

## **THE 35<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL ROSE QUIZ**

**Sunday, 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2007**

Once again Rose Friends old and new travelled to Pelsall Church Hall to compete in the National Rose Quiz. As a member of last year's winning team, Roy's Boys I am able to give an insider view of the competition round by round.

After Morning Coffee and a welcome from the Chairman, six teams completed the written paper with the four highest scorers going through to the semi-finals. As always, the questions from Ron Niblett were varied and interesting, and this year picture rounds were introduced which added a new dimension to the competition.

As always, it was not just knowing the answers that was difficult, it was getting the answers down on paper, especially for Roy's Boys!! The morning session saw West Midlands, South Yorkshire, Rhondda and Roy's Boys through to the semi-finals – we were on the way again.

After a splendid lunch, for which we thank the Ladies, the afternoon session began. Roy's Boys were paired with Rhondda for the first Semi-Final. The lead moved one way then the other with only a few points separating the teams from the start to the finish. After a thrilling encounter Boy's Boys ran out winners by a single point. We were in the Final once again, could we repeat last year's surprise win?

The second Semi was between West Midlands and South Yorkshire. This was a more one sided affair with the high scoring West Midlands running out easy winners.

The Final then saw Roy's Boys against West Midlands Rose Society. We were soon several points behind with West Midlands getting off to a flying start. Slowly we clawed our way back and at one stage we were within striking distance. Then came "that" question – Who was the shortest reigning Queen of England? We didn't know, back to your History Books Roy's Boys! West Midlands knew of course and Chris Warner was quickly in with the answer Lady Jane Grey who apparently was queen at the age of sixteen for only nine days, and was executed a year later. Bonus points for West Midlands and the points gap

widening, but it didn't end there. Chris then quoted what was supposedly the words of Lady Jane when she heard her husband crossing the landing (not to be repeated here!) and for this he was awarded three extra points.

We were well and truly "sunk without trace", and although we knew the first and last roses in "Find That Rose" Abbeyfield Rose and Zweibrücken (no extra points here) the points gap was too great and West Midlands finished as comfortable winners. They were winners for the first time since 1987. Well done John Anthony, Ian Lancaster and Chris Warner for the West Midlands.

Trophies were presented by Gareth Davies to the winners, runners up, Question Master Ron Niblett and Scorer Chris Fullard. So ended as always a most enjoyable day and the start of the new Rose Season. Much was said during the day concerning the future of the Quiz, and how to get more Societies to participate. I am sure that all those involved would agree that every effort must be made to ensure the continuation of this most enjoyable of days.

***Roy Evans***

(Captain Roy's Boys)

(One suggestion was to hold the Quiz on the same day as The Day of Roses is held. Another was to have it on the afternoon of the first day of the Mini Show at St Albans. Any comments or other ideas.)

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO PETER JAMES**

Congratulations to member Peter James. His new rose Blue for You has taken the rose world by storm. The new rose has caused a lot of interest because blue is a much sought after colour in horticulture and until now there have not been many successful blue roses. To confirm the blueness of the bloom French Rosarians have taken it to their hearts and named it Pacific Blue in their plant lists.

Peter's rose has been introduced onto the British market by C & K Jones. It is slightly taller than a dwarf floribunda and has a sweet perfume. Another rose Big Eye, a white with reddy-pink eyes is doing very well in America. Keep up the good work Peter.

## CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2007

The weather decided to do us proud for our second visit to Chelsea on members' day. The event was even better organised and we were able to get round easily and take photos, despite the show's popularity. After a tour of some of the show gardens, we could no longer resist the lure of the rose stands in the Grand Pavilion. Here we headed first for the David Austin stand, where we were able to have a quick chat with Michael Marriott before he was again inundated with enquiries. *Gertrude Jekyll* was looking good, as usual, and *L. D. Braithwaite*, *Golden Celebration* and a half-standard *Mary Rose* took our eye, as did *Summer Song*, with its striking burnt-orange colour, *Queen of Sweden* and *James Galway*, and *Shropshire Lad* and *The Pilgrim* as climbers. *Jubilee Celebration* was also much admired.

We did like the new Austin introductions for 2007, *Princess Alexandra of Kent* (Ausmerchant) with large warm pink, scented flowers; *Claire Austin* (Ausprior) a lovely cream, scented variety, named, of course, after David's daughter; *Port Sunlight* (Auslofty) rich apricot, tall; *Munstead Wood* (Ausbernard) deep crimson with a strong old rose fragrance and *Skylark* (Ausimple) deep pink open-cupped shape with light fragrance. All looked good and seemingly popular. The stand had received a silver-gilt medal.

The Peter Beales' stand was attracting much interest with a striking row of *Dublin Bay* climbers against a black backdrop on one side, a sight which really stuck in people's minds, as later conversations with fellow visitors indicated. *Comte de Chambord*, *Chevy Chase* and *Clarence House* also attracted attention. We had the opportunity of chatting to Richard Beales and asked him what he would recommend as a white climber for a smaller garden. He suggested *City of York*, which was also good on the stand. It was flowering all down the stems and is a white rambler with remontant flowering and yellow stamens. He agreed that television mention of a rose was a big influence on sales demand. It was good to see Peter Beales on the stand after his illness at last year's show, pleased with his gold medal.

New introductions for 2007, all bred by Amanda Beales, are as follows:- *Rachel's Delight*, a shrub rose with lovely foliage and upright stems and a soft apricot creamy colour; *Norwich Theatre Royal* with

small good red blooms; *Faithful Friend* a small shrub rose named in aid of 'Hearing dogs for deaf

people' with good bright yellow double blooms; *Indianna Mae* pink with a camellia-like appearance and *Wymondham Abbey* also pink in colour.

Other roses which looked good on this stand were *Macmillan Nurse*, *Uetersen 1939*, *Sir Paul Smith*, a 2006 climber, floppy but floriferous, and *Louis XIV* a China rose circa 1859 with very dark red blooms. (We saw this at a later date not doing very well in garden conditions, unfortunately).

Notcutts, incorporating Mattocks, were launching a rose called *The Wren*, a soft peachy pink old-English style floribunda named for the Women's Royal Naval Service. Their stand also featured *Tickled Pink*, ground-covers *County of Yorkshire* and *County of Hampshire*, and a yellow/peach patio rose, *The Mandarin*, all looking good. The stand had a gold medal.

Harkness had been awarded a silver-gilt, and among their roses *Fellowship* looked good, as did *City Livery*. *Bonica* stood out on the Hillier stand.

Squires Garden Centres had created a silver-gilt winning garden called 'A Kensington Retreat.' This really appealed to me, as it had at its heart an inner retreat, to quote them, 'a rose garden which appears like a jewel in a cage. It is devoted to a collection of red, yellow and orange old-fashioned shrub roses with a garden seat in the corner from which to enjoy the blooms and breathe in the fragrance. A lovely bronze statue adds an aura of calm tranquillity. A place for peace, perfection and quiet reflection just a step away from the bustle of everyday life.' I would love to have been able to go in and sit there, but it was perhaps only the manifestation of a dream!

On to the Historic Roses Group stand which was 'flying the flag' for the RNRs with a very informative presentation on their display boards. Members were deep in conversation, which reflected the interest shown, but we did manage a brief chat with Peter Scott, who sent his

best wishes to our society. He said they had been very busy all the time on the stand.

We then resumed our tour of the show gardens and other stands. One of the highlights for me was a stand by Capel Manor College (they had two other stands) which took as its theme four of the World's main religions, "Growing together in Faith". It was inspired by an idea from two members of the BBC faith and ethics presentation team and aimed to draw attention to the way in which faiths use plants and flowers as symbols and are linked through

horticulture. We asked if we could quote from their leaflet and they were happy for us to do so. The main aim was 'to show how the rose pervades Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Judaism, providing common ground and shared roots.... It reflects the College's pride that its student body reflects a multitude of religious beliefs with students working happily together in the pursuit of knowledge and a love of horticulture.'

To quote some references from the booklet to their display:-

'The Hindu act of worship 'puja' can be translated 'the flower act' and includes scattering of rose petals and the use of rosewater.'

'Rosewater was used in the East for Wudu (ritual ablution before prayer). Islamic writings and poetry use the rose freely as a metaphor. Roses are said to have grown from the drops of sweat from the prophet Mohammed's brow.'

'Early on the rose was seen as a symbol of the crucifixion of Christ, connecting His blood on the crown of thorns with red roses. The rose also became the symbol of the Virgin Mary, who was La Rosa Mystica, the thornless rose, the pure one.'

'According to Jewish legend each righteous man in heaven will have a tent and 800 roses. Roses will blossom in the desert when the Son of Man comes. In 1941 a Jewish student resistance movement in Germany was called The White Rose, for freedom and equality.' I have a list of the roses they had used on the stand and the symbolic significance of the choices, if anyone would like further details. We

certainly found our day at Chelsea to have been interesting and informative, as well as thought-provoking.

***Lynn Lancaster***

(Obviously well worth a visit Lynn. The connection of the rose to the religions is very interesting. Thank you for the quotations.)

### **Something to make you smile**

Have you heard about the hard-up fortune teller? Apparently he's not making much of a prophet.

### **ROSES AT WALSALL ARBORETUM**

Diane and Claire from the maintenance team say 'The design of the rose garden forms a mirror image with a mixture of other species to provide a flush of colour in the Summer months'. We assume they have chosen varieties to reflect the garden's past heyday, as they are hybrid teas as follows:- *Blue Moon, Prima Ballerina, Peace, Just Joey, Red Devil and Peer Gynt*.

We are pleased to report that the User's Group were this time awarded a silver-gilt medal at the NEC show with a garden designed to reflect the Arboretum's history. We wish Walsall MBC well with the lottery bid.

### **GOLDEN CELEBRATIONS**

Our congratulations and best wishes go to John and Phyllis Windsor who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 29 June.

Phyllis is confined to a wheelchair since her recent stroke but this did not stop them having an "Open House" on the day for family and friends to pop in to congratulate them and have a glass of bubbly.

We wish them well for the future.

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## **N E C GARDENERS' WORLD SHOW**

Ron and Ann Niblett, together with members from the West Midlands Rose Society, decked out the RNRS Stand to perfection with roses donated by Country Garden Roses. The glowing colours caught the public's eye and one rose in particular, Hot Chocolate, became such a favourite that C & K Jones who were selling it near to the stand completely sold out of their entire stock.

West Midland and RNRS members manned the stand for the five days of the Show, answering questions and giving out literature, including the new leaflet detailing which roses to plant in different parts of the garden. This was much appreciated, especially by new home-owners.

## **SUMMER ROSE SHOW 2007**

Once again our Summer Show was held in the grounds of Weston Park and again we shared the Marquee with the Royal National Rose Society's Mid-Summer Show. Both Societies were concerned before the Show with the lack of entries, but as always, came the day then exhibitors pulled out all the stops to fill the benches and provide a wonderful spectacle.

As with last year, West Midlands were indebted to our members from Bala in North Wales who, together with John Anthony staged the bulk of the exhibits. Although the weather before the show had been atrocious the quality of bloom was excellent.

Eifion Evans repeated his exploits of last year and once again became the West Midlands Open Amateur Champion. Eifion had almost a clean sweep in the open Large Flowered Classes, only being beaten in the class for one Specimen Bloom by a wonderful bloom of Admiral Rodney staged by Dave Weatherby, which was also considered for Best Bloom in Show – but more later. Dave also staged another good bloom of the same variety to win the Large Picture Frame class.

However, it was Eifion who excelled throughout with first class exhibits to win the Two Bowl Class (Best Exhibit in Show), also wins in both

Box Classes with his box of twelve winning the George Kemper Cup – George, I think would have been impressed.

One trophy which was to escape Eifion however, was the Sam McCredy Plaque for the Best Bloom in Show. This was awarded to Elen Evans (Granddaughter of Eifion, daughter of Barry) for an impressive bloom of the variety Buxom Beauty. You will remember Dave Weatherby's Admiral Rodney?, well this was a slight favourite for Best Bloom until they were put side by side on the ground. What was that lurking at the back of Dave's bloom? A cotton wool pellet. Buxom Beauty was the winner, bad luck Dave!

In the miniature classes, so as to keep the trophies "in the family", Barry Evans staged some excellent exhibits with wins for the Two Bowl class (Miniature Master Class, and Best Exhibition Miniatures). Barry also won the Edna Owen Trophy scoring most points in the Miniature Rose Classes.

Other trophy winners were John Anthony who was runner-up to the Open Champion and here I must mention two of John's exhibits. Firstly his stunning bowl of Roses and Other Flowers, which was considered for Best Exhibit in Show – and one judge thought it should be. As well as roses, John staged Alstroemeria, Astrantia, Lychnis, Phlox etc. all in excellent condition. On the second day of the show John's bowl of the Clustered Flowered variety Birthday Girl had developed overnight into an outstanding exhibit and brought many enquiries from visitors.

Chris Fullard was the winner of the RNRS Bronze Medal for a colourful vase of Sexy Remy and Fred Loads. Elen Evans in addition to her Best Bloom won both of the trophies in the 250 classes whilst Louise Smith won the Junior Challenge Trophy for An Arrangements of Roses. A mention here too for Denis Robinson who staged an excellent vase of Trumpeter and the apricot Pensioners Voice to win Class 20 (3 stems of Cluster Flowered).

Just glancing into the National Show it seemed clear that the cluster flowered varieties had fared better with excellent bowls from Paul Evans (Best Exhibit) and Roy Martin. Many of the large flowered exhibits however had obviously suffered the ravages of a month's rain.



All those who in-spite of everything managed to get their exhibits onto the Show Bench must be congratulated. Our thanks also go to all those members who worked tirelessly over the weekend to promote the Society and man the Tombola Stand, and finally a lasting impression at “breakdown” was the sight of Chris Fullard chasing round the Showground in the rain selling the last bunches of roses to end another successful and enjoyable weekend. Well done everyone.

***Roy Evans***

There is a photograph of John’s exhibit in the middle of the Newsletter. I was judging at the Rose Trials in Belfast while the show was on so could not act as Show Secretary. Thanks to all who did my job for me.

***Jean***

## **COUGHTON COURT GARDENS CELEBRATE**

### **AWARD OF GARDEN EXCELLENCE.**

Ann Bird, President of the Royal National Rose Society, says “I was completely bowled over by the gardens.” She was referring to her first visit to Coughton Court in June 2005, where she had been booked to deliver a talk during Rose Week. Ann says that visit (and talk) was just the beginning for her. She was so impressed by the gardens, especially the Rose Labyrinth that she made a submission to the World Federation of Rose Societies, asking that the garden be considered for an Award of Garden Excellence. She was seconded in this submission by the author of this article.

For those who do not know Coughton Court, or have yet to visit, it is a National Trust property, also featured in South Warwickshire Tourist Board's Shakespeare Country Leaflet. The Tudor House has been the home of the Throckmortons, a historically important Catholic family in this country, for over 500 years. It contains much memorabilia of the Throckmorton Family, as well as Catholic memorabilia particularly associated with national figures such as Mary Queen of Scots and personnel accused of involvement with the Gunpowder plot. There has been a Gunpowder plot exhibition for many years, but in 2005 this was substantially upgraded, and opened by prominent historian David Starkey. The family have continued to live at Coughton Court to this day, now as tenants of the National Trust. The rose gardens remain under the ownership of Mrs Clare Throckmorton., and have been substantially improved over recent years, with designs by Mrs Throckmorton's garden designer daughter Mrs Christina Williams. The garden is free to members of the HHA, and RNRS and is an RHS partner garden.

In the walled garden there is a rose labyrinth. It is here that many of the roses grow – over 100 cultivars of old roses and around 40 modern varieties, complemented by plantings of shrubs, herbaceous and tender perennials, all contributing to what can only be described as a breathtaking spectacle of colour, shape and texture. The idea of the Rose Labyrinth was carefully researched to feature Rosamund Clifford, mistress of King Henry II, who was reputed to have hidden in a

labyrinth for safety. According to legend, the sparkling striped Gallica “Rosa Mundi” was named after her, and in the centre of the labyrinth at Coughton Court stands a statue of Rosamund surrounded by a bed of this historic rose.

Roses also figure in other parts of the gardens, including for example beds of Little White Pet in the courtyard of the Tudor House, climbers on the walls behind the herbaceous borders and beds of Rosa Rugosa. Look for the Elizabethan type knot garden; the herbaceous borders dedicated to the memory of Birmingham Hospital Heart Specialist Professor d’Abreu, father of Mrs Throckmorton, the Spring daffodil garden, and the bog garden by the River Arrow.

The World Federation did indeed decide that Coughton Court gardens were worthy of an award for garden excellence. The award has been presented to Coughton in three stages. Firstly the award was announced at the 14<sup>th</sup> World Rose Convention at Osaka in May 2006. Ann was present, representing the RNRS, and accepted the award on Coughton’s behalf. Secondly a printed citation was produced, and Ann was able to present this to Mrs Throckmorton during Rose Week 2006. Several members of our society were present in the middle of the heat wave last year, to see roses at their best, and to see Ann “at work” on a particularly hectic day in her presidency. We were privileged to partake of two guided tours of the rose labyrinth, one excellent lecture, and the official presentation of the citation in front of the press.

Subsequently an official plaque has been provided by the World Federation, and this was unveiled and presented to Mrs Throckmorton and Mrs Williams by Ann representing the RNRS and Dr Gerald Meylan (from Geneva) the President of the World Federation on June 28<sup>th</sup> 2007. After the official unveiling of the plaque, Ann led a tour of the rose labyrinth prior to all the visitors partaking of an excellent lunch provided by Mrs Throckmorton. Amongst the invited guests were Gerald and Christine Meylan from the World Federation, Michael O’Loughlin (Past President of the RNRS), and members of his family, Serbian rose grower Radoslav Petrovic and Michael Marriott, Technical Manager of David Austin roses. Twelve members of the West Midlands Rose Society were amongst the party including your President Chris Warner, Chairman Roy Evans and Secretary John Anthony. We were pleased that the whole gardening team were invited to be part of the ceremony throughout. It was evident that they were extremely proud of their garden and

had put in many hours of overtime voluntarily after the storms and floods of mid June,

After lunch Michael Marriott delivered a stimulating lecture, ranging through rose cultivars both historic and modern which he would recommend and others where he counselled caution, and various methods of cultivation. A lively question and answer session followed, with debates about the various merits and demerits of different styles of pruning, and summer deadheading, and some friendly disagreements about the quality of different cultivars. We were then given time to tour other parts of the garden and some of the party were able to visit the house and the gunpowder plot exhibitions. It was a pity that the winds and storms of the previous week had deprived us of many rose blooms, but the display was still excellent. John Anthony and I were particularly impressed at the quality of the herbaceous borders, against the magnificent back drop of Coughton's two churches. It was good to see Ann recovering after her recent bout of illness. Many of us advised her to slow down a bit, but we know how she feels this is a crucial time for the fortunes of the Royal National Rose Society.

Some rosarians have suggested that there are other rose gardens equally or more deserving of an award of garden excellence from the World Federation. Certainly Coughton Court is the only one in England at present. All I can say to those rosarians is "Get your pen out, or sit at your word processor and recommend your chosen gardens to the World Federation." England, and England's favourite flower deserves more gardens to be recognised if they are of the required quality.

***Ian***

***Lancaster***

August

2007.

Thanks Ian for such a detailed account. A photograph of the presentation taken by Sheena Brand is on the middle page of this Newsletter.

One rose garden I am very fond of is Abbey House Gardens at Malmesbury. Their publicity says they have the UK's largest collection of roses, over 10,000 trees, shrubs and plants, 180 fruit trees, a 200

year old Mulberry Tree, Mediaeval herb garden, over 100 Japanese maples, rare trees and thousands of Daffodils and Tulips in the Spring. Well worth a visit.

*Jean*

## **NATIONAL SHOW FOR MINIATURE ROSES 2007**

Here we were, back at St Albans and as our President, Ann Bird in her opening address put it, back home.

After week after week of rain, wind and more rain, the sun is shining on day one, and miracle, on day two as well, a Golden Globe in the sky, although the Miniature standard of the same name was not on the Show Bench.

However, despite the atrocious weather beforehand, WHAT A SHOW. 137 entries on the bench, and 45 in the American classes and quality to behold. In the latter class, Len Mace won the King and Princess, and closely related Ivor won the Queen. He also won the Maurice Grosse class. It is here particularly we still miss Maurice and his lovely wife Ann.

What a scoop by our relatively new (about 3 years) exhibitor Dave Weatherby, from Southport who became our new National Miniature Champion. Amongst his many winning entries a stunning bowl of 18 stems of Lady in Red. This entry was also close to winning Best in Show on second day, but that award deservedly went to Mike Thompson's lovely 12 stems, 6 different varieties, which had also won the Ralph Moore Centenary Class on Day One.

Steve James, with Amber Star, Luis Desamero and Glowing Amber won the Ralph Moore Trophy for Best in Show and this exhibit also won the Dr. Tommy Cairns Class.

Popular again (nine entries) was miniature Rose in a Picture Frame and this was won by Len Mace with Miss Lakeland. Pauline and Ray Martin won the LF. Rose in a Picture Frame class with Sylvanus Thompson. Pauline and Ray also won the Mike St John Moore Trophy with their bowl of cluster flowered roses. The Crystal Rose Bowl for the Basket Class was won by Dave Weatherby with a colourful display of red, orange, cream pink and mauve single bloom miniature roses.

All in all this was a very successful return home, rounded off by an excellent Dinner in the evening for about 20 exhibitors and friends at the Quality Inn, organised by Pauline Martin. An official vote of thanks was given to Pauline at the end of the evening by Tony Bracegirdle and everyone there agreed it had been a very enjoyable occasion.

Once again our thanks must go to Ann and Ron for their unstinting dedication and hard work in the setting up and don't forget the taking down of not just this show but all the others, thanks again to both of them.

***John Mayer***

(Thanks John for doing this report for me.)

## **GARDENERS' SHOW AT KINGS HEATH PARK**

Our Autumn Show at Kings Heath Park is always a good day out for all the family. If you could spare an hour or two to work on the Advice or Fragrance Stand you would be most welcome. The dates are 1 and 2 September. Let John Anthony know and he will provide a Pass for entrance.

**Seen in a Magazine**

If you need a new seal for your washing machine but don't want the expense of calling out a plumber, you can buy an inexpensive replacement that you can fit yourself. Look on the website [www.espares.co.uk](http://www.espares.co.uk) for a huge range of parts and electrical accessories.

### **INVITATION TO A LECTURE**

The Friends of Winterbourne Botanic Gardens have invited us to an evening lecture. This is the Friends' Annual Lecture. It is at 7.30 pm on Monday November 26<sup>th</sup> at the Vaughan Jeffries Lecture Theatre, University of Birmingham. The speaker is Bob Brown of Cotswold Garden Flowers. He is speaking about "Foliage Plants". To get an Application Form for tickets, prices etc ring the Chair of the Friends, Wendy Stirling, 0121 454 6565. On 11 February Ann Bird is speaking at a joint lecture for the Friends and WMRS members. **This will be in place of our normal Park Hall meeting.** More details in Winter Newsletter.

### **SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER**

The Society Dinner will take place on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Terrace Restaurant, Brownhills, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.

The restaurant provides a very extensive menu from which to chose Starter, Main Course and Sweet and we usually manage to have a private room to ourselves for the evening with an After Dinner Speaker. Cost is usually about £15.00 including coffee.

Please let John Anthony know if you would like to join us.

### **WINTER NEWSLETTER**

Last date for copy for the Winter Newsletter is 14 November. Would like to hear from **YOU** on perhaps Gardens you visited and enjoyed this year or any tips you feel would be useful. Look forward to hearing from you.

## **Little sayings**

Instead of counting your days, make each day count.

When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.

**SOCIETY VISIT TO COUNTRY GARDEN PLANT CENTRE.**

## **20 June 2007**

Fifteen members and guests attended for what has become an annual visit to Hadnall.

Mary and John Jinks gave us the usual warm welcome and provided an excellent buffet supper, complemented with their very “morish” home-made cream scones.

The warm weather during April and early May had ensured the roses were in full bloom and visitors had the difficult problem of which varieties to purchase. The quality and health of the plants as we knew from previous visits is first class. John and Mary really work hard and have a rigid spraying programme to keep this high standard of healthy roses. The roses are all grown in containers and can be planted immediately, but do remember container grown roses need lots of watering for at least four weeks after planting in open ground.

As some of you will know, I have developed a passion for climbing and rambler roses around my garden. The perimeters are mostly covered with roses, along with several trellis panels dividing areas of the garden. Prior to the visit I had recently erected a new obelisk, 7ft diameter by 8ft high. In order to clothe it quickly I decided to purchase four roses from their range of second year plants in fifteen litre containers. These roses would need to be of medium vigour, climbing to approximately 10 to 14ft with flowers borne in clusters, and fragrant. Repeat flowering would be a bonus but not a necessity for I will be growing clematis alongside the roses.



I chose 'Rev d'or', a beautiful soft apricot Noisette which I had seen growing on our visit to Moor Wood and for the opposite corner 'Narrow Water' another Noisette, lilac pink in colour which I had seen on the visit to Hunts Court, both of these Noisettes are repeat flowering. On the other corner I chose 'Bleu Magenta', an old rambler with violet blue flowers. My final variety was 'Clair Matin', a modern repeat flowering climber with pink fragrant flowers borne in clusters.

I was able on the occasion of the visit, to find the first three varieties in superb condition, they did not however have any stock of 'Clair Matin', which I obtained from another source.

Whilst searching amongst the rows of roses for my choices, I came across a lovely plant of 'Crème Brulee'. It is a copper peach coloured climber which will grow approximately 10 – 12 ft, raised by Grandy's Roses. I thought, yes, I have to grow this one, and so yes, I have found a gap on my trellising!!

My car was well filled for the journey home and I saw other members loading their wares into their vehicles as we departed after a lovely evening.

Mary and John provide the plants for our joint WMRS – RNRS stand at the BBC Gardeners' World Live show each year. This time they excelled with both superb roses and companion plants which filled our 9m x 3m area at the show to perfection

On the front of the stand we had six bushes of the new variety Hot Chocolate. It is of a warm chocolate orange colour, and really created much attention. So much so that Keith Jones of C & K Jones had to collect the remainder of his stock from his Nursery during the show.

I'm sure our Society benefits from our association with The Plant Centre and we thank Mary and John for their continued support.

***John Anthony***

Perhaps more members would like to join us for this visit next year.

## **THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT FOR THE JOB**

(According to Gardening Which)

For those who have trouble bending down, a grabber can collect anything from slugs to litter. The magazine recommends the Gardena Gripper, which is comfortable, easy to use and good value at £13.00.

For moving things about, the twin-wheeled barrow Haemmerlin 4031G Garden Twin Wheel came out on top in tests as it is lightweight and easy to push. It also has pneumatic wheels to make moving even easier.

Testers looked at secateurs designed to cut with less effort and recommended the Gardena Comfort Secateurs 200 VC, which suits right and left handers and almost all hand sizes. With a

comfortable handle that contains a rubber buffer to reduce barring they came out top in the test, and are particularly good for those with a weak hand or small grip.

### **Some new roses**

For those of you who support the England Rugby Team there is a rose named Hope and Glory. It is a scarlet rose, old English style; then there is Aphrodite, a very large rounded bloom with silky petals, delicate fragrance and dusky pink blooms. This is very resistant to wet weather conditions.

A red rose with a fantastic fragrance and densely packed petals named after one of Gertrude Jekyll's gardens is Munstead Wood.

A heritage style rose that flowers right through to November is Sweet Haze, voted Rose of the Year. Its open type flower attracts bees and hoverflies and it is linked to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

(Information seen on Daily Mail Gardening page)

### **AWARD WINNING ROSES IN THE BELFAST TRIALS**

Gold medal and City of Belfast Award for best L/F H.T

**With all my Love**, raised by Cocker, Scotland

D A R D Award for best C/F Floribunda variety

**Dazzling Delight**, raised by Cocker, Scotland

Ballytrim Sawmill Award for best Shrub Rose

**Roter Korsar**, raised by Kordes, Germany

N.I. Tourist Board Award for most fragrant rose

**Nina**, raised by Poulsen, Denmark

Lagan Valley Probus Club Award for best mini or patio rose

**Global**, raised by Poulsen, Denmark

Clive Richardson for best Climbing Rose

**Moonlight**, raised by Kordes, Germany

Certificates of Merit

Haydock Park, C/F by Fryer, England  
Three Cheers. C/F by Dickson, NI  
Marylene. C/F by Interplant, Netherlands  
The Merrion Rose, Shrub by Kenny Ireland  
Wonderful, HT by Poulsen, Denmark  
Rockabye Baby, Miniature by Dickson, NI

contd

Certificates of Merit (continued)

Cardiff, Graceful, Grenada, all C/F by Poulsen, Denmark  
Dorothy, Mellow Yellow, C/F by Cocker, Scotland  
Bad Worishofen, Pomponella, C/F by Kordes, Germany  
Desert Island C/F by Dicksons, NI  
Hommage a Barbara, Raoul Follereau C/F by Delbard, France  
Ivors Rose C/F by Beales, England  
Safe Haven C/F by Jackson & Perkins, America  
Tete D'Or C/F by Meilland, France

Song & Dance, Sally Kane, HT by Fryer, England  
Isabella Rossellini, Nina HT by Poulsen, Denmark  
Jeanne Moreau, Femme Actuelle, Veronese, Rene Goscinny HT  
by Meilland, France

Rick Stein HT by Eurose, England

Gardeners Joy, Countess Wessex, Festive Jewel Shrub by  
Beales. England

Purple Favourite Shrub by Interplant, Netherlands

Harlow Carr Shrub by Austin, England

Golden Eye Cove, Blues Shrub by Poulsen, Germany

Jean, Miniature by Cocker, Scotland

Triple, Miniature by Poulsen, Denmark

Jive, Climbing, by Poulsen Denmark

Sir John Mills, Climbing by Beales, England

Scores for roses in the Trials ranged from 200 for Nina to 7 for Triple.

It was a very pleasant weekend judging all the roses and a full report will appear in our next issue of the Newsletter.