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We should always
remember Dean
Samuel Hole's
words

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

The Rose Times

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

WINTER 2020

Rain, winds, more rain and now, more of the same! 2020 has got off to a pretty unpleasant start.

Those of us who ordered new roses have hopefully found a day or two of dry conditions to get them planted as our bareroot season ends in March. Pruning will be on all of our 'to do' lists in the next few weeks so fingers crossed there will be a period of decent weather to get it all done. There is a very good chance that the spring and summer will eventually bring drier weather and probably full drought conditions so it will be important to get a good quantity of mulch onto your roses to retain moisture and suppress the weeds.

The rose show season kicks off, as usual, at RHS Malvern in May when a few of us bring as many blooms into flower just a few weeks early for this show for greenhouse grown roses. It may only be a few weeks but for me, having roses blooming in early May is a real bonus; if a little hit and miss! But when the roses bloom in May, I know the season has really started.

Once again our flagship amateur rose show will be hosted at the Squires Garden Centre in Shepperton. Our President, Colin Squire, the staff and the Squire family make us so welcome and if the weather gods play ball we will hopefully put on another wonderful display of roses for the public.

The show is open to the public for two days and we very much hope that our members join us during the weekend to see some of the best amateur grown (or professionally grown come to that) rose that can be seen in the UK.

This year we have negotiated a very good rate of £79 per night, per room for bed and breakfast at the local Holiday Inn. Exhibitors and visitors alike may book their own rooms directly through the hotel.

Holiday Inn **Shepperton**

Felix Lane, Middlesex, Shepperton, TW17 8NP, United Kingdom

telephone; 01932899988

Phone hotel and book your room/s for either Friday or Saturday or both. Quote **“Rose Society”** to get the special price. First come first served.

Cost is £79 per room per night Bed and Breakfast Double room.

The roses will soon be blooming, why not get the cameras out this year and snap away? We'd love to see them and will be happy to feature them in future newsletters or on the website.



STOP PRESS

In the press recently we have been hearing about the proposed RHS ban on floral foam (Oasis).

The ban comes into operation in 2021 at all RHS shows and we expect other shows to do like wise. The RHS have given everyone until then to find an alternative solution. We have purchased some of the new Oasis biodegradable foam that we will be trialling on our stands at Harrogate and Malvern. The RHS have not however indicated that they will accept this new version as an alternative. Our exhibitors are encouraged to try 'alternatives' at our shows this year and please, let us know your views.

Ed

The Chairman Notes

As I write these notes, I'm enjoying one of the dryer days of this wet winter. The current stormy spells have made the winter work in the rose garden difficult to carry out and frustrating for all of us, I'm sure!

On my light soil, the constant rain will have leached much of the Nitrogen, it does in most winters. So, I'm carrying out my usual spring soil test check and expect it to show the need to give my bushes a good boost. If the test shows the need to add Nitrogen, then I will apply a quick acting boost in the form of Chicken Manure



Clean and sharpen your Darlac pruners and start your pruning in March

the officers. At the annual general meeting in November the appointment of a part time Office Administrator to help our Secretary Ray with the society affairs was approved. The position has now been filled by John Godward and after meeting with him I'm sure he will be of great help and fit in well with members of the standing committee. The new team is completed with Daniel Myhill, a young enthusiastic rosarian who took the role of Society Treasurer at the annual general meeting. I am confident we now have a team in place to increase the society membership and help promote our National flower.

I am also encouraged to see five candidates attended the judges training day and written examination in January. Two of the candidates came from our affiliated Societies who like us are need of qualified judges. Our pool of experienced judges has become depleted mostly due to aging. We hope the candidates pass the practical test in the summer when they will be a welcome addition to our panel. We still need to attract more judges to our number. If any member would like to take the exam do let us know, after passing new judges will always be placed in an experienced team to start with.



Pellets. I

shall carry this out immediately after pruning which I hope to complete by the end of February. Then at the end of March about four to five weeks later I shall apply my usual balanced fertilizer. As the weather warms up with some decent spring sunshine this should give my roses a good start.

The society's activities have grown since we were formed in May 2017 and it had become apparent that we needed someone to help with the day to day management of the society and liaise with

With Spring just around the corner, I am looking forward to meeting members attending Harrogate Spring Flower show and the RHS Malvern Spring festival. We shall be promoting the society with our Educational, advice and membership stand at both events. In addition, at Malvern we will be holding our Spring Roses competition. Roses grown under cover are always bright and clean and the show, although small compared to summer events is always popular with visitors.



I know Ray and I make this appeal every year to members. May I ask if you feel able to give a few hours assisting on our advice stand it is really welcome and much appreciated. The bonus is free entry passes to the show and ample time look around the show, but even if you are unable to give assistance just come and say hello.



Last thought on pruning; perhaps the most useful tool in the pruning armoury is the pruning saw.

This is Darlac's Sabre Tooth version, just the job for tackling thick stems like these.

Happy rose growing,

John Anthony

Member's Area

We still need to add more content to the member's area and we will.

Please Note that on 7th March

ACCESS TO THE MEMBERS AREA WILL BE;

Username: therosesociety

Password: SWEETHONEY

Our Vice-Chairman Gareth Davies is an accomplished gardener and a top exhibitor. He has won countless awards for the roses he produces in his garden in Talybont, Brecon. This time he reports on the very topical subject



Winter rains and our roses

The fascinating thing about rose growing, like many other pursuits, is that it keeps you in close contact with mother nature and all her seasonal whims.

Occasionally there are set backs and this winter has been no exception, so those of you who finished your planting in the early autumn can feel greatly relieved that you do not have to suffer the frustration of sitting around and waiting for the saturated soil to dry out.

Rain, rain and more rain has been the pattern from November to February, so the rose bushes may have had to be left “heeled in” until ground conditions were suitable for planting. This experience should alert us to the problem of “leaching” which is the washing down of plant foods, particularly nitrogen, into the lower reaches of the soil and hence out of the reach of the plant’s roots. I am sure it will be more vital than ever to feed our roses well this spring firstly with a high nitrogen feed and then to feed once or twice again with a balanced feed before the first flush of blooms.

Soil enriched with humus is far better placed to retain nutrients than impoverished, lifeless soil so it makes sense to apply a good organic mulch after the first application of granular feed to the roots. Mulching also fulfils another purpose, in that it reduces the evaporation of water from the soil surface and therefore prevents the soil becoming too dry during periods of hot sunshine.

I know it sounds crazy to suggest that the soil in summer may be short of water after all the rain we have had this winter, but it could happen and those of us who mulch will reap the rewards with bushes that grow well and produce good quality blooms. Mulching materials can include your own garden compost, horse manure, mushroom compost, spent hops and the best of all which is well rotted farmyard manure but check that the

grass in the hayfield had not been treated with herbicide at any stage of its growth as residues of the chemical can be transmitted through into the manure! The mulch should always be put down when the soil is wet so that the moisture can be retained in the ground.



So, if you have not spoken to your friendly farmer recently, make a point of paying him a visit to tell him how much you appreciate him as a neighbour and hope that he will reciprocate in kind!!

Gareth Davies



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

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF PETER BEALES

In many ways, I feel privileged to have become truly ensconced by the sheer pleasures of the *genus rosa* at such an early age. During my formative years, the Hybrid Teas and Floribundas reigned supreme; their large, fragrant, blooms seemed to fuel my boundless teenage energy to dizzy heights. As soon as the catalogues arrived, I'd marvel at the intense colours. However, as time past and my youth-hood began to evaporate, I developed a mellow affection for the rose. I hankered for less intense hues, delicate flowers and subtle perfumes. I simply wanted to drift back in time, and discover the rose-filled joys experienced by my forefathers. On reflection, my appetite for older cultivars was fuelled by observant writings of the late Peter Beales, whose books '*Classic Roses*' and '*Twentieth Century Roses*' have become definitive works of reference.

Peter Beales developed his interest in roses from an early age. In his revealing autobiography, '*Rose Petals and Muddy Footprints*' (2008) he recalls a fascinating moment, when as a baby, he sat in a pushchair in his parent's Norfolk garden as his grandmother hanged out the washing on the clothes line. He attention was immediately drawn to a pink rose bloom – which years later – he concluded was probably 'Dorothy Perkins'. I can only assume that this moment was when Peter became mesmerised by the sheer beauty and charms of the rose. It is well-documented that as a youngster, 'Great Maiden's Blush' was the first rose he developed a deep infinite affection for. This attachment lasted throughout his lifetime.



Great Maiden's Blush'



“James Mason”

His childhood passion for nature and flora cumulated in being offered a position at the famous LeGrice Rose Nurseries when he left school. Because of his apprenticeship, his compulsory national service was deferred until he was 20. During his duties as a soldier, his passion for older roses was ignited further by the writings of Graham Stuart Thomas. It inspired him to such an extent that he wrote to Mr Thomas, who was a director of the Hillings Nursery in Surrey, to ask if he would consider taking him on as an employee once he completed his army service. Peter was absolutely delighted that the nursery decided to take him on, where he became

custodian to Mr. Thomas’s magnificent collection of species and older cultivars that had taken many years to form. His interest and knowledge in roses was enhanced further by working with such a formidable character as Mr. Thomas.

Eventually Peter married Joan, whom he had known for many years. She proved not only to be a dutiful and loving wife, but also an immense supporter in his rosy pursuits. In 1968, the couple formed ‘Peter Beales Rose Nursery’ on a piece of Norfolk land located in Swardeston. Initially it proved difficult to establish the business, however through dogged determination and tireless energy, the nursery eventually gained momentum. In 1970, they took the bold decision to exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show, where the nursery’s magnificent blooms captured hearts of the enthusiastic visitors whom besieged their stand in awe. Although the exhibit contained a mixture of older cultivars and modern varieties, Peter and Joan were astonished to discover that most of the orders taken were for the older varieties and realised the business potential in concentrating on these forms.

As the nursery grew, it soon became apparent that the site was too small to accommodate an expanding business. Peter sought and purchased some new land located just outside the Norfolk market town of Attleborough, where the nursery remains to this day.

Over the years, Peter Beales and his family build up an impressive collection of



1,200 different cultivars, some of which were facing extinction. His assemblage of 100 types of wild roses was recognised by the RHS as the most extensive collection in Britain. His reputation flourished as an international expert in classic roses, establishing himself as a lecturer and

accomplished author. During his life, his nursery introduced a number of new outstanding cultivars, which include, 'Norwich Cathedral', 'James Mason', 'Clarence House' and 'The Queen's Jubilee Rose'.

Despite being active in the rose world, I regret that I never met Peter because I had much respect and admiration for him. During the years 2003 to 2005 he served the Royal National Rose Society as President. He was recipient of the Dean Hole Medal, the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour and appointed MBE for services to horticulture. Like many other rosarians, I felt extremely sad to hear about his sudden passing on 26th January 2013.

However, I felt I became acquainted to the inner spirit and wisdom of this legendary gentleman, when I visited this nursery and sumptuous display gardens last summer. To any rosarian who believes that they know old roses, a visit Peter Beales Roses is both humbling and enormously exciting. There is a profusion of the genus in virtually every corner of the display gardens, which has



Aerial view of Peter Beales garden

been attractively laid out. From the entrance, an open grassy area welcomes the guest, which has rose beds flanked on either side, that beckon the visitor through an arch that reveals a formal pool.

Part of the estate has a dedicated area named, 'Peter's Garden'. It contains a confection of Peter's most favourite roses, which include 'Nester' Gallica (1834) and the delicate pink single variety 'Celestial Alba' (pre 1810). The garden includes some superb companion plantings, such as Lavender, Hollyhock and Hardy Geranium, which give the feel of a quintessential English country garden.



"Rose de Rescht"

A number of ornate structures encompass the overall site's design, by form of pillars, obelisks and archways. This vertical emphasis not only permits the charms of rambling and climbing roses to revel in their glory, but gives the composition a sound structure with added height. One of the areas that I particularly enjoyed was the aptly named, "St. Albans Walk". The staff have lovingly recreated part of the world famous former RNRS gardens, which featured an extensive arch walkway, which was festooned in fragrant ramblers and heavenly climbers. As I ambled through the archways, I felt I had been magically transported back in the passage of time to the glory days of the much-missed, '*Gardens of The Rose*'.

In essence, the display gardens at the nursery are a treasure trove of beauties. As you explore the area, you will encounter some outstanding cultivars which stood the test of time.

'Penelope' (1924) is a superb Hybrid Musk, with dark green foliage and confection of semi pink blooms with frilled edges. 'Fantin Latour' (c.1900) has soft, delicate blooms with delightful perfume. 'Rose de Rescht' (1880) is a fascinating Portland. Its pompon crimson flowers are deliciously fragrant.

Modern varieties are dispersed to give continual blooms until the frosts of winter. Fine examples seen at the gardens are, 'Jacqueline du Pre' (1989) and 'Frilly Cuff' (2014).

For the rosarian who craves for the romance and the sheer charms of older rose cultivars, a visit to 'Peter Beales' roses in Attleborough is essential, if not an indispensable investment of time. And traveling back in time is what Peter did admirably, to revel in his sheer passion for the "*Queen Of All Flowers.*"



Peter Beales MBE DHM

22 July 1936 – 26 January 2013

If you have a particular interest in older varieties, why not join me at the WFRS 15th International Heritage Rose Conference in Brussels, Belgium between 9th – 12th June? Many exciting garden tours are planned, with a mix of some inspirational lectures and social gatherings. Simply visit:

www.rosabelgica2020.com

Until next time, the days are gradually getting longer and much welcomed birdsong heralds the beginning of spring. It's time to head out into the garden to get your roses pruned and fed in readiness for a glorious summer.

Derek Lawrence

Rose Society UK Member number 007 – With a License To Grow Roses

Pauline's Patter

Roses take you there - A Road Trip



Decorative horse in the foyer of the convention

4 October 2019 and we're flying to Nashville, Tennessee from Palm Springs. Ray and I were pleased to have been asked to judge at the miniature convention in Franklin in the morning.

A very hectic few days had preceded our arrival having left the UK on 1st October and travelling via Calgary on a 33-hour trip to Palm Springs. Stayed a night in Palm Desert before packing our belongings and setting off with our friend Hal, to see the sights of Tennessee.

The mini show was fantastic with many new varieties on the benches, but the best part of the day was the evening banquet, meeting up with old friends from the east of the US. Some people we've not seen for many years. Our trip was a whirlwind finishing with a drive into Nashville visiting some of the vibrant bars with live country music. Loads more to write about this part of our journey but another time perhaps.

Back in Palm Desert our plan was to take a trip to visit a couple of rose growers. Firstly, a relatively small business run by Burling; a lovely lady who used to work with the legendary Ralph Moore. Ralph Moore was widely recognised as the father of the miniature rose. He bred in excess of 500 new

varieties during a lifetime of growing and breeding roses.

We planned to stay overnight in Visalia before driving around the incredible fields of Weeks roses just outside Bakersfield in a place called Wasco. Unfortunately, there was no time to seek out the Ralph Moore memorial garden. We understood that it was planted in honour of him in 2003.

And so, the round trip of around 700 miles begins; It was a balmy 80°C in sunny California when we set off from our temporary home in Palm Desert. We drove on mainly freeway watching the changing scenery and talking about the roses our friend and traveling companion, Hal was hoping to purchase from Burling.



Best in Show Bowl of miniature roses



The turbines that line the freeway
as you leave Coachella



A small section of
Burling's benches

As you leave the beautiful Coachella valley one of the most amazing sights you will see is the vast array of wind turbines that spring up from the desert floor. The words "wind turbine" have evolved into what the locals call windmills and it is my understanding that the USA expect to produce 20% of all their energy from harnessing wind by 2030.

Driving on towards Bakersfield we pass acres and acres of citrus groves interspersed by the odd almond grove and grapes and even some fields of cotton which triggered some in our car to sing the famous song "In those old Cotton Fields back home" by the Beach Boys and Creedence Clearwater Revival; it's hard to believe that their versions of the song were released in 1969 - over 50 years ago.

It was not long after that that Ray and I started growing and showing roses in 1974. How time flies Driving on - we get horribly lost in citrus groves – every road looks the same and the sat nav (GPS) is more confused than us!! After a few phone calls we find our position and get instructions from Burling on how to find her rose nursery in a Walnut Grove. Rows and rows of roses some on benches, some on the ground on protective weed suppressing matting. Many of Ralph Moore's



original stock plants growing huge, through their original posts and into the ground. We were provided with muffins and coffee when we arrived.

After meeting Burling and her delightful animals, 2 horses, 3 dogs all who have been rescued, we talked roses. She showed us how she chip buds most of her new roses and we selected the rose plants that Hal wanted to add to his collection. Maroon Eight being one of roses we left with.

We had lunch in a scrummy Thai restaurant in the local village and afterwards said our goodbyes to Burling promising to return during our next visit.

We stayed the night in a local motel called the Lamp Litter and after a huge American breakfast we set of to find the rose fields in Wasco.

Wasco is a city in the San Joaquin Valley, in Kern County, California, United States and is located 24 miles northwest of Bakersfield, at an elevation of 328 feet.

Weeks state-of-the art processing, refrigeration and distribution centre is located at the grounds in Wasco, California, in the middle of the San Joaquin Valley. Weeks has over 1,200 acres of production facilities in the same area. Wasco has a good deep loamy soil, plentiful clean well water and a natural climate that



Fields and fields of roses as far as the eye can see in every direction



'Over the Moon' to vanishing point

fits commercial rose production particularly well. In Wasco they can produce strong healthy bushes that ship easily and adapt well to most any climate in the United States. They carry out research and have hybridizing greenhouses along with display and test gardens.

Beginning in early December and ending about mid-February, Weeks Roses ships over four million bareroot roses throughout the United States. Immediately following harvest, the roses are carefully graded and packed in strong boxes, then shipped in temperature-controlled trucks, where applicable, either directly to customers or to various strategically located cold storage warehouses and made available to wholesale customers when they are ready in their particular area.

The fields are a sight to behold with acres and acres of roses; bush roses standard roses and some double budded with two varieties on one stem. Magnificent bushes of 'Julia Child', 'Cinco de Mayo' and 'Easy on the Eyes' to name but a few.

Leaving the rose fields, we drove through thousands more of acres of citrus, almond and walnut groves before joining the main highway back toward LA and Hal's home in the desert.



White Iceberg and Brilliant Pink Iceberg double-budded on one stem



Ray emerges from the 'Twilight Zone'



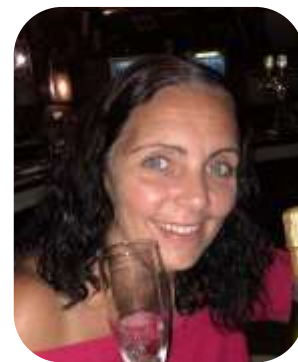
The double budded standards – mainly the Iceberg varieties; Brilliant Pink and Burgundy. The pink and white, white and burgundy,



'Twilight Zone' bred by Tom Carruth

Roses can take you to so many places and provide so many stories and memories of gardens and shows but that's for another time

Pauline Martin



Coordinator Kerry Austen gives us another update

The entries this year for the trials has again been very good regarding numbers.

We currently have 61 entries for our trials, 12 for Rose of the year and 27 Gold Standard.

This means we now have almost 6 rows of 60m long full of beautiful roses.



There is a good mixture of HT, Floribunda and shrubs. The climber numbers have roughly stayed the same. The types we are lacking in numbers are the ground cover and minis.

They have all been pruned and are awaiting their annual feed and mulch. We have 160 25kg bags of well-rotted manure to get on. So, lots of manual work to help keep us warm on these cold days. The recent storms have not affected the trials apart from helping blow away the tiny leaves. Every little help's as they say.

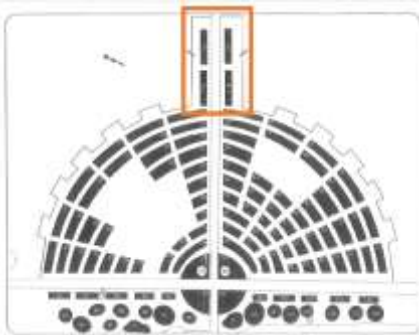
Judges invites have been sent out and we should have a 10 strong team to judge throughout the season.

The trials have featured on the WFRS Facebook page and also our own Facebook.

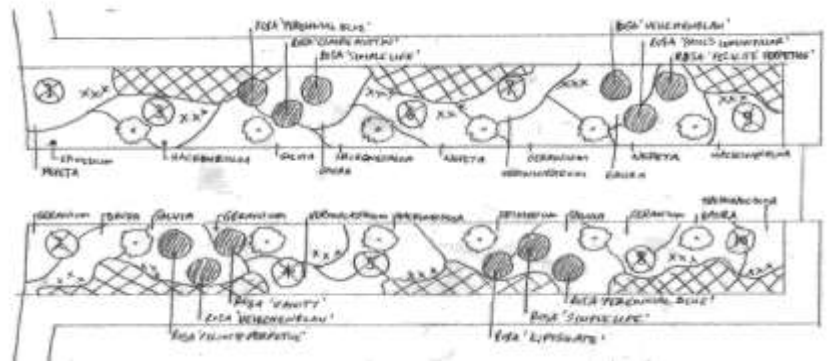
To promote the rose and the rose industry have been busy out and about, doing local gardening club talks on roses and rose care. Talking to them about the process of breeding and the lengthy time it takes to produce a beautiful rose. Encouraging them to have a go at breeding and grafting to see what they can come up with. One thing I do find is that when people buy roses for their garden, they tend to buy them in 1's or 2's. This I feel really doesn't help the rose when people

are expecting a big display of roses. So, part of my mission is to get people to plant in larger blocks to get the effect they desire.

I have also been working with the Students from the Royal Parks department at Greenwich, together they have come up with a new design for part of the old rose garden. This Garden was



The Greenwich Rose Garden with the replanted area highlighted in orange



Schematic showing rose variety and companion plant details

full of old very common roses which had been in the garden for approx. 25-30 years. They had become very tired looking and a rethink was needed. As many of you know a monocrop of roses is not ideal when it comes to pest and disease. It is also considered by many to be old fashioned.

So, to bring the garden up to date it was decided that they would replace the entrance bed to the garden to make it more appealing and to draw people into the rose garden. The new design includes many modern roses and some old favourites. Roses like Gertrude Jekyll, Olivia rose Austin, Kiftsgate, Kew gardens, Ballerina and many more. They have mixed in herbaceous perennials to help with the biodiversity.

It was nice to work with the new generation of horticulturists that are interested in roses and value their place within a garden.

Kerry Austen




Keith Jones, one of the nicest people in the rose world (official title by the way) has been under the weather!

Keith was admitted to Liverpool hospital last month for a planned aortic (heart) valve replacement.

Great news... Keith was soon home from hospital and very happy to be feeding his chickens again. Rachael is still having to take him back to Liverpool every day to get anti-coagulation medication right, but thankfully he is well on the mend.

International Rose Specialists
C&K JONES 

**Golden Fields Nursery,
 Barrow Lane,
 Tarvin,
 Cheshire
 CH3 8JF**

 01829 740663



ck.jones@jonestherose.co.uk



Keith and Rachael offer a huge variety of top quality roses. Check out their website at; [Jones The Rose](http://JonesTheRose.co.uk)

C and K Jones is the only place to get your hands on some of the new Weeks varieties bred by Tom Carruth and Christian Bedard such as 'Ebb Tide' and 'Doris Day'

Everyone at the Rose Society UK sends our best wishes for a speedy and full recovery



Rose Society UK President Colin Squire OBE and the Sunbury Walled Garden Roses

The famous Walled Garden in Sunbury-on-Thames is a garden gem just a few yards from the river as it passes through Sunbury.

Back in 1984 some 400 roses in the area of the garden marked below were replanted by Colin and Squires Garden Centres. The Squires Shepperton is just a half mile from the garden and the home of the Society's flagship Summer Rose festival.

Colin asked us to have a look at the site last summer and we agreed that it was time to replace many of the bushes that due to pruning and general old age were not looking at their best.

In the autumn the site was cleared and it was decided to replace the bushes in all eight beds. The ground was dug over and quantities of topsoil and well rotted organic compost was applied to the beds.



New bare root roses were bought and the council staff under the guidance of Colin and Pauline and Ray Martin began the task of replanting. Each bush was given fish, blood and bone and an application of MycorrMax kindly supplied by The Nutrient Company.

Uncle Tom's Rose Tonic has been provided by Tom Nellist and the hope is that the replanted garden will thrive again and The Rose Society UK will be able to use it for future educational events such as pruning and general rose care.



Colin Squire, Pauline and Ray Martin
overseeing the planting



The council staff get down to
the actual planting



The bushes were excellent A Quality stock
from East Anglian rose-trade suppliers,
Robert Wharton, Griffins and Campions



All the bushes were soaked and treated with
MycorrMax mycorrhizal fungi supplied by The
Nutrient Company

History of walled gardens

Walled gardens were a particular feature of the larger Georgian and Victorian Houses. They were used for the growing of high quality fruit and vegetables for the wealthy owner of the house and often included a specialist range of greenhouses for the growing of peaches and grapes.

There are numerous plant families and species.

The knot garden is a style of gardening popular around the 15th and 16th centuries with intricate inter-



The planting was all finished in early January
They will be trimmed up in March and the
first feed will be applied

weaving of dwarf hedges and displays which evidence Italian influences on English gardens at that time. In a similar manner, the French influences around the 17th century can be seen in the parterres, which are areas of geometrically designed flower beds, enclosed by clipped dwarf hedges.

The Victorian rose garden is composed entirely of rose species and varieties which were either introduced or widely planted during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). These roses usually have a shorter flowering period than modern plants, but are renowned for their classic flower form and strong fragrance. Varieties especially worthy of mention are the Bourbon Rose, Souvenir de la Malmaison and the Damask Rose, Marie Louise.

The modern rose garden contains some favourites with the home gardener in recent years. Established roses like Peace and Iceberg are joined by the first ever 'Rose of the Year' Mountbatten and a number of its successors. One variety worthy of special note is Violet Squire, named after the wife of Mr D J Squire, of Squire's Roses, Shepperton, who very generously donated all the roses within this section.

Architectural features of local interest and significance are the Lendy Memorial and the 'portico' of the now demolished Benwell House. The Benwell House 'portico' was preserved following the demolition of the house in 1984 and now frames the northern gate of the garden.

Natural materials have been used as much as possible. The brick edge paths are surfaced with 'Breedon gravel', quarried in Derbyshire and the rockery stones are from Westmorland, Kent and the West Country.

Since its establishment, the garden has become a popular venue for exhibitions and band concerts. It is also used for the annual Sunbury Fayre in early July. Toilets are provided close by and a wheelchair can be borrowed if needed.



Jeff Wyckoff reports on Rose Trials in the USA

Part 2

While there are exceptions, most Miniatures and nearly all Minifloras in the United States are bred for exhibition, which generally involves a regimen of fungicidal and insecticidal spraying. With “sustainability” in the forefront in America as well around the world, the AOE Trials added a no-spray division in 2013. Since then there have been four winners in that section, although two have been classified as shrubs and one as a polyantha by the A.R.S. You will note that all three of the 2020 winners below are Minifloras.

The Awards of Excellence (AOE) for 2020 were recently announced as:



- ‘Anne Marie Harris’ (LUVharris) [spray division] a Miniflora that was hybridized by Richard Anthony and will be introduced by *For Love of Roses*.



- 'Nancy Mae' (LUVnancy) [spray division] another Miniflora bred by Richard Anthony of *For Love of Roses*.

- 'Baby Bumbles' [spray division] a Miniflora with decorative form from Michael Birmingham and Andrew Debbink.



Past winners of the American Rose Society's Award of Excellence

may be found at the following site:

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/b152c0_bd319cf2885c4dbd81334ffcb8b994d8.pdf

Jeff Wyckoff



Humic acids – what are they and how can they help?

Susan Wilson B.Sc. is a soil Scientist and Director at Aphaeas Agriculture; I phoned her last year to get the lowdown on the benefits of the use of humic acid to produce healthy roses. She said

In the last few years there has been an increasing focus on soil health and fertility, as the problems associated with chemical use (and abuse) have become more apparent. As a result, biological plant protection has become increasingly mainstream, with the global market increasing 300% in the last ten years. Chemicals are now seen as the last resort and there is much we can do to improve soil fertility and increase the resilience of our plants to pests and disease.

Humic acid technology was first developed in Germany in the late 19th century and the Germans have a long tradition of using such products in agriculture. However, it is only recently that they have started to be used with any frequency in the UK and there is still a lot of confusion as to what they are and what they can do. Hopefully this article will go some way to clarifying this.

Humic acids are the glue that binds soil particles together, forming the soil humus complex. Without humus (also known as soil organic matter), there is no soil structure, little porosity and poor nutrient and water retention capabilities while the land is at high risk from erosion. Soil organic matter is therefore essential, but intensive arable farming since WWII has seen soils destroyed on a scale that is almost unimaginable - we all know about the dust bowls in North America. The same has happened here to a lesser extent and yields on farmland have peaked and, in many cases, declined. Humates and fulvates go a long way to rectifying this, restoring fertility and increasing yields.

German humic acids are extracted from brown coal, or lignite. The grade of lignite containing the highest concentration of humic acids is known as Leonardite, and it is this that Humintech uses in its manufacturing process. Humic acid is the generic

term for all such products, and is broken down into subsets of humates and fulvates. Humates, extracted by potassium hydroxide, are the heavier grade of product and are marketed by Humintech as Powhumus®. Fulvates, extracted by sulphuric acid, are lighter molecules and are marketed as Fulvital®. Each product has different qualities and a different mode of action, which I will explain.

All humic acids act as bio-stimulants and soil conditioners, improving the cation exchange capacity (CEC) and in turn the nutrient and water retention capacities of soil, particularly on light sandy soils where the humic acid coats the sandy particles. Conversely, on heavy clay soils, aeration and drainage is improved. Humates are much more stable as a soil conditioner and are not taken up by plants. Acting externally, they stimulate root growth and the production of root exudates, which increase nutrient uptake as well as acting as a barrier to plant pathogens. Overall plant health is improved and there is increased resistance to external stresses such as drought and disease.

Fulvates, the lighter molecules, are taken up by plants through the roots and leaves. With a higher CEC and low pH, they are ideal for mixing with fertilisers and fungicides. More chemically active, they are less stable than humates and as a rule of thumb, humates should be thought of as a soil treatment, whereas fulvates should be thought of as a plant treatment. As a note of caution, where show plants or edible produce are being grown, fulvates should be used as a very dilute solution to avoid staining the leaves.

Little and often is the recommended method of use and care should be taken not to overdose. A combination of both soil applied and foliar products is ideal for maximum advantage and it is important that these products are used correctly in order to obtain the benefits.

The following link is to an excellent YouTube video, which describes the origins of

the products and shows Humintech's production facility at the lignite mine just outside Dusseldorf: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa2bd4U88XB9RPFaLVoy5kQ>

Susan Wilson

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the passing of
Rod Pengelly

Rod was one of the first to join the Society when we formed in May 2017
In spite of poor health and being partially sighted, Rod grew some wonderful
roses at his Chalfont St Giles home

Rod brought his roses to our national shows on only two occasions but at both
shows he managed to win the Star Bloom Award for his hybrid tea roses
He was unable to drive and therefore exhibited his roses mainly at shows in his
local area and was instrumental in signing up many of the local societies as
Affiliate Members to the Rose Society UK

Our thoughts and condolences to Rod's family at this sad time



Rod's Star Bloom - variety 'Lowri'



Here Come The Judges!



We are delighted to report that following our judges training day in February we now have five new, keen judges on their way to becoming Accredited Rose Society UK judges.

Caddy Sitwell, Charlie McCormick, Eric Miller, Derek Lawrence and Daniel Myhill all passed their theory / written assessments.

They will now be looking to get some hands-on experience once the shows start so that they can complete their training with a practical assessment and become Accredited Judges.

We will be having another judges training day in 2021 at a venue hopefully more convenient to our more northerly based judges and potential judges. If you would like information on becoming a Rose Society UK judge please contact;

info@therosesociety.org.uk



**Are you planning on coming to our
Premier Summer Show?**

Great News!

**We have secured a great room rate
at the Shepperton Holiday Inn**

See page 1 for details



27th and 28th June

Dates for the 2020

Confirmed Rose Society UK National Rose Shows are;

National Spring Rose Show 2020

to be held at the Malvern Spring Show 7th to 10th May 2020

National Southern Summer Rose Show 2020

to be held at Squire's Rose Festival Shepperton 27th to 28th June 2020

National Northern Summer Rose Show 2020

to be held at Chorley Flower Show 1st to 2nd August 2020

National Autumn Rose Show 2020

to be held at the Harrogate Autumn Show 13th to 15th September 2020

at a NEW VENUE for 2020 - Newby Hall

Dates for Spring and Summer 2020

Provincial Flower Shows are;

Rose Society of Wales Summer Rose Show

Rhondda Heritage Park 11th July 2020

Ryedale Rose Festival

at R V Rogers Rose Centre,

Pickering 4th to 5th July 2020



Note to all Affiliated Societies. Don't

forget to order your Bronze Medals in good time and, if you'd like your show advertised in the next newsletter, on our website and Social Media platforms, please send details to; info@therosesociety.org.uk

Pictures and results from your shows are always welcome too.

So

please send them to;

info@therosesociety.org.uk

In December we circulated to our members a comprehensive article on Blackspot and Rose Rust by our member Dr Julian (John) Howden. Below we have the follow up article;

Control of diseases on roses and spraying

Here John shares with us the results of his research for a balanced and sensible approach to spraying roses with one eye on environmental issues. If nothing else it offers a suggestion or two in the perennial discussion of ;



CHEMICALS VERSUS NO CHEMICALS

With busy lives, we all want a quick and comprehensive solution to problems but it is important to remember that sprays are chemicals and are unnatural in the environment. Only use them if you have to, as they are often long-lasting and indiscriminate in their actions. Could you do something else? For example, when spraying for Aphids (Greenfly), as an amateur grower, if there are only a few insurgents, could you rub them out with your finger? Or, if the infection is prolific, would it not be better to prune off the infected part of the plant and protect the new growth as it emerges? Chemicals often have a “knock-on” effect – what about the birds? – what about the long-term effect on the soil? – and what about the general effect on the flora and fauna? As with most things in life, care and prevention are better than cure which is the whole purpose of this article.

FOLLOW ON

This article follows on from the first article which showed how an understanding of the biology and life cycle of a disease can help in its control. It showed how important it is to:-

- use cleanliness in the Autumn to achieve a clean start in the Spring.
- reduce the spread and severity of infections by picking off diseased leaves in the season
- looking out for successful overwintering by these diseases and removing them
- spraying at the most effective time
- using good cultivation practice and pruning

METHOD

In the laboratory, rust inoculations using Common rust Summer spores, were made on to both whole leaflets and 1cm leaf discs supported on sterile filter papers wetted with distilled water in a humid Petri-dish. No difference was noticed of the degree of infection on either whole leaflets or discs. These were grown in a growth room under optimum conditions of illumination, daylength and temperature for infection. Infection almost always developed after ten days but were left for

21 days before being assessed. Leaf samples were taken initially from roses grown on their own roots. Soon it became obvious that infection did not vary according to being on their own roots or on any of the commonly used rose stocks; it was a feature of the scion variety. Similarly, the age of the leaf samples or the vigour (health) of the sample plants did not affect the degree of infection against the control samples. Any experiments which did not show optimum infections of the control samples were rejected.

The effectivity of sprays and treatments were assessed in the above growth room by germinating rust Summer spores on 0.2% Agar plates in humid petri dishes which contained the recommended rates of chemicals. Percentage germination and hyphal growth (fungal threads) against time were measured against control samples. In further experiments, varying concentrations of the chemicals, around the recommended dose, were also tested. Some chemicals, recommended to control rose rust in the 60's and 70's did not prohibit or affect the germination of Summer spores.

The following recommendations are made on the basis of these laboratory experiments and, together with my own experience in the field. These give a strong indication of effectivity or not. Hopefully, this will encourage the development of proper field-trials by future researchers.

Out of this work it is possible to indicate that some myths about roses are not quite true. It is often suggested that "well-fed" plants are more resistant to diseases; experimentation and observations over many years have shown that this is not the case. All plants are liable to infection from elsewhere and, if left unnoticed, the disease builds up into a serious outbreak. It is important for rose-growers not to let this happen and not to let the disease build up the inoculum potential which is hard to eradicate even in the longer term. Perhaps this statement (above) relates to the recovery period following severe infections? Healthier plants have the resources to recover after repeated infections and can survive for a longer period afterwards. Weaker plants are more seriously debilitated and probably, never fully recover. It has been reported that Blackspot infections not only drain the plant's resources, hormones are also disrupted, causing defoliation.

Whilst looking into some Russian work on treatments for cancer, I noticed a statement that garlic was effective in controlling plant diseases. Later, I found that a garlic infusion was very effective in the laboratory against the summer leaf form of the common rust. Experiments showed that even low amounts prohibited spore germination and garlic even produced a hypersensitive reaction around established pustules on leaves which were already infected with summer rust. It produced a black, necrotic ring around each pustule, literally isolating and killing the rust infection. This was never observed on any of the other treatments, including recommended fungicides. While this needs to be properly evaluated in field trials, it may be useful to try it out yourself. **THE ONLY THING YOU STAND TO LOSE BY USING GARLIC ARE YOUR FRIENDS!** An old

gardener once told me that garlic solution is also good for deterring slugs (without killing them).

In my own garden, I have found garlic to be particularly effective when mixed with Summer-White-Oil (used to be sold as "Volck"; however, White-oil can be made quite easily (see below) which helps it to adhere to and last longer on the leaves.

Summer white oil emulsion is also very effective against Rose POWDERY MILDEW DISEASE where it coats the fungal threads which cover the leaf surface and chokes them. It also gives the leaves an attractive leaf-gloss effect.

As the disease mainly overwinters on tufts of active growth which persist throughout the winter

or protected within the wrappings of vegetative buds, it is better to remove these entirely as they emerge in the Spring. As such, overwintering of Powdery Mildew is particularly prevalent on Rambler roses; a good example is the variety "Dorothy Perkins", a variety which should be avoided. Tipping of infected tips and removal of infected new growths and shoots (infected vegetative buds) in the spring is usually most effective. Summer White oil emulsion is useful as a protective spray throughout the season.

Another bonus is that Summer-White-Oil is very effective against APHIDS. This pest gets bogged-down with oil droplets and these ultimately block the spiracles, or breathing pores, which kill the insect. Using only light, natural plant oils, such as, light Olive oil, Rapeseed oil or Rice Bran oil (cheaply available in most supermarkets) to make your own white oil emulsion, it is more natural for the environment and does not harm birds who can still feed on these aphids. Care should be taken, though, to look out for and not to spray any predatory Lady Bird beetles which can also be killed. Good environmental practice includes only spraying when



A shoot emerging in Spring which is completely infected with Powdery Mildew



The Rose Aphis (brown) and the Peach-potato Aphis (green) both found on roses. Note the white (dead) skins which they cast off when they grow.

necessary and, with oils, not to dispose of them in water-courses



The black, necrotic spots of Blackspot disease show up against the yellow, chlorotic leaf which is about to defoliate.

The black necrotic areas of dead leaf tissue and the "drain" on the leaf's resources makes it go chlorotic.

overwintering is within the black pimpled areas on stems which are infected long-term with the disease.

Leaf debris on the soil surface also poses a threat where persisting leaf-petioles are the main offenders in carrying the disease through the Winter.

Hard pruning and good hygiene to remove all traces of infected leaf debris will help to give a cleaner start in the spring. Spores are readily spread by water

splash and hand-picking of infected leaves in Summer, before the stems become infected, will work for the amateur. I have heard of growers in the U.S. using Baking Soda in a White-oil Emulsion as a preventative against Blackspot and Powdery Mildew. I have no experience of using this mixture but it might be worth a try. However, I still prefer plain White-oil Emulsion to combat Powdery Mildew.

SHOT-HOLE DISEASE

This is sometimes confused with Blackspot and it seems to be spread by water splash; however, it is not as destructive as Blackspot and can be more easily controlled by pulling off the leaves when the infection is first seen.

BLACK SPOT DISEASE

Blackspot is particularly prevalent on roses throughout Britain these days, especially since the "Clean Air Act" cleaned up our atmosphere: sulphur dioxide in industrial pollution used to keep this disease at bay. These black necrotic areas on rose leaves show where the leaf tissues are already dead and no amount of spraying will resurrect them! The leaves become yellow and fall. In milder areas, the disease can overwinter on infected tufts of leaves but its main form of



Blackspot stem infections showing spore-producing "Pimples"



Spots of Shot-hole disease on an HT leaf showing the white centres of dead tissue which ultimately drop out leaving holes in the leaf.

NOW TO THE MIXTURES

SUMMER-WHITE-OIL

Most recipes to make Summer-White-oil on the internet vary so much, it really is “bucket chemistry” and not an exact science.

Four measures of Rice Bran oil to one measure of mild Castile liquid soap (available from most organic shops). My son uses washing-up detergent without any visible harm to the leaves but I would advise care. Shake this foundation mix and store it for up to eight weeks in a cool, screw-topped jar.

Add two tablespoons (36 ml) of this foundation mixture, after shaking vigorously, to each litre of water in your sprayer. Only spray on warmer days when rain is not expected and keep shaking your sprayer (this is the White-oil “dance” and good for “keeping fit”.)

GARLIC FUNGICIDE

I found that a mix of 0.02% was effective in the laboratory against the common leaf rust on roses.

Crush, or blend, half a bulb of fresh garlic (about five corms or 20 grams) and infuse them in a small amount of Rice Bran oil (some people prefer to infuse in water). It can be used straight away but I prefer to leave this infusion overnight to extract the full flavour. Stir the mix, let the debris settle and decant this mix into your sprayer. Add the two tablespoons of the Summer-White-oil mixture (from above) and make up to one litre with water. If you prefer, you can omit the White-oil mixture and use it with a teaspoon of mild detergent, as a purely aqueous spray.



A HT rose leaf showing the orange summer spore-bearing

BAKING SODA - BICARBONATE OF SODA – NaHCO₃

It has been reported that a solution of Baking Soda is effective against spores of Blackspot and

Powdery Mildew on roses although there are also reports of Baking Soda (HCO_3 ions) causing flower deformities when applied to roses for the cut flower trade.

If you want to try it, one teaspoon of Baking Soda powder (5 gm) with one teaspoon of Castile liquid soap (5 ml) and make up to one litre in your sprayer with water.

If you wish to use with Summer-White-oil just add a teaspoon of Baking Soda to a litre of the aqueous White oil mixture (mentioned above) in your sprayer and shake. I would not recommend using Baking Soda in the garlic mix which could reduce its effectivity and I would also avoid any temptation of using a stronger mix of Baking Soda which could burn the leaves. A very strong solution of Baking Soda can be harmful to birds.

HAPPY ROSE GROWING!

John Howden

POSTSCRIPT

I read with interest reports of "Downy Mildew" in the Society's Bulletin which seems to have developed recently on roses. I have not come across this yet. A quick look on Google showed Downy Mildew photographs with blackspots on leaves quite similar to Blackspot, others similar to Powdery Mildew and a flower bud clearly affected by "Balling". There clearly is a culprit which is new on the scene because these reports came from very experienced rose growers. Please could someone send me a sample in a sealed poly bag when it arrives on their roses (via the Society). I'd love to incubate this sample and have a look

This information has been gained from many years of research work at the University of Bath and in co-operation with Peter Thoday, the famous horticulturalist. If it is to be quoted, then mention must be made of the source.

Any reproduction of these photographs will require the written consent of the Author.

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As usual John has provided some excellent images to compliment this article, in order to reduce the document file size their resolution has been lowered. Full sized images will be available from the website in the member's area.



My favourite climber "Temptress" growing with Clematis "The President"



2020 has arrived and planning for the Heritage Rose Convention is well under way for June.

There are still some spaces left for the main Convention; please email; rosasbelgica2020@gmail.com for more information.



**Looking
Ahead
to 2021**

**Adelaide
Australia**



Victoria State Rose Garden

For those interested in coming to Australia for the World Rose Convention, we thank you for your support and concerns for those impacted by the fires in Australia. The positive news is that the fires have not impacted any of the rose gardens involved in the convention. The other good news is that the bush in Australia is already regenerating in many areas.

**Paul Hains
WFRS Vice President
Australasia**

2021
**World
Rose
Convention**
Adelaide
Australia



Email: conference@aomevents.com Website: www.alloccasionsgroup.com

That's all for now; with Spring just around the corner, pruning and feeding will soon be our main jobs to ensure a summer-full of roses

Getting in touch

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CHORLEY
FLOWER
SHOW

