

The Rose Times

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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 is Maurice Guest's wonderful floribunda Brush Strokes. Introduced in 1999, this is one of Maurice's best floribundas. It is bred from one of his un-named seedlings crossed with the 1978 McGredy hybrid tea variety Solitaire. It is quite widely available but this variety and many of Maurice's other varieties are with

Style Roses of Holbeach near Spalding;

<https://styleroses.co.uk/>

Maurice flanked by fellow ARBA members Peter James on the left and Len Scrivens on the right



From the Secretary

Hello everyone and, once again, apologies for the lateness (very) of this edition of the society newsletter.

No excuses from me, just a fact of life I'm afraid that is that we have a lot going on with our society and very few of us to share out the jobs that need doing. As usual, I will try to catch up in future editions to ensure that we do actually fulfil our four editions quota but this season is a busy one and like everyone, at this time of the year, we just want to get out and enjoy our roses!



We have to go back to our AGM in April for our catch-up of society affairs and so much has happened since then. We've had Zoom nights and a Spring Show at Malvern; a Royal rose show in Windsor and our summer weekender in Andover.

Some sad news to relate is the passing of the UK's most successful amateur rose breeders. Maurice Guest died in May and whilst this is obviously sad for his family and friends, Maurice has left us his beautiful roses which will live on as perpetual memorial to him. Our Chairman John recalls Maurice, his life and his roses later in this edition.

We also pass on our condolences to Tony Bracegirdle whose wife Alice passed away in March this year. As we all know, Tony was National Rose Champion many, many times over and Alice was always by his side, helping stage his prizewinning exhibits and accompanying

him to rose shows and events all over the UK. She was also an RNRS Accredited Judge so she certainly knew her roses.

Alice had not enjoyed good health for a number of years and she will be greatly missed.

In May we wound up our Ask The Experts, Winter Zoom series. Martin Stott hosted a star studded panel including Thomas Proll (Kordes Roses); Matthias Meilland (Meilland Roses); Chris Warner (Warner Roses) gave us a glimpse of the new varieties that will be available in 2024/25. Daniel and Martin visited the Chelsea Flower Show and recorded a short video round-up of new Chelsea roses. Daniel then updated us on the Rose Breeders Group activities. It was a fun filled and informative Zoom event and our technical skills held up long enough for us to record the event and store it in the Members Area of the society website. If you haven't already done so, you'll need to register to gain access, but it's a one off process and we can always help if you have difficulties.



Sarah and Colin Squire at the
60th Anniversary Party

Pauline and I were delighted to be invited by Sarah and Colin Squire their Twickenham Garden Centre for an afternoon tea to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the garden centre on that site. As you know, the Squire family are great supporters of the Rose Society UK and we are so grateful and fortunate to be able to stage our Summer Rose Festival at Shepperton each June.

This year's event is this coming weekend 29/30th June at Squires Garden Centre, Halliford Road, Upper Halliford, Shepperton TW17 8SG. This year, our Patron, TV gardener, garden designer and author, Adam Frost will be joining us on Saturday 29th. Adam will be on-site to see the show and mix with members. Do try to get along to see the show; we hope to have a good display of the finest roses that you'll see anywhere; all grown by our own members.

Obviously the show has now happened, Adam was in fine form and we'll report on this in next edition.



Society Patron Adam Frost

Back to Twickenham, we were asked if, as part of their 60th Anniversary Celebrations, we would do an afternoon talk. It was a pleasure to be able to help and a good crowd turned up to listen to us talk about our favourite subject! David Domoney, also delivered an afternoon talk a couple of weeks earlier about how to Grow Your Own flowers, fruit and vegetables. I think we had a bigger audience! Just goes to show that roses are still the Nation's favourite flower!



The rose show season started early this year as The Royal Windsor Rose and Horticultural Society held their annual show at The York Club in Windsor Great Park. Two of our members took part in the show; Neil Duncan and Matthew Pitt between them scooped all of the silver cups on offer in the rose section of the show with Matthew winning the Rose Society UK Bronze Medal



That Alan Titchmarsh will go anywhere to be photographed with our members! Well done Neil Duncan (left) and Matthew Pitt (right)

Matthew's most fragrant rose that won the Bronze medal

Lastly in my roundup and catchup of events is our Summer Weekender in Hampshire.

We were slightly disappointed that only 25 members signed up for this event but it was none the less enjoyable. The weather was kind to us (eventually). When we assembled at Appleshaw Village hall it appeared that we may be in for a bit of a drenching but we set off



Plenty of roses in the mixed borders



Neil seems much happier than Frank Morris during a shower! Maybe because Neil is wearing his Society waterproof jacket

for Redenham Park in a hopeful mood.

Although umbrellas were at the ready, we managed to dodge the showers and enjoy a thoroughly pleasant garden.

With no labels on most of the bushes, we were pleased to have Debbie Symes in the party, Debbie was in super sleuth mode identifying many of the unnamed varieties.

After a splendid lunch at the Appleshaw Village hall we walked the very short distance to Neil's allotment where everyone looked on in awe at the array of roses growing on the plot. The roses were not yet in full flush but there was plenty of colour on show and the promise of much, much more to come. Over 1000 roses on one allotment garden, I think impressed everyone. Neil explained how he grows, looks after and cuts the roses for the many shows that he attends during the course of the rose season. Everything is on show at Neil's plot, there are no secrets to growing this many quality roses . . . just hard work and dedication.

We eventually dragged ourselves away from Neil's plot, back to the hall for a hot drink and a slice of cake! A number of attendees brought roses to the day for a little 'Just for fun' competition. Judged by Neil and Pauline, Stella Morris was the winner, taking home her prize of a bottle of Uncle Toms for Frank to feed their roses!



Neil and I had a fashion faux pas as we arrived at The Lion wearing identical shirts



Everyone was super-impressed with Neil's roses and his enthusiasm - good roses don't happen by accident

Paula Duncan managed to arrange an impromptu evening meal at the local Lion pub where 18 of us enjoyed good food and a drink or two and an evening talking about roses. A great way to end day one.

Next day, Sunday, and what a perfect day we had! We met at the Dummer House Garden, the home of Sir Crispin Davis OBE, where we were very fortunate to be welcomed by Sir Crispin himself. The garden is a mix of modern, Austin and old garden roses and is a sight



Francis E Lester climbs over this gateway flanked by *Rosa gallica* 'Rosa Mundi'

for the soul. Laura, the gardener has done a magnificent job and keeps the garden in immaculate condition. She was on hand to answer questions and chat with the group while we drank tea and ate more cake!

A wonderful day to conclude a wonderful trip, we must give our sincere thanks to **Gillian Taylor** who arranged the garden visits and catering. It's fantastic that we have such talented members who are prepared to help organise events and help the society.

Thanks also, obviously, to **Neil and Paula Duncan** whose idea the whole event was and for being such wonderful hosts. Also to Paula's daughter Aimee, who helped out with the catering.

I think that pretty much brings us up to date with society life.

The next few weeks will be just as busy as the rose show season really kicks off. The Rose Society of Wales show took place in Yneswyn recently and we hope that one of our members attending, photographed the show and will send a report. As I mentioned, our Rose Festival at Squires Shepperton is at the end of June. The Rydale Rose Festival at R V Rogers is on 6/7th July. Our "Show in a Day" show at Pelsall is on 21st July. This is a wonderful 'little' show. Everything you'd expect from a National show, except we really do want any members who fancy trying their hand at exhibiting to come along to this show. All of our experienced exhibitors will be on hand to assist any 'newby' to get started on their rose show experience. We set the show up in the morning, we exhibit and judge the roses; then we have cream and jam scones and tea and we chat about the results for a couple of hours. More tea before breaking down the show and heading home. It all sounds a bit rushed but in fact, it's a relaxed friendly day intended to encourage, educate all our members to share their roses with other rosarians. If you think you'd like to come along and have a go, please drop an email to pauline@therosesociety.org.uk to get all the info that you need. The cream and jam scones are delicious and worth the trip on their own! And of course, it would be remiss of me not to mention Pauline's famously delicious real cream Victoria Sandwich cakes and Jane Durham's yummy cheesecake! Come for the roses, stay for the cakes!!!

Taunton Flower Show is on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd August. The show is a real traditional flower show, held in the town's Vivary Park and all details to enter and visit can be found at <https://tauntonfs.co.uk/>

Southport's 100th Flower Show is on August 14th to August 18th, the website for the show is <https://www.southportflowershow.co.uk/> where all important information can be obtained.

Our Autumn show will once again be at Newby Hall in Ripon, more details of our last National of the season in the August Rose Times.

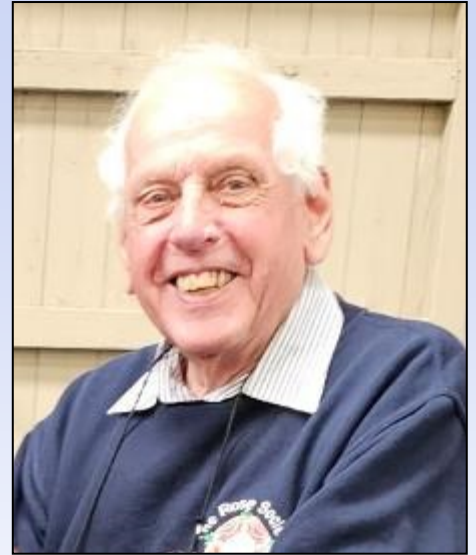
The WFRS Regional is in July and I understand that several of our members will be attending. Nordic Roses 2024 will hopefully be a riot of roses so look for a report in the next Rose Times.

Ray Martin

The Chairman's Rosy Ramblings

My notes this time, must begin with sadness, in that I recently attended the funeral of Maurice Guest.

Maurice was one of our society's founder members and died suddenly on 14 May just a few weeks short of his 96th birthday. Along with Ray and Pauline Martin, we met Maurice's friends and family at the local Crematorium for the ceremony and committal. At the following wake we reminisced with his family and best friend, the successful rose breeder Peter James. I enjoyed chatting with Peter about the times when he, along with Len Scriven and Maurice, began their rose breeding activities with the Amateur Rose Breeders association in the early nineteen seventies.



John discussing roses and better times
with Peter James

My first contact with Maurice was with the former West Midlands Rose Society when the three of them gave a talk to the society about their rose breeding. I remember Maurice telling me of a Hybrid Tea rose he had raised and, knowing that I was a keen exhibitor, he sent me budwood. He said it had been named for his daughter Janice, and was called Jan Guest. I remember exhibiting the rose at an RNRS summer show in the RHS halls at Westminster, I think, in 1976. It was at this event when the specialist exhibitors nurseryman Fred Haynes asked me to let him have budding

eyes, so I referred him to Maurice and the rest is

history. The rose Jan Guest became an exhibitor's "banker" over the following years, appearing in many prize-winning exhibits and was instrumental in starting Maurice's successful rose breeding career. It is still occasionally seen on the show bench today, particularly at our Spring show as it is an early bloomer. Maurice has introduced several good varieties over the years and has many in Styles Roses list at the moment amongst them being Brush Strokes and The Bee's Knees.

Before returning home, his wife Vivien invited us to see how over the years, he had been so successful from just a small greenhouse. We saw the crosses he had made in 2023 and the resulting seedlings sown last year for he had indicated was not making any crosses this



Like Peter James, Maurice was instrumental in the development of Persica roses - this is his 'The Bees Knees'

introduced by McGredy of 1955! Vintage which still grows well for me under glass. Grandpa Dickson the yellow HT from Dickson's in 1967 was the other variety. I was able to stage four excellent rose bloom from two pots of this variety. Sometimes the old ones are still the best!

I'm afraid I will have to scale back with my presence in future at some of our outdoor activities in which I enjoy taking part and will miss immensely.

I do have considerable help these days with my garden and my roses are looking good particularly my ramblers and climbers. I have posted several pictures on social media pages recently and some may have seen them. I hope to continue growing rose here at Pelsall for a while yet.

year. May he Rest in peace.

My own mobility has become more difficult with painful Arthritis in both ankles and knee. I was; however able to exhibit at our spring Show and help with Society stand at the Malvern Spring festival in May. It was rewarding to see 10 exhibitors growing roses under cover and staging for this event a big increase over recent years. I counted 121 entries on the bench which reflected this. For my part I still grow some older HT varieties and was rewarded by gaining the most points in this section. For the record one was Piccadilly a rose



Well cut grass and immaculate edging leads through the roses back to John's house

Happy rose growing,

John Anthony



DEREK LAWRENCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES AND ROSE SOCIETY UK COMMITTEE MEMBER VIVIDLY RECALLS HIS MIDSUMMER VISIT TO.....

THE BREATHTAKING BEAUTY OF RHS BRIDGEWATER

It was an ambitious undertaking, and a huge financial risk; with the monumental costings of 44 million pounds, and was set to become the biggest gardening project in Europe since the dawn of the new millennium. The then Director General of the Royal Horticultural Society, Sue Biggs announced to Members in 2015 that the long search to find a site for the proposed fifth RHS garden had been found. Located in a derelict 154 acre site, in Salford on the outskirts of Manchester, its rich horticultural past and idyllic setting made it the perfect choice. The renowned Award winning garden designer, Tom Stuart-Smith was appointed to create a masterplan to ensure that the new garden would meet the expectations and aspirations of 21st Century gardeners'. He was acutely conscious and sensitive of the history of the site, with two large overgrown walled gardens, dilapidated glasshouses and densely overpopulated orchards. He set about to create a modern garden, but to reflect and observe its majestic past.



Worsley New Hall circa 1880

The estate was firmly established by 1840, with the creation of the imposing Elizabethan gothic-looking Worsley New Hall, which was built on the hillside, and had dramatic views of the surrounding countryside. The surrounding gardens were designed by landscape architect, Williams Andrews Nesfield who added formal terraces, a large ornamental lake, and a 11 acre walled garden that gave an air of grandeur. This impressive site soon courted the attention of Queen

Victoria, who visited Worsley during 1851 and 1857 respectively. The estate was owned by the Egerton family, who were reputed to be early pioneers of the industrial north. Francis Egerton, 3rd Duke of Bridgewater, was responsible with the formation of the canal system;

which enabled small vessels to transport coal from his mines in Worsley to Manchester. The canal became known as Bridgewater Canal, and runs along the southern boundary of the garden, henceforth, the RHS adopted the name as a tribute to the estate's impressive industrial past.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, the Egerton family could no longer afford to keep the estate going, and sold off much of the assets, leaving the area abandoned to nature. Subsequently, it became overgrown and wild. During both World Wars the property and land was taken over by the British military. In 1943, the house was badly damaged by fire and due to subsidence being evident, the building was demolished between 1946 and 1949.

It took the RHS six years to transform the derelict site into a horticultural masterpiece. It officially opened in May 2021 and justly received over 500,000 visitors within its first year. As you enter the garden, you are immediately drawn to the large metal portals on the Long Walk, which first made their debut at the



Bridgewater promotional garden at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2019. The expansive lush-green lawn contains impressive yew domes, giving overall striking architectural drama. If Tom Stuart-Smith's intention was to welcome the visitor and beckon them to explore further, it most certainly does the trick! I couldn't wait to immerse my senses in the Paradise Garden. According to Curator, Marcus Chilton-Jones it reaches its climax during July, and the gentleman is absolutely correct. Fulsome foliage and exuberant jewel-like

flowers, create the maximum paradise effect. The garden is located within one of the large walled gardens, and is artistically divided into separate areas. The Mediterranean section contains bleached, tawny grasses that are weaved through the plantings; giving the clever illusion of sun-scorched days. Everyone's favourites are incorporated into each element of the garden, such as lavender, violet-purple stems of Salvia and silvery-blue thistle Eryngium, which is always curiously known as Sea Holly. The garden is segregated by a



Lily pond and rills

large lily pond that has two long rills, which feed the central pond with constant running water. This feature superbly reflects the origins of Persian Paradise gardens where water is a main component; giving an atmosphere of peace and calm. The third part of the garden is the Asiatic section that contains a fine collection of plants originating from such regions of the world as the Himalayas, China, Japan and central Asia. The large Japanese maple (*Acer Palmatum*)

is the only tree that has remained from the original garden. In essence, the surrounding walling protect many of the plants from bitter northly winds, which frequently prevail during the winter months.



Glasshouse and Paradise Garden



The Garden Cottage viewed from the Walled Garden

One of Bridgewater's most iconic buildings is located near the Paradise Garden. The charming Garden Cottage, which was built around 1834 and has accommodated a number of Head Gardeners' over the estate's long history. The cottage and adjoining garden, has a nostalgic and rather romantic feel.

The vegetable plots and community garden are worthy of a visit. During midsummer the crops are bountiful in their neat raised beds, their healthy foliage tumbles into the pathways. French marigolds (*Tagetes*) and deliciously fragrant sweet peas are added as companion plants that creates a warm tapestry between the lush green leafage. The Peel Learning Garden offers school children tuition on how to grow plants and why they are important to our well-being and to the environment.



Vegetable garden in the Walled Garden

The classically designed Chinese Streamside garden covers an expanse of 7 acres and contains five bridges across the stream. The landscape contains a vast amount rocks and boulders that are punctuated by native shrubs and oriental plants. As I wandered around, I felt I'd returned South East Asia. On reflection, I feel that it's one of the best examples of a traditional Chinese garden that I've ever experienced outside of China.



Chinese Streamside Garden

As I wandered around the perimeter of Egerton Lake, I could see swifts and house martins flying low over the water, as well as dragonflies hovering over the surface. The entire area is positively buzzing with wildlife and it's testimony to the RHS, whose remit is to work with nature.



Desdemona

For the rosarian, there is no area that is dedicated to the rose, which is a great pity. In my view, an opportunity was sadly missed. Maybe over the coming years, the RHS may consider creating a rose garden? However, as I wandered around this horticultural oasis, I did discover a few roses which were dotted around various locations. Fine examples are 'Alberic Barbier' (Barbier Frères & Compagnie 1900), scrambling up large metal frames in the Weston Walled Garden. 'Strawberry

Hill' (Austin, 1998), 'Gentle Hermione' (Austin, 2004) and 'Desdemona' (Austin 2015), are dispersed amongst the perennials in the impressive sweeping herbaceous borders. Despite this drawback, I thoroughly recommend any rose lover to pay a visit to RHS Bridgewater. The plantings are exquisite and well executed; giving rosarians inspiration for general garden design and to the concept of adding companion plantings with roses. In many



Gentle Hermione



Strawberry Hill

respects, what was a former rather dated Victorian garden, and been transformed into an exciting horticultural showcase, to address the needs and expectations of a new generation of 21st Century gardeners.

Derek Lawrence

007 

A warm welcome awaits you in Japan

World Federation of Rose Societies 20th World Rose Convention 2025 in FUKUYAMA

See website for all details;

<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/>

May 18-24, 2025



第20回
世界バラ会議
福山大会
2025

WFRS 20th
WORLD ROSE CONVENTION
2025 in FUKUYAMA

Roses for the Future
~A New Future Begins in Fukuyama~

‘The Community Spirit through Roses’, symbolizing compassion, kindness, and mutual cooperation, originated from the initiative of residents who planted 1,000 roses with a wish for peace. Join us as we work towards realizing a sustainable society, sharing this spirit nationwide, worldwide, and passing it on to future generations.

Members at Large

Nothing gives us more pleasure than meeting our members in the flesh.

If you're out and about and see us at flower shows and events, please say hello!

At Malvern in May we have our annual show for greenhouse roses. It is in fairness a relatively small show but none the less attracts a lot of attention and interest. Many of our members do stop by to 'smell the roses'



Paul Acock from Stow-on-the-Wold is a society member and a regular Malvern visitor and is planning to grow a few greenhouse roses for next year's show.

At this year's show, Paul was sporting one of our rose society baseball caps - very suave!

We'll be looking out for Paul's roses at next year's show.

You can get yours on the society website, using this QR code.



A Rose By Any Name

I asked Tony Bracegirdle how he came up with the name Toots for his fabulous miniflora. He said,

"The name comes from the film of the same name. When I see a seedling that I like, I give it a nick name, and the strange thing is ever since I named it I have always wondered why.

But a funny thing happen a few years ago at the Harrogate show, I was on the stand of Rogers Roses. A lady asked Ian if there was a rose called Toots? He replied by asking her to tap the shoulder of the gentleman stood behind her, and ask him. That gentleman just happened to be me.

On her repeating the question to me I enquired why she wanted a rose of this name? It seems that she had just lost her little dog and that was its name. Strange; now why did I chose that name".

That's Kismet Tony, which happens to be another great name for a rose!



Is Soil Sickness - fact or fiction?

If it's fact then how can we deal with it?

This report, kindly provided by
**Amy McCormack, Lead Gardener
at the National Trust's
Anglesey Abbey**



Introduction

The rose garden at Anglesey Abbey consists of 41 rectangular or square beds that each contain a single variety of rose, the rose garden looks its best between late June – July and then again between September and the first frosts. Throughout the years as various varieties have succumbed to either age, disease, or pest damage they have been replaced with new groups and varieties, predominantly with David Austin roses. David Austin roses are grafted onto Rosa Laxa rootstocks, that show a good tolerance to pest and disease, sucker less and produce a very robust rose with high levels of florescence.

Rose Planting Trial

When a bed of roses is replaced at Anglesey Abbey, normal practice in previous years has been to remove the plants and soil to a depth of one meter and replace with fresh topsoil to avoid RRD and successfully establish new plants.

This year an observational trial was undertaken to determine if there was an advantage to planting roses in carboard boxes filled with fresh topsoil that are sunk into existing topsoil verses three other methods to avoid the removal of topsoil. If successful this could improve our resource management in terms labour and costs, including, hire costs of digger and driver and to minimise our topsoil use while reducing our impact on the environment.

Rose replant disease

When a new rose is planted into the same soil that has previously had roses growing in it there is a chance that it will suffer from rose replant disease (RRD). RRD is a soil bourn pathogen linked to Nematodes and various soil organisms, new plants with young roots are susceptible to RRD whilst older plants are more resilient.

Discussion

Over the last several years some of the more recently planted rose beds at Anglesey have been showing signs of fatigue and mortality rates have been high in some of the varieties, the consensus among the garden team is that this is the result of rose replant disease. This is more than possible as newly planted roses have struggled to establish in recent years and failed to reach their potential. What is relevant to point out is that when new beds are planted the old soil is removed and fresh soil is brought in, the question is if it is replant disease that is present in the old soil why or how is it affecting roses planted in fresh topsoil? Other hypotheses have been put forward such as soil exhaustion, which once again could be an accurate assessment but also begs the question that if new soil is transported in, how is the soil becoming exhausted? One answer could be the number of roses per bed, originally, the smaller beds would contain 16 roses per bed in a bed approximately $2.5 \times 2.5\text{m}^2$, this in theory could lead to a depletion of nutrients as the roses compete and the weaker plants perish. Recent years have seen that number reduced to 12 and now 6-9 in some cases. Rhizosphere maintenance may also be an influencing factor concerning the condition of the soil and vegetation. Mulching with good organic matter has taken place annually and should encourage the humification process and promote beneficial soil organism and mycorrhizal activity, while preventing soil erosion and creating/maintaining a good soil structure by keeping soil aggregates stable. There has also been irregular fertilising undertaken which has seen fertiliser being applied at varying rates with no consistency, this could also be affecting the plant establishment and growth by effectively stopping cation exchange within the soil profile and between the soil and the plant roots.

Another consideration must also be irrigation, some of the beds have shown anaerobic conditions when dug and frequent watering will discourage greater root depth. Salinization may also be a problem in areas of over watering and also the presence of pest and disease in the forms of blackspot and other fungal diseases that thrive in moist humid conditions.

Method and Materials

Four methods were decided upon to trial, and our trial roses were purchased bare root and heeled in at the nursery garden while we prepared the beds for the trial. The variety of rose purchased was 'Mr Lincoln', a medium size, repeat flowering hybrid tea. Six roses were planted per method and observed over a eight-month period, after the first frosts they were lifted and an observational assessment was made of the root systems to determine which method had produced the greatest amount of fibrous root. The roses were planted in May and lifted in December.

Method 1:

Method 1 was to plant six of the roses into cardboard boxes measuring approximately 30cm x30cmx 30cm (HxWxD). The boxes were filled with fresh topsoil, purchased from bourn amenity for another project and screeded to 6mm, they were planted into bed 1 with just the rim of the box showing above ground level. The reason for this method is to allow the roots to establish themselves in the fresh soil free of any RRD and allow the plant to mature enough that by the time the cardboard box decomposes the plant will be strong enough to survive if RRD is present.

Method 2:

Method 2 was our control group; these roses were planted as normal with nothing added to the soil or the plants.

Method 3:

The roses planted for the third method were planted with a shovel load of compost dug into the bottom of the planting hole to ameliorate the soil and increase beneficial soil biota.

Method 4:

Method 4 included the use of mycorrhizal fungi; the roots were dipped into clean water and then the mycorrhizal was applied to the roots prior to planting to encourage faster root establishment and other benefits that come with mycorrhizal plant relationships such as a greater protection from pest and disease and greater access to water and nutrients.

Fertiliser

Each group was given a granular feed twice through the growing season, once after the first flush of flower and then again halfway through the second flush, the fertiliser used was Thompsons flower and veg fertiliser as we were unable to purchase specific rose feed, the N-P-K of the fertiliser is 5-7.5-10-+1.7Mg + TE (trace elements) and was applied at a rate of 70grammes per square metre

The Results

Root development

The roses were lifted in December and each method was assessed visually, methods 1,3 and 4 each had one fatality and method 2 had two fatalities, the remaining plants were assessed side by side and method one (boxed) had produced significantly more fibrous

root than the other three methods, method 4 (Mycorrhiza) displayed a greater amount of fibrous root than methods two and three and method 3 (Compost) displayed greater root development than method 2 (Control).

Florescence

Flowering was recorded during the eight-month period and results show that the roses in group 4 were the first to flower. Group 1 demonstrated a greater amount of blooms followed by group 3 and 2. Some pest damage was recorded through the season by rabbit and deer.



Method 1: Roses planted in boxes showing a significantly greater amount of fibrous root.



Method 2: Control method, planted as normal and showing the least amount of root growth.



Method 3: Roses planted with compost showing some fibrous root development.



Method 4: Roses planted with Mycorrhiza showing the second most substantial amount of root growth.

Conclusion

Method 1 where the roses were planted in boxes containing fresh topsoil seemed to show a greater development of fibrous root growth when compared to methods 2,3 and 4, and a greater total biomass throughout the growing season. Method 4 where mycorrhizal fungal was added to the roots prior to planting also indicated a greater root development than methods 2 and 3. Method 2, the control group was the method that showed the least amount of root growth and overall biomass, it also had a greater number of fatalities than the other groups, 33% compared to 16%. Method 3 which incorporated the addition of compost into the planting whole showed some root development greater than the control group but less than groups 1 and 4. Each group were given the same rate of fertiliser through the growing season, but irregular irrigation patterns could account for a difference in the growth rate of all four methods. Florescence was also significantly greater in groups 1 and 4. Some animal damage to the plants was recorded throughout the summer and could also have affected root growth rates as the plants need to photosynthesise to produce the photoassimilates and sugars that an increase in biomass is dependent upon, constant removal of leaf will gradually exhaust the plant, lead to senescence and

eventually death of the plant. Other factors influencing growth such as irrigation patterns, pest and disease and horticultural practices need to be reviewed in line with any further trials as a greater amount of information could provide us with an even better chance of mitigating the mortality rates and improving the establishment of future planting. Recommendations for further planting/trials using these methods compared to complete removal of topsoil would be a combination of methods 1 and 4. These two methods in combination could prove to be more beneficial in establishing strong root development than each being used separately.

Thanks so much Amy, for allowing us to share this trial. Rose replant and soil sickness engenders so much discussion and divides opinion. However this trial gives some weight to the suggestion that the use of mycorrhizal fungus can show some positive results. This is obviously a limited test but none the less indicate a positive result.

Some of our more 'experienced' members will, I'm sure, remember dear old Sid Barker from Stanwick in Northamptonshire. An accomplished grower and exhibitor of old and new roses. Sid had a small garden and allotment and frequently run out of space when he wished to plant new roses. I believe he was one of the first (if not THE first) to plant new roses in cardboard boxes. Certainly, long before Peter Beales started selling them as a planting aid!

Don't forget you can get all the mycorrhizal that you need from our society shop.

We'd be very pleased to hear your experiences with replanting old soil with new roses.



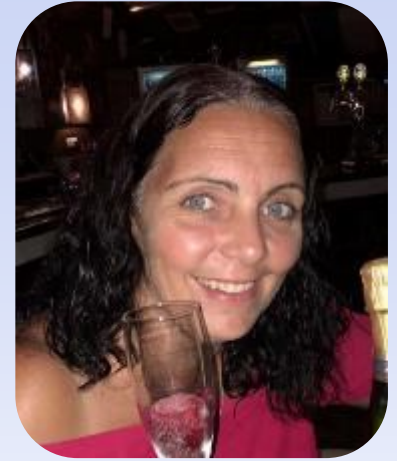
Just found this pic of Sid with his daughter Heather

Sid passed away on 8th February 2011 - his legend lives on!



Rochfords

International Rose Trials



Kerry Austen reports on this year's trials

So as you may have noticed it was a very wet start to the year. The roses fared well over winter with very little frost. The spring has been a mixed bag of warm and wet, which has resulted in some black spot and rust arriving earlier than normal. We have around 70 entries for trials 6 which are now waiting for their first judging session later in the year.

Trial 4 is due to be completed this year in sept. 6 varieties have been withdrawn to mainly plant failures. The rest are blooming well and have been judged for the first time this year.

Trial 5 are also blooming well and this will be its 2nd year of judging. Some of the roses are really standing out as being highly disease resistant considering the weather we have had.



These images, supplied by Kerry, are just some of the hundreds of roses on trial at Rochfords.

Remember, as part of the trial process, none of these roses are sprayed with insecticide or fungicides.





The perfume from the field is a delight and makes my job much sweeter.

We continue to monitor the roses for pests, aphids we're around early in the year but the ladybirds have done a great job at reducing numbers.

The mixed border along side the rose trials is filling out nicely and helps with the biodiversity of the site.

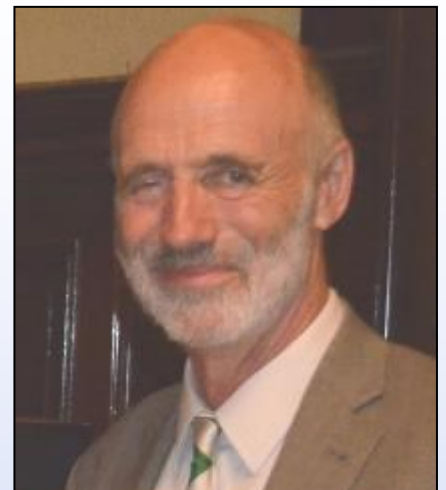
Follow us on Facebook

Rochfords international rose trials

Take care

Hopefully summer will arrive soon !!!

Kerry Austen



The trials, located in Hertford, are generously hosted by **Paul Rochford**, Managing Director of Joseph Rochford Gardens Ltd. for the benefit of all rose growers. They are a UK proving ground for new rose varieties bred and supplied by rose breeders from the UK and all around the globe.

For more information including viewing and judging opportunities, please contact;
Rebecca Grant at the Rochfords International Rose Trials roses@rochfords.net

Pauline's Rosy Roundup

It's been a most peculiar season with far more rain and wind than we usually have – certainly here in the far east. The roses were confused – one day warm next day cold they couldn't decide whether to flower or hang on. As I write this most of the floribunda's, old garden roses and climbers are well into their first flush and over in some cases. Many of the HT's had blind shoots so not much bloom on them.



We had a successful Malvern Show with a Silver Gilt for the Society Stand and a week of beautiful weather. Ray and I won the Spring Championship with some pleasing exhibits.



Neil Duncan's miniflora Star Bloom

'Shameless'

less we had a successful show and welcomed the help from Jill Rose and Linda Nutbein who helped us and John McCarthy to pack the stand up and clear the show.

Our basket of Irresistible winning best exhibit in show. Neil Duncan and Ivor Mace both had some good quality minis and minifloras and John Anthony won the Gardener's Company Cup for the most points in the HT classes. He had blooms of Piccadilly and Grandpa Dickson amongst his entries – both these varieties grow well under glass for the spring show.

Many thanks to Stella and Frank Morris and John McCarthy who helped us set up the stand with out Chairman John Anthony. Stella and I had a difficult job trying to stage the rose bowls in Fibre Floral which resulted in some less than perfect staging. None the



Two miniature baskets - on the right

Best In Show Irresistible by Pauline and Ray Martin



Pauline and Stella preparing ten bowls of roses to decorate the stand



Star Floribunda at Malvern Spring Show was England's Heroes - a great garden and show rose

Mottisfont held its 50th year celebrations earlier in June and Ray and I went along with our president Colin Squire to help them celebrate. A beautiful evening with late summer sun and wonderfully fragrant roses complimented by companion planting. The garden has certainly benefitted from the wet weather this year. It was struggling last year in the prolonged dry spell.



Since we were last at Mottisfont, Michael Harvey has been appointed Senior Gardener with responsibility for the Walled Garden. Since his arrival in 2024, there has been much work carried out. All of the box hedging that had succumbed to box blight, has been removed. The companion planting that Mottisfont is famed for has been revamped. The structural features



'Debutante' growing up the current gazebo
which is planned for repair

We'll certainly return to Mottisfont next year to further explore the progress being made.

like the gazebo, is being refurbished. Mulching of the beds is planned for the Autumn and a programme of regeneration is planned; budding new bushes from the existing bushes will be carried out to breathe new life into the rose planting. This garden is a unique project, housing the rose collection of Graham Stuart Thomas and it certainly looks like the plans are in place to restore the garden to its former glory.



Pauline Martin

Very advanced notice

Planning for next year's (2025) **Summer Rose Weekender Event**, is underway.

We are delighted to announce that we will be 'walking in the footsteps' of Samuel Reynolds Hole, Dean of Rochester Cathedral and first President of the National Rose Society.

In June 2025 in association with The Very Rev'd Dr Philip Hesketh AKC DL, our weekender will start at Rochester Cathedral to walk, talk and experience real rose history. A tour of the cathedral, rose gardens and new rose museum will form part of the weekend. We will have lectures in the garden and other 'on the day' events. Sunday will be a day for visits to local rose gardens. Martin Stott and Derek Lawrence will be making arrangements and sharing news as plans are formulated. We'll keep you posted about this exciting event.

The 2024 AGM

The 6th AGM of The Rose Society UK was held on 21st April with 25 members in attendance.

The minutes of the meeting and the financial report delivered by our treasurer will be available in the members area of the website in due course.

With the society in a healthy financial situation, no change will be required to the single internet membership subscription. However, with the costs of printing and posting increasing month-on-month, we have had to increase the cost of Postal Membership to £25.

Our Treasurer, Steve Durham is progressing our application for charity status and we hope to have it completed this year. This will open up the chance to receive Gift Aid on our subscriptions which will further improve our financial stability.

At the AGM we present the yearly society awards.

This year, the Awards Committee decided not to award a Dean Hole Medal in 2024 with the hope of doing 'something special' in 2025 when we visit Rochester Cathedral, home of Dean Samuel Reynolds Hole, as part of our 2025 Summer Weekender.

However we were able to present, in person, our Tudor Rose Award to three worthy recipients.

Silver Tudor Rose Award

Iain Silver - a founder member of The Rose Society UK. Iain has been Membership Secretary and is now our Vice Chair. Iain is a society judge and amateur exhibitor and attends as many of our National Shows as possible, travelling from his Scottish Borders home. Assisting (often accompanied by his wonderful wife Dorothy) with the set up, take down and helping on the Society stands at Harrogate Show has been an immense help, without which the attendance at these shows would not have been possible. Behind the scenes, Iain is a continual supporter of the society and picks up numerous roles to ensure the smooth running of the society.

John McCarthy - another member who has been with us since day one. John lives in

Tewkesbury and is a stalwart of our Malvern shows. With wife Margaret, John attends every Malvern show, Spring and Autumn and are always on hand at build-up and break-down. John and Margaret stay onsite during the shows in their campervan which means that John is able to open the stand in the morning and close the stand at the end of each day. This means that we can more easily manage the stand for the duration of the shows and for that alone the society are really grateful. Additionally John is a master rose grower. He brings his roses to shows in Spring, Summer and Autumn and the shows are much the better for his endeavours.

Neil Duncan - yet another Founder Member of the Society, Neil is the epitome of an amateur rose exhibitor; except for the professional manner in which Neil grows and Shows his roses. Neil's adage, 'Have roses will travel', of course only works because of the dedication of his wife Paula, as she drives the van! That said, the lion's share of the rose growing and showing is Neil's department. Neil enters shows almost every weekend during the summer, sharing his gorgeous roses with the public who attend the shows and spreading the name of our society wherever he goes. Neil is an ever-present on the Society Facebook Group, sharing his knowledge with articles and videos which are appreciated by the group. Neil is a valued rose and society ambassador and most worthy of this award.

The Society Silver Medals (for the previous year) are also traditionally awarded at the AGM. Pauline and Ray Martin received theirs for Best in Show at Malvern 2023. Neil Duncan received Silver Medals for Best in Show at Shepperton, Pelsall and Harrogate and also for winning the Dean Hole Challenge 2023.

After a light buffet lunch we were treated to two talks;

Daniel Myhill showed us how he is developing his National Collection of Persica roses and the preparations and progress he is making to show them off with his entry at the Hampton Court Flower Show. A huge undertaking bearing in mind that all the roses that he'll be exhibiting will be grown, without pesticides or fungicides and out in the open at his and wife Hannah's home in Norfolk.

Liam Beddall is a busy man! As well as keeping on top of the Society's Membership Secretary role, Liam is also the Senior Rose Adviser for David Austin Roses. This means his working week is generally spent on the move around the UK (and Europe) looking at rose gardens and advising on their development and care. We were grateful that Liam could find time to share some of his experiences and images with us at the AGM. His slides providing us with plenty of ideas for places to visit and roses to see.



Daniel shares his love and knowledge of persicas and plans for his first Hampton Court stand

Best of luck Dan



Liam Beddall, David Austin Roses' man-on-the-move

At the AGM Liam showed us some of the gardens that his role at Austins has taken him and the art of planting roses with companion plants



Chairman, John Anthony presents John McCarthy with his richly deserved Silver Rose Award for Service, medal and citation



Iain Silver receiving his medal and citation for his Silver Tudor Rose Award

Our Vice Chairman is a vital part of the team that sets up our Society Information bureaux

Neil Duncan is no stranger to picking up multiple awards for his roses but this time, Neil receives from Chairman John Anthony, the Society's Silver Tudor Rose Award

Neil is always happy to help 'spread the word' to all rosarians whether virtually on our Social Media channels with advice and videos or at pruning and rose-care workshops

Our third and very worthy Silver Tudor Rose Award recipient





It should come as no surprise

It should come as no surprise to anyone who knows me that one of my favourite comedies from the seventies was the wonderful; 'Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em'.

What, I hear you ask, can that possibly have to do with roses? The hybrid tea, Michael Crawford? No afraid not; this is a different story.

Some years ago Chris Warner noticed that the amateur exhibitors were getting some prize-winning success with a rose from California, bred by Dr Keith Zary in 1991 when he was working for Jackson and Perkins. The rose was Gemini and Chris decided to use the rose in his breeding programme to see what could be produced.

First up, he put one of his own HTs, Nelson Girls, onto Gemini and from the first batch of seedlings he selected one to take further. That rose, codenamed CHEWgem, he sent out for trial with C and K Jones and it was agreed that the rose should be released. Chris chose to name the rose John Boy. The nickname he gave to close friend, our Chairman, John Anthony. HelpMeFind describes it as Golden-yellow, pink edges with a mild, rose fragrance. Large, double (17-25 petals), high-centered bloom form. I believe the variety is available from C and K Jones and R V Roger and is well worth a place in your garden.



CHEWgem

John Boy

At the same time Chris also used Gemini with a Kordes HT called Winter Sun. The best of the seedlings was selected and sent to Keith Jones for further trialling. This rose was

codenamed CHEWgemwin.

Unfortunately this time the health report was not so encouraging! Keith reported that the rose had rust! This was confirmed at Whartons roses where some briars had also been budded. Chris Warner is rightly fastidious about health in his roses and immediately decided to withdraw the rose. In the meantime, John Anthony had been sent some budwood, not only of 'his' rose, John Boy but also of CHEWgemwin which John had also budded up and was now growing. When Chris reported to John that the rose was not going to be released due to its bad health. John was



CHEW gemwin

Raytherose

puzzled as the rose seemed as healthy as any rose that he had growing in his garden and asked Chris what he should do with it? He was told to do 'anything he liked' with it and what he did was send some budwood to me. "We can call it Rayboy" suggested John. My wife said that I was too old to be called 'boy' also too young to be called 'boy' ironically so we settled on Raytherose, my old rose blog and email name. All this of course with the knowledge that the rose had serious rust issues.

I budded six in pots and planted them as maidens, in the garden during COVID lockdown. From day one to this day they have been the healthiest roses that we grow. John has shared budwood of the variety with other amateur rose growers and all reports suggest that it is indeed, very healthy!

So, are you still with me? Last year I was asked to travel down to the Isle of Wight to do a talk about roses. Since first being gifted Raytherose, we have been fortunate enough to feature it in many winning exhibits at various shows and so there are some pictures of it in my presentation. At the talk, there was a lady in the audience whose attention was piqued when I mentioned the name of this rose; she grabbed me after I'd finished and asked me where she could buy one? Her name was Wendy Allen. Her late husband was Ray Allen, a name that she thought I might recognise. My thoughts went to Ray Allen the ventriloquist and I confess that I was unimpressed! Then she went onto explain; Ray Allen, the man who wrote 'Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em' and I was sold! I agreed that I would bud one or two for her and send them over to 'the island'.

In July I duly budded up new bushes of the rose but now worried how I could get a budded rootstock to the Isle of Wight in one piece and if Wendy would know what to do with it.

One of our members, Pete Tuson, who lives in Shepperton said that a) he was moving to a new home on the Isle of Wight and b) would be attending our pruning workshop in Anglesey Abbey in February. The story was complete, almost. Pete then took the delicate budded briar home with him but was told that Wendy had now moved and could not take ownership of this precious rose 'just yet'!

Pete was a real hero and kept the rose in his new garden for a couple of months and grew it on for its



Our hero Pete Tuson after he had planted his precious cargo

new owner.

Then, even more

generously, took it to Wendy's new garden and planted it for her.



'Raytherose' with memorial plaque growing on the Isle of Wight



Ray and Wendy Allen

A long and rambling story, it's true but I had a page to fill!

Ray Martin

RosE-shopping

New products in the shop



In association with Greenacres Direct we introduce new additions
to our Rose Care range

A liquid feed intended to be used in conjunction with Uncle Toms Rose Tonic

A ready-to-use Sulphur Spray + liquid feed

A slow release granular feed based on the Tonks formula with added sulphur

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;

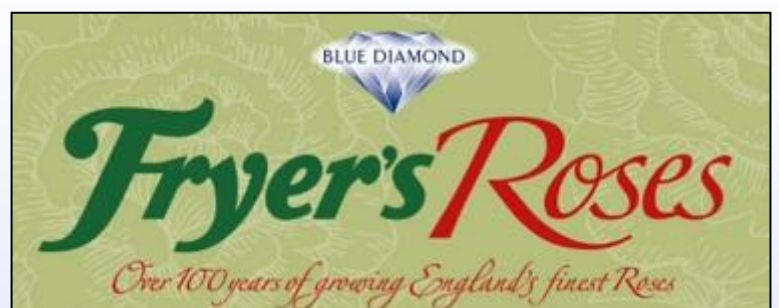
The Treasurer - The Rose Society UK
38 Kintyre Drive
Thornaby
Stockton on Tees
TS17 0BY

Please direct all OTHER mail to;

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Suffolk
IP11 2HS

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