story

By Lynn Collett

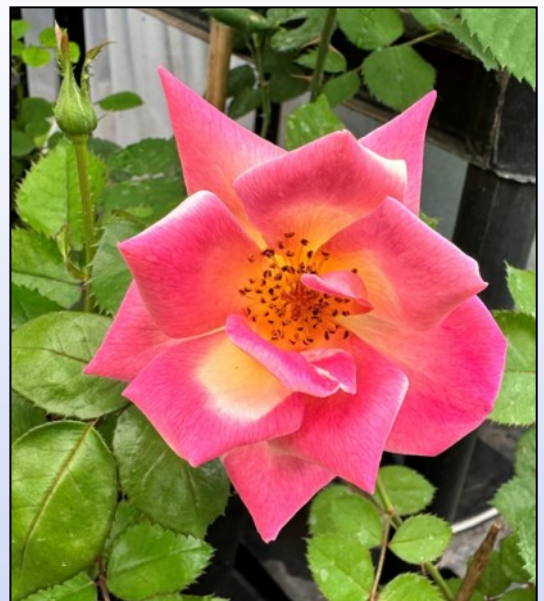


I grew up in Palace Road, opposite to the very famous Crystal Palace park. My Dad was trained in agriculture and horticulture and had an allotment. He grew Roses and Dahlias which he showed and won prizes for. Dad pursued work on a farm after leaving College and worked there for a number of years until ill health forced a break back home to London where he met my Mum and the rest is history as they say. I was always surrounded by beautiful flowers as a child and my Dad always in the greenhouse. As a child I was always out in nature as both parents were involved in Scouts and Girl Guides so there was always a camp to go on.



My love of flowers did not start until I got married and had my first home which had a very small garden but big enough to pack as many roses as my parents managed to buy me. They were Queen Elizabeth. Child rearing then took up the next 10 years or so and I started back at work in an office, it was to be another 10 years before I realised that my green fingers were itching to do something horticultural so I gave up my well paid job with pension and started from scratch a garden maintenance/landscaping

business. I loved this way of life and came across many different varieties of roses and started to teach myself how to propagate from the many customers roses that I had to prune. I soon perfected this method and was able to replicate many of these roses. I also got my own allotment at this time and started putting my propagated roses down there. After 21 years of doing other peoples gardens I fell sick with Cancer and my son who was living in New Zealand at the time came back to help. He never went back and has taken over the business completely leaving me to recover and retire from the day to day work. I have however got my own nursery now where I can propagate to my hearts content and produce roses for the business. My greatest success to date has been that I have bred my own rose which I have been trying to



perfect for a number of years now and I finally did it. It is in its first year and I am excited to see what happens. I did speak with Neil Duncan about it and he told me to bud it but as yet this technique eludes me but I know I will get the hang of it soon. I would love to show some of my roses someday and I am sure I will but for now I will continue trying to produce something really special.

Lynn Collett



Lynn taking time to smell the roses

We all wish you well in everything you do Lynn. Your story is a perfect example of the healing and therapeutic powers of nature and what could be better than growing roses?

Many of our members enjoy budding roses. The process is not difficult and we have a very basic tutorial / video on the Members Area that shows how.

Click [HERE](#) to go straight to the video (you will need to register and log into the members area first)

Please also be mindful of roses with Plant Breeder's Rights. Obviously, absolutely perfect for reproducing your own-bred seedlings and older (non-PBR varieties) great fun to do and so gratifying when they grow!

Malvern Spring Show - volunteers needed

We will be at Malvern with our Society stand and a small rose show for our members who grow Spring roses in their greenhouses. Putting the stand and show together on Wednesday, manning it and taking down again on Sunday is a long job! We are desperately looking for members to 'man the stand' for a few hours on Friday 10 and /or Saturday 11th May so that Pauline and I can have a 'day off'.

You won't be on your own, one of our experienced team will always be on hand to help, so, if you feel that you can help for just a few hours (and get a free ticket to see the whole show), please drop me an email on info@therosesociety.org.uk



Last summer, our very own Irish Rover went on a rose pilgrimage to Germany

BEHIND THE GREENHOUSE DOOR

Exploring the greenhouses and trial fields of two of Germany's most famous and much-loved rose breeding companies

by David Kenny

Our great rose adventure of 2023 began when I landed in Hamburg Airport and met up with my fellow rose breeders, Chris Warner (Warners Roses) and his new assistant and hybridist, Catherine Shaw. The purpose of our trip was to visit two world famous companies. The first, Kordes Rosen, are breeders of such famous roses as 'Iceberg' (KORbin), 'Mercedes' (MerKOR) and 'Friesia' (KORresia). Kordes Rosen was founded in 1887 and today the fifth generation run the company.

We were soon joined by Thomas Proll, The Breeding Manager of Kordes Rosen who brought us to the nursery in Sparrieshoop, North Germany where we were joined by two of the Kordes family Wilhelm Alexander (Alex) and Ute Kordes. We had a relaxing time discussing roses and putting the world to rights in their conference room, where medals and trophies fill cabinets, frames and even an old wooden treasure chest.

Our tour began in the breeding greenhouses. In the first we saw the benches in which the seed is sown. Several benches were already empty as selections had been made. Some still contained seedlings which had to be looked at again. This year approximately 50% of the selected seedlings are potted and kept in the greenhouse until late spring and are then planted in the test field. Three eyes each of the other 50% will be budded. The scale and number were mind-boggling. Each bench is the length of my greenhouse and half as wide!!

We then headed to the greenhouse where the crosses for garden, pot and cut flower roses are made. The sheer number of plants and hips took my breath away. Each year c.200,000 crosses are made yielding around 1,000,000 seeds yes **one million!!!** The huge hips were ripening fast. The parent plants are grown well and continually fed by fertigation (nutrition



Anti-clockwise from Top right: Rosa Simsalabim by Kordes. Top left: Kordes Rosen in Sparrieshoop, Germany. Bottom left: Coral Lions-Rose by Kordes. Middle: The curved greenhouse and rose garden at Rosen Tatau in Uetersen, Germany. Bottom right: cut flowers in the greenhouse at Tantau.

through watering) and IPM (Integrated Pest Management) is used to keep pests at bay. The overall effect is that everything is spotlessly clean and tidy.

Thomas explained how the cut flowers are selected. Initially 12,000 seedlings are selected from the bench and are assessed through three flushes before approximately 1,000 are selected to be sent to agents around the world. This selection process differs from garden roses in that size of bud, length and number of petals, production rate, lack of thorns, vase life and transport ability are important.

We then went into an area where the roses are potted for sale online. Some are grown on their own roots and sold in 1 litre pots. Budded plants are put into 2 litre pots and are continually trimmed so that they are ready to plant immediately.

In the afternoon we visited the huge Kordes test field. The roses were growing well and while some had flowers, most were heading towards their second flush. Like all Northern



Left: In the Kordes seedling greenhouse where the selections begin each year. Picture L to R, Alex Kordes, Chris Warner, David Kenny, Thomas Proll. Middle: Huge hips in the Kordes breeding house. Right: Kordes roses being potted for sale in 1 litre pots.

Europe in 2023, the ground was very wet, and the roses were suffering from the constant rain. Despite this there was much interest to see. Thomas explained the main aims for developing garden roses (and Jens would later explain a similar list to us in the Tantau trial field.) Top of the list is health. Modern garden roses should be no spray and resistant to the major diseases. The breeder is looking for varieties which are early flowering, very free flowering and quick to repeat without any big, long growth which spoils the effect. The roses should have good vigour, grow well, and fit nicely into the typical pot sizes used for sale in garden centres. Bonus qualities are bee/insect friendly flowers and of course, fragrance.

Unfortunately, there was a sudden downpour and we had to abandon our visit. Four rose breeders racing to the car must have been a sight to behold! As we left the field, I spotted a very nice looking yellow, red-eyed Persica at the end of a row.



Left: Thomas Proll discusses the development and objectives for the garden rose breeding programme in the Kordes trial fields. Middle: David Kenny spots a vibrant yellow persica rose on trial. Right: Despite the heavy rain, a few roses were still in bloom in the trial fields.

The next morning Thomas picked us up early and we went back to have another look at the test field. The rain stayed away, and we had a much better walk through the seedlings and saw those which were budded up for further consideration and those bulked up to send to agents and trials. The best seedlings are budded onto understocks starting at 3 and increasing to 5, then 10, then 30, and finally 300-400 for rose trials, all of which takes up to ten years in total. Thomas is constantly working to see how seedlings from the bench do when planted-out, before being selected and budded on.

ADR Test Garden

Our next stop was the nearby Allgemeine Deutsche Rosenneuheitprüfung (ADR) test garden, containing roses from breeders all over Europe. The trial concentrates on finding roses which are very healthy. There are eleven test stations throughout Germany.



The roses are trialled over three years and only the best overall are given the title ADR. Five plants each of HTs, Floribundas, patios and three each of shrubs and climbers are planted. To ensure they are repeat flowering three of the five are deadheaded and two are allowed to develop hips and one each of the rest is deadheaded to see how they will adapt. After 15 years ADR winners are re-tested (if the breeder requests it) and if they don't pass, they lose their ADR status. We recognised some of the varieties on test but as they were still in trial, I cannot reveal their names. One name I can reveal (with permission) is Chris's CHEWgateway.

Rosen Tantau

The next part of our visit was to Rosen Tantau. Founded in 1906, the ownership was most recently transferred to Hans Jurgen Evers, a long-time employee and friend of Mathias Tantau. They are famous for roses like, 'Super Star' (TANorstar), 'Fragrant Cloud' (TANellis) and more recently, 'Sirius' (TAN05415 or Martin Luther Rose). We were greeted by Head

Hybridist, Jens Krueger and started our visit in their huge test fields, where thousands of Tantau's garden rose seedlings are on trial.

Again, it was difficult to get a decent look at the seedlings due to the wet conditions, but we did find some interesting varieties. We were impressed that there was not too much disease. Jens had a long line of low-growing miniature/patio types and floribundas with nice compact habit, including a beautiful patio Persica, pink with a distinctive red "eye". There were also several Persica hybrids which had new and different colour combinations. We even found one which had been budded but was overlooked. Eagle-eyed Chris made sure to point it out to Jens who quickly marked it and phoned his assistants to check it out. I also spotted one or two nice bright yellows which on that dull day were sparkling. Unfortunately, it began to rain again so we had to leave the field.

After lunch we visited the greenhouses. Tantau have invested in new state of the art greenhouses which are much taller, at least the height of a two-storey house, than the older types and in which everything, temperature control, watering and feeding are fully automated.



Clockwise from top left: Beginning our tour of Rosen Tantau. Top middle: a lovely yellow in the Tantau trial field. Right: From L to R, Head Hybridist at Tantau Rosen, Jens Krueger, rose breeders, David Kenny, Catherine Shaw and Chris Warner. Bottom left: A spray of bright pink cut flower blooms in the Tantau greenhouse.

We started in the cut flower greenhouse. Several varieties were in bloom and even the rejects looked fantastic. In fact, I started photographing the "rejects" until Catherine called my attention to my folly. At Tantau they use different coloured bamboo canes to indicate

the good, the not so good and the rejects. White and yellow indicate seedlings with potential, green is for “niche” varieties and red for rejects. Joachim Evers, son of the present owner of Tantau was in the greenhouse marking seedlings. He began working in the company three years ago.

Jens then brought us on a tour of the other greenhouses where we saw cut flowers being propagated by stentling, which is a form of grafting. He also showed us the steam room. The just grafted stentlings are not steamed with chemicals to avoid infections but steamed with water to reduce the leaves’ loss of water and the risk of dehydration. These stentlings are sent to customers all over the world. Tantau’s biggest agencies are located in Kenya, Colombia and Ecuador and have their own propagation departments. In South America cut flower roses are grown at heights up to 3,500m. Jens explained the parameters of cut flower breeding and that to be successful cut flower varieties must have hard petals, long stems and produce a high number of flowers per square metre. They must travel well by air, not getting bruised and then last 10-14 days in a vase. Like other breeders Tantau also breed “Spray” cut flowers which produce several blooms per stem and have the same lasting power as the other types. We braved the cold storage to look at some packaged bunches and spotted two very nice coffee-coloured varieties named, ‘Cappuccino’ and ‘Barista’.



From left to right: Trays of stentlings are moved on rolling benches through the steam rooms at Rosen Tantau, roses being propagated by stenting, the cold store with bunches of cut flowers.

The benches in which the seeds are sown are wide and deep. The selections are made on first flowering and then after a second blooming the best are budded on to understocks in the test field. The growth in the benches must be seen to be believed. How smaller breeders and amateurs compete I just don’t know. Probably pick a “niche” type/idea and go for it.

We then visited the greenhouse where the crosses are made. There were thousands

upon thousands of crosses for both cut flower and garden roses. At the top of each row the code of the parent is displayed and the number of times a different pollen parent is used. Again, the parents are grown in pots which are fed through the watering system.

What parents are Kordes and Tantau using you might ask? Sorry I can't tell you as they were all under code and/or number in both nurseries.

After a very enlightening afternoon Jens brought his tired but very happy visitors back to their hotel

On Thursday morning using our time to a maximum we paid a quick visit to the production fields and then did a tour of Kordes display garden where many of their famous varieties were growing and strutting their stuff.

We went through the greenhouse where varieties already on the market are grown to provide early budwood. We also visited the sales area where the whole range of Kordes varieties were potted. Several varieties stood out and I was very impressed by 'Rosaromantic' (KORsommer) a pale pink floribunda, 'Friesia' (KORresia) still looking great, 'Sunny Sky' (KORaruli) and coming right up to date, 'Perfumy Siluetta' (KORSilu14).



Left: Rosa Perfumy Siluetta, a floriferous, sweetly scented rambler.

Right: Rosaromantic®, a spreading floribunda with semi-double flowers, both on display at the Kordes garden centre on site.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end and after some more coffee we headed to Hamburg Airport for our flight to Stansted.

Both companies' hospitality and generosity were above and beyond the call of duty.

Sláinte
Dave Kenny



Martin Stott reports on Desert Island Roses



Martin is co-editor of 'By Any Other Name' – the heritage rose journal of the World Federation of Rose Societies. But today he is wearing his "Zoom Meeting Host" hat and looking back on some of the points arising from our All About Growing Roses meeting.



Dean Reynolds Hole, the Nottinghamshire vicar who organised the first national rose show (in 1858) and who was the founding president of the world's first rose society, wrote in his famous *A book about roses* (first published in 1868):

"If ever for some heinous crime, I were miserably sentenced for the rest of my life, to possess but a single rose-tree, I should desire to be supplied, on leaving the dock, with a strong plant of Gloire de Dijon."

I like to think I was much more lenient to our recent panel of guests on the Rose Society "Meet the experts" webinar. I condemned each to pick five roses for their "desert island" penal colony (one in which roses are miraculously able to thrive).

Here were the answers:

Adam Frost, *Gardeners' World* presenter and Rose Society Patron:

'Malvern Hills', 'Munstead Wood' 'Doncasterii', 'Dunwich Rose' and 'Shropshire Lass'.

Stewart Pocock, renowned rosarian and nurseryman:

'Plaisanterie', 'For your eyes only', 'Odyssey', 'Stockholm' and 'The Wainwright Rose'

Jo Davey, Sales and Marketing Director for Whartons, the UK's largest producer of roses for the retail market:

'Rosa Mundi', 'Precious Amber', 'Flower Carpet pink', 'Zepeti' and 'Lilac Bouquet'.

I also asked the audience to offer up their rose favourites. The response was fascinating. There were 107 roses on the list, and of these only 14 got more than one vote. I've listed these 14 below.

It was no surprise to see 'Gertrude Jeckyll' at the top. At last year's Chelsea Flower Show, one rose, repeat planted through the David Austin display, kept catching the eye – this versatile bright pink creation from 1986.

What do we learn from this? It is a demonstration of what a vast choice of roses there is for gardeners, and how our tastes all vary. There is a rose out there for everyone – it is just not the same one!

Some rose 'Eye Candy' with a selection of our experts favourite roses;



Adar
Frost
favo

Stewart Pocock's Odyssey

Jo Davey went for Zepeti



‘The answer lies in the soil’

Arthur Fallowfield

Arthur was of course a fictional character portrayed by Kenneth Williams, whose answer to every question would be that immortal phrase.

But, our resident ‘Rose Doctor’, Dr John Howden, a former Royal National Rose Society Research Scholar, gives us his insight into soil based on research that he carried out with colleague Dr Douglas Duthie; clearly there is a lot of truth in old Arthur’s punchline!

Soil; one of the most important ecosystems and its effect on our roses

As rose growers, we look to soil for many things – to support our plants – to retain a constant supply of water – and to provide our plants with all necessary nutrients. However, we must always remember that soil is a living entity requiring careful treatment. It needs care to retain this natural balance of nature. I developed these views with the help of a dear friend and colleague who was a member of the specialist team studying roses at the University of Bath; Dr Douglas Duthie was the lead soil scientist who was looking into “What roses really need” in terms of nutrients and soil conditions when he sadly became terminally ill. Immediately so ill in fact, the Prof and I had to present Doug’s work to a large Conference in London in July 1968. I was fortunate to be able to attend many of Doug’s student tutorials where I learnt such a lot. Understanding the processes involved in soil and the evolution from Victorian dominance of nature with harsh practices, chemicals and fertilisers to the present- day philosophy of working with nature, is my purpose in writing this article. Also, I wish to give credit to, and pay tribute to, the memory of Douglas Duthie who was a talented and gentle man.

STRUCTURE

Soil is the loose outer layer that covers the Earth’s surface. It consists of particles of mineral matter (about 45%) which derive from rocks which have eroded or been crushed by glaciers and by freezing and thawing. About 5% consists of organic matter which is being broken down by micro-organisms. This is “Humus” which conditions the soil, retains water, releases nutrients and acts generally as a “buffer” against extremes of change. Surprisingly, both air and water take up 25% each of soil volume, determining which types of plants can grow. Essential nutrients derive from the type of rock particles which also determine the pH of soils (acid or alkaline). Further nutrients are released by the micro-organisms as they break

down the remains of dead plants and animals, clearing the debris of life and acting as the Earth's janitors. The whole system is a delicate balance – an important ecosystem.

It is generally accepted that “soil” is the top layer which is about 4 foot deep (1.2m). Only the top 12” (30cm) is the soil layer that gardeners cultivate, which Victorian gardeners called the “Top spit”.

Although these soil layers remain generally the same, they are rising each year as debris and organic remains are being deposited. For example, archaeologists can date periods of human occupation at different levels in soil and even downed aircraft from as recently as the Battle of Britain are found in some locations as deep as 12 feet from the surface; impact alone cannot explain such a depth.

SOIL CONDITIONING

The breakdown of dead plants and animals to form “Humus” is vital in soil; it retains water through dry periods and prolongs the availability of water for growing plants. It is being broken down by fungi and bacteria and it recycles nutrients back into the soil in a form available to plants. In addition, humus supports its own living fauna of earthworms, ants, millipedes and insect larvae forming an intricate, living system. However, not all soil bacteria are benevolent, as we have found with Tetanus (or “Lock-jaw” disease) which, as gardeners, can infect any of our open cuts. At school, we all heard about the Nitrogen Cycle where atmospheric nitrogen is fixed by bacteria living in root nodules of legumes (Clover) and becomes available to the host plant. Fungi play a more important part than we first thought; they are now thought to form a partnership with plant roots (a Symbiosis) which gives the plant better access to soil nutrients. Granules of fungal “Mycorrhiza” (fungal threads) are now available to mix with your soil or compost. All this confirms that soil is a living system.

Dr Duthie considered that the organic matter in soil was essential to act as a sponge for plant nutrients and to release them at a balanced rate which was not harmful to plants. It topped-up any deficient nutrients as it became necessary. He thought this was of particular significance in rose beds which are often given heavy applications of fertilisers, year after year, and without the sponge effect of the soil humus, it would lead to a decline in the vigour of our roses.

Beneficial soil biology depends on good drainage and aeration which needs to apply across the whole rose bed. The practice of digging isolated holes in which to plant your roses merely provides pits in which water collects and “drowns” the plants. This is why “Double-digging” is useful to turn over the bottom-spit to improve the drainage of the soil. Victorian

gardeners favoured Double-digging, which although arduous, it was favoured on the basis “If it hurts it must be doing you good!”. Here it is important to keep the top spit on top and only fork over the bottom spit to improve drainage. However, improved drainage is beneficial (especially to deep-rooted roses) because as water drains through the soil it also drags down air which aerates the soil, favouring the development of beneficial bacteria. This is a point to be remembered when preparing your rose bed and could be the reason why roses tend not to thrive in shallow soils.

Although roses are tolerant and will grow in most soils, acidity of your soil is important in the take-up of nutrients. For example, alkaline soils can inhibit the take-up of iron and manganese which makes the leaves pale and chlorotic. The subsequent reduction in chlorophyll makes the plants lethargic and slow-growing. Similarly, extremely acid soils with very low pH values also restrict the up-take of iron, zinc and manganese and show similar symptoms. The optimum pH for roses is 6.5, just on the acid side of the neutral 7 figure; at this acidity, roses can assimilate all the necessary nutrients and in a balanced ratio. In general, low levels of a nutrient show deficiency symptoms while high levels of the same nutrient show toxic effects. An unnatural abundance of one nutrient can cause a deficiency of another nutrient so the natural equilibrium in soil can so easily be disturbed by our actions, sometimes to the detriment of our roses and to the soil itself in the long term.

Different rose stocks too, favour different soils. Modern growers tend to use Laxa stocks, first used by Harry Wheatcroft at Ruddington; Laxa is successful across a whole range of soils and conditions. The many types of Canina stocks are suited to heavy clay soils and the Multiflora stock (rarely used today) does best on dry soils. The Rugosa “Hollandica” stock used for standard stems is more tolerant of sea salt areas but I found it was extremely susceptible to the Common rose rust disease.

FERTILISERS

In an effort to maximise our roses to produce healthier plants and more blooms, we are encouraged to apply amounts of chemically sourced nutrients in fertilisers to our rose beds. More recently, these fertilisers have been enriched by amounts of trace elements, without taking into account, the needs of our particular soil, its pH, mineral type or organic content. Even if we try to manipulate the natural balance in soil by applying fertilisers, we run the risk of upsetting its natural equilibrium.

It is often promoted that it is essential “To feed your roses”, but even babies get sick if you feed them too much! How many of us in the past, in this belief, have been tempted to use

just that little bit more fertiliser than the recommended dose? – that extra handful! Shame on us all! Experienced rose growers have reported the “Salt Effect” in rose beds for decades which science can explain as “Reverse Osmosis” where the levels of salts in the soil (from excessive applications of fertilisers) are higher than those in the plant, resulting in water loss, sickness, dehydration and, sometimes, subsequent death. Dr Duthie concluded that this was the reason why some rose growers used large amounts of organic matter (and without their realising) this was to counteract high levels of fertiliser. This practice re-established the natural balance in soil and re-established the buffering effect that humus provided.

Often, amateur rose growers will sprinkle fertiliser in a ring around their valued plants thinking that nutrients will spread themselves out – not true! Nutrients do not easily move sideways in soil; they only move down. This practice of frequent band applications will result in a ring of high concentration, sometimes toxic, ring of nutrients with impoverished areas elsewhere.

Dr Duthie was in the process of researching “What nutrients do roses really need” and evaluating the effects that high levels of fertilisers had on the soil microflora and fauna; essential work that was cut short by his illness. However, he did recommend that an annual treatment with composted horse manure was far more successful and natural; it gently supplied all the necessary nutrients for roses in a balanced way, acted as a buffering mechanism in the soil, helped to retain water, conditioned the soil and encouraged beneficial soil micro-organisms. An annual dressing in Spring was sufficient and it was not enough to lower the soil pH with excessive organic matter..

This extract from Dr John’s full article serves to remind us that the answer really does “lie in the soil!”

More than ever we remind our fellow rose lovers that before we ‘follow the heard’ in applying liberal helpings of any kind of fertilizer, we really should get a simple soil test carried out to find out what’s in the soil before we add more nutrients to it.

A common question is “Where can I get a soil test carried out?” Simply there are two options; DIY kits can be purchased on-line or possibly from your local garden centre with costs varying between £20 to £40 dependant upon size (number of tests



capable per kit) and require a little bit of a fiddle but fairly accurate results can be achieved.

More accurate and reliable results can be obtained by sending your samples to a soil testing laboratory. Naturally this is a more expensive option but one that I find gives me more confidence in the result.

Beverley Analytical Laboratories Ltd, Hull Bridge Mills, Weel Rd, Tickton, HU17 9SB are a UKAS accredited laboratory who offer a basic soil test (phosphorus P, potassium K, magnesium Mg and pH test for £13.31 + vat per sample and analysis takes 5 to 10 working days. Neil Duncan and I have both used this laboratory and they appear to be a reliable resource.

Beverley Analytical can be contacted on [01964 542144](tel:01964542144) or

by email to; janet@beverleyanalytical.co.uk

Collecting your samples is easy. I use a traditional bulb planter. Scraping away the top layer of mulch I will use the bulb planter to extract a core of soil about 5/6 inches from the surface. I tend to take 4 samples of the area that I want tested, mix them up in a clean bucket and decant about 500gm (they require 400gm minimum) into a plastic bag. Label it up, fill in the form that they will email you and you're done.

There are a number of electrical devices that will give an indication of pH. Obviously the price range will vary, as will the quality and accuracy of the result. However, they can give a quick guide to the alkalinity/acidity of your soil.

Thanks John for the use of Dr Duthie's findings, hopefully we have shed a little bit of light on this tricky little subject?

Oh the results? Other than showing that the results are within (or not) expected parameters, Beverley do not offer any advice on your results for the basic service but I think we all know someone who may be able to help us if we are really stuck!

Having received my own test results; I have work to do! The levels of Phosphorus and Potassium remain high (too high) and the pH is now at 7.1 For the coming season, I will only be applying Nitrogen (Ammonium Sulphate) as a granular feed and to get the pH down a bit further, I will be applying Sulphur Soil (by Greenacres) again. Two applications last year has lowered the pH from 7.3 and if I can get it down this year to below 7.0 my roses and I will be very happy.

Summer Rose Event 2024

Rose Weekender

Well, we have a treat for you all this year, something for all rose lovers we hope.

We have all seen his pictures and the reports from our National Rose Shows in past newsletters. Many will have seen the videos in the Members Area of the website. Some members will have seen his posts on Facebook. Without doubt, the society's most successful and dedicated rose exhibitor in recent years has been the indomitable, force of nature that is **Neil Duncan**! We are so pleased to be able to offer our members the chance to visit Neil's Hampshire allotment just a week or so before our first National show, to see over 1000 roses growing and being readied for a show. It will be an eye opener for many. It will be a feast of roses for everyone and a rare chance to see how Neil produces his wonderful roses.

Gillian Taylor, our co-organiser for the weekend, has arranged visits to two local rose gardens; Redenham Park and Rose Garden and Dummer Hall (see photos) both of which, she recommends highly.

This is what we have in store for you;

Saturday

9.00am arrive at venue - tea/coffee cakes

10.00am leave for Redenham Park and Rose garden visit

13.00pm catered, cooked lunch at venue

(menus to be confirmed)

14.30pm visit and guided tour of Neil's allotment and roses

16.30pm back to hall for tea/coffee and cake

Sunday

We go to Dummer House and rose garden including a private tour and tea in the garden



Come and see how Neil grows his prize-winning blooms



The Rose Garden at Redenham is just a short hop from Neil's allotment and where we'll be on Saturday morning



On Sunday, we have a guided tour of the rose garden at Dummer House , just a few miles north east of Andover

Tea and cake in the garden rounds off our weekender in Hampshire

We are currently negotiating preferential rates at local hotels for those requiring overnight accommodation, we will publish details as soon as we have them.

The cost for the weekender, which **includes entry** into both gardens; **all refreshments** on Saturday, including the **midday meal at Appleshaw** and **tea in the rose garden at Dummer House** will be £50 per person

Please book your place on this exciting weekend via the Society website shop - SOON!



Steve James

My roses and the Public

Like many Rose growers who are predominantly showmen at heart, I grow mine on an allotment and just a few odd ones around the house. I live in the Greater London area where most dwellings have two cars parked on what was the front garden, and very little grass out the back. This situation and the increasing pace of life has seen a gradual demise of exhibitors across all spheres of horticulture, and showing in particular, has suffered with the demise of many local society shows. Coupled with this, I have seen a number of Garden Centres close and now one must drive around four miles or more to find the nearest one.

However, these centres have become very large and the prices are likewise extortionate for whatever reason. This has resulted in some of the Allotment sites stocking composts and sundries for their plot holders. I am lucky here, in that my site is around 100 plots with an exceptionally large outbuilding in which we have stocked most everything, including some specialist items you cannot get from many Garden Centres. Needless to say, the word has got around, and every Sunday there is a constant queue of happy customers, especially in the summer. That is the time when the attraction of various flowers blooming on the allotments, Dahlias and Roses in particular, attract our customers to go walk about. My Roses being the closest to the hut are inevitably their first port of call, and it is interesting just how similar the questions and comments are from most of the visitors.

“Which Roses smell, mine don’t”.

They do have a point as few top show roses really smell, they are grown for the best form, not scent. However there are exceptions and if the atmospheric conditions are ideal then I guide them to “Blue for You” The scent can be exquisite and the colour blows them away. I then take them down to “Admiral Rodney” which just knocks their socks off and they then want to know if they can take a cutting. No, and for the hundredth time I reply, look up a Rose Nursery on the internet.

good advice Steve - <https://rvroger.co.uk/rosa-admiral-rodney/>



Blue For You

good advice Steve -

[Pococks Roses - Blue For You](#)

“Why do my rose leaves go funny and fall off.”

Because you must spray them roughly every six weeks. That garners incredulous looks and comments like, “all that lot, it must take ages” So I send them back to buy a bottle of spray from the hut, with little faith that they will use it.

“My stems are not as strong as yours “

Do you feed your Roses? I then explain the feeding regime through the year, only to be met with an open mouth and a bemused stare. So I tell them to go buy a bottle of Tomorite, follow instructions but stop feeding in mid-September. That seems to bring them around again!

again Steve - good advice but how about a bottle of Uncle Toms from our shop as well

[Uncle Toms Rose Tonic](#)

“Are those small Roses really Roses?”

Yes, duh, they are miniature Roses!



These days, miniature come in all shapes and colours -

on the left ‘Marriotta’ by McGredy - on the right ‘Glowing Amber’ by George Mander

“When do you prune your Roses?”

A question often asked in the middle of summer (because mine have gone all straggly). How old are they? Oh, they were there when we bought the house, that was about 30 years ago. Answers on a postcard!

best advice here is to check out one of the Society’s pruning workshops

“What is under those pots?”

Quite a common question around the show season to which I politely answer, I am protecting a possible show bloom. That then prompts, can I see it? No!

we exhibitors are a funny lot - we cover our specimen blooms to protect them from the weather; of course Steve if you used ‘see through’ pots then your visitors could see the roses!



Rose under a cover

pic by Neil Duncan

They are the commonest questions but I do get some odd ones especially from the children.

“My mum grows her Rose in a pot, why don’t you? I was almost lost for words.”

“Can you eat them?” I once answered that the Squirrels do, and got an immediate reply; “Can I have one for my Hamster?” One smart child.



Golden Beauty by Kordes Rosen

pic by Steve James

Anyway, having patiently survived the question assault, I guide them back to the main path via the Floribunda beds and this is where surprisingly almost everyone will select their favourite blooms from the whole plot.

The top of the list is “Golden Beauty” a mid to tall bushy growth rose, ideal for a back of border variety. It is a light Orange and throws single almost HT shaped blooms and sprays of four to eight or more blooms all out at once, making it a good show option. The only drawback is the

longevity, two days at best, so judging the moment to cut for showing is an art learnt over time. Also in its favour is that it is the most disease resistant rose I grow and it does not attract any insect predators. It is slightly scented and many visitors compare the scent to



Celebration Time bred by Tom Carruth USA

an actual Orange, and I am inclined to agree.

Their second favourite is most definitely "Celebration Time". Everyone just stands and stares at the strange colour, never having seen anything like it before. It is best described I think, as a light terracotta red which changes to a softer mix as the season progresses. Initially it is a front of border height, but with good nurture it will bush out and can get to three foot plus. I find for show work you need to treat it similar to "Blue for You". Remove the centre bud as

soon as possible and disbud the side pedicles, ideally leaving five buds, but no more, which should give you a well-balanced spray. It may not be the biggest vase of floribundas, but it does have charisma and a big impact on the show bench due to the colour and novelty value.

A close third is Gemini, a lovely mix of white and rose with perfect HT form and good foliage.

My personal favourite for colour is the old variety Lady Mavis Pilkington a beautiful mango/orange with a slight red flush on the outer few petals. A great shame it is no longer available unless anyone knows different.

The hut closes at 13:00 hrs and a refreshing cup of tea beckons. I breathe a sigh of relief knowing that I have done the best I can to encourage potential new Rose growers.



Gemini bred by Dr Keith Zary USA

pic by Steve James

Steve James

As well as growing wonderful roses Steve is a superb 'After Show' Clearer Upperer (yes, of course that's a real word!) and a very important part of our eccentric group.

Save The Date in 2024

21st April	Society AGM in Pelsall
25th April	Zoom Meeting - All About Showing Roses
9th to 12th May	Malvern Spring Show
8th June	Windsor Rose Show
15th and 16th June	Society Summer Weekender in Hampshire
22nd June	Rose Society of Wales Show at Yneswyn
29th and 30th June	Summer Rose Festival at Squires, Shepperton
6th and 7th July	R V Rogers Rydale Rose Festival, Pickering
21st July	The Little Rose Show at Pelsall
2nd and 3rd August	The Taunton Flower Show
14th to 18th August	The Southport Flower Show
13th to 15th September	The Autumn Show at Newby Hall
27th to 28th September	The Malvern Autumn Show

Well that's this year but what about next year? We are still planning on producing a Society Calendar with member's pictures adorning its pages. So, get snapping (keep snapping) and we'll give you details of where and how to send your pictures.

Pauline's Rosy Roundup



It's still pouring with rain. I don't think we've ever had a February/March like it. Even our sandy soil is soggy and difficult to dig.

On the bright side there's been more time to get in the greenhouses and keep dry. I have hundred of new babies – all open pollinated this year. Looking forward to some interesting results. Queen of the Night and Secret Smile have both produced some viable plants. Can't wait for the blooms. We have propagated some of last years more promising seedlings and wait to see how they grow budded onto rootstocks.

I tried seeds from Tottering by Gently but did not get one seed to germinate so maybe not a good seed parent.



Getting down to the practical side of pruning at the Walled Garden



Our President, Colin Squire, keeping his eye on proceedings

We have been so lucky with the weather on our pruning workshops. We offered 3 days to our members who had hands-on practice at Sunbury walled garden as well as presentations on rose care and looking after secateurs. Hot soup and sandwiches were provided at lunch time and we were fortunate to be joined by one of our

best rose growers; Neil Duncan. Between Ray, myself and Neil we grow over 2,000 roses which all require pruning so we were well qualified to offer advice and guidance.



**National
Trust**

Two pruning workshops were held in conjunction with the National Trust at Anglesey Abbey and were very well received. No hands-on



At Anglesey Abbey, we were very lucky to be able to do the theory part of the day in the Lower Gallery that is home to a wonderful art collection

pruning for members because of the Trust's Health and Safety Regulations but loads of demonstrations on pruning many different types of roses including some established climbers and ramblers.

We are indebted to Amy McCormack, one of the lead gardeners at Anglesey, who worked with us to set up the workshops .

Interestingly, Anglesey was never actually an Abbey. A former priory, the property was acquired around 1600 by Thomas Hobson, who converted it to a country house for his son-in-law, Thomas Parker, retaining a few arches from the original priory. At that time the building's name was changed to "Anglesey Abbey", which

sounded grander than the original "Anglesey Priory". In the late 18th century, the house was owned by Sir George Downing, the founder of Downing College, Cambridge.



Amy, showing visitors how she prunes, and trains the climbing rose 'New Dawn', believed to have been planted in the 1930s

All the workshops were very well supported with over 80 people taking part across the three days. Look out for next year's workshops. They will be advertised on the Website in

the winter. We do not make money on any of our events and only charge a nominal fees of between to cover tea coffee and food.

We will be very happy to investigate new venues for our pruning workshops in 2025, if you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Pauline Martin

RosE-shopping

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 Shop Manager, Mark Nash is constantly restocking and increasing the inventory. And don't forget all profits benefit the Society.

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

or scan the QR code



baseball caps



scan me to go to
the Shop



polo shirts



Uncle Tom's Rose Tonic

and much, much, more

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
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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;

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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



to our SPONSORS



The Rose Society UK

Seventh AGM

21st April 2024

at St Michaels Church Hall Pelsall WS3 4JN



Please consider coming to the AGM. We are obligated to have our annual meeting to comply with our Society Constitution. We know that AGMs can be tedious, so we try to make ours a little lighter. It's a chance to meet up for the first time this year with some of our members and present (where possible) some of the Society Awards.

The minutes of the 2023 AGM can be found in the Member's Area of the website

Our Annual Financial Statement will be presented at the AGM by our Treasurer Steve Durham

We'll be providing a light buffet lunch and refreshments.

Please let us know **IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ATTEND** so that we can cater appropriately

info@therosesociety.org.uk