

THE DOWER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

JULY ISSUE



BEN'S GARDENING NEWS



July, and the year is halfway through and the garden is full of blooms Cosmos, delphiniums, sweet peas and roses are at their glorious best. There are four standard roses in the physio garden called Lady Emma Hamilton. These roses are full of lovely blooms, the colour palette is spectacular and the scent is very special.

Over the last month Terry and I have worked the garden, all the borders have been weeded, the banks and ditches have been strimmed and shrubs have been trimmed. We will start again with the borders in the top carpark, then work towards the physio garden and onwards. Now that the Iris are over it gives us

chance to cut back all the flower spikes and weed in-between them all. The Iris were a true showstopper this year, so I have included a photo taken at their best to remind us. We have also been keeping a close eye on our pots. As they are newly planted, they need regular watering and deadheading. Our pots are full of plants so they will soon produce many blooms.

As you go round the garden you will notice Terry has built a new frame around the bench by the pond. It's a lovely place to sit and listen to the sound of the waterfall, observe the water lilies and if you're lucky you may see the dragonflies. I'm always down by the pond around 2.00pm to feed the fish so please come over and have a go. As you look across the grounds from the conservatory towards the well, you will notice the frame that Terry built last year for the rose that was lying on top of the hedge. The rose is now trained up and along the frame and is now full of small white flowers with many more to come. We also have clematis growing up the other side of the frame. As it begins to flower both the rose and clematis take the frame over and it will become a wall of blooms.

Over the next month we will continue working through the garden pruning, weeding and keeping the garden in top condition. Hopefully we will get some rainy days, so the lawns and borders get a good soaking. We do as much watering from the well as we can but there is nothing like a good downpour through the night and a full day of sun to really make the garden grow.



MRS LYWOODS NEWS FROM BATH



In all my 86 years, these are the best sweet peas that I have ever had. After one of my garden talks a few years ago, a member came and spoke to me, telling me of a sweet pea grower they had met at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Just before lockdown, we went to Glastonbury to collect them from a couple, who are retired farmers, that have been growing sweet peas on their grandfather's land, for 20 years. Growing over 50 varieties of sweet pea, in the village of Kerton.

Their scent is like no other, the colours and the formation of the petals are

extremely delicate and unusual. The stems are the longest we have ever seen, making them exemplary for cut flower arranging.

Best wishes to you all



JULY ACTIVITIES

Thursday 2nd July – Matrons Afternoon Tea will be held at 3.00pm, where we can all get together for a chat over a cup of tea and a slice of cake. Venue to be confirmed near the time.

Tuesday and Thursday each week Anytime Club will be showing a film in the drawing room at 2.45pm.

THIS MONTHS FILMS



The Crown traces the life of Queen Elizabeth II from her wedding in 1947 through to the early 2000s. Season three covers the time period between **1964 and 1977**, beginning with Harold Wilson 's election as prime minister and ending with the Silver Jubilee of Elizabeth II.

I found this article in the The Worthy's Parish Magazine and thought it would be lovely to share as The Dower House is situated on the same road.

The last “Shack and Track” houses of Springvale

Kings Worthy residents will be very much aware of the demolition of the three bungalows on Springvale Road (numbers 99-103) and the building work now going on for development of 13 new houses on the site.

Two of three bungalows on the site were believed to be the last of what became known as the “Shack and Track” developments in Kings Worthy. The term “Shack and Track” describes the housing developments that sprung up on the outskirts of towns and villages, after the First World War and mainly in the 1920s and 1930s, when there was a desperate need for new housing. It is thought that the two outside bungalows were built in the early 1930s and the middle was built later in the 1960s.



Before the bungalows were demolished, the Rackham family who owned them kindly allowed members of the Worthys Local History Group to look around and take photos. The dwellings had obviously been upgraded through the years, but they retained much of their simplicity with the remains of the outside privies, the coal holes and the pig sheds still to be seen. As with most of the shack and track dwellings, there was plenty of space for small holdings and many people grew their own produce and kept a few farm animals.

Late last year, an archaeological survey of the site was undertaken before work on the new development was started. It is possible but difficult to prove conclusively that the elusive Roman aqueduct may have traversed some of the site on its way to bring water to Winchester from the Itchen Valley.

Much of the Springvale area of Kings Worthy is sited on the old Hookpit Farm estate which was centred on what is now the area of Hookpit Farm Lane, Cundell Road, Larch, Maple, Sycamore and Springvale Road. It covered an area of 430 acres, bordered by Lovedon Lane, Stoke Charity Road and Nations Hill and was bought by Frank Cundell Blake, a local surveyor and auctioneer for £7,000 in 1919 after the estate owner, Captain Fryer had died.

Frank started to sell off his plots as soon as he could, to cover the cost of his investment and by 1921 there were 40 new landowners, most of whom owned two acres or less. Eleven years later another 60 building plots had been created. Most of these were down Springvale Road, up to Nations Hill. Many of the new homes were cheaply built from wood and corrugated iron with some of the building materials being obtained from old army huts left over from the war.

To support these new dwellings, Springvale Road itself needed to be improved as up until the 1920s the road frequently flooded (nothing new under the sun!) and the large pond on Hookpit Farm (on the corner of Hookpit Farm Lane and Springvale) regularly overflowed. Children often could not walk to school and had to rely on being given a lift by local residents, Mr Sparks on his horse-drawn cart!

It took the whole of the intervening war years for Springvale Road, Lovedon Lane and Nations Hill to be brought up to a standard good enough for vehicles to drive safely, and culverts by the side of the roads to help with the worst of the flooding were not completed until 1936.

History shows us that some things never change, Springvale still floods, the roads still require regular maintenance which takes a time to happen, local shops come and go, and houses continue to be built. Kings Worthy though continues to thrive; neighbours continue to care, and a happy community lives on

JULY QUIZ

1. Shannon Airport is in which European country?
2. Nora Batty was a character in which long-running TV comedy?
3. Murrayfield Stadium is in which British city?
4. In which sport may a player score a birdie, eagle or albatross?
5. Goal shooter, goal attack and wing attack are playing positions in which sport?
6. The underwater city of Bikini Bottom is the setting for which popular children's cartoon?
7. Colombo is the largest city of which Asian country?
8. Which sci-fi character has been played on the big screen by Leonard Nimoy and more recently by Zachary Quinto?
9. How many English monarchs have been called Edward?
10. In Tolkien's 'The Hobbit', what type of fictional creature is Smaug?
11. Carrow Road is the home ground of which English football team?
12. The 'Financial Times' newspaper is printed on what colour paper?
13. For what is 'the dunny' an Australian slang term?
14. The Canary Islands are a region of which country?
15. In the popular video game series, what type of animal is Sonic?
16. Greens, fairways and bunkers are part of the setting for which sport?
17. Which UK city was the venue for the 2014 Commonwealth Games?
18. Ramsay Street is the setting for which TV soap?
19. The Great Barrier Reef lies off the coast of which country?
20. Which pair of superheroes are known as the 'Dynamic Duo'?

ANSWERS

1. Ireland
2. Last of the Summer Wine
3. Edinburgh
4. Golf
5. Netball
6. SpongeBob SquarePants
7. Sri Lanka
8. Mr. Spock
9. Eight
10. Dragon
11. Norwich City
12. Pink
13. The toilet
14. Spain
15. Hedgehog
16. Golf
17. Glasgow
18. Neighbours
19. Australia
20. Batman and Robin