

# The Rose Times

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AUTUMN 2024

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We should always remember  
Dean Samuel Hole's words . . .  
"He who would have beautiful  
roses in his garden must have  
beautiful roses his heart"

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF



THE  
**ROSE**  
SOCIETY UK

Our front cover this times features a rose with several names; it was bred by Tom Carruth when he worked for Weeks roses. It's global name is WEKroalt, sometimes it goes by the name of Hanabi, the Americans call it **Fourth** of July but that never really caught of here! So we call it Crazy For You.

In the UK it will grow as a tall floribunda or even a short climber; either way it's a lovely rose. The amateur breeders amongst us should consider using Crazy For You as a seed parent for planned or even open pollinated crosses as it sets hips very easily and the seeds are generally very fertile.

Next year, why don't you make the 4th July your Happy Crazy For You Day?

## Almost the Winter Equinox and here's the Autumn Round Up

# From the Secretary

The poet John Keats referred to Autumn as "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". I suppose that rather depends on where in the world you happen to be.

Pauline and I have, for many years now been so very fortunate to spend time in the Autumn amongst our rose friends in the colonies. This year we were invited to do a presentation at the American Rose Society's Deep South District Fall Convention in Florida. Autumn (or Fall if you will) is very different for them. A Fall rose show is often a wonderful rose-filled event featuring some of the very best roses that our American cousins produce. This year, as we saw on our weather reports, hurricane season was in full force. Surviving the rages of Hurricane Helene, the Deep South Rose Growers were just tidying up as another hurricane 'blew through'. We actually landed (the last plane to do so before Milton made landfall) in Orlando just before things got rough again! Three days later and 120 miles north the weather was better and the roses were arriving at the convention for the show. The show was a good deal smaller than normal as some exhibitors had indeed been 'blown off'! As is often the case, the exhibitors came up trumps and some very good roses graced the show tables. The following week, we were judging again on the East coast at Jacksonville and the exhibitors, though fewer in number rallied again. Rose exhibitors are a determined bunch! Our American adventure then



moved us to the West coast and our favourite destination, California.

The Californians, it is generally perceived, have idyllic growing conditions, with year-round sunshine. Sometimes, you can have too much of a good thing! Our friends told us of the withering, record-high temperatures that South Californians had been exposed to this year. Palm Springs had seen 78 consecutive days at 110°F (43°C) and a one day high of 124°F (51°C). There are, obviously, no shows during the hot summer months but believe it or not, after a late September prune the roses do in fact re-bloom in October/November. Some, too many to be fair, do perish under the harsh sun; those in pots being particularly susceptible to getting burned. However, at the shows we judged at, we were as ever, amazed at the quality that amateur exhibitors can achieve.

Joseph Pemberton said in 1908, "Exhibitors enable the general rose-loving public to see to what state of perfection the rose can be brought". This has always been my thought, possibly even before I knew exactly who Joseph Pemberton was!

I love seeing the rose shows in the USA, from coast to coast, even north to south and east to west in California. The growing conditions vary so much and in each case the local exhibitors strive and toil to grow their roses to the very peak of perfection. Sometimes they (all of us occasionally) fail to achieve the high standards that they set for themselves; nonetheless, the work and the skill is relentless and long may this remain.

Samuel Reynolds Hole knew the importance and relevance of rose shows, although back then they were much different beasts to the ones of today. There is no doubt that the number of practitioners of this historic art have dwindled alarmingly, but those that remain are just as keen, just as skilled, just as dedicated. The roses have changed, no doubt, the ways that we show them also have developed and changed to meet new and different criteria. But above all, wherever I've seen a rose show, I have seen people with smiles on their faces and I've seen great roses!

"They have travelled to our rose show  
From north, south, east and west,  
By rail, by roads, with precious loads  
Of the flower they love the best:

From dusk to dawn, through night to morn,  
They've dozed through clank and din,  
And woke with cramp in both their legs  
And bristles on their chin."

This poem, written in the 1800s by Samuel Reynolds Hole was true at the time of writing but today, exhibitors, in all parts of the world are men AND women, to whom I'm certain, the last line of the poem would not apply! But in principle, things have not changed.

The Rose Society UK are committed to hosting rose shows for as long as there are exhibitors willing to share their roses. We also believe that need to have our shows as visible as possible which is why we have chosen to hold our shows as part of larger garden events. In Spring we have for about thirty years held our show in conjunction with the Three Counties Spring Show in Malvern. In the Autumn, we hold our show in conjunction with the North of England Horticultural Society and their Autumn Show. This means that a greater number of people get to see the roses and the Society than if we were at our own venue. Financial considerations also play a huge part in where we are able to hold our shows. We are very fortunate to have the support of our President Colin Squire OBE DHM and the Squires Garden Centre Group who host our Summer Rose Festival at their garden centres. In addition to the costs of staging the show, Squires spend considerable time and finances to publicise the show to encourage more people to visit the show during the weekend. Our fourth National Show, we stage in Pelsall, West Midlands at St Michaels Church Hall. A smaller show which we regard as our member's show, where we can personally welcome members to a smaller but real show and encourage participation.

The point of all this explanation is to share the disappointing news that The Three Counties Show announced last month that they no longer have sufficient covered space at their show to accommodate our small show for Spring roses. This is a blow for the society, particularly as they made their decision after many of our members had already purchased new roses and were preparing for the Spring Show in May 2025. (spring roses grow much slower than summer roses so more time is required from planting to pruning to blooming).

The Society's Committee have decided that the Show Must Go On! As an interim measure due to the short amount of time available, we will be holding our Spring show in conjunction with our AGM at Pelsall. We will obviously not have the amount of visitors that a show at Malvern would attract but we will have a show! The AGM 2025 will be put back two weeks to Sunday 11th May, commencing at 2.30pm. We will ask our stalwart exhibitors to stage their roses from 4.00pm until 9.00pm on Saturday 10th AND/OR 6.30am until 10.00am on Sunday 11th. Judging will be from 10.00am until 11.30am when the show will be open to our members and any visitors who may be able to attend. The AGM will commence at 2.00pm and we will provide light refreshments for all our exhibitors and members throughout the day. The clear-up of the rose show and AGM will begin at 5.00pm.

We very much hope this enforced change will be well received by members; it will not be ideal but will give members who do not normally attend rose shows a chance to see one AND maybe rose exhibitors who do not normally attend AGMs, a chance to do so!

Remember, if you're someone who likes to see roses in their perfection; this will be the place to see them.

Our rose exhibitors are a very friendly bunch and want nothing more than to share their

roses with you, and are very happy to help you share your roses with them!

The behemoth that Social Media has become is not all bad! In our Facebook Group we have many rose growers who regularly share photographs of their roses and their gardens. Perhaps this is the modern replacement for rose (flower) shows? I hope that isn't the case and we can continue to show everyone how good roses can be grown for many years.

I've probably gone on too long about rose shows? But I haven't finished yet!

On our trip to the USA, we found



Lou and Diane amongst their roses



HT Clair Elyse - a 2016 rose from John Smith

are wonderful, talented rosarians. We first met many years ago when we were helping our friend Hal Reynolds enter his roses in the Mesa Valley Rose Society show in Phoenix. Hal had brought far too many roses for one (even two) person to enter. Having entered nearly every class in the show, a bucket of twenty HTs and a similar number of floribundas remained and we decided to enter them in the End of the Trail class for left over blooms. The floribunda was Lady of the Dawn, a white blend by Gerrit IIsink from Interplant, Holland; a variety that we've never had in the UK. The HTs were Andrea

ourselves heading Eastward along the Interstate 10 towards Tucson. Like California, Arizona had also been subjected to triple digit (over 100°F) temperatures for 80 plus days during the summer and our friends in Tucson had been battling to grow their roses in these furnace-like conditions.

Our friends in Tucson, Diane and Lou Pavlovich, are the loveliest couple you could meet and they



Perfection in the sun  
Lou and Diane's Veteran's Honor



Ring of Fire - A Baker's Dozen Class  
both Lou and I agree . . . . Why 13?



Some of the pots after pruning and in full  
bloom at 8 foot high



Stelzer. It was nearly time for judging, so I hastily put together two bowls. The Lady of the Dawn was judged best in class and Best of Show but it was the Andrea Stelzer that caught Lou's eye. Not the quality of the bloom so much but the style of staging. In the UK, because of our judging criteria, we have applied greater thought and care to our staging; pioneered by Tony Bracegirdle in the 1990s and carried on by current Champion Neil Duncan and all of today's exhibitors. I think it has become generally agreed that the bowl classes seen staged at UK shows are 'as good as they get'! Lou had seen pictures of course but now he wanted to learn how to do it. That started a rose friendship which still exists. Over the next year or so, I would send Lou pictures of winning UK bowls of HTs, he and Diane would create some in Arizona and before long, their bowls were as good as any you would see . . . anywhere.

Additionally their skill at producing classic, immaculate HTs in their harsh climate made it all the more credit worthy. During the hottest months Diane and Lou have to cover all their roses with a shade frame with 73% shade cloth to keep the sun off their blooms. They grow around 70 HT bushes (but what bushes - some reaching almost 8ft), all in pots and all watered by hand "so that we can control the conditions better".

Alongside the HTs Lou and Diane grow a number of miniatures and mini florals and Lou has an idea that he might try a few heat resistant floribundas.

This was supposed to be the year that Lou and Diane would have a relaxed growing season due to their retirement but life threw them a curve ball (no pun intended - Lou in his working life was a baseball writer) in April this year, Lou had a



To transport their roses around the country Lou has converted his truck to accommodate a home-made chiller box to accommodate his prize roses



A nice couple - a power couple!

Diane and Lou - 'The Pavlovichs'

*Merry Christmas*  
from  
**Whartons**  
Garden Roses

supplying garden centres and nurseries since 1947

stroke! With total support and care from Diane and his own strength of character, Lou is nearly back to full health. This is just as well because, aside from their roses, Diane is a very keen grower and exhibiter of Iris too!

We had a wonderful 'rosy' time in the USA this year; meeting up with old friends and forging new friendships and all in the name of roses. We have much to be thankful for!

So before you go thinking 'Well yes, they're rose exhibitors and I'm not' remember that exhibitors are just rose growers who like to share their roses with everyone. And as Joseph Pemberton said, they do grow great roses!

I look at the many people that we have met on our rosy journey and wonder;

Does growing roses make you a nice person OR do only nice people grow roses?

Obviously I can't answer that!

*Ray Martin*



# Great News For Rose Exhibitors

For too long we have heard your comments that some of the more 'successful' rose varieties have not been available to the majority of exhibitors.

Well in an attempt to level up the playing field, we have commissioned a rose nursery to produce some of the varieties that have, up until now, not been available to them.

So, we have a small selection of varieties, in limited numbers, that any exhibitor would be keen to add to their rose gardens. We're not excluding our non-exhibiting members but would remind everyone that some of these recognised exhibition varieties do require a little more TLC than many varieties, to get them to produce their best. (not all are great 'garden' varieties).

If you would like a list of the varieties that are available, please email;

[info@therosesociety.org.uk](mailto:info@therosesociety.org.uk)

Don't PANIC! It will not be a case of first come first serve! We will try to give everyone a fair chance to get what they want. Once we have an idea of 'who would like what', we will assess and if necessary have a ballot to share them out fairly.

Full details of varieties and pricing will be sent to all enquiries. Please understand, we are not looking to profit out of this exercise; we are just trying to help exhibitors get some of the varieties they have been asking about.

The roses will be available as bare root maidens (that is, undeveloped budded eyes) Full details will be available for those who have never received/grown roses in this way. Buying and planting this way may well give you blooms on your plants in the first year of growth.

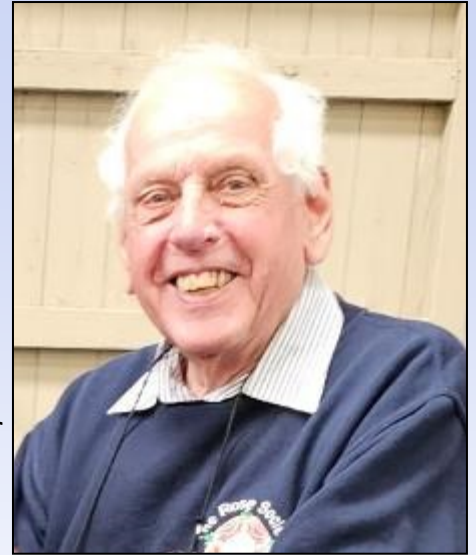
Any unsold roses will be potted up for sale at our events during the year on a first come, first served basis.



## The Chairman's Rosy Ramblings

This year for me has flown by and I have been unable to take part in some of the society's activities. My ongoing Arthritic ankle problem impedes my mobility as some of you may know.

I was unfortunately unable to attend our summer weekender visit to Neil Duncan's plot. However, my greatest regret was missing out on our Great Summer Show at Squires Garden centre at Shepperton my favourite event that I've always enjoyed in mid-summer when the



John's floribundas -Lucky at the front

Meteor and Volcano, both have performed well and kept free from black spot. But my best performing variety must be 'Lucky' which made strong growth with a continuous supply of pink blooms throughout the summer. My best climber this year must be Camelot, a well-established variety covered with loads of pink blooms over the arch into the garden extension

It has to be said however, that my Hybrid Tea beds sadly suffered from black spot from mid-August. I'm afraid keeping these exhibition varieties clean in late summer has been more difficult with damp

roses are at their best. I was able to attend both Malvern shows and take part on society stand however, I enjoy talking about roses with the many visitors at these events.

The summer of 2024 as we are all aware has been wet and dull which has made keeping my roses as free from disease more of a challenge this year. I do have a lot help in the garden from very good friend Nick who comes and does all the hard work twice a week whilst I look on!

We planted a few newer varieties last autumn amongst them being the Cluster flowered varieties



Flower power on Camelot



A bed of Volcano and Meteor

conditions and fluctuating temperatures.

I still hope to keep growing my roses in 2025 and will endeavour to take part in as many society events as my limited mobility allows.

On that note may I wish all our members **Happy Christmas** and successful **Rosy** new year for 2025.

*John Anthony*

## From our President

I would like to wish all members of the society a very happy and enjoyable Christmas. As I reflect on a most successful past year, I am cheered that despite the rather miserable weather (my lawn did not have a chance to go brown at all) the society shows have been hugely successful. I have never seen the marquee at Squires Shepperton so full of magnificent blooms as it was this year. The show was as good as any held over the last 47 years.



Once again, the visit to the rose trial grounds of Paul Rochford, which are so beautifully maintained was a great experience. Paul's expertise and that of his team are such an asset to both the society and the rose breeders both home and abroad.

The society has been represented at many other shows and we enjoyed a memorable visit to Neil Duncan's allotments. What a commitment.

I look forward to seeing many members during the coming year at the various activities of the society. And I would like to thank all members for the great support they give to the Rose Society UK.

Best wishes

Colin Squire OBE DHM

President

## Press release from



DAVID AUSTIN®

Shropshire-based rose breeder David Austin® announce the appointment of Daniel Myhill to a senior position within its esteemed rose breeding department.

As the creator of the English Rose and a pioneer in rose breeding since 1961, David Austin Roses is pleased to welcome Daniel to their notable team.

With a lifelong passion for roses, Daniel will bring energy and expertise to the world-renowned nursery as he works alongside Carl Bennett, David C. H. Austin's protégé and a distinguished rose breeder in his own right.

Daniel's journey with roses began in his childhood, growing up in Whitstable, Kent, where



his mother's love for roses inspired him to cultivate his own interest. A formative visit to the Chelsea Flower Show deepened this passion, sparking a fascination with the history, science, and art of rose breeding. Over the years, 31-year-old Daniel has amassed a collection of over 300 rose varieties and established the National Collection of Rosa persica hybrids, showcasing his dedication to preserving and expanding rose diversity. Decorated for his stand of Rosa persica hybrids at RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival 2024, the RHS Gold Medal winner is also a member of the YPHA (Young People in Horticulture Association) designed to unite under 35's in the industry.

In his new role at David Austin, Daniel will contribute to the development of new varieties that embody the charm, fragrance, and beauty synonymous with English Roses. His analytical skills, honed during his previous career as a geotechnical engineer, will be welcomed in evaluating breeding lines and creating roses that meet the highest standards

of health, vigour, and resilience.

Collaborating with lead breeder Carl, Daniel, who's also the current Chairman of the Breeder's Group for The Rose Society UK, will build on the rich legacy of David Austin Senior and his son, current Chairman, David J. C. Austin, ensuring the vision of quintessential English Roses continues to flourish.

Carl's unmatched contribution over the last 35 years have helped shape the heritage of the English Rose. To ensure the succession of breeding, Carl will work closely with Daniel over an extended period, sharing his wealth of knowledge and expertise to pass the baton seamlessly to the next generation.

Joining David Austin Roses is a dream come true," Daniel shared. "It is a privilege to work with Carl Bennett and the talented breeding team to honour and expand on the legacy of David Austin Senior. I'm excited to explore new opportunities in rose breeding, from enhancing disease resistance and fragrance to creating varieties that thrive in a changing climate."

David Austin Roses has long been a pioneer in the horticultural world, renowned for its innovative breeding programs and commitment to sustainability through its BLOOM strategy. Daniel's appointment underscores the company's dedication to advancing the art and science of rose breeding while embracing environmentally conscious practices. His passion for developing pollinator-friendly, easy-to-grow roses aligns with these company goals.

When asked about his favourite David Austin roses, Myhill shared "Tottering-by-Gently® (Auscatoon), such a stunning rose which really appeals to me with its single flower form held in large clusters. Phenomenal for pollinators and harks back to the simplicity of our native dog rose Rosa canina. Rosa Boscobel® (Auscousin) was the first David Austin Rose I purchased. The rich pink and salmon tones of the fully double rose is breathtakingly beautiful. It's about capturing the "wow" of roses like these."

[www.davidaustinroses.co.uk](http://www.davidaustinroses.co.uk)

On behalf of the Committee and I'm sure the whole Society membership, we wish Daniel the very best in this new adventure.

I first met Daniel at the Norfolk Show when he was trying to enter a few of his roses in the show for the first time. We could see his passion for roses from the outset and we are absolutely thrilled for him and certain that he will flourish in his new role.



## DEREK LAWRENCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES AND ROSE SOCIETY UK COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCLOSES HIS..... FATAL ATTRACTION

I've recently discovered something about myself, which I guess has always been in my subconscious. The concept of discovery indicates the process of finding something that exists, but that is not known or recognised yet. Whilst visiting the supermarket or florist, I've become mesmerised by the sight of bright yellow roses. I cannot resist buying a bunch and bringing them home to add a touch of vibrancy; especially on a dark winter's day. Maybe the intenseness of the colour is a



*Rosa foetida* - the rose that started my Fatal Attraction



Austin's yellow - The Pilgrim

timely reminder of the warm rays of the summer sunshine? Yellow is a very positive colour, and that's why I attracted to them? I recall reading an article many years ago, which revealed that Hollywood legend Judy Garland adored yellow roses.

It was the discovery of single bloomed *Rosa foetida*, which introduced the colour yellow into the gene pool of the rose. Its origin remains a mystery, but research suggests that it may be ancient hybrid between the



McGredy's Arthur Bell - yellow and very fragrant

glandular *Rosa kokanica* from Central Asia and the wild Turkish *Rosa hemispharica*. Small bright wild yellow roses were located in dry parts of Asia, Turkey, Northern China and Mongolia. The Persian Yellow rose from Iran was introduced to the United Kingdom in 1838, by Sir Henry Willock,

which was a double form of *Rosa foetida*. It proved to be a commercial success story, because its brilliant colour satisfied the palette of Victorian gardeners. In the *Gardeners' Chronicle* dated 1843, adverts displayed the cultivar at 15 shillings each, which was then an expensive acquisition. The turning point came during the year 1900, when the renowned French rose breeder Joseph Pernet-Ducher introduced the variety, 'Soleil d'Or'. It was a cross between *R.foetida persiana* and the red Hybrid Perpetual 'Antoine Ducher'. Its launch heralded the beginning of the colour yellow into the perpetuals, where new varieties came into commerce. In 1910, he



Rayon d'Or captured in a Wills cigarette card from 1910



David Austin's Worcestershire

introduced, 'Rayon d'Or' which famously became known as the first golden yellow Hybrid Tea. Despite the public attention it caused, it easily succumbed to blackspot infections and

swiftly lost its popularity. In essence, Pernet-Ducher had inadvertently cross-bred the *Rosa foetida* tendency to play host to fungus infections into the Hybrid Teas. The foliage is unable to resist fungus when humidity is present in an average British garden. Many gardeners also observed that the cultivar severely died back during the winter months. This is not surprising, when you realise that the Persian Yellow originates from the dry, hot climate of Iran, which allows the wood to ripen. However, we must remain thankful that Pernet-Ducher's cross-breeding prowess introduced the colour yellow into the modern rose. 'Rayon d'Or' was bred from the



The legendary Grandpa Dickson

Bred by Alexander (Pat) Dickson and named for his father Alexander Dickson III who was born in 1893 and died 15 October 1975

varieties, 'Mme. Mélanie Soupert' x 'Soleil d' Or'. The cultivar had red flushes on the outer petals which, even today, is a common trait with yellow roses. Interestingly, this variety was eventually bestowed with a Gold Medal from the National Rose Society.



Alfie Boe bred by Harkness of Hitchen

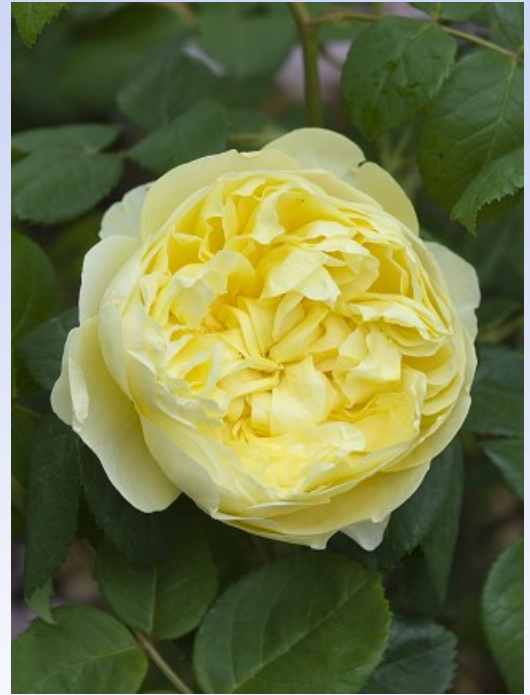
side of their ancestry. The Pernetianas soon lost The Rose Annual it is recorded that these types the established Hybrid Austrian Briars.

Many yellow roses were introduced. Noteworthy varieties include: 'Lawrence Johnston', 'Hidcote Yellow' an early flowering vigorous climber. Pernet-Ducher (1923). 'Star of Persia',

To acknowledge the public's admiration for these distinctive types, they became affectionally known as the Pernetianas. However, as time marched, gardeners eventually realised that these cultivars were very susceptible to blackspot infections; an affliction inherited from the yellow their popularity. In the 1917 edition of were beginning to be referenced with

another healthy climber raised by the father of the Hybrid Musks, Rev. Joseph Pemberton (1919). It would be remiss of me not to mention a cultivar, which became well-known through a jolly song, 'The Yellow Rose of Texas'. It was created by New York lawyer, George Folliott Harison during the 19th Century, and arrived on British shores a few years later. Despite their vulnerability to blackspot infections, the breeders have over the years, worked tirelessly hard to create yellow varieties which are disease resistant.

It was whilst I was a gardening apprentice (many moons ago), that I was attracted to the floribunda 'Arthur Bell'. It's bright yellow and very fragrant blooms were created by the wizardry of Sam McGredy IV and was introduced in 1964. I have grown it in both bush and climber forms. The latter has rather stiff stems, and therefore difficult to train as a climber. From my experience, it's better to enjoy this variety as a bush. Another old classic, is the Hybrid Tea 'Grandpa Dickson'. It was released by Dickson Nurseries in Country Down, Northern Ireland in 1966 and won several awards from 1965 – 1970. It has fine yellow blooms and neat bushy growth. In recent years there has been: 'The Pilgrim' (1991) bred by David Austin Roses. This charming short climber was named after the pilgrims in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. 'Worcestershire' (1999), a free-flowering single bloom cultivar with glossy foliage; ideal for good ground cover, bred by Kordes. 'Sunny Sky', the Rose of the Year 2016, a soft honey-yellow Hybrid Tea, ideal for growing in pots. Good disease resistance, bred from the house of Harkness. Another David Austin shrub rose is the variety, 'Charles Darwin' (2003). It has a delicious soft floral Tea fragrance.



David Austin's Charles Darwin

I make no secret that I am a huge fan of the British singer Alfie Boe. He was a former humble car mechanic whom turned internationally acclaimed opera star; Alfie has taken Broadway by storm, conquered the West End of London in the hit musical *Les Misérables* and won the hearts of the nation.

As a rosarian, I was naturally delighted when Harkness Roses introduced his vibrant yellow rose in 2020. The 'Alfie Boe OBE' Hybrid Tea rose takes central stage in my garden and like its namesake, it's an outstanding performer and a rising star. Am I being rather biased? Perhaps? But, whatever your thoughts, yellow roses are a great acquisition in any garden or patio area. Their bright blooms act as beacons, bringing much needed light and positivity into our lives.

Please note that some of the images used in this article are by courtesy of David Austin



Roses (UK) [www.davidaustinroses.co.uk](http://www.davidaustinroses.co.uk)

*Derek Lawrence*

007 

Derek, I think most of us like yellow roses but also realise that they can attract every thrip and pollen beetle in a 50 mile radius! Perhaps a price worth paying?

As most of you know Derek retired from a career with the John Lewis Partnership recently. When he retired he received a bouquet of roses, no need to guess what they would look like!



Derek also announced that this would be his last year as Executive Director of The World Federation of Rose Society as he will be stepping down in May at the Convention in Japan.

What will he do with all this spare time? It's obvious that as this is another 'very late edition' of The Rose Times, I could do with a little (a lot) of help! Derek has agreed too apply his undoubted talents to helping me with producing our publications, including the newsletter. Like everyone at the society, Derek and I are volunteers; using our own computers, internet and other equipment. However, whilst Derek has purchased himself a new HP laptop for the challenges ahead, we are going to purchase some software that both Derek and I can use to produce future newsletters and publications.

Hopefully, the Winter roundup edition of the newsletter in February will have a new look to it? I think it may be a bumpy ride as we both adjust to the new software!

# Holiday in the Hamptons!

**Daniel Myhill**



Well, that's what I said we were doing to Hannah! I think the game was up when 3000 litres of compost turned up in early March and about 120 bareroot roses appeared! The RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival was on its way!



The rose bushes began arriving in October and were heeled-in before planting in their pots after being further persuaded by Gill, I said

As it turns out, a lot of fun and hard graft, which culminated in winning an RHS Gold Medal and the Best Plant Heritage Exhibit! Speechless. The stand featured 17 different *Rosa persica* hybrids, showcased as a tiered display of specimen plants. The aim was to share the story of the origins of the hybrids, from the desert species rose, through the seminal breeding work by Jack Harkness in the 60's, and onto the present-day. This included launching a new hybrid – “See You In Rosé” – on behalf of the breeder, Kordes Rosen, with

As you may recall, I had the privilege to help at Hampton Court in 2023 with Plant Heritage's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary bed – this was good fun and gave me an insight into how exhibiting works. Come November 2023, and Gill Groombridge (PH) asked if I'd like to do my own stand at Hampton this year. I didn't think I was up to it, so said no! Well, subsequent discussions between the RHS and Plant Heritage and my name cropped up again (oh dear!), and yes. What was I letting myself in for!



For nine months the garden became a nursery as the bushes grew



the bushes must be cleaned, preened and readied for their trip



loaded in the Danish trollies and ready to head to the Hamptons

the rose exclusively available as a bareroot this autumn from Marshalls Garden. £2 from the sale of each rose will be donated to Plant Heritage, so I would encourage you to add one to your garden! The rose is super healthy and compact with semi-double white to pink flowers with a darker pink eye, alongside a fantastic fragrance. The addition of fragrance to persicas is phenomenal, as it gives them another dimension.



The RHS had built the stand now it needed to be filled

The stand was a huge undertaking – I grew all the display roses (and some sale roses) outside the backdoor, as many of you who visited will have seen. The biggest factor was mother nature, which was certainly challenging. In order to time the flowering for the show, I chopped all the roses back at the beginning of May – no going back! May was dull, cool and wet – not the ideal conditions for the roses to want to grow at any reasonable speed. Up until a week before the show I barely had any colour –

disaster on the horizon! Thankfully, the week prior to Hampton was wall-to-wall sunshine and low 30°C's, which meant 6am rises to water daily, and at times twice daily! This pushed the roses on and thankfully the flowers came.



Signage up - now for the plants

I must say a huge thank you to everyone who played their part – the gold medal belongs to everyone, not just me. Thank you particularly to Norfolk Plant Heritage and the RHS for grants towards the costs, to Whartons Roses for supplying compost, growing pots and roses, to Woodlodge for donating the stunning display pots, and to Kordes Rosen, Tantau Rosen, C&K Jones, Pocock Roses and Style Roses for more roses. There were so many friends who helped prior to, and at the show, and the last thank you goes to my wonderful wife Hannah for not only holidaying in the Hamptons... but on her birthday!



What's next... well surely, I can hang my gloves and secateurs up and retire? I know I won't be back at Hampton next year, but I am sure I will be somewhere, at some point, on my soapbox talking roses... catch you soon!

*Daniel Myhill*

# *It's still a small world - continuing a theme*

In the last newsletter we looked at the work, legacy and roses of Ralph Moore. I must confess that this was inspired by the suggestion of Brian Christie who send me, via Royal Mail, a collection of letters and information sent to our dear friend Sam Shuttleworth in 1999. Some of you will, hopefully, remember Sam and his wonderful miniature rose entries which he entered in rose shows all over the country until his sad passing in 2011. Like many of us at the time, Sam grew George Mander's relatively new miniature rose Glowing Amber. One day, Sam spotted a strange coloured bloom on the bush and identified it as a sport (a genetic mutation). He immediately had the distinctive bloom/stem propagated and thought that he'd like to name it after his newly born grandson Callum.



Glowing Amber

Sam contacted George Mander, the breeder of Glowing Amber to tell him of his discovery. The letters shared with me by Brian Christie tell a story that should be noted by anyone who finds what they believe to be 'a sport'. It seems that Glowing Amber was well known for its ability to throw out a sport or two, the most well-known being Amber Star. Well,

George was not convinced that Sam's sport (Callum's Glow) was unique and may indeed be the same as a previously discovered sport named Amber Sun. George apparently grew them both, they were similar in colouration and both had a tendency to revert back to the original Glowing Amber!

George Mander is a Canadian and it has to be said, has produced some nice roses. The most famous and successful of course being Glowing Amber. Miniatures in general have not been a great success with the public in the UK. There's no doubt that when seen at our

shows, they are very well received. But, so far and including Glowing Amber, the miniature (and miniflora) varieties have not been the best for health and vigour. Remember that just because a rose is small in stature, does not mean that it shouldn't be a strong grower. I have had most success in growing miniatures when affording them some protection from the elements. This may be growing in a sheltered position, under some kind of cover or actually in a greenhouse.



Sam Shuttleworth's Callum's Glow  
aka Amber Sun according to HelpMeFind

Pearls. Like many of George's roses, even Amber Sunset is given to producing sports such as Little Amy which sadly, is no longer available commercially.

So, what to do if you spot a 'mutant' on one of your roses? Well, you should try to propagate a new rose by either budding or by taking a cutting of the 'sported' stem.

Then, once it's growing and is still producing the colour or growth habit that you first spotted, you could propagate some more or pass it onto a rose nursery to see if they would be interested in releasing it.

Rose nurseries and garden centres do of course sell 'small roses'. These are generally termed as 'Patio roses'. I have never like the term patio rose as it kind of infers that they should be grown 'on patios' when in fact they may be grown anywhere that a suitable

This may account for the reluctance of our rose nurseries to pick up the varieties that appear at our rose shows. Only R V Roger currently sell a good selection of miniature roses. Even they are cutting their list down due to decreasing demand for these 'little wonders'.

George's list of introductions also includes Amber Sunset which is bred from June Laver and George's own rose Rubies and



Amber Star - the first registered and probably best sport of Glowing Amber

place can be found for them! In a pot, or at the front of a bed is obviously ideal. Many rose suppliers still sell Ralph Moore's miniatures and even they are often branded as 'patio roses'.

Until then we will keep looking to our amateur rose exhibitors to find and highlight other miniatures that we may look towards growing.

Frank Benardella's roses are the stuff of legend in the USA; introducing his first miniatures in 1985 after great success as an amateur exhibitor. His creations are still being introduced years after we lost Frank to cancer in

2010 aged just 77

Frank's latest introductions like Dr Tommy Cairns and Bob Martin were both named to honour past Presidents of the ARS which is appropriate as Frank himself was also a Past President of ARS.



Soft, shell pink Jennifer from 1985

The list of roses that he produced is long and distinguished. His rose creations live on and win major prizes in rose shows across the world, long after his passing.

What about the UK? Well, Chris Warner is trying to produce some healthier miniatures at the moment.



Black Jade - not black but a very deep, dark red another of Frank's 1985 introductions



Dr Tommy Cairns - pale pink miniature  
one of Frank's best



Bob Martin - deep yellow miniature  
a lovely rose but a problem with black spot

Also, our amateurs also are trying. So far the most notable and healthy 'small' rose is a miniflora called Toots; bred by Tony Bracegirdle from Ramsbottom in Lancashire. This is a rose that every rose grower should be growing. If you are not familiar with the term 'miniflora', think of a classical rose bloom, on a stem - that would be a hybrid tea! Now think smaller; say two to three inches across. That would be a miniflora. Unfortunately, whilst R V Rogers no longer sell Toots, even though they are the one nursery in the UK selling minifloras, help is at hand as we'll highlight elsewhere in this newsletter.



Tony Bracegirdle's Toots

Miniatures and their bigger cousins, minifloras, are a staple of our amateur rose shows which always bring out 'Ooohs and aaahs' from the visitors.

Why not pop along to the website of [R V Rogers](#) in Pickering and order some bare roots today!

Yours could be a small world as well!



# In the mailbox . . . . .

I received earlier this year an email and subsequently a letter and parcel from Bryan Fletcher from Staffordshire. The parcel contained a National Rose Society medal services to the society from 1918 to 1921. The medal, which was made into a pin badge, was found amongst his late grandfather's possessions

“As discussed by email, please find enclosed medal from the NRS. I believe it has connections with Northumberland or Newcastle upon Tyne from where my grandfather came. I have no idea who Agnes is. It may not be possible to find her? I am pleased to be able to donate this medal for display in the proposed Rose museum at Rochester Cathedral.

Yours sincerely

Bryan Fletcher

”



Floreat Regina Florum means 'May the queen of flowers flourish' I'm sure we can all echo that, but if anyone can shed any light onto the medal, it's purpose or origin, please let us know. Once the proposed museum in Dean Reynolds Hole's old deanery is finished, this medal will be put on display.

If any of our members have rose memorabilia that they would like to donate to the museum at Rochester Cathedral please get in touch and we'll be happy to pass it on.

# Sad news from Canada

One of the remarkable things about the UK Rose Society is how many overseas members it attracts. One of these was Crenagh (pronounced Creena) Elliott in Canada, who died suddenly in September at the age of 82.

I first came across Crenagh when I started editing *By Any Other Name*, the heritage rose journal of the World Federation of Rose Societies, with Charles Quest-Ritson, a couple of years ago. For many years she had distributed BAON on her side of the Atlantic and among the wider rose community and she was as keen as we were to ensure its circulation was maintained.

Over the course of email exchanges I got to know her and discovered she had built a remarkable index of articles published in the Rose Society's publications, dating back to 1907 (which I have a copy of, should anyone like it). Crenagh was a natural archivist. She was the Canadian representative at the World Federation of Rose Societies until 2023. As well as her Rose Society article spread sheets she had a file of what rose was being grown by whom and where in Canada.

Her own small garden was testimony to her passion for roses – together she and her late husband, David, squeezed a collection of around 70 roses into their small garden, including several heritage rarities (all carefully indexed). Friends in the Canadian Rose Society have been doing what they can to take cuttings of the rarer roses.

She was a regular on the WFRS event circuit – I took the picture here of her at the WFRS Heritage Rose Conference in Belgium last year. Rose Society members in the UK may recognise her face and name from our Zoom meetings, where she was a frequent attendee – always smiling and full of enthusiasm.

She will be missed

*Martin Stott*



# Pauline's Rosy Show Round-up

I should start by saying how very proud I am to be Chair of Shows and Judges and how all our exhibitors and judges have shown their commitment to our National Shows.

It has been pleasing to welcome some new exhibitors but at the same time losing a couple of our judges who find travelling difficult. We will need to recruit some new judges if the shows are to continue. Something that our shows committee will give some thought to. If any of our members want to explore becoming a judge – please get in touch with me at

[paulinemartin50@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinemartin50@hotmail.com).

Results from our National shows

## Spring show at Malvern

**The Gardeners Company Cup** - HT and floribundas

**John Anthony**

**The Arthur Cox Trophy** – Miniatures and Mini Floras

**Pauline and Ray Martin**

**The Kilbee Stuart Cup** – Spring Champion

**Pauline and Ray Martin**

**Dean Hole Challenge**

**Shared by Neil Duncan and Pauline and Ray Martin**

## Summer rose festival at Shepperton

**W E Harkness Memorial Trophy** – Summer Champion

**Neil Duncan**

**The Queen Mary Cup** – for growers of less than 150 roses

**Phil Hildred**

**The Maurice Gross Rose Bowl** – Miniatures and Minifloras

**Ivor Mace**

**Dean Hole Challenge**

**Neil Duncan**

## Late summer one day show at Pelsall

**The Fairbrother Cup** – Pelsall Championship

**Neil Duncan**

**W C Thorn Memorial Cup** - for growers of less than 150 roses

**Phil Hildred**

**John Brooks Trophy** – Miniatures and Minifloras

**Neil Duncan**

**Dean Hole Challenge**

**Neil Duncan**



Derek Lawrence presents Kilbee Stuart Cup to Pauline and Ray Martin



National Champion Neil Duncan and Society Patron Adam Frost



Pauline presents W C Thorn Cup to Matthew Pitt

## Autumn Show at Newby Hall

**The Cant Trophy – Autumn Champion**

**Mark Hewertson**

**The Bank of England Cup – for growers of less than 150 roses**

**Matthew Pitt**

**The Frank Bowen Trophy – Miniatures and Minifloras**

**Phil Hildred**

**Dean Hole Challenge**

**Mark Hewertson**



Mark Hewertson Open Champion at  
Newby Hall

We had some excellent exhibits over the 4 shows with the Dean Hole Challenge taking place at five shows; our four Nationals and The Rhondda Rose show in Wales.

**Neil Duncan** won the Dean Hole in Rhondda and took the over-all points across the year making him the **Dean Hole National Champion** once again.

Dates and venues for shows in 2025

11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Spring Show at Pelsall - -  
**Please note** change of venue. Staging 10<sup>th</sup> May 6.30 – 9.00 and 6.30am -10am 11<sup>th</sup> May

28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June Summer Festival Shepperton

20<sup>th</sup> July Late summer One day show Pelsall

19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September Autumn show Newby Hall

The Dean Hole classes will be contested at the 4 National Shows with each exhibitor being able to choose their three best shows.

### A REMINDER

If you put your pot roses in an unheated greenhouse you are likely to have roses ready for the Spring show. Give them a prune – feed with some slow release fertilizer and water as necessary.

Schedules will be finalised early next year and available on the website. Hard copies available on request.



Iain Silver presents The Frank  
Bowen trophy to Phil Hildred



Neil Duncan's Best Exhibit  
Shepperton - Wainwright Rose



John Bell's Best Exhibit Newby Hall  
Silver Anniversary

**Our Summer Weekender, ‘Walking in the footsteps’ of Samuel Reynolds Hole, has unfortunately been postponed. We are so excited that we’ll be able to share with our members, the experience of Rochester Cathedral where Dean Hole made his home and rose garden for the latter part of his life. But we want the experience to be perfect.**

**Due to the pressures of this event being set in a fully working cathedral we believe that delaying our visit by twelve months will enable us to offer a better experience for our members. The new roses that are currently being planted will be more established and we’ll be able to ensure that you have a visit that will be memorable.**

The Very Rev'd Dr Philip Hesketh AKC DL, the current Dean of Rochester Cathedral is very keen to welcome you all to Rochester to walk, talk and experience real rose history. But please for now bear with us. The Cathedral has a unique atmosphere that we know you will enjoy, add to that the feeling that Dean Hole may walk around every corner and we are certain that it will be worth the wait!

## **But what about 2025?**

We are currently dotting every i and crossing every t for a replacement weekend that we know rose lovers will enjoy. We will circulate all members once plans are finalised.

We’re desperately sorry to have to postpone the Rochester event but equally certain it will be worth the wait.

**So save the date, which remains the same;**

**The Rose Society UK Weekender 2025 will be on Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th June**

# Glamping, Thomas Edison and the rose

A story from Martin Stott



Thomas Edison (left) and Henry Ford (right)  
Sharing a light-bulb moment whilst glamping

Millions of dollars are being spent each year in the US on developing an alternative source of natural rubber. I learned this from a recent piece in the Washington Post, reminding me of one of the most bizarre stories in garden history – and one that you’ll see has a bearing on many of the roses grown in our gardens today.

The search for rubber alternatives goes back a long way. In 1915 Thomas Edison (68 years old at the time) went camping with three great friends – the car-maker Henry Ford, tyre manufacturer Harvey Firestone and the naturalist, John Burroughs.

They undertook to live under canvas and “cheerfully endure wet, cold, smoke, mosquitoes, black flies and sleepless nights, just to touch naked reality once more.” They even gave their gang a name – they called themselves the “Vagabonds”.



Henry Ford, Thomas Edison,  
John Burroughs, Harvey Firestone

The first trip was so much fun they did it several more times over the next nine years. These were no ordinary camping trips. They took a team of cooks, butlers, chauffeurs and other servants with them, in an entourage of as many as 50 vehicles (all Fords, with Firestone tyres, of course).



During the twenties, the glamping trips became more elaborate, employing more tyre rubber each year

Seldom shy of publicity, Ford invited his own film crew to capture the adventures for newsreels, garnering headlines like ‘Millions of dollars’ worth of brains off on a vacation’. All good for sales.

I like to picture them there one night. The ladies have retired to the ‘withdrawing tent’. The men have loosened their dickie bows, poured a whisky and lit some chunky cigars.

They relax into their camping chairs and get talking. And that’s when Edison has what you might call a light-bulb moment – an idea for a new business venture.

In 1927 Edison, Ford and Firestone launched The Edison Botanic Research Corporation to find a domestic source of rubber. If successful it could make them millions. Rubber was a vital commodity, but one only grown in the tropics.

Edison had one big concern. At the time plants could not be patented. If they were successful, their discoveries would soon be pinched. His friend the great Californian plant breeder, Luther Burbank (1849-1926), had created all sorts of valuable crops, from blight-resistant potatoes to white blackberries. But he had made little money from it.



The first patented rose New Dawn  
United States - Patent No: PP 1 on 18 Aug 1931

Edison started lobbying for a change to the patent law. In 1930 the US Plant Patent Act was enacted. It gave patent holders exclusive rights for 17 years to their creations. The first

award went to a rose – the still popular ‘New Dawn’ (a pink climber that is one of my favourites).

Plant patent legislation is now common throughout the world. It has been particularly important for rose breeders. In the 40 years to the end of 1970, two thirds of the 6,000 plant patents granted in the US were to roses. Without patent protection we would not have companies like David Austin in England, Kordes in Germany or Meilland in France. The hundreds of thousands they spend on research and development each year would never be repaid.

Just a few months after ‘New Dawn’ was granted its patent in 1931, Thomas Edison passed away (his last breath allegedly captured in a test tube). He had spent his final years in Florida, experimenting with 17,000 plants in his unsuccessful new rubber quest. But the vision he shared with Harvey Firestone lives on.



New Dawn was itself a sport of Dr W van Fleet

it is still available today although its patent has long since expired

One of the companies sponsoring similar research today is the Japanese Bridgestone Corporation, which bought Firestone in the 1980s. A couple of years ago Bridgestone scientists in Arizona were awarded a \$35m grant from the US Department of Agriculture to support their long-running research on guayule. They’ve developed a complex process for extracting and processing rubber from the roots of this desert shrub, which is found in Southwestern US and Mexico. By the end of the decade they expect to be able to create hardwearing guayule tyres commercially.

I am sure Edison would be fascinated. But maybe he would be just as interested to learn how the legislation he helped come to pass still touches millions of rose gardeners around the world today – a century on from those remarkable glamping trips.

*Martin Stott is the co-editor of By Any Other Name, the heritage rose journal of the World Federation of Rose Societies and author of the Storyteller Garden history blog*



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# Who's who in the Rose Society UK

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**Vice President Mr Chris Warner DHM**

**Patron Mr Adam Frost**

Chair	John Anthony	<a href="mailto:info@therosesociety.org.uk">info@therosesociety.org.uk</a>
Vice Chair	Iain Silver	<a href="mailto:iain@therosesociety.org.uk">iain@therosesociety.org.uk</a>
Secretary	Ray Martin	<a href="mailto:info@therosesociety.org.uk">info@therosesociety.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Steve Durham	<a href="mailto:treasurer@therosesociety.org.uk">treasurer@therosesociety.org.uk</a>

## General Committee

Membership	Liam Beddall	<a href="mailto:members@therosesociety.org.uk">members@therosesociety.org.uk</a>
PR & Shows	Pauline Martin	<a href="mailto:pauline@therosesociety.org.uk">pauline@therosesociety.org.uk</a>
Breeders/S. Media	Daniel Myhill	<a href="mailto:daniel@therosesociety.org.uk">daniel@therosesociety.org.uk</a>
Honours	Derek Lawrence	
Trials & Ireland	David Kenny	
Wales Rep	Gareth Davies	
Researcher	Brian Schofield	<a href="mailto:brian@therosesociety.org.uk">brian@therosesociety.org.uk</a>

## Shows Committee

Jim Anderson	Gareth Davies
Neil Duncan	John McCarthy

## Postal Addresses

**Please direct all mail relating to membership and general payments to;**

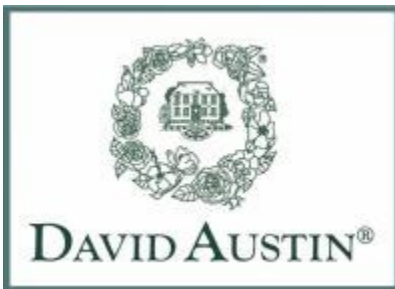
The Treasurer - The Rose Society UK  
38 Kintyre Drive  
Thornaby  
Stockton on Tees  
TS17 0BY

**Please direct all OTHER mail to;**

The Secretary - The Rose Society UK  
66 Langer Road  
Felixstowe  
Suffolk  
IP11 2HS

# Merry Christmas

from all our sponsors





**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

**from Everyone at  
The Rose Society UK**