



THE  
**ROSE**  
SOCIETY UK

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

The Chairman 1  
Notes

The Bronze 3  
Medal

Gareth in the 4  
Alps

Stocks and 6  
Shares with

Colin Dickson's 8  
Rose of the  
Year

Something? 9

Derek's 10  
Musings

Steve James 14  
puts his foot

Ivor under 15  
cover

A Day of Roses 16  
2018

Shows 17  
Roundup

Chalkhill Rose 18  
Garden

Next time 20

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

"He who would  
grow beautiful  
Roses must have  
them in his heart".

# The Rose Times

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2017

## Season of mist and . . . bare root roses?

Spring is without doubt my favourite season but . . . . . Autumn? Well it can be an expensive season as we give in to our desire to buy even more roses!

Bare root is without doubt the best way to buy and plant roses. The nurseries catalogues are brim-full of temptation and now is the time to get them in so that they can get their roots down and be ready for a burst of colour in 2018.

Our rose society, after a frenetic start to life in May, had a rose-filled summer. Now after our first AGM, it too has the chance to get down some good roots to prepare for our further growth in 2018.

We are on a sound financial footing thanks to the generosity of many of our members and sponsors. We have had great success at the shows that we have attended throughout the year and the associated prize money has helped us immensely.

Our plans for 2018 revolve mainly around

improving our membership base by inviting local societies to become affiliate members and offer bronze medals and support to their members on all matters rosy.

We are looking at instigating a regional Consulting Rosarian scheme similar to our friends in USA and Australia. We have some extremely talented members and we're hoping to encourage them to help us spread the word about the society and to offer their services to anyone with rose-related questions.

The website will be improving as we progress. Cultural tips and videos are planned for the member's area to help the UK grow beautiful roses. This will all take time and resource but I'm confident that our membership will come up trumps and help the society grow, just like our bare root roses.

Ed

## John Anthony Reflects on the story so far

First of all I must congratulate all who took part in the highly successful Annual general Meeting On 29<sup>th</sup> October.

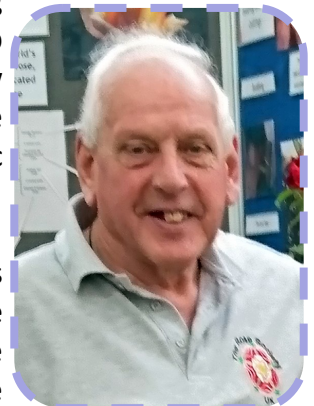
It was a great pleasure to welcome our President Colin Squire who had made the long journey to be with us. And with so many members from around the country, the attendance exceeded all our expectations.

May I also say a big Thankyou to all who have given donations and sponsorship since our formation.

## The Chairman Notes

These funds along with membership fees and show award monies have provided a basic fund to go forward

The five months since the inauguration of the new Society on the 28<sup>th</sup> May have just flown by. Looking back over this short



time I am amazed at what has been achieved for we have seen many of our aims come to fruition. The support from rosarians and rose trade has given us confidence to move forward and become a Rose Society with appeal to all gardeners. Members of our steering committee may have come from an Exhibiting background, but so did our forerunners when forming the former National society in 1876.

Following approval from the Annual general meeting we are now setting in motion our plans to accommodate affiliated societies and regional rose advisors. We are grateful for the experienced members who have already volunteered for these tasks however we still need more people to help carry out these activities.

If you are able to commit some time for any of our activities for the benefit of the society do please let Ray or I know.

*John*

## The 2018 Rose Event Calendar

26 - 29 April	Harrogate Spring Show	Rose Society UK stand only
10 - 13 May	Malvern Spring Show	Rose Society UK stand and rose show
23 - 24 June	Shepperton Summer Show	Rose Society UK rose show
30 June - 1 July	Rose Society of Wales Show	Rose show at St Fagans Museum
2 - 8 July	Hampton Court Flower Show	
8 - 9 July	BIRS Rydale Rose Festival	BIRS rose show at Rydale Rose Festival
10 - 12 July	The Great Yorkshire Show	
28 - 29 July	Chorley Summer Show	Rose Society UK stand and rose show
10 - 11 August	Shrewsbury Flower Show	Rose Society UK stand and open rose show
16 - 19 August	Southport Flower Show	Open rose show

This is by no means a complete calendar of show events for 2018  
If you'd like your event advertised on our website, Facebook or Twitter pages or in future newsletters; please let us know by emailing

[CONTACT US NOW](#)

# The Rose Society Bronze Medal



We are delighted to announce that we are introducing a Society Bronze Medal. The new medal will be awarded for excellence in rose growing. They will be offered to our Affiliated societies and shows to award for rose growing excellence at their own shows. We will also use the medal for excellence in rose growing or service to the rose for our own members in conjunction with a new Silver Medal.

Offering the medals is a considerable investment for our society but one that we feel we must make to establish ourselves as the UK's authority for amateur rose growers.

The medals will be awarded along with a medal card as shown



## Our Vice-Chairman Gareth Davies shares some memories from Switzerland . . . .

### The Rosen Garten of Bern

When my daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren moved to Switzerland in July 2013, it presented my wife and I with a great opportunity to visit a country renowned for its spectacular mountain scenery and efficient rail transport network. The family live in Gumligen, a small town about six miles south of the beautiful city of Bern

On my first visit to Bern in September 2013 I was informed by my daughter that there was a very popular rose garden situated a short bus ride from the centre of the city. Although eager to see the roses it was not until June, 2014 that I made my first visit to the garden. I could not have timed it better as most of the roses were in full bloom and the colour impact was outstanding.

The rose garden has been a public park since 1913 and is situated on a hill with spectacular views of the old town of Bern. There are about 220 different types of roses cultivated which are mainly HT's and floribundas, with a few climbers and old garden roses planted amongst the many ornamental shrubs and trees that are grown there. The HT's are planted formally in long, narrow rectangular beds

accessible from wide gravel paths which extend between them. The floribundas, on the other hand, have been planted in interestingly shaped beds set in vast expanses of lawns, which makes it very relaxing to walk around and view them. Although the rose beds had not been mulched the soil was



View of the Rosen Garten of Bern

weed free and most of the varieties had strong, sturdy growth which was a reflection of the regular maintenance which they received.

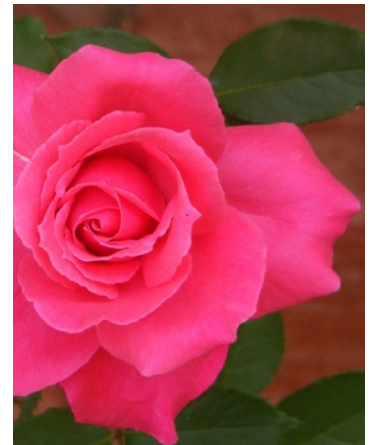
The HT's were varieties raised mainly by four breeders namely Kordes, McGredy, Meiland and Tantau. Of these the following were outstanding for their growth, health and flowering qualities:

**BUXOM BEAUTY**, an HT raised by Kordes in 2001 and known as PAROLE in Switzerland and Germany. A wonderful rose, producing large exhibition size



magenta pink blooms with good disease resistance. Its stems were clothed with disease free foliage when I again visited the gardens in September, 2014.

**ELECTRON**. We know it more commonly as MULLARD JUBILEE, a HT which I grew back in the 1970's. Bred by McGredy, it is a very tough, pink rose with a sweet damask scent, very healthy in the UK but not now seen very often.



Ht Electron

**FLAMINGO**, a HT better known as MARGARET THATCHER, bred by Kordes in 1979, the pink colour of the flower fades to silvery pink at the edges. The blooms I saw were high centred on long, strong stems.



HT Flamingo

**FRAGRANT CLOUD.** This well known strong scented HT, bred by Tantau in 1967 was labelled as DUFTWOLKE and most of the stems carried several blooms. However, there were some signs of blackspot on the foliage.



HT Fragrant Cloud

**HOT PRINCESS.** Although initially introduced by Tantau as a good rose for the cut flower trade it is now gaining in popularity as an excellent variety for the show bench. It was one of the healthiest varieties in the rose garden.



HT Hot Princess

**KATHRYN MCGREDEY.** One of the best HT's bred by McGredy in 1995. The plants were massed with salmon pink blooms on stems bearing healthy, disease free glossy foliage.



HT Kathryn McGredy

**LOVING MEMORY.** Introduced by Kordes in 1981 and labelled in the rose garden as BURGUND 81, the plants were bushy and carried large crimson to red blooms.

**NOSTALGIA.** The striking colours of this rose caught my eye from some distance away with its petals creamy white at the centre and cherry crimson at the edges. A very strong, sweet scented rose bred by Tantau in 1996 it looked very effective as a bedding rose.



HT Nostalgia

**POLAR STAR.** Labelled in the bed as POLARSTERN this is another rose bred by Tantau in 1982 which was Rose of the Year in 1985. Its creamy white blooms were carried on long, straight stems and I value it as one of my exhibition HT's.



HT Polar Star

**PULLMAN ORIENT EXPRESS,** better known to us as LOVE AND PEACE, it was bred and introduced by Twomey, USA in 2001. It was bred from Mme A Meilland(PEACE) and is one of the best HT's introduced in recent years. The petals are deep buff yellow with crimson edges and I have exhibited blooms of it on several occasions.

I hope, in this short article, I have given you a flavour of some of the roses that attracted my attention in a lovely garden where my senses were constantly stimulated by the sights and smells of so many roses. I shall look forward to visiting the ROSEN GARTEN when I am next in Bern

Gareth



Gareth has always loved big hybrid tea roses like Buxom Beauty

## John Anthony explains how he produces

### Multiflora rootstocks from seed

Amateur rose growers often ask; "How do I obtain rootstocks?"

Amateur rose growers often wish to propagate a few bushes for themselves particularly older unobtainable varieties and ask how it can be done. While it is possible to root cuttings successfully, a more reliable method is to Bud a variety onto a rootstock. The next question being how do I obtain rootstocks?

Rootstocks are readily available from internet suppliers in late autumn in small quantities. However, small quantities can be very expensive, so why not grow your own?

Rosa Laxa is generally used by the rose trade for commercial varieties but it is not so easy to germinate as it requires a long period of stratification. Rosa multiflora, however, is far easier to germinate and I find grows easily without stratification in a few weeks. The roots are generally much more fibrous than Rosa Laxa which makes the rootstock ideal for miniature and patio Roses in pots.

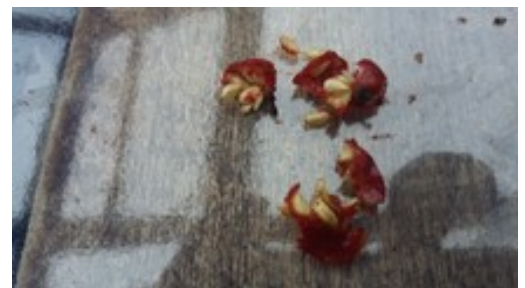
Normally, it is useful to propagating roses in pots under glass or polytunnels for our spring show however this method can also be used for propagating open ground roses. Budding in pots also comes with the added benefit of not needing to get down on your knees as it is done the potting bench. Once established the newly created bushes can then be planted in the garden preferably in early autumn.

## The Method . . . . .

- 1 Obtain ripe seed hips in late October which are normally plentiful on Rosa Multiflora. If you have difficulty in obtaining a bush of multiflora then a cutting is equally as good. Rosa Multiflora roots easily from cuttings and will flower the first summer after rooting. You will only need one bush for Multiflora to obtain seed as it is extremely vigorous and will require hard pruning each year once established



- 2 Extract the seed from the hips. Although they are small; there will be several matured seeds in each hip.



- 3 Allow the seed to dry and sow in early November.



4 The seed normally germinates in four to six weeks if placed on a propagating bench or warm window sill. In late February/early March the seedlings will be ready for potting-on into plug trays or three-inch pots. They will now only need frost protection and in late April further potted-on into five inch or one litre pots.



5 In late May, early June, they are potted into 3 litre deep pots and stood outside when they grow vigorously and must be kept well-watered. In July the neck should be approx. 3/8" (10mm) in diameter and at this time can be budded in the usual manner.



6 The pots from now on must be kept well-watered in order for the sap to rise and the scion (bud) to take

7 The top growth is cut back in October when the newly budded scion is prominent and finally headed back in December when the tiny budded eye starts to develop. It is now important that the pots are kept frost free in order for the roots to not be subjected to frost damaged.



seeds sown in  
early November  
are ready for  
budding in July

In conclusion, I have found with this method that by sowing the seeds in early November they grow rapidly and are ready for budding in mid/late July, approximately eight months from sowing.

I have a small number of multiflora rooted cuttings which I am happy to supply to members who would like to grow their own seed for the cost of postage.

John

## Breeder Colin Dickson gives us his insight on his 2018

### Rose of the Year - Lovestruck

Lovestruck (Dicommatac) is Rose of the Year 2018 and is widely available to buy this winter. Not only did it win ROTY, but came top rose in the Gold Standard and got a Gold medal at the RNRS trial finishing at the top of the pile there too. This summer the rose was awarded a special merit accolade at Baden Baden, Germany, (Ehrenpreis der Stadt Zweibrücken).

Rose of the Year 2018 - Lovestruck



*photo credit RosesUK*

Lovestruck is described as somewhere between Cherry red and Plum red and has Knockout as one of the parents, which is probably where the exceptional health comes from.

The other new nationwide introduction which made its debut at Hampton Court is

Oxana, (Dicovadatop) which is quite a tall grandiflora, if I'm allowed to use that term, with a soft fragrance. It was named as a birthday gift for Oxana Girko from her husband. Everything was arranged for the family to attend the launch at the show, but they were unfortunately called away on business to America at short notice just before press day.

*Oxana - Dicovadatop*



*photo credit RosesUK*

Oxana was also a winner of a TGC at the RNRS. How I'll miss saying that in years to come!

Plants of Oxana will be sent to both Belfast and Glasgow this winter for the International Rose Trials, but Lovestruck, as it's only officially catalogued in 2018, will have to wait until next year.



# Merry Christmas to all our members

What a fantastic first six months for our new society!

Congratulations to everyone for a great effort in 2017.

Let's hope that we have a wonderful new year, filled with roses, good health and happiness

*Colin Squire*

The Rose Society UK - President

The floribunda trials at Dixon Park in Belfast



If you haven't visited the trials at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park in Belfast, the park is one of the most beautiful in the world and is well worth a visit.

*Colin*

Colin was presented his Rose of the Year Award at Hampton Court last July



Colin Dickson is the sixth generation of the family to be breeding roses in Northern Ireland. Alexander Dickson began it all in 1836 but it was Colin's father Patrick who brought the family business to Newtownards in 1969.



## Derek Lawrence, Executive Director of the World Federation of Rose Societies explores . . . . .

### “The Charm of English Roses”

As I commenced my early morning stroll, it is apparent that the first frost of autumn has dusted itself around the garden. I do enjoy admiring rose blooms with a hint of crystallization, and cannot resist the temptation to swoop down and try to recapture the fragrance of summer. The perfume may not be as potent, but the memories remain vivid. Despite the variable summer weather which descended on the British Isles, my roses performed well; greeting me with an abundance of vibrant blooms on return home from my duties for the World Federation of Rose Societies.

One of the privileges of this fantastic role, is meeting very interesting rosarians from around the world. Last year, the WFRS President, his wife Melanie and myself, were fortunate enough to be invited as special guests at David Austin Rose nursery in Albrighton.

We were greeted by Michael Marriott, who was eager to take us on a tour of the gardens, which are divided into six themed areas, and contain over 700 different cultivars. The gardens are very formal, with segregated low box hedging that manage to display the

roses to great effect. Statues and archways, give grace and elegance. My attention was immediately drawn to pure white blooms of ‘Desdemona’ which was launched



in 2015, and one of my absolute pink favourites – the quintessentially fragrant, ‘Gertrude Jekyll’. I am fascinated how hybridisers, such as Michael Marriott, manage to create such masterpieces and felt truly inspired when he took us on an excursion of the breeding houses. We were confronted with thousands of bushes, and informed that annually, 80,000 crosses are made. The next glasshouse contained hundreds of seedlings, ready to unveil their new blooms. On entering a laboratory, it soon became apparent that English Roses are fast moving into the cut-flower industry.

The public desire to enjoy roses in



their homes with exquisite beauty, rich fragrances and longer stem life. A team of experts are currently conducting trials in the laboratory, to discover whether the criteria can ever be realised. On studying their produce, it would suggest they are making good progress. During the afternoon, we joined David Austin junior for a walk through the vast trial grounds, that are adjacent to the nursery. We were revelling in the roses of the future. Michael Marriott plucked various blooms and invited us to assess the aromas given. I must confess that I felt so animated by the various breeding programmes, it has motivated me to start breeding roses as a hobby. Since the visit to the nursery, I have joined the Amateur Rose Breeders Association.

It was a perfect day, and felt that it couldn't get any better. However, David Austin Junior suddenly announced that his father would be delighted to meet us. With much excitement and anticipation, we left the trials ground and headed off to a charming Victorian farmhouse, which serves as the home of the Austin family.

David Austin OBE sat on an ornate chair in his study, that contains a vast library

of rose books and journals. We were greeted by a warm smile and welcome. I shook Mr. Austin's hand and congratulated him on his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It was a privilege to be with man who had the foresight and inventiveness to create a new race of roses.

For all of his life, David Austin has resided at the farm, where at an early age, developed a passion for plants. He befriended a local



nurseryman named James Baker, who taught him various horticultural skills, which included breeding of Russell Lupins and Delphiniums. His sister presented him with a book entitled, 'Old Garden Roses' by the expert, Edward Bunyard, that acted as a prompt to broadened his interest in the subject. During his youth, old roses were not fashionable, because unlike modern Hybrid Teas and Floribundas, they didn't repeat-flower. He began to appreciate the grace, elegance and fragrance of older varieties. Realising their

limitations, he stumbled upon the idea of breeding the best characteristics of older cultivars with modern repeat-flowering types as a hobby. He eventually formed a good friendship with the celebrated Plantsman, Graham Thomas, where he gleaned an immense amount of information and advice. David Austin continued with his quest to breed roses, and eventually created a variety which he felt worthy of introduction. He showed it to Mr. Thomas, who was very impressed with its deep perfume and candy-pink blooms. The cultivar became



known as 'Constance Spry' and was launched to an unsuspecting public in 1961. It aroused much interest, and became an instant success. He continued his extensive breeding programme, producing 'Chianti' in 1967 and 'Shropshire Lad' the following year. However, in his quest for perfection, he knew his creations still failed to flower continually and did not have the rigour that he wished.

Having the foresight to back-cross his hybridizing creations, he eventually reached his goal by the

late 1960's. Reeling in his happiness of his achievements, he decided to name his new race, 'English Roses'.



He was acutely aware that it would be difficult to accomplish any commercial success, bearing in mind that H.T. roses and floribundas still reigned supreme in the popularity stakes. Undaunted, in 1969 he set up his nursery, 'David Austin Roses'. He began the business selling his new varieties, which included 'Wife Of Bath' and 'Canterbury'. Initially, he found it a struggle running the nursery, but through hard work, over the years, he accumulated a loyal set of customers, who appreciated the exquisite charms of English roses. His wife, Pat was a great believer in his efforts, and supported him with his endeavours.

The year 1983 proved to be a turning point in his fortunes. He introduced three outstanding varieties which have proved the test of time. 'Graham Thomas', 'Mary Rose' and 'Heritage'. The public suddenly developed an enormous appetite for English roses, not only in the UK, but in other countries.

The World Federation of Rose Societies highly prestigious, 'Award of Excellence' is testimony to his enduring success. Many of the gardens around the world who have been bestowed the award, have a large selection of English Roses in their collection. From New Zealand, to China to Argentina; their beauty is enjoyed by millions of rose lovers, in whatever type of climate.

At this moment of time, I am sifting through a huge pile of entries that have been posted to me from all corners of the globe. The winners of the 'WFRS Award Of Garden Excellence' will be announced at the 18th World Rose Convention being held in Copenhagen from :  
28<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

This extraordinary event will be marking the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Federation of Rose Societies.

It would be fabulous if a party from The Rose Society UK was there to join in the celebrations. Why miss out?

Simply log on to : [www.wrc2018.dk](http://www.wrc2018.dk)

Until next time, have a jolly Christmas, and a very rosy 2018.

Derek

007 – With a License To Grow



THE  
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SOCIETY UK

**The Treasurer**

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**Visit our new website:**

[www.therosesociety.org.uk](http://www.therosesociety.org.uk)

Colin Squire - President

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Gareth Davies - Vice Chair

Ray Martin - Secretary

Tammy Mellor - Treasurer

Iain Silver - Membership Secretary

Derek Lawrence - Committee

Mike Thompson - Committee

Chris Warner - Committee

Neil Duncan - Committee

Brian Schofield - Committee

Brian Christie - Committee

Tim Mellor - Committee



## A Day of Roses 2018

It has been proposed that we hold a Day of Roses next spring in association with BIRS in Wakefield. Before we commence firming up the arrangements it would be helpful if members could let us have an indication if they

would be interested in attending. By doing so there is no obligation, it is just to let us have an indication that there is sufficient support.

The venue is just 2 miles from junction 41 of the M1 and roughly the same from junction 31 of the M62. There are budget hotels close by and the day would be on a Sunday with the arrangements provisionally as follows:-

09:30 to 10:30	Arrival and a hot breakfast roll with tea and coffee
10:30 to 12 noon	Morning presentation – speakers yet to be announced
12 noon until 13:30	Lunch at a nearby fish restaurant (A full menu is available)
13:45 to 15:45	Afternoon presentation - speakers yet to be announced
15:45 to 16:00	tea and departure

The cost would be no more than £20 per head including catering

**If you are interested please contact David Wilce on;**

01924 364303 or [davidwilce@yahoo.com](mailto:davidwilce@yahoo.com)

Previous Days of Roses have proved to be popular and successful events. As well as being entertained by rose experts in the two presentations, the event gives the attendees a good chance to catch up with each other and have some quality Rose Chat

Be sure to contact David and sign up early!

## The Rose Shows 2017

The Rose Society UK held three shows this season; The Southern Summer Show at Squires Shepperton; the Northern Summer Show at Chorley Flower Show and the Autumn Show at Harrogate.

The Dean Hole Championship is contested over four shows; the three Rose Society UK shows and the Rose Society of Wales Festival at St Fagans in Cardiff.

The aggregate number of points over all four shows proved that Neil Duncan had been most consistent and won with 48 points. Next up was Ivor Mace with 34 points. This was in itself a great effort as his points were accrued mainly in the miniature and miniflora classes. Additionally Ivor did not compete at the Chorley show. The Dean Hole Classes are kindly sponsored by David Austin Roses and are quite well supported throughout the year however we may have to think of ways to make the challenge more competitive going forward.

### Summer Show at Squires:

We feared the worst in the weeks before Shepperton; the weather had been poor, the roses were late and a small show looked inevitable. The exhibitors however somehow rallied to the cause and produced a show that was as good as we'd seen for several years. Having brought just ONE hybrid

President Colin Squire presents Neil Duncan with the Dean Hole Challenge



tea rose to the show, Neil Duncan was sure that his chances of retaining the Southern Open Championship were slim. He did however bring some excellent miniatures and managed to secure enough points to pip Ivor Mace to the prize. Jim Anderson brought some fine roses down from Normanby and picked up the prize for growers of 150 or fewer bushes. Our thanks once again to Colin and Sarah Squire and their wonderful staff for hosting the show and making sure that the weekend went without any snags.

### Summer Show at Chorley :

Our first show at Chorley was an adventure into new territory. The last rose show at Chorley was, by coincidence, held on the same weekend 25 years earlier by the RNRS.

The exhibitors were once again on top form bringing many top class blooms. The main prizes were spread

evenly around the exhibitors.

Tony and Alice Bracegirdle making a welcome return to the summer shows by taking most points in the HTs and Floribunda classes. Neil picked up most points in miniatures and with it the Chorley Open Championship. Jim Anderson was peerless in the Championship for growers of 150 bushes or fewer. Mark Hewertson entered some fine roses as usual and pipped Neil Duncan for this leg of the Dean Hole Challenge.

Harrogate Autumn Flower Show brings the Society's show season to a close. After a very difficult growing year we were not sure what roses would be on the show benches at the autumn finale. The answer was soon to clear . . . . . very good ones!

As with Shepperton and Chorley, our exhibitors did not let us down. The show was a wonderful display of determination overcoming adversity.

Autumn roses are always difficult but it was wonderful to watch the thousands of visitors stand in awe of the flowers that were on show. It certainly makes all the hard work that goes into putting the show on worthwhile.

The winners at the show were;

Neil Duncan in the Open Championship, Brian Schofield in the 150 and fewer bushes championship and Ivor Mace in the miniature and miniflora championship. Other notable performers were John Bell and Mark Hewertson who gave Neil a great run in the Open classes. Our congratulations to all the exhibitors in all the shows as we look forward to a super show year in 2018.

The shows are expensive to organise and we could not be more grateful to our sponsors. Please support them in 2018



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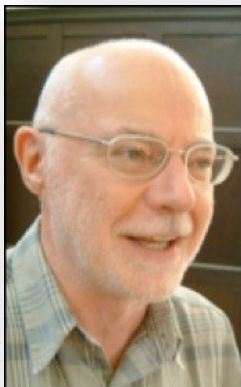
# Some images from our 2017 shows



Find more rosy images on our website Members pages in 2018

Much has been said about the demise of the Royal National Rose Society and the Garden in St Albans. They must now, sadly, both be consigned to our memories

However, Britain is blessed to have a plethora of rose gardens up and down the country. In these pages we hope to share with you, information and pictures from these hidden gems.



Jim Sanctuary

In this column Jim Sanctuary introduces us to the rose gardens in rural Essex;

### The Rose Garden, Chalkwell Park

A visit to Chalkwell Park in high summer would not be complete without a leisurely stroll through the delightful rose garden - an important element of this beautiful municipal park for over one hundred years - to enjoy the heady fragrance and varied colours of what is often said to be Britain's favourite flower.

Municipal parks have been popular leisure amenities since the mid 1800s, when various Acts of Parliament enabled local authorities, by raising funds for their upkeep, to maintain areas of land for the enjoyment and recreation of its citizens. By the early 1900s, almost every town had at least one park.

It was in 1903 that Southend Corporation purchased, for twenty thousand pounds, 26 acres of pleasure grounds, together



The Rose Garden circa 1912

with a large house, Chalkwell Hall, built about 1830, for development as a municipal park. The Park was once part of Chalkwell Hall Estate, farmland extending from Crowstone Road in the east, to Lord Roberts Avenue in the west. The parcel of land, situated south of London Road and north of Kings Road, on the border between Leigh-on-Sea and Westcliff-on-Sea, was mainly heavy clay, conditions especially suited to the cultivation of roses. The rose garden, sited on the southern boundary of the park, was a popular early development, and work commenced in 1908.



Chalkwell Park Rose Garden in the 1920s

One of the rose garden's many supporters was local town councillor and keen rose grower, Alderman Martin. His advice was of great value when the rose garden was first proposed, and he is still remembered today by the Leigh-on-Sea Horticultural

Society, with a special award for roses, the Alderman Martin Cup. Another early sponsor of the rose garden was local rosarian, Walter Easlea, whose Danecroft Rose Nursery at Eastwood Road North, was one of the major rose breeders in Britain. He supplied many plants to Southend Corporation's new garden, including *Madame Abel Chatenay*, *Betty* and *Irish Elegance*. *To improve the soil, Walter advocated the application of burnt earth and hydrated lime, with such remarkable success that Chalkwell Park Rose Garden was acclaimed to be 'probably the finest public rose garden in England'. The widely-travelled Walter professed that he had 'never seen roses make such growth as in those gardens'.*

With over 2,000 plants, ranging from bushes, hedges, standards, tall pillars and ramblers, each clearly named with an Acme metal label, the popularity of the rose garden grew rapidly. Visitors crowded the pathways, especially on Sundays in June, July and August, many bearing 'note books as plentiful as at Vincent Square', a reference to the popular London flower shows held by the RHS. In the 1930s, practical demonstrations of spring pruning assisted residents interested in achieving the best and biggest blooms in their own gardens.

Over the years, the rose garden kept its collection up-to-date, with major rose nurseries, including Samuel McCredy and Sons, Cants of Colchester and Wheatcroft Brothers, supplying their latest introductions for the enjoyment of visitors. Walter Easlea was also a generous benefactor, donating



Chalkwell Park Rose Garden today

plants of *American Pillar* when it was first introduced in the UK.

Today, Chalkwell Park Rose Garden is as beautiful and well-cared-for as ever, with large circular beds set off by well-kept lawns, and bordered by wide beds and pathways. Many of the best roses of the second half of the last century can be found, including *King's Ransom*, *Silver Jubilee*, *Blessings*, *Mister Lincoln*, *Arthur Bell* and *Wendy Cussons*, together with many other superb varieties. *This wonderful garden, recognised by the Royal National Rose Society to be one of the best rose gardens in the country, is well worth a visit, not just by the rose enthusiast, but by all who enjoy the beauty of our municipal gardens.*

©Jim Sanctuary

The address for Chalkwell Park is;

20 Chalkwell Ave, Southend-on-Sea,  
Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 8NA

[Google Maps Link](#)

That's all for now;

I hope that you all enjoy the offerings from the World Federation of Rose Societies that we circulate via Derek (007) Lawrence. Next time he will once again report on his travels in the world of roses.

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We'd love to hear from you. Anything you'd like to share? This quarterly newsletter is for the members and we will happily publish anything that you'd like to share with your fellow rose loving members.

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Don't forget to visit the website;

<http://www.therosesociety.org.uk>

The member's Area is now live and we'll be adding content throughout the winter.

The login USERNAME is; **therosesociety**

The password is; **TickledPink**

It will change on **1st January** to;

**SilverAnniversary**

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Or our Facebook page;

(click on logo)

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Tammy Mellor is doing a great job keeping the pages up-to-date and lively. Our Facebook pages attract a lot of attention and generate new memberships so take a look, you just might 'like' it!

## Dress to impress in 2018

We are delighted at the response to our branded range of clothing.

The Polo shirts, fleeces and waterproof jackets have all been very popular with our members.

Prices are;

Polos (grey or blue) £13

Fleeces (dove grey) £24

W/P Jackets (grey) £36

Postage & Packing £3

We do not keep a stock but will take orders.



**A VERY MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
 and Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Committee and everyone involved with the Rose Society UK,  
 we wish you all a very Merry Christmas  
 and a New Year full of good health and beautiful roses