



# Bench Newsletter

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## **NEXT MEETING**

Friday May 5th 2017

### **Annual General Meeting**

Horticultural Hall

#### **Program**

All entries received from: 7.30 am to 9.30 am – please observe.

Stewards only in the hall from: 9.45 am

Judging commences at: 10.00 am

Exhibits open to the public from: 12.30 pm to 1pm

Tea for Members: 1pm to 2pm

AGM award ceremony: 2.00pm

#### **Flower Arrangement Title**

Class A – ‘Sailing into Summer’ – 24” x 24” no height restriction

Class B – ‘Colour Burst’ – no size restriction

Class C – ‘Where the Butterflies Dance’ 15” x 15” no height restriction

Thursday May 4th 2017

#### **SET UP**

Horticultural Hall

Set Up for the Friday meeting

9 – 10 AM

## Officers 2016 – 2017

### President

Peter J.Holmes [holmes@northrock.bm](mailto:holmes@northrock.bm)

### Vice President - Programs - Bench Chair

Clare Russell [crussellbermuda@gmail.com](mailto:crussellbermuda@gmail.com)

### Treasurer & Past President

Marijke Peterich [peterich@northrock.bm](mailto:peterich@northrock.bm)

### Immediate Past President

Diana Antonition [diana.antonition@gmail.com](mailto:diana.antonition@gmail.com)

### Recording Secretary

Judy Howells [jhowells@northrock.bm](mailto:jhowells@northrock.bm)

### Tulo Valley Coordinator & Team Leader Book Sales

Essie Hans Past President [ccd@northrock.bm](mailto:ccd@northrock.bm)

### Rose Sales Coordinator

Pat Thomas [lethomas@logic.bm](mailto:lethomas@logic.bm)

### Waterville Coordinator

Lisa Marshall [lmarshall@northrock.bm](mailto:lmarshall@northrock.bm)

### Member

John Howells [johnhowells@northrock.bm](mailto:johnhowells@northrock.bm)

### Past President & Member

Eugene Rayner [eugenerayner@gmail.com](mailto:eugenerayner@gmail.com)

### Bermuda Rose Society Flower Arranging Schedule 2017

Exhibitors may bring in bench exhibits and competitive flower arrangements Between 8.00 am and 9.15 am on the morning of the meeting. Exhibitors must vacate the area by 9.15 am so that judging may begin promptly at 9.45 am Meeting to begin at 11.00am

### May 5th 2017 Annual General Meeting

**Class A - 'Sailing into Summer' - 24" x 24" no height restriction**

**Class B - 'Colour Burst' - no size restriction**

**Class C - 'Where the Butterflies Dance' 15" x 15" no height restriction**

### For all months except the AGM in May sizes are :-

Class A - 24" wide x 24" deep, NO height restriction.

Class B - 15" wide x 15" deep x 15" high.

Class C - 9" wide x 9" deep x 9" high, design must be more than 4" high, wide and deep this does not apply to the diagonal dimension.

**Class D - Shadow Box** - The aim is to create a 'Picture' within a frame, no titles are given. The plant material may extend forward out of the box to create a 3D effect but must NOT touch the Interior or Frame of the box.

**PROGRAM for 2017**

Thursday May 4th 2017

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x 15” no height restriction

## Guess the Rose Competition

Shown in our April 7th Newsletter was

### **BESSIE'S ROSE**

This yellow Hybrid Tea came to Bermuda in a bouquet of roses from un-named, unregistered Hybrid Tea seedlings at the Rose Test Gardens of the New York Botanic Garden. Considered unsuccessful, these seedlings were subsequently destroyed. The bouquet had been presented to Miss Bessie Ramsbottom during a visit to the Test Gardens. One rose was propagated by her nephew, Basil Hall, and has adapted fairly well to Bermuda conditions. It grows into a sturdy bush up to 5ft.(1.5m) tall. Leaves are dark green and glossy. New growth is burgundy. The blooms open from pointed buds and are a delicate clear yellow colour. Sets large round orange hips. This rose was named "Bessie's Rose" on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1994.



## Rose News

### Black Plastic Pots

Tulo Valley is still looking for 1 gall pots, 1 1/2 gall pots, 2 gall pots and 3 gall pots Please look around your garden, make sure they are clean and bagged up please deliver to Tulo Valley or drop of to Peter Holmes, 13 Tee Street.

### Rose Sale

**Our next rose sale will be held at Tulo Valley Nursery April 29th 8-30 am to 10 am all are welcome. Please call me if you can donate any roses to the sale 537-2000. Thanks to all those who have helped to make this happen.**

### Beautifying Waterville! Companion plants were planted

Thanks to the following wonderful people who helped to plant companion plants to beautify Waterville Rose Garden for America's Cup.

Diana Hindess

James Jardine

Felicity Holmes

Bridget Jardine

Janet Jeffrey

### Montrose Mews clean up for Ag Show Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April Many

Thanks also to the following wonderful people who helped to clean, paint and set up the Mews for the Ag Show.

John Howells

Marijke Peterich

Pat Thomas

Felicity Holmes

Diana Hindess

Susan Swift

Jo Linberg

Millicent Ardis

Robert Masters

Diana Antonition

Jeanette Vallis

Peter Holmes

Waterville team is looking for a volunteer to **help water** our new companion plants on **Saturdays in May and June**, contact Felicity Holmes 737 2000 please!

Felicity has black jacket and rectangular plate left at Red Barracks, grey sweater left at Montrose Mews, and turquoise umbrella, they will be at the AGM

Below are details of a couple of rose tours in the north of England at the end of June if any body is interested I am sure you would be made very welcome.

**HISTORIC ROSES GROUP**  
**NORTH OF ENGLAND SUMMER VISITS 2017**  
**Thurs 29 - Fri 30 June**

*Dear member,*

*Arrangements have now been made for two visits to gardens in the north of England with good displays of old roses. As on previous "northern" outings, the visits have been arranged "back to back" so that those travelling from a greater distance could look for suitable overnight accommodation in this attractive area.*

**Thursday 29th June 2.00pm: Jackson's Wold, Sherburn, near Malton, North Yorkshire.**

**Visit with afternoon tea in Sarah and Richard Cundall's extensive and unusual garden with a multitude of exclusively old roses. Sarah's mother is Mrs June Baxter, of St Andrews, and members who came on the HRG Scottish tour in 2011 may recall a very enjoyable reception in Mrs Baxter's delightful rose-filled 'lang rigg' (long town garden).**

**Friday 30th June, 11am: Alnwick Castle Gardens, Alnwick, Northumberland.**

**Met by Trevor Jones, head gardener, who will give a short talk on the roses and their care at Alnwick. These huge redesigned gardens are noted for their modern water-works and cascades, plus many other features including its 'Poison Garden', and rose gardens, especially the walled garden overflowing with roses. There is a good proportion of older shrub and rambler varieties in the planting, plus many Austin varieties, and the garden shows how well roses of all ages look together. The overall impact at this peak time should be stunning.**

***Early expressions of interest please to John West who will give further details:  
[home@JohnWestLtd.co.uk](mailto:home@JohnWestLtd.co.uk)***

***Sent on behalf of John West  
Chairman of the Northern group of the HRG***

***With very best wishes***

***Kathleen Earley  
HRG***

Photos from our Tea Meeting held at Red Barracks St George,s



Mine Hosts



Teapot arrangements





Orchids in Slathouse



Entrance to Chinese garden



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Red Barracks conversion into a home started in 1999 by Rose Society members, Michael Spurling and Micheal Whittle. It is situated on what is commonly known as the Spurling Compound on Speakers Drive, right on the waters of St George's Harbour. There are five homes shortly to be joined by a new cottage on the compound, all occupied by members of the Spurling family; the sons and relations of Sir Dudley Spurling, A former Speaker to the House of Parliament. Many thanks to Mike and Mike allowing the The Bermuda Rose Society to hold their annual Tea Party with an Teapot arrangement & decorated hat contest in their beautiful home and grounds. Both Mike & Mike are passionate gardeners spending time in their garden when not traveling.

Below is some background on the property.

## RED BARRACKS – a little history

### *The House and Surroundings*

Believed to have been constructed during the US Civil War time boom in St. Georges, the building, now a residence, was built as a warehouse with a commercial style wharf on the foreshore. A rectangular two story building with no stair well and large doors to accept large crates clearly indicated its original purpose.

*On the video you will find a framed photograph clearly showing the building under construction – the rafter feet are being finished. Also clearly visible is the old shipyard in the distance, now owned by Will Lawrence but always known to us as “Meyers”. The photo also shows a number of other stone buildings dotted around all of which have disappeared but we discovered many foundations during the conversion process. Those with the knowledge have suggested that the tree cover of cedars clearly indicates mid 19<sup>th</sup> century – they are sparse and low. Also discovered during the conversion process were seams of coal dust below ground, some over 18” in depth, along with granite rocks in the fill – probably ballast rocks from England dropped on shore when not needed and put to good use.*

The property originally comprised Crown Land and part of what is still (although rarely) called Secretary's Point. The earliest deeds in the family's possession are dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 1758 and comprise a “Royal Instruction of His Majesty King George II bearing date at the Court of Kensington setting apart land for the use of the Secretary and Provost Marshall General”. Its during this period that the property housed a barracks of “Red Coats”, hence the name “**Red Barracks**” which has stuck ever since and which I decided to maintain as the name of the house.

The property was “granted” to Andrew Belcher, a merchant of London, England on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1812 – presumably as part of a disposal of Crown Land to help finance the Napoleonic Wars. It was sold to the “wife of Edward Speer and Robert Archescn” in 1833, then to Thomas Aleck and others in 1864. At some time between then and the 1890's the property was conveyed to Robert Harley James by Edgar Campbell Zuill. In 1950 the property was conveyed to my uncle, Stewart Spurling, and my father, Sir Dudley Spurling, who owned the adjacent properties to the east. Finally, it entered the sole ownership of Sir Dudley in 1956 following the death of Stewart. The property immediately to the north comprising the vegetable garden and recently built house known as Crow's Nest (built by Chris Spurling, son of the late Stephen Spurling) was owned by the Wilkinson Estate and acquired by Sir Dudley in the 60's.

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We will also be welcoming the new incoming board under the leadership of

President Clare Russell

Vice President John Howells

Treasurer Marijke Peterich

Secretary Judy Howells

Past President Peter J Holmes

Our awards this year will be presented by our very own  
Lady Lully Gibbons