

The Rose Times

Volume 8, Issue 2 Winter 2025



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

What's INSIDE

From the Secretary 3

Farewell Steve 8

John's Rosy Ramblings 10

AGM Notice 13

Derek's Rose Legend 14

Ethiopian Roses 20

Mailbox 24

Catherine's Diary 25

Norfolk Show News 29

Gareth's Exciting Journey 30

Meet The Breeders on Zoom 33

2025 Rose Weekender 34

On this edition's front page is the stunning variety Stephanie d'Ursel. Its breeder, Ann Velle-Boudolf is our guest on the second of our Winter, 'Meet the Breeder', Zoom meetings in March.

It is a hybrid musk with beautiful, bee friendly blooms in a light apricot, fading to white. It has a citrus to lily of the valley fragrance and will grow to 4 feet in height, commanding a place in any garden!

Currently, only Norfolk rose specialists Peter Beales Roses are offering this variety but I'm certain when people see this beauty there will be more demand and more suppliers.



Click this QR to
buy bareroot
Stephanie
d'Ursel now

From
THE SECRETARY



Steve Singer's much sought after
RBG - named in honour of
Ruth Bayer Ginsburg

2025 has not started well for the Society. We have been faced with many challenges as you'll see later in this newsletter. It's not all doom and gloom however, last year we offered members a chance to get their hands on some roses that are 'hard to get hold of' in the UK. Maybe they've been withdrawn from commerce, maybe they were never in commerce. Either way many of our members are now growing (some for the first time) roses as budded maidens. This may be a concept new to you as well? In the USA Steve Singer of Wisconsin roses runs his business on this principle. He too sells his roses in their rawest state; briars that were budded in early summer available to grow by the customer themselves. Obviously, this is a less expensive way of buying roses but it's also very rewarding. Seeing the new rose grow in your own garden from a small shoot and then mature into a full sized plant.



the budded briar



planted and beginning to grow



Jim Sproul's Zion Rose
that some of our members
will be growing this year



Toots by Tony Bracegirdle
now 'available' again

So, some of our members will therefore have new rose varieties to show this year and the best way for **you** to see them is to visit one of our rose society National shows. The shows this year will be in **Pelsall** in May; **Shepperton** in June; **Pelsall** again in July and **Newby Hall** in September.

You may notice that our Spring Show at Malvern is no longer on the calendar. After nearly three decades of having our show for greenhouse roses at the Three Counties Spring Show, the show organisers have announced that they no longer have room at the show for our small event.

And so, we have decided to run the show at Pelsall and combine it with our AGM on 11th May. A first for us but hopefully it may encourage members to come to the AGM, just to see the roses!

We've had a busy time, behind the scenes, in the last few weeks. Obviously the biggest, and most distressing event has been the loss of our dear friend and Treasurer, Steve Durham. A two month, tragic fight against cancer, meant that the Society and most of all, his friends and family have to come to terms with a tremendous loss.

As a Society we will need to find a new Treasurer to carry on the splendid work that Steve had started since he took on the role in 2023. We are very fortunate that Matthew Pitt has agreed to help in the short term. He will pick up the reins and get the paperwork and

accounts ready for the AGM in May and for a smooth transition to a new permanent Treasurer who Matthew will help settle into the role.

The new layout for The Rose Times has come about because we need to have some back-up for the production of our newsletter. Derek Lawrence has volunteered to assist with the quarterly editing duties, and we are trialling a new software called Canva. It is quite different from our previous software. Some parts good, some, not so. It will be interesting to hear what you all make of the changes.



Some images from the 2024 Malvern Spring Show
Some beautiful blooms shining out in a 'gloomy' hall?

Some of our members have asked why we will not have our Spring Show at Malvern in May.

As we reported, we were informed in November that we would not be able to hold our Spring Rose Show at the Three Counties Spring

Show in 2025. Charlie Gwynne, Shows & Horticulture Executive for the Three Counties emailed us;

“The team are currently making plans for RHS Malvern Spring Festival 2025, including any layout changes and restructuring areas.

Due to over subscription in Severn Hall, we are sorry to inform you that there will not be the same available space for the Rose Show”.

We have since heard that the ‘reason’ for their decision was that RHS Judges had decided that the light levels in the Severn Hall were poor and unsuitable for our show? However if we were happy with them, they would now reconsider an application for 2026.

Please forgive my cynicism, but why is it any business of RHS judges when the show is judged by our own Society judges and why is the light not suitable for our roses but OK for the Three Counties Spring Flower Show and the Flower Arrangements in the same hall? We were offered a small, 10ft x 6ft space for a stand in the main Floral Pavilion, but there was no space in there for our small show. At such short notice, we were struggling to find a new venue and so, for that reason, we took the decision to combine our Spring Show with our Annual General Meeting. Let’s see how it works out before making any decisions about future or venues for our Spring Shows. In the mean time, thanks to Gareth Davies and all members who lobbied in order to reinstate the Spring Show to its venue of almost thirty years. So, for this year at least, please come to our AGM in Pelsall. If you haven’t seen them before, you will be treated to a wonderful display of Spring roses.

More ‘behind the scenes’ work, is the maintenance of our show equipment. Everyone who has seen our amateur shows will surely have been impressed with the classes involving picture frames. The

idea of the class was originally copied from USA shows over 20 years ago, when Ron Nibbet, the Show Manager, produced a small picture frame with an integral orchid vial to show off individual miniature blooms. The idea really caught the imagination of our exhibitors and

the public alike. We now have small, medium and large frames for miniatures, minifloras and hybrid teas and floribunda sprays.

Sadly after many years of



use, some have been damaged, broken or even 'lost'. So, our hard working Chairman, (and Master craftsman) John Anthony has set about the task of replacing them all. The new frames will be gracing our shows this year and will all be in the same style and give our classes symmetry and a really professional look. It should be pointed out that in addition to making and repairing our own show equipment over many years, John has also made frames for many other societies and individuals, with all profits going into Rose Society UK funds!

Ray Martin

Farewell STEVE

Steve's love of roses started as a teenager due to his parents, Jack and Maureen's love of roses. He started to go to roses shows in the north east region and in the early days of showing he was helped by other top roses growers who gave him advice about how to get the best from his roses. Steve started Sheffield University and during the holidays he worked as a landscape gardener at Cherry Hill Nurseries where he gained a love for gardening before owning his own house and garden. Steve and Jane were married in 1980, their first garden was quite small but he still managed to grow some Queen Elizabeth roses.



Steve was a lifelong Middlebrough supporter an a regular visitor to the Riverside Stadium



Their next house he added Grandpa Dickson amongst others. In their current home Steve and Jane had 150 roses which included floribundas, hybrid teas and standard roses.

A keen exhibitor at local and National shows, Steve won many prizes with favourite roses like these Isn't She Lovely

One of his recent favourites for its fragrant aroma was Gertrude Jekyll which he planted not only in his own garden but in that of both his children too! Steve enjoyed being an active member of The Rose Society and his latest role as Treasurer. He loved meeting other rose enthusiasts, travelling to shows and competing - especially when he won first prize for his exhibits.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him but especially by Jane, Louise and Jonathan his children and Zara & Mila his granddaughters.

Finding the right words to describe how much we are going to miss Steve at The Rose Society is impossible.

As friends and exhibitors Steve and Jane (when grandma and dog duties allowed), were a huge part of our haws team.

Helping during the shows

and always there at 'clear up' when many had long since gone home!

Quiet, unassuming, supportive and always with sound advice, we are going to miss his influence at every level.

In 2023, Steve took on the Treasurer job for the Society and spent the last twenty months, gradually getting our finances simplified and in good order, not made any easier by having to manoeuvre around the roadblocks that our banks seem to delight in. He worked tirelessly on our application for Charity Status and as a Society we will continue his work . Our love and condolences to Jane and the family but mostly;



Thankyou Steve

The Chairman's ROSY RAMBLINGS



Our society was set up with amazing speed on the failure of the Royal National Rose Society in early May 2017. Within three weeks we were able to set up our Rose Society UK. In the eight years since then we have become established, well recognised and in a sound, financial position.

In order to spread the workload more evenly going forward, we need to restructure the management committees. To enable this Ray, as society Secretary has recently sent an email to the membership requesting that they consider offering to help at the next Annual General meeting in May.

It was with great sadness I learned of the untimely death on 16th February of our treasurer Steve Durham. He had become a great friend and colleague; his passing came as a shock as I had spoken with him just a few days earlier.

It is two years since Steve took the role of treasurer at the AGM in 2023. With his cool calm manner, he promptly began setting up our application for charity status and

managing the societies ever-increasing finances. Unfortunately, the Charity Commission application has not been fully completed and part of the role of a new treasurer will be to continue with his good work.



John's roses ,ready for their
Spring prune

The dull dreary wet winter weather has for many of us made the winter tasks in the rose garden more arduous. However, with the lengthening days and lot of help I'm catching up now. At the time of writing the pruning of my rose beds is going to plan with the ramblers cut back and trained in the autumn and climbers pruning completed during January. I have recently done



Ramblers pruned and trained against a trellis

some soil tests on the rose beds and the nitrogen reading indicates that it has depleted. I guess because my garden soil is light the very wet winter has leached the nitrogen away. In recent years I have used chicken manure pellets in mid-late March followed by Fish Blood and Bone six weeks later. This year I'm considering using Dried Blood as the first application instead of chicken manure to give the nitrogen a boost and then give the



usual application of fish blood and bone in April. I will then hope for a drier spell to stabilise the nutrients in my light topsoil!

My greenhouse roses are shooting well now that the awful February gloom has broken, and I should have blooms for the Spring competition. This year the event

will be held on the same weekend as Malvern Spring show in May, but in Pelsall Church Hall instead, along with the Annual General Meeting as a combined event. I will miss not meeting the lots of people who enjoy seeing the lovely, pristine blooms we have grown under glass this year, but hopefully different arrangements will prevail in future. I am very disappointed that the Three Counties show organisers can no longer accommodate our spring competition at Malvern for I have



Dreaming Maiden trained up bamboo for Spring Show

is still top exhibition miniature rose today!

As many of you may know my mobility problems restrict me attending some of the sumexhibited at all the shows held there over the past thirty years. For the record, I still remember I won the pot rose class with “Irresistible” at the first show held there and itmer rose events now. However, looking forward and with a bit help and support I will carry on again in 2025

Happy Rose Growing everyone

John Anthony



THE
ROSE
SOCIETY^{UK}

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Rose Society UK's 8th AGM will be held on
SUNDAY 11th MAY 2025

AT

St Michael's Church Hall, Pelsall, WS3 4JN

Meeting to begin at 1.30pm

The Rose Society's Spring National Amateur Rose Show

will be held in conjunction and will be open to
members attending the AGM at 12.00pm

Complimentary light refreshments will be available
to **Members** during the day

The show will be Open to the Public at 3.00pm

Derek
RECALLS A ROSE LEGEND



DEREK LAWRENCE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD
FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES

The Legendary ‘Mr Rose’

There is a plethora of great characters in the rose world, who with their wit and wisdom, proactively promote the virtues of the rose to a 21st Century audience.

However, in my opinion, they do not match the utter flamboyance, flair and vibrancy of Mr Harry Wheatcroft, who had the natural capacity to command the general public’s immediate attention. During the 1960s and 1970s, whenever a new rose needed to be launched at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Mr Wheatcroft was the man to promote it. With his ruffled hairstyle, handlebar moustache and pleasing gruff voice, he became the showman to win over people’s hearts and catapult the new cultivar into the limelight. As a young man, Harry Wheatcroft considered whether to follow a political career with the Labour Party or



Harry Wheatcroft
the legend



Harry Wheatcroft
the rose

join his brother Alfred on a proposed new horticultural enterprise. The politician James Maxton persuaded him to pursue a horticultural path by saying, "Grow roses. You'll bring beauty into the world. Politics is a very dirty business." Wheatcroft Brothers was founded in Nottingham in 1919, and within a year, they had specialised in cultivating roses. Alfred became the General Manager and because Harry had an outgoing personality, he became the natural choice as salesman. In 1927, they introduced the 'Princess Elizabeth' rose which was to honour the birth of the new royal baby. It was the first of many successful public relations successes which aroused instant media attention. In 1929, Harry married Dorothy. The lady was a gymnast and dietician and, under her influence, Harry became a vegetarian and greatly improved his health. The couple and their five children lived on the nursery in a custom built gypsy caravan, which was aptly named The Rambling Rose , that aroused much curiosity when they took it to various flower shows; in order to save accommodation costs when they exhibited their blooms.



From 1963 the Tantau rose
Fragrant Cloud



Bred in 1960 by Mathias Tantau
Super Star or Tropicana in USA
caused a stir World wide

Wheatcroft Roses gained the reputation for being a huge marketing success story, which might have suggested that they had bred the cultivars themselves. But in truth, the company had minimal success in the actual breeding of roses.

By the beginning of World War II, the Wheatcrofts were growing 600,000 roses, but eventually the site was taken over for food production purposes. After the war, Harry had the foresight and great vision to contact Francois Meilland of Lyon, in France who had just introduced the 'Peace' rose. Using his persuasive commercial and marketing skills, Harry managed to introduce this sensational variety into the UK, which was to prove a highly successful venture.

In 1952, he secured another coup by introducing 'Queen Elizabeth' from the United States. The following year, Wheatcroft's attempted to establish a monopoly over their introductions of Meilland's roses, by registering their names as trademarks. As a direct result, this was challenged in the courts by the Wisbech Plant Company. Harry reportedly argued, "that the man who created a new rose should have some rights to it, because immediately was on the market anyone can buy a plant, propagate it, and start selling the new rose themselves." He lost the case, but felt it gave him a certain amount of notoriety in his



Dr Walter Lammerts bred this rose in 1952 and the rose was chosen to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

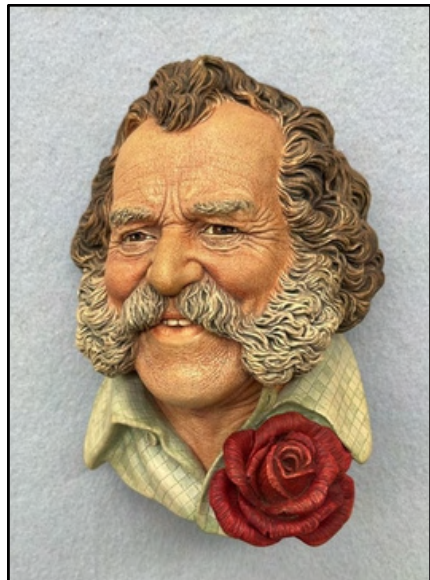
endeavours. This eventually led to the formation of the 'Plant Breeders Rights Bill' in Parliament. Despite his setback in court, in 1954 Harry Wheatcroft was asked to plan a garden of remembrance to commemorate the wartime massacre at Lidice in Czechoslovakia and to be involved in creating the memorial garden in respect of the Aberfan disaster in Wales. He was also involved in the setting up of a new trial ground for the National Rose Society at St. Albans.

Harry was also the only English judge in the annual trials of the new varieties conducted at the world famous rose garden in Bagatelle, Paris.

By the 1960's, Wheatcroft Roses had rapidly expanded with worldwide sales. His sons David and Christopher joined the business. However, Harry's relationship with his brother deteriorated and eventually, he left the business and went to work with his sons at a newly-formed company. After Alfred's death, Harry and his sons brought back the original business and commenced an ambitious expansion plan. Harry became lovingly known as 'Mr Rose' and his face was everywhere –



In the 60s and 70s Harry Wheatcroft was quite the 'Man about town'



'Mr Rose' featured in magazines, TV, books and even on hand painted chalkware wall plaques

even on plant labels! He wrote several best-selling books about rose cultivation and selection; lectured extensively and went into commercial advertising; actively promoting Acta-Bacta plant nutrient and even cheese and cigarette brands. Harry had the ability to captivate eager photographers, by turning up at events in a huge maroon Rolls-Royce, wearing tweed blue trousers, a vibrant floral shirt, where and his horn-trimmed glasses dangled precariously from a piece of string. He regularly flew around the world, and was welcomed with sheer enthusiasm from such countries as Australia, America, New Zealand and Russia. He continued with his brilliant showmanship with two splendid roses which came from the breeding house of Mathias Tantau in Germany. With immense gusto he exhibited “the Great Unnamed Seedling” in London, before it became known as ‘Super Star’ and he ensured that ‘Fragrant Cloud’ was the talking point at the National Rose Society’s Autumn show in 1963. During this period, Harry Wheatcroft committed a social indiscretion with at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show by staging his exhibition blooms whilst topless! The then President, Lord Aberconway was reported to have approached him and said, “A hot day, Harry! Tell you what, if you’ll put on a shirt on, I’ll take my jacket off!” One of his less popular comments came when he once offended a



Harry’s bare chested performance at Chelsea did not sit well with Lord Aberconway



Wheatcroft was the name and the face of roses in the 60s and 70s Britain

Texan audience by saying that America might not be embroiled in the Vietnam combat, if more Americans grew roses!

Harry was honoured in 1972 with the RHS bestowing him with Victoria Medal of Honour; the same year a fittingly flamboyant red and yellow striped hybrid tea rose was launched and named Harry Wheatcroft, to commemorate his rosy endeavours. In 1973, the RNRS awarded him with the Dean Hole medal. Having suffered from a severe stroke, Harry died in Nottingham General Hospital on 8th January 1977. The success of such timeless roses as 'Peace' and 'Fragrant Cloud' are testimony to Harry Wheatcroft's enduring achievements and entrepreneurial skills. He was most certainly, a very colourful character and, whether any up- and-coming 21st Century rose celebrity would ever dare to follow in his flambuoyant and impulsive footsteps remains to be seen? In reality, Harry's indomitable character remains within the crazed and striped charm of the Harry Wheatcroft rose; which over the years, has become a rather much-admired eccentric classic.



Derek Lawrence
007 

This is Very Important!

Your Society really does need YOU
We will have several committee positions to fill at
the AGM in May

To ensure continued growth and success
we must have YOUR help

Please mail; info@therosesociety.org.uk or
Phone Ray on 07867973229 for information

[Return to index](#)

Do they grow
ROSES IN ETHIOPIA?

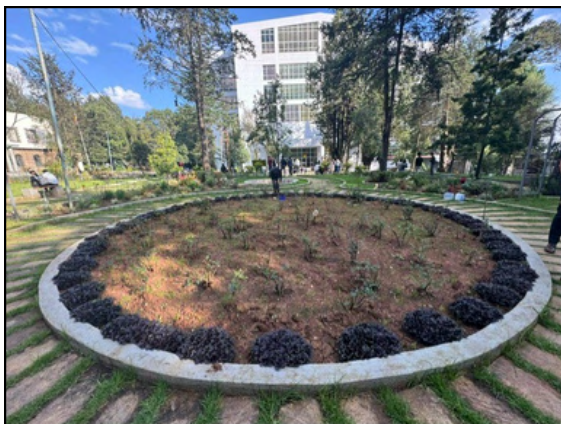


Michael Harvey is
The National Trust's
Senior Gardener at Mottisfont
Today he shares highlights of his
trip to Ethiopia

In September 2024, I was invited to visit Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, with colleagues from the National Trust, to talk about the effects of climate change on roses at Addis Ababa University. This opportunity was part of a large project called 'Withstanding Change' run by the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO). They work across the world trying to save heritage sites from destruction, which is often caused by war and local governments building new houses. In Ethiopia, roses are not currently highly regarded, and many varieties are sadly being lost.

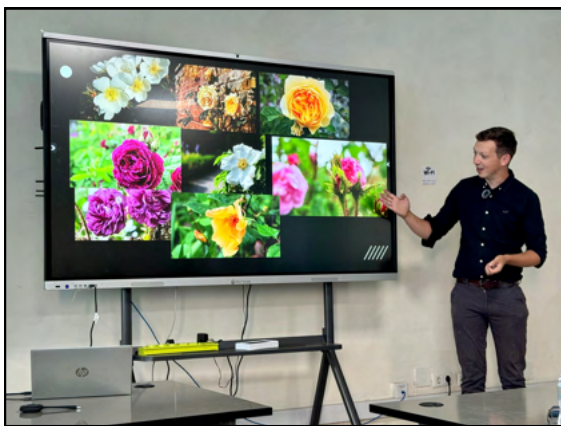
At the start of my trip, I had a few days to acclimatise and experience the culture and hustle and bustle of Addis. I took in its beautiful green landscape with a hue of red clay from the soil underneath, and it made me question how these plants are growing in such heavy soil. We visited Tsegereda Garden, which was once the grounds of Prince Asfa Wossen's palace, and it is now part of the campus for Addis University.

The garden is looked after by Heritage Watch Ethiopia (HWE) and is beautifully designed, managing the rain season in late August whilst relating the garden to the Northern Ethiopian Mountain range. Right in the centre of this garden is a circular bed of



roses which has been planted in the heavy red clay soil. These incredible roses were taken as hard wood cuttings, potted up into plastic bags filled with clay soil, and then started thriving as new plants. I questioned how resilient these rose varieties are which endure harsh conditions and yet successfully root and eventually become beautiful plants.

After visiting Tsegereda Garden, we went to the University to give a presentation on horticultural practices and roses. There were speakers from the University and Gulele Botanical Garden because the Curator for Gulele is currently



designing a garden inspired by a classic English rose garden. However, instead of just incorporating the genus *Rosa*, they also wanted to include a large quantity of plants from the vast Rosaceae family which is an incredibly hard job to carry out. I was lucky enough to go over to Gulele Botanical Garden, and it is an immense piece of land situated on the hillside of Entoto Mountain. The garden is in its

early years of development, and we were taken to the top of the garden to see the amazing views across Addis. I spotted *Rosa abyssinica* growing in the rock, a beautiful species rose that is native to parts of Ethiopia. To see the form of this rose



thriving on the mountain was outstanding. After seeing Gulele, we travelled to Alliance Francis which has a garden surrounding it. The Master Gardener there, Ato Gezahgn, oversees this garden and has overseen its development over the last 30 years. It was an incredible place tucked away in the suburbs of Addis, and you wouldn't even

know that it was there! When we turned into the drive, we immediately saw a beautiful Juniper tree pruned into the shape of a World Map. To our right, the shape of the Eiffel Tower was cut into the Juniper hedge. We then met Ato, and he walked around the garden with us pointing out his amazing work, particularly the beautifully flowering roses with purple stems, its growth reminds me of 'Climbing Lady Hillingdon', thriving in the heavy clay soil.



This shrub rose was very narrow and tall in shape, I tried to identify it, but Ato spoke Amharic so we could only converse through Latin plant names. (4 PHOTO)

This trip to Addis was incredible, especially seeing the roses growing in such tough conditions but yet somehow managing to flower and thrive. I would strongly recommend anyone to take the opportunity to experience Addis for themselves as its horticulture is not prominent, but the city has some wonderful highlights which many countries cannot re-create.

Michael Harvey

Thanks Michael, I'm sure that I'm not the only one to be surprised to find that "Yes, they really do grow roses in Ethiopia!"



From The Socials



There is always a lot of chat on our social networks; Facebook, Instagram and X

Our thanks to all our members who contribute and promote the Rose Society to a world wide audience and to Dan Myhill for keeping them all in order!



Neil Duncan recently shared this picture of the late, great Jimmy Greaves with his daughter Mitzi, looking at the rose that bears his name. I'd love to have it growing again in my garden.



The Secretary's Mailbox

This request dropped into my mailbox,
I wonder if there's anyone who can help?

Dear rose friends,

My father was hybridizer/rosegrower Harry Verschuren, son of Jac. Verschuren, and owner of fa. Jac. Verschuren-Pechtold, one of our rosenurseries in Haps, the Netherlands. This year we celebrate our 150th anniversary and for that occasion I am writing a book on our family's rose growing history. I hope to publish it on July 6th 2025 and it will be available via our Foundation Heritage Verschuren Rosegrowers. It will be in Dutch and in English and will cost approx. €35 (300 pages, full colour, hard copy, sleeve jacket)

My ancestors have bred 205 new Verschuren roses and we are trying to get as many of our Verschuren roses back to Haps, the place where my great-grandfather started our family business in 1875.

In the 1950s my father Harry Verschuren bred Pechtold's Flame, a rose that was distributed in the U.K. in 1953 by Gandy's Roses . In the USA it was patented and launched as Tudor. Unfortunately we do not have this rose ourselves anymore and I have started a worldwide search in order to possible trace it somewhere, so that we can bud it and add to our museum collection garden.

The impossible question of course is....is there ANY chance that this red rose would still be in the UK? If so, how could I contact possible owners?

Nothing ventured, nothing gained.....

Kind regards, on behalf of my rose growing brothers at Jac. Verschuren-Pechtold
Royal Warrant Holder and Royal Nurseries H.A. Verschuren & Sons,
Kind regards,

Jacques Verschuren QEP ABIPP
Fotografie Jacques Verschuren
Ronduitsestraat 2
5443 BC Haps
The Netherlands

Please contact The Secretary at
info@therosesociety.org.uk
if you can help with this enquiry

[Return to index](#)

The Winter

DIARY OF A ROSE BREEDER

By Catherine Shaw



I began my journey into rose breeding almost four years ago, after answering an advert placed by Chris Warner to come and learn the business and take it forward after his retirement. Now Managing Director of Warners Roses, I run most of the day-to-day business alongside Chris, who at 87, continues his pursuit of creating healthy, easy-to-grow garden roses of all types.

22nd November 2024

The seeds for next year are shelled, counted, and bagged, and safely stored in the fridges ready for sowing after Christmas; ordered A to Z of course. We still log everything with pen and paper when we're counting the seeds. Having been an office worker previously, I have brought my very basic 'Microsoft Excel' skills to the proceedings. This has allowed us to begin comparing which crosses took, against what was pollinated amongst other things. This year, a new record for us, 30,000 seeds... pending Excel's final more accurate count of course.



December 2024

Today we started tackling the benches in the glasshouse, emptying the spent compost, and getting them ready for next year's seedlings. The culling of the rejects begins! Anything not marked must go. Each seedling that has been selected in our greenhouse is identified by a loop of red wool - Chris's marker of choice. The selections are bunched together and tied loosely with string to their label. Having dug them out, we then put back into the compost until we're ready to plant out in spring. Some of the smaller varieties will come out quite easily, but some of the more beastly varieties like ramblers or giant climbing types will practically require a foot on the bench to drag them out! (Thorns in the hands and scratched arms all par for the course.) Once neatly tied and arranged, my helper Jeff and I begin emptying the spent compost. We shovel it into old animal feed bags we got from the local farming college and offer it to various friends and neighbours. Loading the bags and then barrowing them over to the driveway is a good workout for the arms and keeps us warm in the frosty temperatures.

Outside, we've been digging out the rejected one year old roses. They've had a season to impress us, and now it's time to be brutal and get rid of any variety that hasn't got excellent health, flower power and of course wow factor.

I'm four years in now and just about getting used to the high reject rate. When I first arrived, ALL the roses looked lovely. Chris has taught me what to look out for, and as I've observed the roses over several years now, I am getting more confident to identify the varieties we want to take forward. As



well as learning from Chris, its partly experience built over time. What I think you can't learn quickly, is what you've seen before. Something that seems special to me, Chris has seen a million times. When a rose variety really stands out, you just know, but there are some that are more difficult for me to recognise. This might be a type of rose, like a rambler, or a shrub. It's essential to know what a rose looks like in infancy and then over the years, to understand growth patterns and how long to wait to observe it. Chris might spot something early on, but I need a bit more growth on the plant to decide. After the fast-paced nature of my previous career in publishing and marketing, slowing down and taking time is definitely a new skill I'm acquiring. A variety I see this year, will need 8-10+ more years of looking, before it can be considered for sale. If I breed a rose today, I'll be in my mid 50's by the time it launches. A sobering meditation on patience, and the precious nature of time.



January 1st 2025

Sowing seeds in the glasshouse. My hands are freezing! I've got thermals on, electric hand warmers in each pocket (a Christmas gift) and a small electric heater which isn't doing much. The cat has come to join me, I give up my cushion for him to sleep on and he stays there all day, sleeping in the sunshine. We use standard size seed trays, sowing roughly in straight rows up and down, each cross marked with a small pot label. We're sowing around 200 seeds to a tray this year, (previously crammed in 300), as we've increased the bench space since last year. Once the tray is full, I apply the horticultural sand to the top of the seeds and place it into the bench on the heat mat.

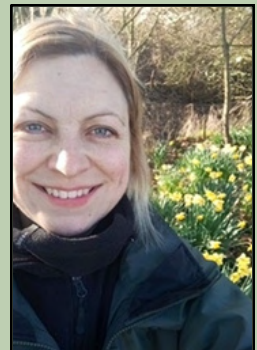


By 10:30am I'm in the house for a hot cup of tea and to thaw out my fingertips.

January 9th 2025

A magical frosty morning. I enjoyed the wintery landscape from the top of Lilleshall Hill with the dogs and Greenfields looks pretty special too. It's so cold, Chris and I have ended up sowing seeds at the dining table indoors. The sand is against a small radiator thawing out and all the outdoor taps are frozen solid, so I'm ferrying water from the kitchen sink in watering cans. Soldiered on and by the end of the day, all the seeds were sown!

Catherine Shaw





Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society **Inspiring gardeners across Norfolk since 1829**

Summer Show – Open to Everyone

Our Summer Show is open to everyone to enter, with entries from beginners and juniors particularly welcome. There are classes for Roses, Sweet Peas, Cut Flowers, Pot Plants, Fruit, Vegetables and Floral Art plus separate beginners (novice) and junior classes.

Have a look at the schedule and see what you could enter. Perhaps you have a pot plant you are very fond of, or you grow your own vegetables and soft fruit? Entries are staged the day before the show opens and help will be available to support you if you are new to this.

Date: Wednesday 25 June and Thursday 26 June 2025.

Venue: Within the Garden Village at the Royal Norfolk Show

2025 NNHS Summer Schedule - [click here](#)

Entry Deadline:

Entries will close on Friday 20 June 2025 at 12 midday for horticultural show entries.

Entries: Submitted online to the show secretary.

Online Entry Form

Show Secretary:

Email: showsecretary@nnhs.org.uk

Telephone queries: 01362 821549

Timetable:

Entry deadline: Friday 20 June 2025 at 12.00 midday.

Staging of entries: Tuesday 24 June 2025 from 1pm to 8pm

Presentation of Awards: Thursday 26 June 2025 at 4.30pm

Show closes and removal of exhibits: Thursday 26 June 2025 at 6pm

[Return to index](#)

Gareth Davies shares his
JOURNEY INTO ROSE BREEDING



Gareth is a founder member of the Rose Society UK an experienced respected rosarian and grows his roses in Brecon, mid Wales

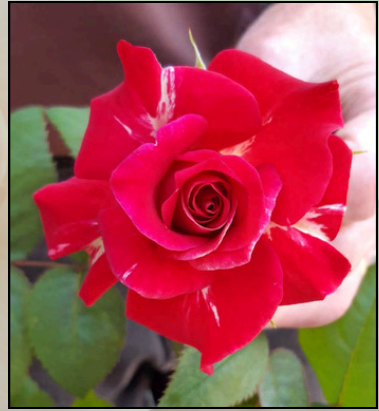
When I started growing roses in my present garden in the early 1970's I grew for colour and display but I soon became attracted to the quality of the roses which I saw when I visited my first Rose Show so at that time I decided to devote my hobby to growing roses for exhibition as well as for garden display. This marked the beginning of a long period of my life where I spent time exhibiting my roses as well as judging roses at local and National Shows, meeting and enjoying the company of fellow rose growers and judges throughout the UK

Having spent years growing roses bred by some of the best rose breeders in the world I decided that I would try my hand at breeding my own roses so as I had a fascination with striped roses in 2019 I started with the variety ROCK'N ROLL which I used as the seed parent crossing it with NEW ZEALAND as the pollen



parent. In November that year I harvested a relatively small number of seeds from the hips and after a short period of cold treatment the seeds were sown and quickly germinated and after growing the seedlings on for another year or two one appeared more vigorous and healthier than the rest and after it was grown very successfully for two years I decided to name it 'EIRONA'S DELIGHT' for my wife. In 2024 budwood was sent to RV ROGER and it will be available from them in Autumn 2025

In 2023 I took my journey into rose breeding a stage further by using ENGLAND'S HEROES as a pollen parent and crossing it to seven different seed parents namely JAN GUEST, LOWRI, DARLING JENNY, GEMINI, EIRONA'S DELIGHT, BLUE FOR YOU and VERNON'S LAUGH and from those crosses I harvested over 200 seeds. These were stratified by exposing them to cold conditions in the fridge for 6-8 weeks and the seeds were then sown on a warm bench in my greenhouse at the end of January 2024. Germination was rapid and after rejecting a few of the poorest seedlings I was left with approximately 150



seedlings which were potted up into small square pots. Further rejection of the weakest left me with 75 promising seedlings and each one was then transferred to a 2 litre pot. These have now been transplanted into well prepared soil in outdoor nursery beds and I now look forward, with interest and enthusiasm, to follow their progress throughout the Spring and Summer this year.



Gareth Davies



Wow that's quite a gallery of beautiful blooms Gareth. I really hope that some of them make the grade and find their way onto the market

*Jobs for
March*

Continue planting bare root roses

Get all pruning finished

Spring feed your roses

Visit the website shop for Spring rose care products



For website
shop

[Return to index](#)

Winter Zoom Meetings 2025



MEET THE BREEDERS

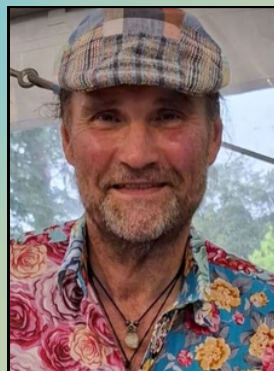


It all happens in MARCH!

We kick off on 6th March with Thomas Proll from Kordes Rosen in Germany. Martin Stott will once again be welcoming our guests and posing the questions



use QR code to register for the first Meet the Breeders Zoom



Rosa Eskalund and Ann Velle feature in Zoom Talk Two on 13th March

Chris Warner and Catherine Shaw feature in Zoom Talk Three on 13th March



registration details and login will be emailed to all members for next events on 13th and 20th March

2025 summer

WEEKENDER

As disappointing as it was that we had to postpone
our visit to Rochester Cathedral

We have a great weekend lined up for you in Hertfordshire

We're inviting our members to spend Saturday at
Rochford's International Rose Trials

We . . .

will be greeted with
beverages and snacks

will learn why do we judge,
how do we judge and
we'll show you how

will enjoy a
fish and chip lunch
(with alternatives)

will have
full programme of
talks and fun

can then visit a
garden and event
on Sunday

2025 summer

WEEKENDER

**We have a great weekend lined up
for you in Hertfordshire**

After an entertaining and educational Saturday at

Rochford's International Rose Trials

**Make a weekend of it by staying at one of our
suggested local hotels before joining us at Knebworth House
on Sunday 15th June**

Where we will enjoy;

**gardens and park
entrance
(house entry
optional extra)**

**Father's Day
Medieval Jousting
Tournemaent
included**

**Cost to members
£35 per person
will include all
Saturday and Sunday
events**

**CLICK
HERE**

**CLICK
HERE**

**For info about
Knebworth Gardens**

**For info about
Medieval Jousting**



The Rose Society UK is so grateful to Paul and Katy Rochford for agreeing to host this year's Summer Rose Event.

We know that we will have a super 'rosy' time at the Rochford Nursery. The trials will be just coming into bloom and our programme for the day will include expert instruction on why the trials are carried out, how the roses are judged and what happens next? All members, after instruction, will then have the chance to look at, and judge the roses on trial (remember there are three years of trial roses to see plus future Rose of the Year and Gold Standard rose entries). We will also have some 'fun' talks to keep everyone smiling.

All beverages and food is included for the Rochfords visit.

We have included in our weekender, a special priced entry to Knebworth House for a fun-packed Father's Day. In addition to the magnificent gardens and park, we will be able to enjoy a Medieval Jousting Tournament.

All booking details will be sent by email and bookable on the Society website shop.

Disclaimer

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The Rose Society UK cannot guarantee accuracy or endorse external content."