

# **THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD**

**Founded in 1892**

The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present

## **Events of 1986**

**Published in 1987**

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Number 91**

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**Royal Botanic Gardens  
Kew**

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## ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

### THE KEW GUILD COMMITTEE 1986-87

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President: J. B. E. Simmons, M.Hort.(RHS), F.I.Hort., C.Biol., M.I.Biol., V.M.H.  
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#### Committee Members:

##### *Retire 1987*

A. G. Burgess      Whitchurch  
 J. O. Taylor      New Zealand  
 M. J. Whitehead   Merrist Wood  
 J. R. Woodhams    Kew

##### *Retire 1988*

D. J. Breach      Pinner  
 E. G. Evemy      Hanwell  
 F. J. Hebden      Australia  
 Miss L. Bustard   Kew

##### *Retire 1989*

M. A. Arnold-Gilliat   Kew  
 K. R. Jones      Ashford  
 K. F. Pearson      London  
 K. R. Woolliams      Hawaii

##### *Retire 1990*

M. J. S. Sands      Kew  
 Rev. H. Flower      Woking  
 C. Hindmarch      Romsey  
 T. C. Müller      Zimbabwe

Award Scheme Chairman: W. E. Storey

Events Officer: D. J. Breach

Badges and Emblems: S. J. Henchie

Honorary Auditors: D. V. Field, H. J. Fliegner

Students' Union Representatives: K. Parker, Miss R. Ransom

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How do you like this Journal?

Have you contributed this time?

Can you help update the address list or unknown addresses of members?

What do you think should be changed, and how?

Is your standing order, payable 1st January annually, up to date and for the correct amount? (£7).

When did you last attend the Annual Dinner or A.G.M.? Or, indeed, the Royal Botanic Gardens?!

The strength of the Kew Guild is *your* action. Please act *now*, and help make your Kew Guild even stronger, and more enjoyable and accurate for all.

My thanks to all contributors for their help in this edition. Please read all the detail and the mass of information that this Journal contains.

And keep in touch!

Richard C. Ward  
*Hon. Editor*

**NOTE**

Subscriptions and change of address to the Membership Treasurer: Miss E. H. Smith, Kew Guild, The Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AE.

Other correspondence to the Secretary: Mrs W. E. Worth, 20 West Park Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4AL.

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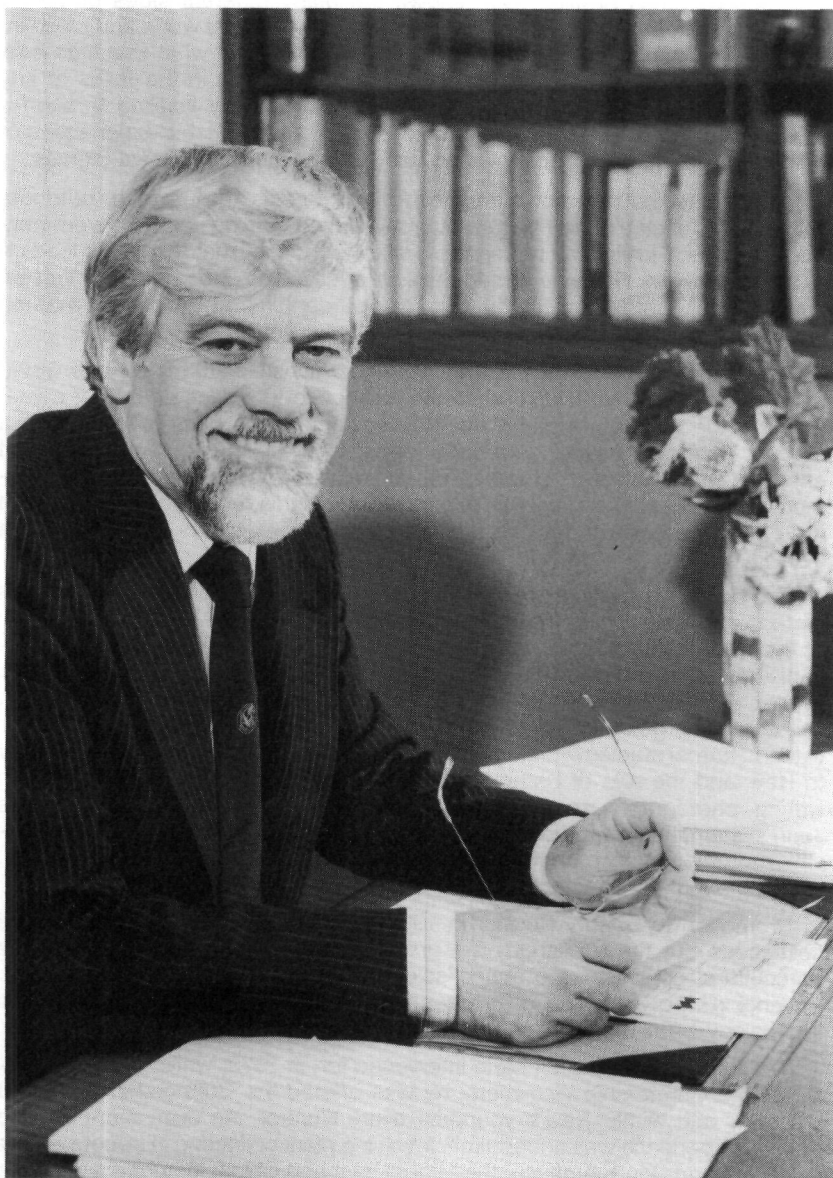
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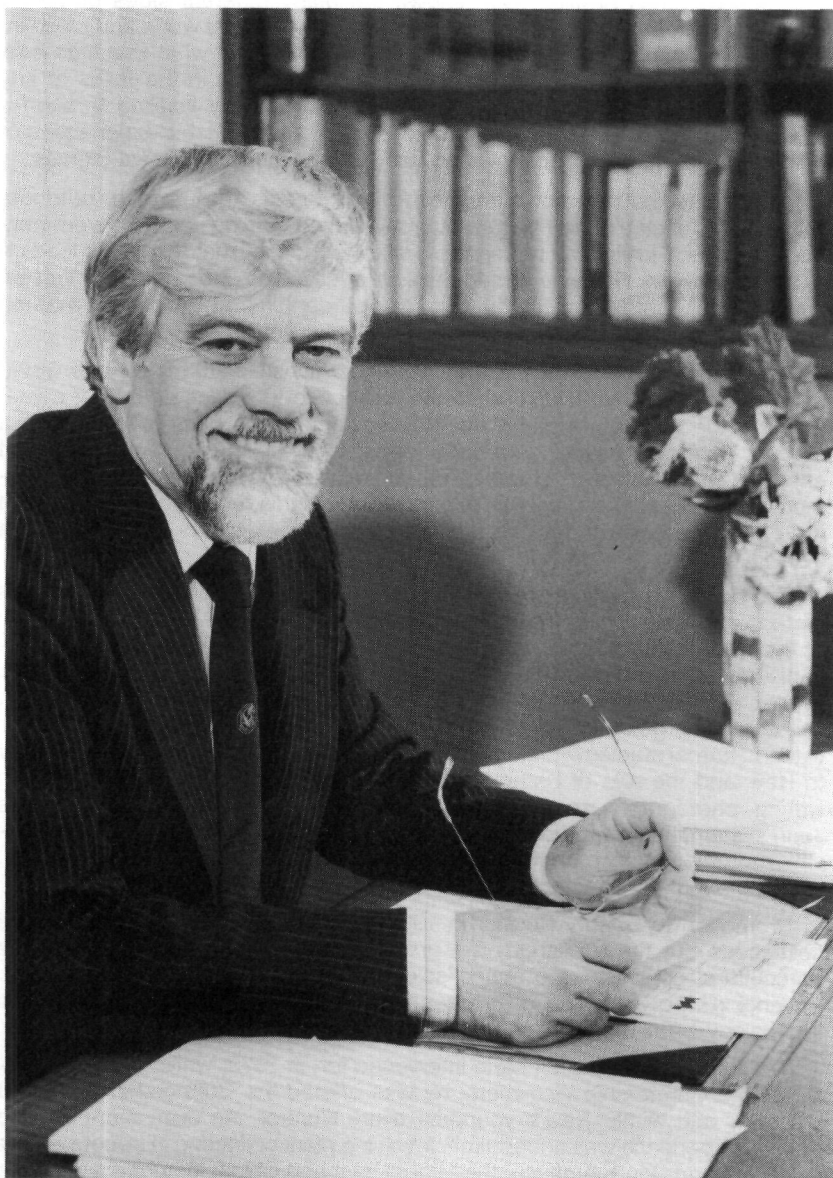
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President 1986/87



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Frequent press profiles have shown the many different sides of John's character, but, at his core is an enduring love of the natural world and pleasure in creative achievement. Born in 1937, and growing up in what was then rural Middlesex, his childhood could be summarised as 'out in the fields at any excuse'. However the disciplines of life were eventually instilled through a scholarship to Harrow's strict grammar school, and the later experiences of horticultural college, polytechnic and national service in the Royal Signals.

Though medical research competed for his interests, the lure of the outdoors favoured his choice of horticulture. A broad-based training in local government parks work at Ruislip was undertaken with the thought that this could lead on to a place at Kew. However, before this was realised he chose to marry Valerie, knowing also that this would bar him from studentship at Kew, since married students were not accepted.

A year's work experience at Kew seemed a sensible alternative and would help with plans to work abroad, but Kew changed its rules and, after a year spent in the Arboretum and Palm House, John found himself starting as a student instead of travelling abroad. Settling down to the course he achieved an examination average of over 71% as well as succeeding with the Intermediate NDH and Certificate of Arboriculture. At this time, though quite keen to leave, he succumbed to the offer of a post as Supervisor in charge of the tropical nursery.

The tropical nursery offered a welcome challenge and it was with ease that he learned to recognise the thousands of different species in his charge and of their needs and origins. After three years, having completed his NDH finals in his first year, and extended the base of his biological studies, the appeal of a post abroad was yet again eclipsed by promotion to become Assistant Curator in charge of the Temperate House and nursery. A new range of plants to learn, further studies in biology, and the emergence of a stronger commitment to Kew and the rôle of botanic gardens, along with developing interests in writing, photography and drawing. Although only in the post for three years John systematically reorganised the collections, sorting an accumulated verification problem, which came when the Palm House was added to his charge, and applied many new technical practices.

Promotion to Deputy Curator in 1968 meant separation from his beloved collections but the challenge was great. The need was to revitalise Kew's horticulture, establishing a sound scientific and technical base to its work. Advancing his own knowledge in areas such as management and environmental technology — the process that was to transform the living collections began.

Yet again Kew's unseen hand intervened for, in 1972, whilst seriously considering a Curatorship elsewhere, he was offered the Curatorship of Kew at the early age of 35; Kew's youngest every Curator. An even more applied training experience was undertaken, involving plant collecting in remote places in Central and South America, the Middle East and China, lecturing and acting

as consultant to newly developing gardens in the tropics, and writing a very successful educational book on plants that has since been used extensively in schools worldwide.

The result of these and other experiences has been a continuing succession of developments; the conservation-orientation and qualitative expansion of the collections, the establishment of field collecting programmes, comprehensive plant records, advanced propagation and new nurseries, mechanisation, training at every level, reorganised and structured staffing, new interpretive and ecosystem displays and international meetings, all underpinning the evolution of the gardens and botanical reserve at Wakehurst, the standing of the School of Horticulture and the rebuilding of the Gardens at Kew. Now, as building developments reach their peak, it can be seen that little of the gardens has not been touched or protected by his hand. An open door approach that allowed Kew's horticulture to regain its depth and relevance to today's needs and once again to become a major influence in the world of botanic gardens.

His joy in horticulture is undiminished, and still, now as President-Elect of the Institute of Horticulture, member of several of the Royal Horticultural Society's judging and award committees, Council member of the N.C.C.P.G., visiting committee member of Longwood Gardens, sought after broadcaster, lecturer and adviser, his aim is still to ensure Kew's pre-eminence.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD**

by **Winifred E. Worth**, Hon. Secretary

On Saturday, 13th September 1986, 36 members assembled in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre for the Annual General Meeting. The President, Dr. M. Y. Stant, took the Chair, accompanied on the platform by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. W. E. Worth and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. E. Storey.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members then stood in tribute to Kewites whose death had been made known to the Secretary since the last meeting: J. Allen (1961), R. W. Balch (1939), J. R. Bett (1952), Prof. J. P. M. Brenan (1981), J. S. L. Gilmour (1946), J. G. Grant (1928), H. Hall (1933), C. Hilton (1971), W. J. C. Lawrence (1924), G. J. Leith (1937), D. H. Ransom (1925), D. Saville (1923), J. G. Short (1940), J. Watson (1928).

*Apologies for absence* were received from Prof. E. A. Bell, Mrs. E. J. Cowley, The Hon. J. D. Eccles, The Rev. H. Flower, E. A. Grant, F. N. Hepper, K. R. Jones, D. S. MacGuffog, Dr. C. R. Metcalf, E. W. B. H. Milne-Redhead, J. B. Mowforth, R. K. Mowforth, Dr. N. Robinson, Dr. D. J. Sales, A. D. Schilling, Miss E. H. Smith, C. R. Stock, Mrs. E. M. Wakefield.

The *Minutes* of the A.G.M. of 1985 were then adopted.

The Committee then reported as follows:

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. E. Storey, presented the *accounts for the year ended 31st December 1985* which are shown in the Journal for 1985. Mr. Storey drew members' attention to the form of presenting the accounts which brought them into line with current accounting practice and, he hoped, made them easier to understand. He pointed out the success of the Wakehurst

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Booklet which was selling well, but he also drew attention to the loss on the Annual Dinner and the increased cost of producing the 1984 Journal. However, the financial situation was very satisfactory with an excess of income over expenditure for the year approaching £3,000.

As for the accounts for the half year ending 30th June 1986, Mr. Storey reported a much reduced loss of less than £100 on the Dinner and a considerably increased cost of producing the 1985 Journal. This meant that the cost of the Journal had doubled in two years and exceeded subscription income by about £1,000. The incoming committee will consider how to bring the situation into better balance without detracting from the current excellence of the Journal.

Mr. Storey also reported that 10 Past Presidents' Badges had been purchased for re-sale at cost to those who wished to have one. Beautifully crafted, enamel on silver, they were designed by Mr. C. J. Michelmore who also paid for the cast of the die.

Mr. Storey said that sales of the Wakehurst Booklet had accelerated yet again in 1986, and that he had invested £6,000 of Award Scheme funds with the Charity Commissioners to secure higher interest than the Bank would allow.

In conclusion, he reported receipt of a cheque for 516 dollars and 4 cents which, converted to Sterling, yielded £342.07, and represented the residual funds of The Association of Kew Gardeners in America which wound up its affairs this year. This Association was founded as long ago as 1917, and its long life bears testimony to the welcome extended for many years to Kewites by America. Now, after almost 70 years, age has compelled its surviving members to close a remarkable chapter and, in so doing, they chose to honour The Kew Guild as recipient of their funds.

Members were touched by the generosity of this gesture and applauded vigorously.

The President thanked Mr. Storey for his excellent guardianship of the Guild's financial affairs; this the members unanimously endorsed.

Mr. S. Henchie reported the sale of only one item, a tie, during the year.

Mr. Storey, on behalf of the *Membership Treasurer*, Miss Smith, reported that membership had increased this year, and that student membership was now higher than for a number of years. A start was being made on computerising the address list; this would facilitate the bulk mailing of notices and Journals.

The Editor, Mr. R. C. Ward, commenting on the increased cost of the *Journal* pointed out that costs could be kept lower if contributors would adhere to the 'copy' deadline of January 1st. Material which had to be inserted later added considerably to labour costs. The printers, he said, were very helpful in trying to keep costs down; it was up to members to do their part by sending in their articles early. Members expressed their thanks to Mr. Ward for putting in so much time and effort to produce the Journal.

*Annual Dinner.* In the absence of Mr. Breach, Events Officer, there was no formal report of this event, but members who had been present said how very enjoyable it had been and how well Mr. Breach had organised it.

As chairman of the *Award Scheme Committee*, Mr. Storey reported that, thanks to proceeds from the sale of the Wakehurst Booklet and to many donations including nearly £200 by the students themselves, the fund now held



capital in excess of £10,000. This meant that, using the interest only, the committee would have about £1,000 available for awards next year. This year four students had been granted awards: R. Mitchell, M. Maunder, L. Searle and Miss S. Rutherford. (Details of these awards appear later in the Journal). Mr. Storey said it was gratifying to find that the fact that students could show they were supported by the Guild had helped them to get sponsorship from other organisations. He asked members to let the committee know of any institutions or charities which students might approach. Mr. Storey then thanked the committee for their work during the year and their efforts for the soirée which would follow the meeting. Members expressed agreement with Mr. Cherry who said the Award Scheme was the most positive thing the Guild had done for many years.

*Revision of the Rules* — The President, referring to the resolutions put forward at the last AGM by Mr. Ward for certain alterations to be made, reminded members that they had referred the matter back to the committee for further consideration. The committee had decided that a complete revision of the working of the Rules would be appropriate, and a sub-committee had been appointed to do this. With the help of a solicitor this is being carried out. The draft would then have to be approved by the Charity Commissioners. It was hoped that this would be completed in time to bring the Revision before the next AGM for members' consideration.

*Election of Officers, Members of the Committee and Auditor:*

The President thanked the officers and the retiring members of the committee: Messrs. J. R. Craig, H. J. Fliegner, W. T. Preston and T. J. Cole as well as Mrs. J. Cowley as Auditor, Mr. M. Maunder (Student Representative) and Mr. A. P. Dunball as Vice-President for their help and support during their terms of office. She then asked for the members' approval of the committee's nominations for the coming year which appeared on the agenda. This was readily given. (The names of those appointed appear at the beginning of the Journal.)

In handing over the Presidential badge of office to John Simmons, Dr. Stant said she was sure that he would receive the same support, and would enjoy his year of office as much as she had.

In accepting the office of President, John Simmons expressed his appreciation of the honour bestowed upon him by the Guild and hoped that, at this particular time of high demand on and achievement by the staff at Kew, it would prove possible to extend staff participation in Guild activities. He felt that more than any other initiative of recent years, the Award Scheme had shown the way to the benefits of such participation, and in commending its success he looked forward to further progress by the Guild.

Members expressed their pleasure at having the Curator as the incoming President, and again thanked Dr. Stant for all she had done for the Guild during the past year.

The meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.

## **JOURNAL COSTS**

Members may be interested to know that the current Journal costs £2,750 for 700 copies — nearly £4 per Journal. Receipts from advertising go to the Award Scheme Fund.

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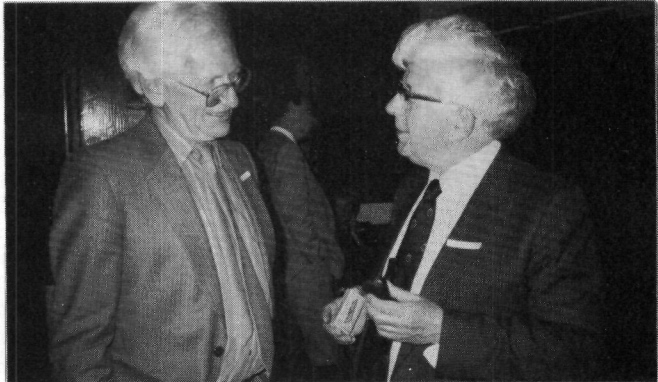
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**SPOTLIGHT ON . . .**



*Left to Right:*  
Curator John  
Simmons, Presi-  
dent Margaret  
Stant, Professor  
John Bleasdale.



*Left to Right:*  
Past-Pres. Prof.  
Keith Jones, Past-  
Pres. C. J. 'Mitch'  
Mitchelmore.



Past-Pres. Ted Storey (not asleep on his feet!).

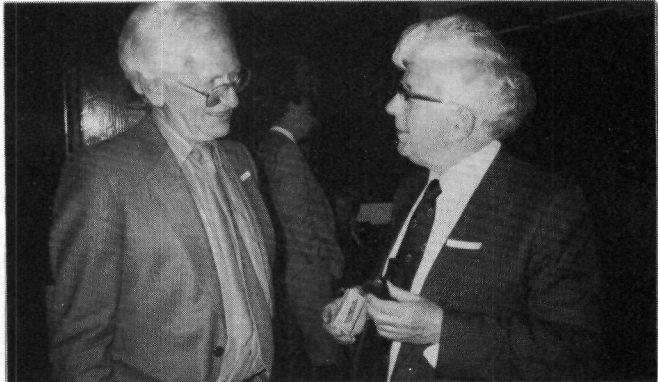


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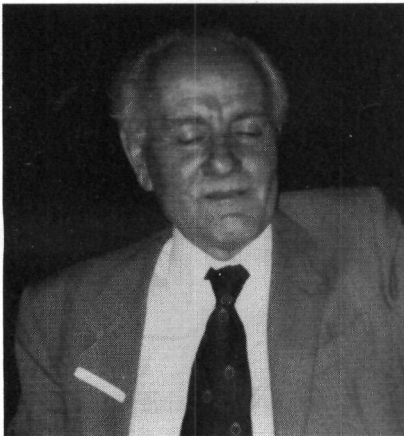
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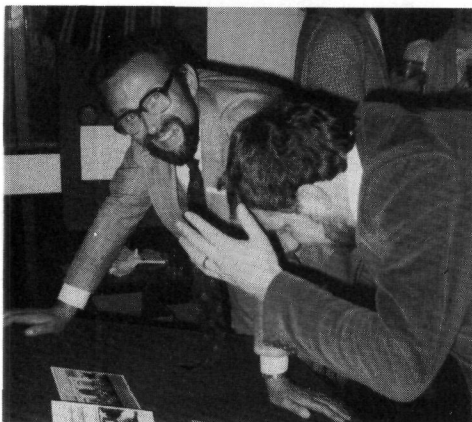


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# ... ANNUAL DINNER



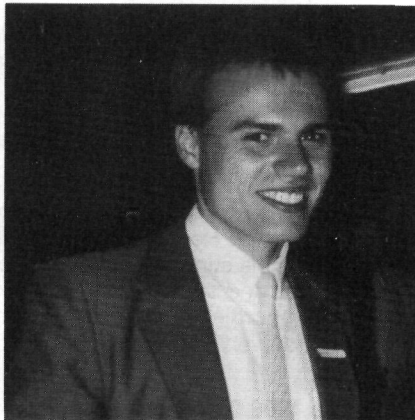
Hon. Secretary Winifred Worth with the Turley Twins (1949)



*Left to Right:*  
Hon. Assistant Secretary Martin Sands,  
"Shop" Stuart Henchie.



Kenwyn Pearson



Students' Union President Gavin Smith

## REPORT OF THE 1986 ANNUAL DINNER

by Derrick Breach

The Annual Dinner was held in the Sherfield Suite at the Imperial College, South Kensington at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 21st May 1986. One hundred and two members and guests attended with 19 students, including the President of the Students Union, and it was a pleasure to welcome Solomon Tubosun who represented overseas members.

Apologies and good wishes were received from several members who were unable to attend and our good wishes were reciprocated in the 'Toast to Absent Friends'. It is indeed a pleasure to remember those members whose age or commitments now prevent them from attending.

After the toast to 'Her Majesty' the Toastmaster proposed a toast to 'Our President', Dr. Margaret Stant, who we learnt was the third lady President of the Guild, but the first peacetime lady President.

In responding to the toast our President reflected upon her long and happy association with Kew and expressed her delight at seeing so many students present and her hope that as many would attend in the future. (The record appears to have been set in 1980 when 32 students attended the Annual Dinner.) She further informed us of her growing interest and expanding rôle in the field of conservation since her retirement from Kew.

The toast to 'Our Guests' was proposed by our President and responded to by the principal guest of honour, Professor J. K. A. Bleasdale, Director of the National Vegetable Research Station and President of the Institute of Horticulture; who proved himself to be an extremely entertaining after dinner speaker as well as a talented scientist. In more serious vein Professor Bleasdale then proposed the toast to the 'Kew Guild', the response to this toast was given by Gavin Smith, President of the Students' Union, who also proposed the toast to 'Absent Friends'.

From the number of people who afterwards adjourned to the bar for further refreshments and social discourse, it appeared that it had been an enjoyable evening which they desired to extend. The preparation and serving of the food and wine and general attentiveness to personal requests was of the usual high standard of the Imperial College Staff, and our sincere thanks go to the Catering Manager and his staff.

Thanks also to Christine Brandt for the delightfully artistic floral arrangements, to Stuart Henchie, who despite other personal arrangements for the evening, did his stint and provided the photographic display and ensured that journals, ties and scarves etc. were available. Lastly a thank you to our 'Toast Master Extraordinaire', Richard Ward, who once again adroitly guided us through the evening's proceedings.

**N.B.** The 1988 Dinner will take place on Wednesday 25th May. Note for your diary — Ed.

## KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME REPORT

W. E. Storey, Chairman

With the Award Scheme now well into its second decade and proving to be perhaps the best, certainly the most positive, achievement in the Guild's long history it might be appropriate to remind everyone that all Guild members may apply for an award, provided only that they have held membership for at least one year.

The objects of the Award Scheme are simply stated — "To help members of the Kew Guild to further their education or widen their interest in horticulture". This is deliberately sufficiently wide to allow members of the sub-Committee considerable discretion when considering applications which could conceivably embrace a range of diverse subjects. All receive careful consideration and are judged on their merits.

In practice, most of the applications in recent years have come from students or junior staff in the Gardens seeking assistance with travel or equipment for horticultural, botanical or ecological expeditions, often to remote parts of the globe, sometimes alone but usually as a member of a team from Kew or other scientific body. To me, this is pleasing as it means that the recipients are capable energetic young people likely to contribute substantially to the profession in the years to come.

Applicants invariably put a large part of their own resources into their projects and seek an award to cover at least part of the anticipated short-fall which, in the case of a major expedition, might be very substantial indeed. Whilst it is unlikely that the Guild will ever be in a position to fund an expedition in its entirety, experience has shown that granting an award is in itself an excellent lubricant for the wheels of other charities and the sub-Committee is keen to examine the possibilities of closer inter-charity co-operation.

The sub-Committee which, of course, answers to the Guild Committee, is broadly based and each member steps down after a maximum of four years service. This year, membership consists of myself, Kenwyn Pearson, Peter Maunder (all ex-Kew), Penny Hammond, Jenny Evans (students) and David Field (Herbarium). The President and Treasurer are ex-officio members.

Four awards were made in 1986, all to students embarking on overseas expeditions considered to be of direct benefit not only to the recipients but also to Kew and horticulture generally. They went to Robert Mitchell (Solomon Islands £300), Michael Maunder (Somalia £200), Sarah Rutherford (Sri Lanka £80) and Lester Searle (West Germany £50). Accounts of their experiences appear elsewhere in the Journal.

Money for awards comes from interest on invested capital and showed a gratifying increase in 1986. Thanks to the continued interest, efforts and generosity of Guild members a further substantial increase is predicted for 1987, but we should like to be able to do still more. So, please keep up the good work, funds are a long way from satiation!

In conclusion, I want to express warmest thanks to all sub-Committee members for hard work and loyal support throughout the year and particularly for providing the excellent buffet supper after the A.G.M. This was preceded by a fascinating "behind the scenes" tour conducted by John Simmons and John Woodhams, a great privilege which earned for each our warmest thanks.



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## PRESENTATION OF THE KEW DIPLOMAS AND PRIZES 1986 (Course 20)

The introduction by the Director, Professor E. A. Bell, was followed by an address by Lord Skelmersdale, who also presented the prizes.

### THE KEW DIPLOMA

#### Honours

I. Fisher	M. Maunder
Ms. H. Griffiths	R. Mitchell
A. Jackson	P. Nicholson

#### Credit

M. Biggs	M. Hurt
Ms. B. Clifford	M. Sparrow
G. Fraser	J. Walker
S. Gamble	Ms. J. Wicks
E. Giles	

#### Pass

Ms. C. Kernan

#### International Certificate

Mrs. S. M. Goonetilleke	K. M. Mwangi
M. Hüttenmoser	F. J. Pablo Salvat

### PRIZES

The Ernest Thornton-Smith Travelling Scholarship .....	R. Mitchell
Henry Idris Mathews Scholarship .....	G. Smith
Hozelock-ASL Prize .....	D. Pearson
G. C. Johnson Memorial Prize .....	A. Jackson
Kingdon-Ward Prize .....	I. Fisher
Landsman Bookshop Prize .....	M. Hurt
Sir Joseph Hooker Prize .....	Ms. P. Hammond
Donald Dring Memorial Prize .....	Ms. S. Bell
John Gilbert Prize .....	Ms. S. Morris
Matilda Smith Memorial Prize .....	S. Gamble
Dummer Memorial Prize .....	J. Walker
Proudlock Prize .....	I. Fisher
Prize for best vegetable plot .....	J. Walker
Kew Guild Individual Study Prize .....	Ms. C. Kernan
C. P. Raffill Prize .....	M. Maunder
Professor Keith Jones Cup .....	M. Maunder
George Brown Prize .....	T. Walker
Mutual Improvement Society's Prize .....	M. Maunder
Lecturer's Prize .....	M. Biggs
Photographic Society Prize .....	J. Walker
Plant Identification Tests .....	J. Walker
Rotary Club of Kew Gardens Prize .....	S. Gamble
Students' Union Life Membership .....	Ms. H. Griffiths, S. Gamble, A. Jackson, M. Sparrow

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## TITLES OF MANAGEMENT PROJECTS (Course 21)

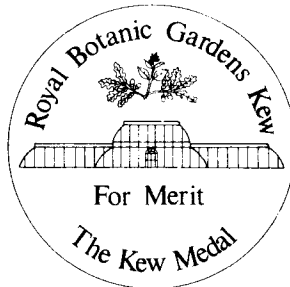
- M. Biggs                    Public education within botanic gardens; a comparison between the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Leicester University Botanic Garden.
- Ms. B. Clifford            The importance of horticulture in ecological parks.
- I. Fisher                    The restoration of the garden at The Manor House, Upton Grey.
- G. Fraser                    The role of horticulture in countryside management.
- S. Gamble                    A study of horticultural maintenance contracts, using a contract between Baylis Landscapes and Kent County Council as a working example.
- E. Giles                    A study of the use of contract labour in the maintenance of grassed areas at Heathrow Airport, London.
- Ms. H. Griffiths            Botanical illustration. A new field of education for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
- M. Hurt                    Kingston Lacey House, Wimbourne, Dorset — a study of the restoration of the gardens.
- A. Jackson                   Fund raising: does money grow on trees?
- Ms. C. Kernan              The restoration of historic parks and gardens: the Hill Gardens, Hampstead.



Kew Guild Individual Study Prize presented to Ms. C. Kernan by Lord Skelmersdale.

- M. Maunder      The role and potential usage of internal horticultural planting within zoological displays.
- R. Mitchell      A study of the cost of labour. The maintenance of the gardens at King's Observatory, Kew.
- P. Nicholson     Installation, inspection and maintenance of playground equipment using contract labour.
- M. Sparrow      The role of horticulture as a support feature in a major leisure/recreation enterprise — Thorpe Park.
- J. Walker        The education and training of international students in British botanic gardens.
- Ms. J. Wicks     The renovation, maintenance and use of historic parks and gardens. Chiswick House Grounds, London W4.

### THE KEW MEDAL AWARDS 1986



The Kew Medal is awarded annually to those whose achievements, contributions or services to the gardens at Kew and Wakehurst Place are considered of outstanding merit and deserving of special honour.

The medal, struck in silver-gilt, was first awarded in 1980, and is inscribed "FOR MERIT". The face design illustrates the Palm House (1840 to 1844) with a spray of Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Para Rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) leaves above representing both the knowledge and work of the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The name of the recipient is engraved on the reverse of the medal, together with the year of the award, and is encircled with vine leaves and a crown signifying Kew's links around the world.

#### MISS C. E. LODGE

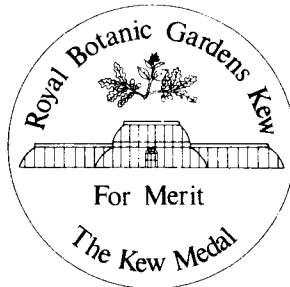
Office Keeper II, Administration. For her quiet enthusiasm and diligent work as Kew's Office Keeper.

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Principal Scientific Officer, Herbarium. For his work as an outstanding taxonomic botanist and prolific author; an inspiration and friend to many of his colleagues.

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Dr. B. Verdcourt.

## THE KEW STUDENTS' UNION ANNUAL REPORT

by Jenny Evans, President

With the number of students enrolled at Kew being less than 50, the Students' Union here is a far cry from equivalent organisations in Universities or Colleges, but the effort put into fund raising and social events is probably far greater per person, and is fitted in around the weekly work load of lecture blocks and in the Gardens.

This year, for the first time, the Rotary Club of Kew Gardens donated £50 to the student voted to have done the most for the community in the year 85-86. It was awarded to Andrew Jackson, who promptly passed it on to another charitable organisation.

1986 saw major efforts in fund raising. Over £1,000 was donated to several charities, including two local ones, the Association for all Speech Impaired Children (AFASIC), and the Portcullis Trust at Richmond Adult College.

May saw what is becoming a traditional event; the Sponsored Litter Pick, to clear up during and after the Richmond May Fayre. Sterling work was done with black plastic bags and collecting tins, restoring the Green to its usual clean state and relieving passers-by of their loose change.

As there was no Kew Fête organised this year, a Plant Stall was set up at the Kew Horticultural Society's Show in August, which was extremely popular and raised nearly £300. Another plant orientated event took place in November, the Sponsored Bulb Plant. Nine hundred kg of bulbs were planted on Kew Green, Barnes Green, and Udney Park, and while the amount raised was less than a similar event in 1985, it was a success considering how short a time was available to organise it.

Already underway are plans for two people to take part in a Parachute Jump, organised in aid of MENCAP, in the spring of 1987.

On the social scene several parties took place, some more successful than others, but all enjoyed by the participants. The main stumbling block is the lack of suitable venue within Kew, and the expense of those without. Meanwhile the Lower Nursery can be partially disguised by imaginative use of balloons and badminton nets, and evidently the resident mice enjoy clearing up the crumbs!

Fortunately the third year's leaving party was able to take place in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, attractive and unusual surroundings in which to bid farewell to Course 21.

Student representatives have continued to attend lectures and examiners' meetings, to discuss problems arising from, and suggestions for changes in, the Diploma Course. This arrangement is of benefit both to students and to staff, encouraging more communication and exchange of ideas.

In conclusion, many thanks must go to everyone who helped in organising events in 1986, especially the committees of both this and last years' Students' Union, — the "without whoms".

### Students' Union Executive Committee 1986/87

Jenny Evans  
Paul Cook

President  
Treasurer

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 Helen Duncan  
 Graham Dear  
 John Donovan  
 Keith Parker and  
 Rebecca Ransom

Secretary  
 Social Secretary  
 Sports Secretary  
 Third Year Representative  
 Second Year Representative  
 First Year Representative  
 Fund Raising Officer  
  
 Kew Guild Representatives

## STUDENTS' UNION SPORTS REPORT

by David North, Sports Secretary

The year kicked off in February with the Students' Union entering a football team for the annual five-a-side tournament at Surrey University. Sixteen teams taking part. Unfortunately Kew were knocked out during the first phase, drawing one and losing two games.

Two staff v student football matches were played during the year, the students winning both games. The first game, played in April, resulted in a 3-2 win. During October the students fielded a very strong team, this time running out 6-3 winners.



Students Course 21. With left to right: Professor Bell, Lord Skelmersdale and Leo Pemberton.

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Clog and Apron Race, left to right: Hon. John D. Eccles, Greg Leeson and Paul Blackmore.

During May the Students' Union staged a seven-a-side football competition. After a series of games, the final was between Kew and Oaklands, Kew winning the final 3-2 after extra time.

In June Kew attended the Civil Service sports day at Chiswick, entering teams in both the football and netball competitions. The netball team met the eventual winners in the opening round, and were somewhat outplayed losing 11-0. The football team fared slightly better, winning their opening game 4-3. The team lost its second match on corners. The game finished 1-1, but the opposition had one more corner than Kew, which was enough to take them through to the next round.

Paul Cook deserves special mention for his fine individual performance in the triple jump. Paul won the competition with his first jump of 11.84m.

Toward the end of the year several football matches were organised. It is hoped that the renewed interest will continue into 1987.

**RESULTS:**  
 Kew 11 — Our Price Records 1  
 Kew 4 — Aldwich Theatre 2  
 Kew 8 — Kew Barges 6

The Kew-Wisley relay race was held on May 31st.

**RESULTS:**  
 1 — Old Kewites  
 2 — Oaklands  
 3 — Wisley  
 4 — Kew

The winning team were Colin Porter, Ben Penburthy, Paul Potter, Wayne Turp, Steve Ashworth and Dave Coleman.

The 1987 race has been brought forward to March, it is hoped that more teams will participate on the early date.

The staff v students cricket match was played on the Green during early July, the staff winning the game fairly convincingly; this can be attributed to various members of the proposed students team being on exchange when the game was played.

The Clog and Apron Race took place at the end of September, all the first year students taking part in colourful fancy dress costumes. The winner, Greg Leeson, completed the run in 58 secs., second Paul Blackmore, third Marc Long. The first girl home, Camilla Ely. Presentations were made by Hon. John D. Eccles, Chairman of the Trustees.

On the 16th October approximately 35 people took part in the Round the Gardens Race. Spencer Ambrose (first year student) won the race in a time of 15 mins. 41 secs.

Finally, I would like to mention that plans have been drawn up for a tennis court and a grass recreation area between the new museum and the Herbarium. Hopefully it won't be long before they are both in use.

## **THE KEW MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY**

by Sue Bell, Chairman

The K.M.I.S. is still thriving 115 years since its foundation. Lectures have been interesting and informative covering a wide range of subjects and attracting a large audience. Many good speakers have come from Kew staff and students. Their time and efforts are much appreciated.

The A.G.M. was held on April 14th 1986. Penny Hammond retired as Chairman and a new committee was elected. During her year as Chairman Penny had worked very hard for the Society in recognition of which she received the Sir Joseph Hooker Prize. Dr. Brandham was also rewarded for his support with honorary life membership.

The items of interest that preceded the main speaker have recently taken a bizarre turn including German bears, giant snails, cactus in curlers and stomach exercises. This may reflect the competitive tactics of the Tropical Department fighting to retain the trophy that they won last session, 85/86.

The first lecture in spring was an introduction to London's history by Professor Keith Jones. Garden history and the role of Oxford Botanic Garden was covered more recently by Ken Burras. Mrs. Nicholson spoke on the Tradescant Trust and its museum of garden history in Lambeth.

Practical hints were given by Adrian Slack for carnivorous plants and from Jack Elliot for those wishing to grow bulbs from seed.

Alyson Bowden explained how horticulturalists can work for voluntary service overseas whilst Hugh Fitzgibbon was able to step in at short notice and talk on his experiences within three National Parks in Tanzania.

British natural history was not forgotten being covered by Peter Gasson and also Geoff Greenough who described the Loder Valley Reserve. The political side of conservation was examined by Gren Lucas and a specialist example

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was given by Simon Mickleburgh of the Flora and Fauna Preservation Society on bats! Very topical in the International Year of the Bat.

Travelling plantsmen included Mr. Ross Kirby who mixed trains with rhododendrons in Scotland, Louise Bustard and her cactus from European botanical gardens, Chris Brickell who spoke on plants from Greece and Turkey and Roy Lancaster who went much further afield to China.

Turning our attention skyward Ann Henderson-Sellers described attempts to model the climate in the Amazon basin, venturing still deeper into space James Abbott traced Halley's Comet.

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Apart from lectures the Society also arranged a musical evening when Angus Wilson gave a piano recital. Although proving a memorable occasion financial pressures mean it will not be repeated next year. The quizzes also proved popular alternatives to lectures. The Inter College Quiz was won by Wisley and the Inter Departmental Quiz by Alpine. Thanks to the quiz masters Simon Owens and Gren Lucas.

Socially the winter session began with the ever popular cheese and wine to welcome the new students. It ended on an equally festive note with mulled wine and mince pies. The Christmas cakes from the annual competition were also on display. The quality and quantity of the entries provided the judges, Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Hepper, with a tough task. The prize for the tastiest cake went to Kate Mobbs and Mathew Biggs was runner-up. The prize for appearance went to a radical representation of an orchid exhibited by Otto Sebeseri. Many thanks to the judges.

The buoyant state of affairs in the K.M.I.S. is largely a reflection of the hard work done by the committee, especially the secretaries Rebecca Ransom and Paul Cook. Thanks also to Robyn Carter, Treasurer, and to Mr. Halliwell, Dr. Brandham and Dickon Bowling for all their additional assistance and support.

## **INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE**

Information has been provided whereby the Aberconway Medal and £500 prize are to be annually awarded to members of the Institute of Horticulture under 30 years of age. Full details obtainable from Institute of Horticulture, P.O. Box 313, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1 2PE.

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## LIVING COLLECTIONS DIVISION REPORT 1986

R. I. Beyer, Deputy Curator

The winds of change continue to blow in the Living Collections Division as a result of the many projects undertaken in recent years. Despite an increase in the necessary administrative work to keep pace, I believe the positive elements of our task outweigh the negative ones, though being too closely associated with the day-to-day turmoil it is sometimes hard to appreciate how much actual progress is being made. Being busy allows little time for reflection and only when visitors, particularly old-Kewites, gasp in astonishment does one realise how the image of the Gardens is being revamped to meet modern day needs. As major projects move forward, the temptation to reach for new goals is often irresistible but that is the nature of the horticultural job we have been chosen to do. I doubt if, given the opportunity to change it, we would do so.

Foremost in our work programme was the need to complete the internal and external landscaping of the Princess of Wales Conservatory and to establish the plantings as quickly as possible in readiness for the official opening by the Princess of Wales in the summer of 1987. As the landscaping team completed their work, plant collections which had either been held in the Lower Nursery or were displayed in the houses on the Ferneries site were moved in. Initially groups such as **Begoniaceae**, **Araceae** and **Gesneriaceae** did not enjoy their new homes in the main tropical zone owing to the increased light and low humidity but, once they had overcome the shock, it was remarkable how quickly they established. In the smaller fern zones which are easier to manage plants from the old fern houses settled in much more easily. As plants were added one could feel the gradual development of a well balanced growing environment in which even the most demanding plants would thrive; which bears out my personal philosophy that even plants can be lonely and only really enjoy a situation where natural competition prevails.

In May the Royal Agricultural Society of England held its President's Day at Kew and we were very honoured by the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra as well as many other distinguished guests. The main reception was held in the new conservatory on a warm spring day, however, the slight discomfort caused by the sun was offset by the uniqueness of the occasion which was enjoyed by all involved.

Externally, mounds of soil were graded and sown down enabling areas which were previously just part of the building site to be opened up to the public. Beds surrounding the conservatory at the north end have been planted up with shrubs capable of standing up to the uncompromising conditions. This includes a bed of low and slow-growing conifers to mask the bank just outside the service yard. Critical comments from colleagues who claimed that these groupings lacked imagination will hopefully be disproved as they mature and provide attractive ground cover. To the south, beds which are more protected have been planted with material to give an exotic feel, very much in sympathy with the internal themes. However, quite a number of these specimens will have to be lifted each autumn as they are not hardy.

Looking across the Gardens from the south end of the conservatory, the bare outline of the Palm House skeleton stands awaiting its new glazing system.



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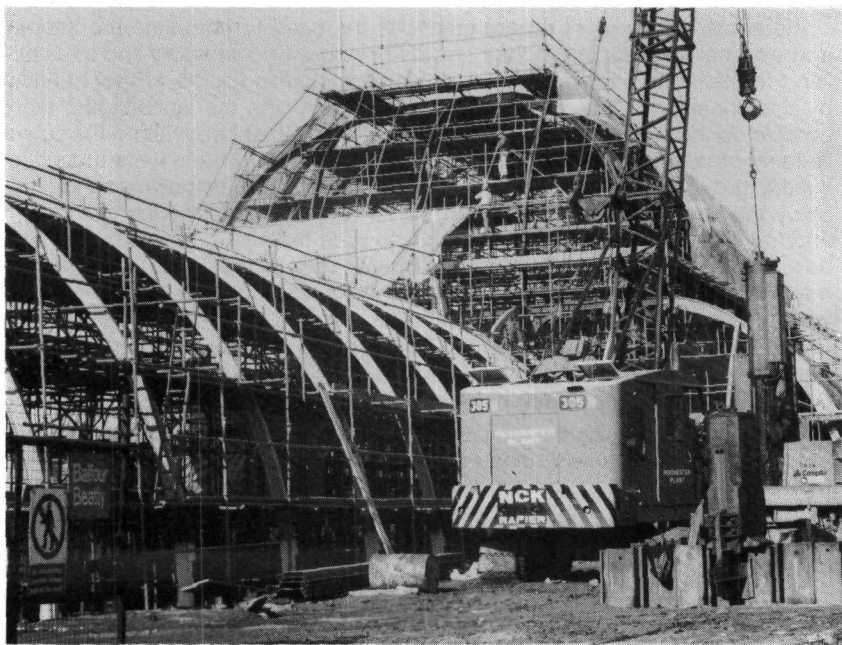
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Work on this refurbishment has progressed reasonably well, though the contractors have unearthed a few problems not previously identified. The sound of pile drivers incessantly beating a rhythm announcing the construction of a large basement area has nearly come to an end. Within this void, staff facilities, stores and plant rooms will be constructed, but of most interest will be a unique marine display demonstrating for the first time at Kew this important element of the plant kingdom. Marine algae (seaweeds to the less informed) are not easy to keep in captivity, however work carried out behind the scenes over the last three years have proved it can be done and we are confident that this will provide a very exciting unique addition to the already challenging garden.

We do not expect to regain possession of the Palm House until spring 1988 at the earliest, but we are all eagerly awaiting the day when we can move plants back into this amazing glasshouse.



The Palm House restoration.

To the north, between Kew Palace and the Herbarium, dramatic changes have taken place with the completion of the new museum, now called the Sir Joseph Banks Centre for Economic Botany. Surrounded on the west side by two small lakes, this building has been carefully designed not to intrude but at the same time project a contemporary image very much in sympathy with its surroundings. Gone are the tennis courts, allotments and outside nursery, which are replaced by lawns and beds which will accommodate woody plants of economic importance, a theme which will be developed in the building itself. This area of over five acres has been added to the Arboretum Section who have

carried out all the soft landscaping. Perhaps the most challenging project they have completed in this area is the construction of a large water cascade using Portland stone. Tony Kirkham and a small team of staff and students created this feature with considerable skill within a very short space of time. However, they did have modern lifting equipment and machinery which made the job a lot easier. The days of a small 7 cwt. crane to build the Rock Garden in the 1950s and 60s have long since gone. This new area will not be open to the public until it is well established and the remaining landscape work is completed.

Musical evenings again disturbed the tranquility of the Temperate House in 1991 in the form of two jazz concerts which were once again very popular. These were followed by an occasion which I have great difficulty in describing. Over a period of four days, evening performances of a contemporary production called 'Deadwood' were held in the area between Victoria Gate and the Temperate House. Organised by the Watermans Arts Centre in Brentford, a large cast of actors and 'trapeze artists' enacted a series of tableaux related to the fragile and interdependent nature of Man and his natural environment. Strange animals and birds hung from trees, gyrating in ways which put tremendous strain on the human frames. Mist billowed from thickets in the Berberis Dell and other animals, including monkeys and apes cavorted amongst the lime collection. Over all this were the sound of jungle, music and commentary, creating the illusion of a rainforest and the threat Man is now imposing on its existence. Over 6,000 people enjoyed or experienced this extraordinary entertainment; whilst some wondered what was going on, it certainly added a new dimension to Kew which nobody had seen before.

Sadly, at the end of the year, demolition contractors moved in to take down the empty glasshouses around the Ferneries. At times such as this nostalgia almost brings tears, particularly as one remembers the staff and students who over the years maintained these unique public displays which were very much part of Kew. All that remain now are great heaps of rubble and twisted metal which must be removed so the site can be levelled and grassed down. Future generations will not realise what was once there as we also are reminded that previous buildings on this site were removed, as shown by the remains of an old underground boiler house unearthed by the contractor's digger.

We said a sad farewell to Jim Mateer on retirement as Supervisor of Arboretum South in January, but welcomed Mark Bridger his replacement shortly afterwards. Mike Fay has taken over the Propagation Unit as his predecessor Mrs. Gillian Wynn decided to commit herself to motherhood. Mike Sinnott has been appointed to look after the Decorative Unit as Glyn Smith was tempted away by the National Trust, and Mark Flanagan filled the Supervisor vacancy in the Planning Unit. Having completed a three year contract as landscape team leader for the new conservatory, Hugh FitzGibbon could not be persuaded to stay and has gone to make his fortune in commercial landscaping. Lastly, after many years on the staff at Wakehurst and latterly Kew, Harry Townsend, Assistant Curator Technical Section decided to move on to new pastures and we wish him well.

Obviously there are many other items of interest I could have mentioned but space and time do not allow me to do so, besides I do not want to bore

the readership with things I may think important but have little real relevance. I think Kew is in good heart and the Living Collections Division is doing all it can to keep the flag flying as our predecessors did before us. May it always be so.

## PAST PRESIDENT BADGE



The Past President Badge.

The Committee in 1986 gave consideration to the proposal that a Past-President Badge be provided, since it was conscious that there was a need to give recognition to all Past Presidents of the Guild.

'Mitch' Mitchelmore produced a badge design which was approved by the Committee and he then commissioned the firm of Messrs. Alex Kirkwood & Son, of Edinburgh, to produce the initial mould and die, the cost of which Mitch personally donated to the Guild.

The centrepiece is the Kew Badge, which is a blue disc bearing the Flames of Learning, surmounted by a Crown and encircled by a Vine shoot. This is set in Silver, oval in shape, with the inscription 'The Kew Guild, Founded 1892'. The complete badge is suspended from a pin and bar, enamelled in blue with the words 'Past President' in Silver.

A memento which undoubtedly all Past Presidents will treasure and wear with great pride at all Kew Guild functions.

## KEW GUILD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee met four times in 1986. Discussions covered Wakehurst Booklets; subscription arrears; Award Scheme fund-raising; Rules updating; computerisation of Guild records; Past Presidents' Badge; eligibility for Guild membership; Hooker Memorial in St. Anne's Church; Annual Dinner improvements; Trustees and the Guild; Centenary of the Guild; improvements and cost-cutting of the Journal; Guild presence at Students' Prizegiving; Guild Excursions; display of Guild Grant of Arms; A.G.M. format and improvement.

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## THE SOMALI RESEARCH PROJECT: A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EXPEDITION TO THE RIVERINE FORESTS OF THE JUBA, SOUTHERN SOMALIA

by Michael Maunder

At midday on Friday 4th July 1986 I staggered out of the final exam for the Kew Diploma, by the following Monday morning I was flying out to Somalia via Nairobi. I was to join a team of Biologists who were to carry out an ecological survey of the remaining patches of riverine forest on the Juba River, southern Somalia. Travelling with Nigel Varty (zoologist, Kings College London) we were to be met in Mogadishu by Jane Madgwick (Expedition Leader; Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation) and Mr. Brian Wood (zoologist, University College London).

The expedition represented a final chance to investigate the Juba's forest, an area never before recorded in any detail. The expansion of agriculture along Somalia's only other perennial river, the Schabeelle, has left the only sizeable areas of forest on the Juba River. In the relatively remote south peasant agriculture and extensive recent plantations are clearing the forest at an alarming rate. This destruction will only be accelerated in the future. The river is being dammed to provide hydro-electric power, so removing Mogadishu's dependence on dwindling supplies of **Acacia bussei** charcoal. The building of the dam will profoundly change the existing village systems and with the forest the extensive and intimate local knowledge of forest products will also disappear.

After a week in Mogadishu we left for the field with our two Somali counterparts, Igal from the National Range Agency (N.R.A.), and Dahir from the N.R.A. Herbarium. For a while the last of the rains held us up in the town of Buaale, then once the roads dried out we travelled north to our first site.

Navigating by compass and using aerial photographs we located the first area near the village of Dhokal. On reaching the forest the observer is struck by the lush growth, shade and humidity, especially notable after passage through the dry, grey thorn bush. The riverine or gallery forest forms a thin strip along the river banks, the trees form a canopy reaching up to around 25 metres with emergents up to 30 metres. The forest is often dense with liana thicket (**Landolphia**, **Hunteria**, **Acridocarpus**, **Cissus** etc.) and difficult to move through. On the sandy soil of the river bank huge **Ficus sycomorus** trees grow, their abundant fruit proving popular with the troops of blue monkey **Cerropithecus mitis**. Underneath these huge trees would grow a dense understorey of **Lecaniodiscus** and **Sorindeia**. Other trees present in the forest included **Mimusops fruticosa**, **Garrinia** sp., **Trichillia**, **Acacia** sp. and a species of ebony **Diospyros**. Adjacent to the tall forest there would be areas of dense woodland often dominated by **Newtonia erlangeri** and the palm **Hyphaene coriacea**, with smaller trees of **Balanites**, **Sterculia** etc. The forest in places grew near large regularly flooding lakes of 'desheles', there **Lawsonia inermis** grew with **Garcinia** before grading into a marginal scrub of **Sesbania**, **Paronia**, **Mimosa pigra** and with **Neptunia** at the water's edge.

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The forest proved to be a comfortable environment in which to work but not without its problems. Tsetse fly were a constant irritation but of minor import compared with the prevalence of hippo in some areas. On the approach of a hippo, refuge would be taken in the nearest tree, incidentally throwing a plant press at an approaching hippo is not to be recommended. On another occasion a hasty exit was performed through what was generally recognised as impenetrable thicket after I walked into a group of buffalo.

By mid-September the field work was over and we returned to Mogadishu. For a week we held a series of seminars and lectures lobbying Government departments for the creation of a national park within the Juba. A day of field techniques and practical lectures was given at the Balçad Nature Reserve near Mogadishu, where, with Eric Trump (ex Nairobi Herbarium), a nature trail was prepared for the reserve. As a result of the expedition's work the future of the remaining forests looks more hopeful with official Somali response looking promising. The National Academy of Sciences (Washington D.C.) is planning an agro-forestry project in the area using remaining forest as a seed source. Even if the felling stops the changes in forest composition from altered flooding regimes and spraying for tsetse fly control may well be profound.

I would like to thank those individuals and organisations who made my participation in the expedition possible and the many who helped the expedition as a whole in this country and in Somalia. In Britain the authorities of L.C.D. Kew and the Herbarium, Kew, and in particular the Kew Guild for their valuable financial assistance. Within Somalia Dr. Karani of the N.R.A., Mr. John Leefs and Dr. Rod Brown of the U.K. Forestry Project.

The following letter to the Chairman, Award Scheme Sub-Committee, from one of the recipients of the 1986 awards gives a first hand account of the valuable work which the Guild is now able to support.

## **SOLOMON ISLANDS COLLECTING**

Sydney, Australia.

13/12/1986

Dear Mr. Storey,

I am writing to let you know that the visit to the Solomon Islands that the Kew Guild helped to make possible is now completed. We have just arrived in Sydney, Australia and are in the process of getting the film used on the visit developed and awaiting news from Kew on the names of orchids collected.

The visit had some initial teething problems with the arrangement of collecting permits and permission to visit Choiseal. These were fortunately overcome with the generous help of many friends made in the Solomons. However, over



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80 orchid specimens have been collected and despatched to Kew in the form of dried specimens, spirit material and living plants. These will hopefully contribute towards further understanding the distribution of orchids in this fascinating area.

I would like to take this more informal opportunity to thank you and the Guild very much for your generous support of the project. It has proved to be a fantastic experience from the point of view of plant and environmental knowledge. Also being in a different part of the world with a different cultural base was both testing and rewarding. I will prepare my final report once the film and plant names have been sorted out and will forward it to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Robert B. Mitchell

## STUDY TRIP TO SRI LANKA — JULY 1986

by Sarah Rutherford

The main aims of this trip were to study members of the family **Palmae**, and to help with the verification of the Palm collection at the major Botanic Garden in Sri Lanka: The Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya. Also to enhance already strong links between R.B.G. Kew and R.B.G. Peradeniya.

My original brief was to spend three weeks working at the Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, collecting herbarium specimens from their Palm Collection to be verified at R.B.G. Kew. After this I had intended to spend one week's leave visiting other places on the island. However, it turned out that I spent four weeks on attachment to the Botanic Gardens, making several official trips to different parts of the country organised by the Gardens Superintendent, Mr. Sumithraarachchi. These were interspersed between my main work of collecting Palms from the Gardens.

The R.B.G. Peradeniya were established in 1822, and thus have a well established organisation and a long history. They are 147 acres in extent, and have approximately 200 staff to organise and maintain them. The National Herbarium, a colonial style building with over 50,000 herbarium sheets, lies within the Gardens; also a Seed Bank and Micropropagation Unit. The altitude is at about 1,550 feet, and the situation is about 10 degrees above the equator. Thus the climate is tropical, but not too hot, with a monsoon season in July and August.

I spent the majority of my time at the gardens in the Palmetum, where most of the Palms are situated; it is a pleasant, shady area which reveals the diversity of Palm form admirably. Mr Sumithraarachchi allowed me three of his staff to help with specimen collection: one of the Curators, with a good botanical knowledge, and two tree climbers who helped with retrieval and preparation of the specimens. Unfortunately, my time at the Gardens coincided with Monsoon Season in Kandy (the nearest town to Peradeniya), so on some days rain

80 orchid specimens have been collected and despatched to Kew in the form of dried specimens, spirit material and living plants. These will hopefully contribute towards further understanding the distribution of orchids in this fascinating area.

I would like to take this more informal opportunity to thank you and the Guild very much for your generous support of the project. It has proved to be a fantastic experience from the point of view of plant and environmental knowledge. Also being in a different part of the world with a different cultural base was both testing and rewarding. I will prepare my final report once the film and plant names have been sorted out and will forward it to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Robert B. Mitchell

## STUDY TRIP TO SRI LANKA — JULY 1986

by Sarah Rutherford

The main aims of this trip were to study members of the family **Palmae**, and to help with the verification of the Palm collection at the major Botanic Garden in Sri Lanka: The Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya. Also to enhance already strong links between R.B.G. Kew and R.B.G. Peradeniya.

My original brief was to spend three weeks working at the Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, collecting herbarium specimens from their Palm Collection to be verified at R.B.G. Kew. After this I had intended to spend one week's leave visiting other places on the island. However, it turned out that I spent four weeks on attachment to the Botanic Gardens, making several official trips to different parts of the country organised by the Gardens Superintendent, Mr. Sumithraarachchi. These were interspersed between my main work of collecting Palms from the Gardens.

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prevented any collections being made. However this was not too much of an obstacle. In the rest of the country the weather seemed to be hot and sunny. On one day we collected from 30 different species, which was rather a record! Our usual total was around 15 to 20 per day.

The Herbarium staff helped in preparing the specimens for packing and transportation, which saved much-needed time. **Warning:** I had to buy eight gallons of meths in order to douse all the specimens for preservation, which I had not budgeted for in my spending money and cost £30 Sterling (refunded by R.B.G. Kew). **Moral:** Ensure you have enough money for unforeseen items such as this!

I made four separate trips out of the Gardens, each time accompanied by members of the administration staff of the Gardens. It was helpful to be with local people, both to interpret and point out items of interest along the way which otherwise might have been ignored. These trips were much easier than me travelling on my own, as Gardens transport was provided for each one. Travelling on the island one covers relatively short distances, but they seem to take quite a time, especially by public transport. Colombo to Kandy is 70 miles but takes three hours to cover the distance.

My visits consisted of two one-day trips, one two-day, and one five-day.

As the majority of my stay was in one place, I was fortunate to base my accommodation with a Sri Lankan family recommended by Laura Ponsonby. Lloyd and Raneer Perera were kind and helpful and provided excellent accommodation at a reasonable price. I think that they would be willing to look after anyone from Kew visiting Kandy in future.

When out on visits I stayed at hotels and rest houses. These were all found for me by Gardens staff, who usually managed to get a reduction in price for me even though I was a "tourist". Everywhere I stayed was always clean and the service good. Meals often consisted of rice and curry in one form or another, which is jolly tasty, but hell if you don't like curry (I do!).

I used public buses to travel from the Perera's to the Gardens. These are frequent but rather noisy and rickety. Private buses were the same fare, but usually full to bursting point.

During my stay the trouble centred around Tamils in the north and east of the island rumbled on. I never encountered any trouble personally (apart from seeing the gaping hole blown in the Post Office in Colombo some months before), and it seemed that as long as one avoided travelling to Jaffna, Trincomalee and the surrounding areas, life would remain peaceful.

I felt my trip to be very successful. Most of the Palms of the Gardens were collected, and a set retained at their National Herbarium for future reference. I gathered information and photographs useful for my Taxonomy Project and saw a good variety of the island's flora and climatic zones. The staff of the Gardens, especially Mr. Sumithraarachchi, were always helpful and keen to ensure that I got the most out of my visit. I saw the diversity of Sri Lanka's country. It ranges from the cool, moist hill country (temperatures at 0 degrees C are not unknown), to the hot, dry lowlands, with various intermediates. These include 50 square miles of hot, wet primary rainforest with lots of juicy leeches! I also saw some of the most important historic and religious sites on the island, which greatly aided my insight into Sri Lanka as a whole.

## VISITS MADE IN SRI LANKA — S. RUTHERFORD, JULY 1986

### *One Day Visits*

**Anuradhapura** — Ancient city in ruins, centred around Sacred Bo Tree (**Ficus religiosa**) which is 2,500 years old. Original capital of Sri Lanka.

**Gampaha Botanical Garden, Colombo** — Small, rural garden, where the first **Hevea braziliensis** in Asia still survive.

### *Two Day Visits*

**Polonaruwa** — Ruined palace and Buddhist Temples. Used as Capital after Anuradhapura abandoned.

**Sigirya** — ruined Palace built on a 600 ft. sheer rock in 11th century A.D. Also water gardens from same date being excavated.

### *Five Day Visits*

**Horton Plains** — Cool grassland and trees; misty, eerie place. Many plants allied to temperate, northern genera. **Rhododendron zeylanicum** abundant.

**Hakgala Botanical Garden** — One of highest altitude botanical gardens in the world. First **Camellia sinensis** in the country tried here and still survive today. Temperate, moist climate.

**Diyaluma Falls** — Waterfall tumbling down 600 ft. sheer granite.

**Ratnapura** — Gem capital of Sri Lanka. Most gems found around this town.

**Sinharaja Forest Reserve** — Reputedly the last remaining Primary Rainforest in Asia. An exciting piece of untouched vegetation, full of leeches, leopards and Rattans (**Calamus spp.**).

**Galle** — Galle Fort is an historical town on the southernmost coast which has signs of all its European colonisers still in evidence. The beaches and warm sea are idyllic!

## “ROMBERGPARK” — A Student Travel Scholarship

by Lester Searle

During 1986 I was fortunate enough to be awarded one of the Student Travel Scholarships for which second year students compete. The scholarship allows for a small grant from the Gardens but, more importantly, for three weeks paid special leave. With the help of additional funding from the Kew Guild Award Scheme and the Bentham Moxon Trust I was able to make a working visit to the Botanic Gardens, ‘Rombergpark’, in Dortmund, Germany.

Dortmund is a heavily industrialised city of some 600,000 inhabitants, the major industries being steel making and brewing. I am sure many readers have heard of, and some tasted, ‘Dortmunder Pils’. There are in fact some six large breweries in Dortmund and particular care is taken not to pollute the watertable with wastes from the steel industry. During 1959 and 1969 Dortmund was host to the Bundesgartenschau and the resultant ‘Westfalenpark’ was a strong attraction for me as was the University Botanic Garden at nearby Bochum. I have a particular interest in urban landscapes and was confident that here, in the heart of the Ruhr Valley, I would find many examples worth studying.

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The success of any working visit is dependant, to some extent, on the reception and assistance given by the establishment and staff of your destination. In Rombergpark I was not to be disappointed. On my first morning the Director of the Gardens, Dr. Bünemann, collected me from my lodgings and on arrival at Rombergpark we set off on a guided tour of the gardens. This was to be the first of many informative walkabouts with Dr. Bünemann, members of the Gardens staff and other employees of Stadt Dortmund all of whom went to great lengths, officially and privately, to make sure I gained as much as possible from my visit.

Rombergpark itself comprises some 60 ha and is only four miles from the city centre. It was formerly the grounds of the Schloß (castle) Romberg and includes a large lake as well as many mature tree specimens. It was here, when he was Director, that Dr. G. Krüssmann did much of his writing and today there are still staff there who worked with him. In 1927 the grounds of Schloß Romberg were given to the city of Dortmund for use as a botanic garden. The original Romberg residence was destroyed by wartime bombing and today a modern hotel sits tastefully by the northern shores of the lake. A small stream flows into the lake after meandering through a meadow which bisects the gardens. Dr. Bünemann and his staff now manage this meadow so as to encourage wildlife. The gardens include an informal and very effective Rhododendron Woodland as well as a superb Beech Wood. A medium sized tropical glasshouse contains luxuriant displays but is all the more remarkable for the successful combination of restaurant and display complex. On one side the restaurant looks out on a paved sun trap whilst on the other the view is directly into the glasshouse. For all of this Rombergpark employs a total staff of approximately 25.

The following three weeks were to give me the opportunity to work in various parts of Rombergpark but my first day in Dortmund was for guided tours and Westfalenpark, site of the 1959 and 1969 Bundesgartenschau, was next on the list. The park is approximately 70 ha and includes 4 ha of water features. Contained within the park is the German National Rosarium for which Dr. Bünemann also has responsibility. The park is very much an amenity to the people of Dortmund and Westphalia. The chairlift and miniature railway still operate 17 years after the last garden show (though Westfalenpark will again be the site for a Bundesgartenschau in 1991 and planning is already underway), and there is a music bowl as well as a sound shell both much used by local and visiting performers. Some innovative childrens' play areas include giant beer barrels sawn in half and used as a sort of coracle. Horticultural standards in the park are very high and its location, adjacent to one of the steel works biggest complexes, makes for wonderful contrast.

During my time in Dortmund I also had the opportunity to visit the University Botanic Garden at Bochum. Included in the collections is a superb 'Trochenwald' (Dry Wood) of southern hemisphere subjects set in a realistic dry river bed. The display is all the more fantastic as very cold winters mean that all of the plants are containerised and are skilfully plunged in their stony surroundings each spring.

A kind offer by Herr H. Reith (one of Dr. Bünemann's Garten Meisters for Rombergpark) enabled me to visit the small but superb Arboretum 'Poort-Buiten',

near Losser in the Netherlands. It was also with Herr Reith that I was given a conducted tour of the site for Landesgartenschau 1988 at Rheda — Wiedenbruck. An exciting project, being prepared well in advance. The village of Wiedenbruck is full of well preserved 16th and 18th century buildings and is well worth a visit on plain tourist grounds.

Through the kind offices of many of Dr. Bünemann's colleagues I was able to visit a wide variety of urban landscape sites in and around Dortmund making best use of my camera and coming away with much food for thought.

To round off a thoroughly enjoyable, but exhausting, three weeks I spent three hours examining the landscaping of the new museum complex at Cologne. The landscaping can only be described as superb whilst I am sure the building itself will provoke abhorrence or admiration and nothing in between.

### **KEW STUDENT WINS INDIA STUDY TRIP — Press Release Detail**

This year's Hozelock-ASL Prize for horticulture students at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has been won by 22-year old Daniel Pearson.

His prize will be a visit this summer to the Valley of Flowers in Uttar Pradesh, northern India where he will study and collect herbarium specimens.

Mr. Pearson, a second year student from Liss in Hampshire won his prize by submitting the best written proposal for a study trip. In order to reach the remote valley, he will have to trek for several days through the Himalayas, climbing to an altitude of 3,200m.

Kew's Supervisor of Studies, Mr. Leo Pemberton, said: "Daniel will share his experiences with his fellow students when he returns and the Royal Botanic Gardens will also benefit from his trip as the plants he brings back will enhance the collection at Kew's herbarium.



Daniel Pearson (centre) receives the Kew Prize from David Codling, Managing Director of Hozelock-ASL, with Leo Pemberton, Kew's Supervisor of Studies, looking on.



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Presenting Mr. Pearson with a cheque, Mr. David Codling, Managing Director of Hozelock-ASL, said "We are delighted to help with Kew's study programme and I am certain that Daniel's studies will be much enriched by this experience".

Mr. Pearson, who plans to make a career in garden design, is a former Honours student at Wisley and his hobbies include the drawing and photographing of flora.

## A LIVING SHOWCASE

by John Simmons and Hugh Clamp

From an article in *'Landscape Design'* December 1986 and photographs received from the P.S.A. and Kew (Ed.)

Landscape construction for Kew's unique new exhibition and reference collection building has reached the planting stage. Client and landscape architect reflect on progress.

On 21 October the first tree was planted on the roof garden of the Sir Joseph Banks Centre for Economic Botany, the new exhibition and reference building at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew by Mr. Christopher Chope, O.B.E., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment. The ceremony was the culmination of two years of hard landscape construction around the building, which will be open to the public in 1988.

The most ambitious addition to the gardens this century, the exhibition building has been designed around the theme of 'Plants for People', and will house Kew's reference collection, a fascinating conglomeration of plant products and artefacts from all over the world, as well as temporary exhibitions on the uses of plants. A living collection of plants used by people will not only form part of the displays inside the building; it will also extend the theme outside, with planting up and around the walls and even on the roof, where visitors will be able to sit among herbs and fruit trees.

### The client's point of view

Over a decade, development on a scale not seen at Kew since the nineteenth century has increased the gardens' experience of participation in multi-disciplinary project teams and brought about a much fuller understanding of the technical briefs needed from the horticulturists. The success of projects like the new Alpine House and Micropropagation Unit and the prestigious restoration of the Temperate House have given rise to the confidence necessary for this most ambitious development so far.

MCP Landscape Consultants, who have been involved in previous work at Kew, including the Temperate House, were selected from designs submitted in 1982. The mutual trust built up in past encounters has been particularly important for this project. The relationship between client and designer has been of a symbiotic nature right from the beginning, with the client operating as horticultural contractor for all rockwork and soft landscape. It has been a fascinating experience, highlighting in practice the marked difference between the approach of the 'hard landscape' school, whose work is translated and built by contractors, and Kew's more typically English 'plant a garden' viewpoint.

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The first tree being planted on the roof garden of the Sir Joseph Banks Centre for Economic Botany by Mr. Christopher Chope, O.B.E., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment.

Naturally, Kew is well equipped to assist, with its own collecting programme which gathers together rare specimens from all over the world, and a team of highly-skilled and specialised horticultural staff who expect every tree they plant to live. Even so, the idea that right from the planting stage the client could grow on the bulk of the needed trees was only cautiously accepted by the consultant landscape architects, as was the client's natural assumption that Kew would also provide aftercare for the plantings.

The site itself, like all sites at Kew, has many historical, political and practical constraints. Originally a part of Kew Green that led to a ferry across the Thames, it became part of the garden of Kew Palace by Royal enclosure. Most recently it held Kew's herbaceous nursery, an area of student plots and a staff tennis court. The problems lay in linking this site to the overlooking seventeenth century garden and the surrounding eighteenth century arboretum with its Nash-designed architectural conservatory and formal Nesfield landscape, while at the same time accommodating the building's own unique planting on the theme of plants for people. Other considerations included the opinions of the Lord Chamberlain's Office regarding Kew Palace, and the Royal Fine Art Commission's particular concern to preserve the trees which screen the gardens from Brentford's unlovely skyline.

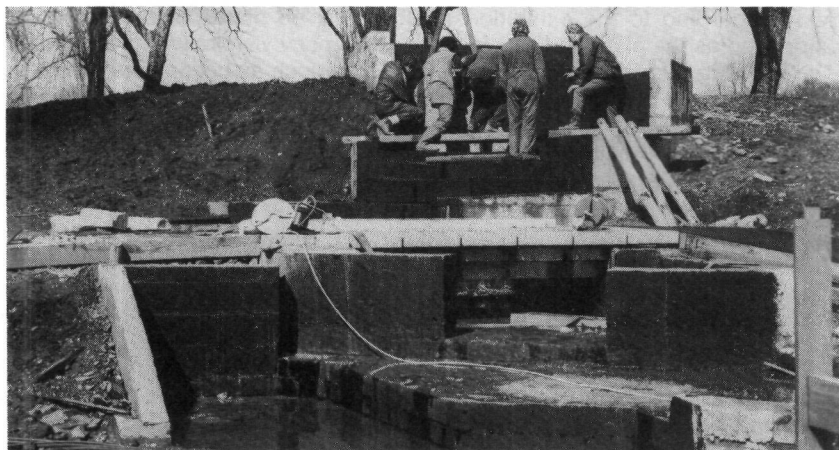
At the design level there was a considerable debate over the selection and amount of planting, as gardens staff tended to work from a wider palette and experience, and had a greater familiarity with individually-spaced specimens. The details of the path layout took even longer to resolve, resulting in a compromise of costs, functionalism and aesthetics which appears to have achieved a harmony. Over all, the close team relationship helped advance design plans. In particular, the more functional aspects, such as the methods of draining, maintaining and cleaning the lakes and accommodating the rather particular requirements of trees and meadowland on a roof, benefited enormously from the pooling of knowledge and resources.

Since the whole of the new building is designed for low energy consumption, the concourse called for a tight technical specification. The fact that all of the plants, except for the entrance features, are contained in a single bed made localised root-zone heating a feasible answer to energy saving. With this garden, lower air temperatures are possible. Good drainage is essential, since regular watering and high temperatures can lead quickly to anaerobic conditions. The bed is therefore designed with a sloped base filled with coarse gravel to drain away water and salts to waste, and silting is prevented by a synthetic membrane.

The low temperature heating pipes are spaced across the bottom and internal sides of the bed and set in a layer of sand so as to spread the heat. It was intended to use hardwearing plastic pipes held in a polyurethane former but, because of structural problems with the bed, small bore steel pipes were substituted, which will only have a short working life in these conditions. Above the pipes a further drainage layer brings the substrate up to the top 450mm of compost, which is also very free-draining. Depending on whether herbs or trees are to be grown only 225-450mm respectively of compost is required; the rest is just for root anchorage and drainage. The intention is to hold the bed temperature at 65°F so that a set-back temperature for the air may be operated when the building is not in use. For many buildings a five day week operation gives occupation for only 25 per cent of the total hours and, even with a public building such as this, human required heating levels will only be needed for perhaps one third of the total hours per week. If this soil heating system works it could have many wider applications. As a further saving, the bed is fitted with an integral drip watering system intended to economise on both water consumption and labour input.

The roof garden too has good drainage and an efficient irrigation system. This water, with its likely occasional biocide additives, runs to waste, whereas the concourse roof water is collected. The plants inside mostly required soft water but, since rainwater collection is insufficient to cover summer need without the provision of enormous tanks, the system is linked to the nearby Aroid House pump and tanks which will also have a deionised reserve supply of water. Thus a good water storage and irrigation system is achieved at low capital cost.

Within the conservatory the planting will reflect the main theme of utility, showing all the different uses to which plants have been put by man throughout the ages. A large grape vine will eventually shade the entrance, while rice and lotus will be attempted where the pool flows into the building. Bed plantings will



Foundations for cascade.



Cascade construction. Upper lake with butyl liner in place.



Cascade, boardwalk and roof garden under construction.

vary according to the exhibitions, but all will be plants of economic use displayed as the plant and its produce. (How many visitors will have heard of the chewing gum tree?) Quite common plants such as cucumbers, which so few people see outside of a supermarket now, may also be included, while a breadfruit is being grown to screen the back wall — a reference to the days when Kew was intricately involved with the Empire.

Planting a roof will be quite a new experience for Kew's horticultural staff and mowing on high requires some adaptability. The first need was to ensure adequate safe access for wheeled equipment, albeit small. Soil depth varies but there is sufficient for small trees on the area covering the reference collections. Fruit trees are an obvious choice, as not only do they fit in with the general theme of utility, but also their rootstocks can be specified to give fairly precise tree size and root spread. Though well insulated, soil temperature on the roof is likely to be above the ambient ground temperature, allowing for more unusual plantings to be evolved with experience. Since the advantage of warmth has to be set against desiccation from shallow soil and wind, plants of 'Mediterranean' climatic requirements will be chosen. This combines quite well with the herb terrace — a 'scented garden' of plants noted for their production of essential oils.

The paths that now link the new site to the adjacent formal Victorian landscape have been gently formed on diagonals through the existing screening borders and already give visitors tantalising views of the new landscape. Some have been recessed into the ground so that, for example as viewed from the edge of the adjacent Queen's Garden, nothing but green lawn and water can be seen as the foil to the new building's concourse. The potential volume of visitors was a worry in terms of path widths and durability, and of course the level of mechanical handling and operation now needed to maintain the gardens also influences path layout and width. In the end paths were fewer and narrower than had been originally planned. Linking the new feature with the 17th century style Queen's Garden meant carefully forming a narrow entrance and siting a specially commissioned armillary sphere as a new focal point.

Planting began this autumn. Using Kew's mechanical services unit has meant no skimping on soil preparation, with a good supply of compost and manure and spare soil to make up levels and produce a fine quality top spit. A tractor mounted digger and fore end loader, and a light tractor mounted rotovator are the main workhorses. For the planting itself, set back by cuts to keep within budget, the gulf was bridged in part by the difference between the normal landscape specification, using close planting of the narrow range of items normally available commercially, and the wider 'final' spacing used by Kew with its great diversity of available material.

The lakes gave rise to much interaction between client and consultant — not least as to the point of handover responsibility. Beds held by gravel-filled synthetic bags have been formed within the lake to hold waterlilies and reeds and great care taken to prevent damage to the lake lining.

It has to be admitted that the limestone cascade is much larger than originally envisaged and discussed. The size of its concrete foundation forced the use of three times as much rock as planned, but happily, the good working relationship yet again yielded dividends. Kew constructed a temporary terram-based

road so that a smaller mobile crane could be used to save money on hire costs and allow more rock to be purchased. The task of setting in the 150 ton cascade was completed in an incredible six weeks! (See photos.) Tony Kirkham, the arboretum supervisor, visited the quarry at Portland several times to select 140 tonnes of rock in 1-3 tonne pieces, with 10 tonnes of faced stone. He also took careful note of the natural strata and has reproduced this in his construction, on which he and his team worked without any other direction. The beach onto which the cascade flows was also given great attention and close to the edge the pebbles are set in cement both to ensure surface water flow and protect the butyl sheet beneath.

The choice of fossil layer limestone for this building not only gives a superb appearance but is appropriate historically, for the floor of Kew's 18th century orangery and the Queen's Beast in front of the Palm House are made from the same stone. The juxtaposition of the natural rock cascade with its faced derivative on the building forms a pleasing harmony and by the boardwalk a carefully selected outlying piece of limestone has been cut to reveal a large fossilised ammonite within.

The landscape of this building offers us many challenges yet, but I am certain it will evolve to become one of Kew's most appealing and successful integrations of building and landscape, and a true landmark for others to follow.

### **The landscape architect's point of view**

The site comprises over 3.0 hectares and is bounded by the new 1969 Herbarium extension to the east and by the 1631 Kew Palace on the west. The competition brief in January 1982 restricted the location of the new reference and exhibition building to the centre third of the site, inviting competitors to include 'ideas for landscaping the remainder', although the cost of this was excluded from the authorised expenditure.

Fortunately, when approval to proceed with the invitation of tenders was confirmed in 1983, authority was given by the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Heseltine, to include the remainder of the landscape work, including the lakes and associated hard and soft planting, at an estimated cost of £125,000. Work on the drawing board was complete by September 1983, tenders were invited in March 1984 and in January 1985 the contract was placed with Norwest Holst Ltd. for £2,244,336.

The two lakes, each measuring about 1,000 square metres, are the largest and most ambitious element of the design. The water levels of 4.8 metres and 3.8m follow the natural fall of 2.5m from south west to north east across the site, and are interconnected by a waterfall. The considerable depth of topsoil found on the site was stripped off and stacked to a height of 3.0m adjacent to the herbarium, before being respread and levelled 12 months later over the western part of the site and around the lakes. No harmful effects have arisen from this relatively short period of storage.

The underlying gravel was also stripped to a maximum depth of 1.0 metres and about half set aside for making up new levels. A greater depth was not possible since the water table was known to be within 150mm of the proposed lake bottom and any excavation below the water table would have meant high construction costs and hazardous working conditions. This was felt to be the



minimum depth for the lake to achieve a balanced, nutrient status, and minimise the growth of algae which would otherwise occur with overheating of shallower water in the summer.

The bottom of the lake is contoured to provide shallower areas for marginal planting and safe places for children to play where the hard paved areas adjoin the lake. It can be drained for cleaning purposes, thought to be necessary at 10 yearly intervals, by means of a 150mm pipe from the cascade pump chamber to an existing drain from the Palm House lake to the Thames, crossing the west end of the site. Manual control by a penstock valve ensures that it cannot be wedged open inadvertently by debris.

Betonite and puddled clay were considered as lake liners but in view of the proven qualities of butyl polymers in lakes and reservoirs in recent years, it was considered safer to rely on one of the many specialists experienced in this type of work. The butyl was laid over a felt underlay of 50mm sand and 100mm pea shingle direct on to the existing compacted gravel sub-base. The lake is edged with 300 x 600 *in situ* concrete with mesh reinforcing and polysulphide sealants across day joints, the edge of the butyl being bolted down under a hot-dipped galvanised mild steel fixing strip. The concrete edge is finished with 200 x 150 x 100 granite setts where adjoining paving, and 100mm diameter larch posts next to planted areas and shrub borders. Where rocks and pebbles spill into the lake, and in areas for marginal aquatic plants, these are retained by shingle-filled sandbags over a further layer of protective felt.

Experience has proved this 'failsafe' solution to have been rather elaborate and over designed. A simpler 'timber only' solution for the edges would probably have sufficed. Fixing the lake lining took twice as long as had been expected, in spite of having been deliberately postponed until the finer spring weather could be assured.

Circulation of water in the fountains is achieved by two submersible pumps each with a standby. The upper lake is replenished from the lower by a Water Techniques 7.5kw pump, a 200mm diameter connecting pipe and a cluster of jets (by Water Techniques) fixed 25mm above water level. It had been decided initially that a large vertical jet would detract from the cascade behind, so a more appropriate effect more akin to a gently bubbling underwater spring was aimed at. Trial and error established that jets beneath the surface imposed an unnecessary resistance on the pumps, while setting the nozzles at water level halved the pump requirement and running costs.

The cascade, too, was required to resemble little more than a trickle from a hidden spring and this was achieved with a concrete foundation over which large naturally riven blocks of Portland stone were placed to simulate a natural Japanese effect. The stone cladding to the building is of Whitbed Portland from the Fancy Beach Quarry (re-opened specially for this contract), on account of the fine balance between a smooth blemish free stone and an abundance of fossils visible on the surface. The cascade was built from the Capstone overlying bed usually discarded by masons as substandard; the latter was provided at little more than the cost of the transport, but specially selected for size and shape by the Kew staff who constructed the cascade. The success of their achievement must be judged on site. The feature is, perhaps, also over designed, and could have relied on butyl rather than concrete as a base for the pools.

The cascade joins the lake over a pebble foreshore adjacent to the boardwalk, reminiscent of a Mediterranean or Scottish border riverbed. When the Portland quarry were unable to supply sufficient quantities of the size required, they were brought down from Lossiemouth and the Isle of Aran.

The boardwalk joins the cascade to the roof garden on the line of the weir between the upper and lower lakes, intended to provide a waiting place for visitors, offering views across the site in both directions. It was designed to be as light and simple a construction as public safety standards allowed. Iroko was finally chosen on account of its cheapness, ready availability, resistance to wear under foot and freedom from splinters in the handrails. Its greater strength means it can be used in smaller sections than, say, western red cedar, and it has excellent weathering, resistance and colour properties, turning a beautiful natural silver colour with age.

The roof garden posed special problems. It was originally intended to include a large area of close-mown lawn to emphasise the 'greening' of the building. However, partly on account of the demands on Kew staff of such a constantly labour-intensive, relatively isolated patch of grass during the summer months, and partly due to the decision to allocate this area to culinary and medicinal herbs best suited to the dry conditions that inevitably occur on all roof gardens, it was decided to change to a dry garden of stone paving and loose shingle.

A ramped access has been provided to ensure that the physically handicapped have access not only to the interior of the building but also to all parts of the outside. The sloping abutments of the roof garden have been reinforced with a grid of 100mm honeycombe armatures obtained from Holland, on shingle filled with Leca and protected with Terram to prevent soil erosion, until such time as the root system of the proposed soft fruit shrubs have become established. To ameliorate the very dry soil conditions the roof garden has been provided with automatic irrigation.

The roof garden connects directly via a stainless steel staircase to the entrance hall and main concourse of the building. Here there is a small fountain over an internal pool in which it is hoped to raise water-loving plants which are grown for food. A collection of plants, running the length of the concourse and flanked by ramps for visitors, is also planned. The exhibition area is top lit by a curved glass roof supported by a stainless steel tubular structure. It is air-conditioned, but there are electrically operated opening lights for use in summer. The stainless steel tubes which will provide support for climbing plants will not need the five-yearly painting required for mild steel, so the plants can grow undisturbed. Stainless steel tie bars have also been used to maximise sunlight, which is supplemented by a range of horticultural light fittings on a moveable track either side.

The planting bed is deep enough to permit the establishment of small trees and incorporates soil heating coils to mitigate the heat loss from the glazing above, particularly during night frosts. This, too, is equipped with automatic irrigation.

Outside the building, over the next few months the gardens will be cultivating, seeding and planting trees and shrubs in accordance with a planting plan prepared by MCP. The aim is to create a visually and ecologically compatible design in harmony with the building and its surroundings. Specimens will be

obtained either from the gardens own resources of proven genetic provenance or from commercial nurseries, and staking in so vandal-free an area will be carried out with modified half height stakes, as proposed in Arboricultural Research Note 40/82.

While the library and exhibition areas are unlikely to be open to the public before the official opening scheduled for September 1988, the gardens and lake surrounds should be sufficiently established for access to be allowed by the coming spring. It is hoped that in this, the first significant twentieth century addition to parts of the gardens open to the public, people will find the same 'secret garden' quality they have enjoyed at Kew for the last two hundred years or more.

*John Simmons is Curator of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. Hugh Clamp is Principal of MCP Landscape Consultants.*

## THE KEW MAGAZINE

by Victoria Matthews, Deputy Editor, Kew Magazine

Members of Kew Guild are invited to subscribe to *Kew Magazine*. This quarterly publication incorporates *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* which was founded in 1787 — thus this year is the 200th anniversary. Each issue contains six full colour plant portraits painted by some of the best contemporary botanical artists, and there are articles of interest to botanists, horticulturists and conservationists, as well as book reviews and readers' letters.

This year the subscription has been reduced from £35 to £25 for U.K. residents. Overseas subscribers pay £27.50. Orders and subscriptions should be sent to Marston Book Services, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford. The subscription for the USA and Canada is US \$50 and orders should be sent to Timber Press Inc., 9999 S.W. Wilshire, Portland, Oregon 97225, USA.

Back issues are available from Vol. 1 part 4 onwards.

This publication has had its ups and downs over the past 200 years and the more subscribers we have the more secure will be its future. A secure future will enable us to continue to produce associated monographs (*The Genus Paphiopedilum* will be out this year). So please bring *Kew Magazine* to the attention of anyone you think might be interested, and persuade them to become subscribers.

### POSTSCRIPT

To mark the bicentenary of Botanical Magazine/Kew Magazine, Ray Desmond has written *A Celebration of Flowers*, published in March 1987 by Collingridge/Kew at £15.

## KEWTICLE (Previously Eurogradeners News)

Mark Flanagan, Planning Unit RBG Kew has asked us to publicise this newsletter, which started in April 1986. Its idea is to encourage more dialogue with other U.K. Botanic Gardens by contributions of articles and items of interest, research etc. Write direct to Mark Flanagan at Kew (Tel. 01-940 1171).

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with acknowledgement to the Editors Mrs. C. Bromley,  
Miss L. Ponsonby, Mr. R. B. Hastings

### Anglo-French Co-operation

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your letter of 17 december 1985 and for your participation for the kew exhibit.

I agree your project : 8 flats, rigid panels each to a size of 900 mm x 600 mm. I shall supply the screens and I shall pay well normaly the cost of transportation.

Do you know serious companies (cableway of transport) in order that the panels does not damage of dog's ear.

Please can you write the texts in french or english + french.

Yours sincerely

This letter was received in January by the Museums staff at Kew.

*(January 1986)*

### Information and Exhibitions Division

Sadly the heading MUSEUMS DIVISION will no longer appear in the Newsletter as this famous and unique department of the Museums of Economic Botany is no longer in existence. Instead a new Division has been created and will cover, as the title partly suggests, information and public relations, exhibitions and education, which has always been such an essential part of the work of botanic gardens. As has already been mentioned in an earlier Newsletter, Dr. Brinsley Burbidge, late of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, has been appointed head of this new Division and took up his duties on 3 February. We extend a very warm welcome to our new and lively head and hope that he may be happy (despite various deprivations hinted at by his friend CGW in the Herbarium contribution) in this southern botanic garden. We also extend a big welcome to Jackie Panter from the Planning Unit of LCD, Maureen Parker and Ann Henry from Public Relations, Tudor Hardwood, Milan Svanderlik and Andrew McRobb of the Photographic Department and last but certainly not least Bill Bailey of the Herbarium and Quarantine Section, who has been spiritually (and gastronomically) part of us for years! Rupert Hastings, our bird man extraordinary (perhaps even more extraordinary now that he has hit the national headlines with his record of 200 different birds sighted within a 20 mile radius of St. Paul's Cathedral in one year) who was captured by the Herbarium last September, is still very much with us, even if not of us. We hope that he will remain around and congratulate him on his well-deserved promotion to Scientific Officer.

On 31 January, the very last day of the existence of the Museums Division, a wake was held to mark the passing of this historic department. A tomb, marked Museums 1847-1986 and headed by a beautifully carved hand ("crafted" expertly in wood by Joe Ruddy) clutching economic botany treasures of the earth and tastefully decorated (by Richard Strong) with a series of labels recalling the specimens donated by distinguished men and women botanists of the past, was unveiled at the beginning of the proceedings. A toast was drunk

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to mark the occasion, and as befits a Department of Economic Botany and Exhibitions, the liquid was interesting botanically, beautiful to behold and of course stimulating internally. The liquid, symbolic of a glowing future (?), was Tequila Sunrise; spirit distilled from the sap of **Agave tequilana** and other species, mixed with orange juice and grenadine, a syrup made from the juice of **Punica granatum**, the pomegranate. Attired suitably in black and white, purple or other appropriate colours, the party sat down to a splendid feast of smoked fish and smoked cheese, symbolising the funeral pyre, sundry interesting vegetables and fruits, all washed down with real and nearly real champagne, the bubbles representing the spirit of hope. Plates of date, **Phoenix dactylifera**, symbolised the thought that one day the Museums Department might rise again from the ashes. Finally glasses of a liqueur made from the fruits of **Arbutus unedo**, the Strawberry tree and brought by a supporter from southern Europe, were downed with relish (the **unedo**, "one I eat", does not apply to the liqueur!). All agreed it was one of the best parties ever!

*(Laura Ponsonby — February 1986)*

### Addressing in Style

A new set of 'rare and exotic' addresses for Kew has recently been compiled with the best examples as shown below:—

C/O Herberion  
Royal Botanic Gardens  
Kew  
the library  
royal botanic gardens  
kew richard survey

and Miss G. Branley  
Groups . up . to . 50.  
Royal Botanic Gardens  
Lew

*(March 1986)*

### Chelsea 1986 — Tropical Leafy Vegetables

"Green vegetables are good for you" is the main message of this year's RBG exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show. Forget about cabbage and Popeye's spinach; Kew is showing 60 tropical plants with edible leaves, a sample of the 1,500 or so which are known to be used around the world.

Some of them are familiar, such as **Amaranthus** and **Basella**, others less well known e.g. **Cnidioscolus** and **Talinum** and yet others rather unexpected such as **Codiaeum** and **Manihot**.

There is a need for dietary supplementation with protein, vitamins and minerals in many areas of the tropics and eating leaves is one important way to meet this need. particular emphasis is given to the role of dark green leafy vegetables in combating blindness in children due to lack of Vitamin A. The projects which FAO and the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind have set up to combat Vitamin A deficiency emphasises the importance of green vegetables in the diet.

There is considerable scope for genetic improvement of tropical leafy vegetables, many of which are little different from wild-type plants.

(April 1986)

### What's in a Name

In an article in *Names*, vol. 32, no. 4, December 1984, Donald J. Orth of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names tells of the problem a Geological Survey field-man had in proposing the name of a quadrangle map in New Mexico. He sent the following report to his office:

The Sherman quadrangle is named after the town of Sherman. There is no town by the name of Sherman. The chief centre of population of the Sherman quadrangle is called Dwyer, but the post office at Dwyer is called Faywood Post Office. Faywood Post Office used to be located at Faywood, but since Faywood no longer exists it was moved to Dwyer. It is not possible to name the Sherman quadrangle the Faywood quadrangle because there already is a Faywood Station quadrangle adjacent to the Sherman quadrangle. Faywood Station is, of course, the station of the town of Faywood, which no longer exists. In the days when it did exist it was located in the Sherman quadrangle, about three miles east of Faywood Station.

As was mentioned above, there is no town by the name of Sherman. This is because the town of Sherman is really called San Juan. However, because there is another town by the name of San Juan somewhere else in New Mexico, they had to call the post office Sherman Post Office. It was named after Sherman. San Juan is not in the Sherman quadrangle, but about a mile north of it.

(Sent in by John Flanagan, Library — May 1986)

### Information and Exhibition Division: 100 (Working) Days Old — A Personal View

Kew's latest squalling child has survived a conception that was far from immaculate; a birth that felt painful at times and an infancy during which comfort from the warm breast of admin. often seemed far away. This little monster, created by a Frankenstein-inspired grafting of odd limbs from other divisions on to the venerable body of the old Museums Department, is now racing towards puberty with the expectation of a long and fertile life. I joined IED on its first day and am therefore too closely involved with its development to make objective remarks about the success or failure of what has happened during the past four months. Instead, I will make a few general comments about the way Kew appears to a newcomer from the sleepy pastures of that other little Royal Botanic Garden in the north and also attempt to outline IED's aspirations and plans for the future.

'Corporate Insanity' was an expression I heard used by John Simmons shortly after I arrived; it accurately describes the way in which the two 'alphabet-soup divisions' (LCD & IED) seem willing to take on more and more commitments with the clear knowledge that they neither have the staff nor the time to cope in a relaxed way. I can't speak for the other divisions but they do seem to be spared the one-step-from-panic feeling which hangs over Aiton



House and Cambridge Cottage. Another early impression of Kew was of an extraordinary level of combined talent, dedication and loyalty which prevails in many of the teams which go to make up each of the divisions. I don't have to mention any names except to say that I am delighted to have inherited a couple of them.

By far the most revealing of my 100 days was the Friday I spent with Kew's stand at the Chelsea Show. Nit-picking detractors, as always, had their say but I was astonished and very heartened by the warmth of the response from all the visitors with whom I spoke. Kew had produced an exhibit for the majority of Chelsea folk and not for the academics; it should be proud of it. Perhaps the best part of the day began with the 5 o'clock bell. The sight of small groups of Metropolitan Police scavenging the stands and leaving piled high with vegetable spoils is an enduring memory. The pleasure of working late with our own team and with our colleagues from LCD on the demolition of the stand showed the best side of the 'comradeship of the trade'. Someone remarked that not a single swearword was uttered during an energetic and often frustrating evening.

Now to what IED are planning. Without giving offence to LCD who have more contact with visitors than anyone else, 'Kew's public face' defines our major action area. The old public relations department continues to function under new management and comprises heroic Anne Henry and a telephone at present. Even when this department is fully back to strength and is (wo-)manned by two people and a telephone it will be woefully understaffed to handle this vital side of an institution which will inevitably depend more and more on public support and sympathy. We will do something about this.

The 'New Museum' is our major preoccupation at present. With an opening planned for 1988 and most of the groundwork on the exhibits still to be done, Janet Simms, our copywriter, is working single-mindedly on the theme of Plants for (wo-)Man. In the last couple of months I must have been asked several dozen times what the new building is to be called. The front runner at present is 'The Joseph Banks Exhibition Building' with 'The Banks Building' as a natural contraction. The alternative, elegant though less imposing title of 'Kew Exhibition Building' also has many advocates. Also intimately involved in what we will be doing in the new building are Bill, Gail and Laura (I'm sure surnames are not necessary here) who have daily contact with our public and are better equipped than any museum theorist to say what we should tell them and how we should capture their interest.

Design team plus 'Orangery Richard' have just recovered from the Chelsea experience and are also working on designs for the New Building as well as getting to grips with next year's Chelsea exhibit. Chelsea 1987 is being planned in association with the Morris Arboretum and will be staged on both sides of the Atlantic (Kew's first exhibition in the USA). Jackie Panter continues her role as author of interpretive labelling as well as handling a much needed correction job on the Souvenir Guide. Another major commitment (one with which all at Kew can help) is to try to give a uniform image to all those pieces of paper from travel-claim forms to 250-page books. (Kew probably generates more paper than any equivalent sized institution on this earth outside the real civil service. *Please* can we crawl into the eighties and instal a FAX system?)

If you are about to design or publish anything, please let us have a look at it. The service is free and friendly.

A further way you can all help is to let us know *before* you announce to the press that you have just saved the human race or discovered oil beneath the Temperate House. We are at the sharp end of the public interest and it helps if we can answer enquiries with a degree of confidence or at least know to whom we can route the enquiry. Eventually we will have a public relations team able to help with press releases; please be patient for the time being.

This leaves IED's last 'odd limb', the Photography Department, who have just announced yet another 25% increase in number of orders over last year. I have nothing to add about them except more praise; if only the whole of Kew could be run on similarly efficient lines.

The preceding list by no means covers all our activities but it, at least, gives a whiff of what happens behind the imposing port-cochere entrance to No. 37 (I had a parcel delivered to me last week addressed to 'The Portcullis Entrance, Kew Green'). One area we are beginning to take seriously is that of revenue generation and sponsorship, both anathema to the 'old Kew' who never dirtied her hands by contact with the box-wallahs. The old spinster is beginning to wake up and her virginity is very seriously under threat. We must stop her short of going on the streets; 'Hooker' is a word which should never take on a wider meaning. I'm sorry for this Venerean and obstetric imagery; perhaps it stems from my view of the world which was condemned by Gail Bromley as sexist during my first week. What does the term 'sexist' really mean and why is it seldom applied to women?

My hundred days are up. I now lose my status as a prophet in a foreign land and become legitimate material for any criticism and invective you care to hurl. C. G-W do your worst — but remember that I know the truth about the plastic poppy you left under our bed in Edinburgh.

*(Brinsley Burbidge — June 1986)*

### **For IED We Presume?**

A letter received from Bradford by the enquiry unit on 10th June 1986 reads as follows:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would be grateful if you could send me some information.

Yours sincerely

*(June 1986)*

### **Jazz at Kew**

More dancing than "Promenading" took place this year at the concerts, as Acker Bilk, Ronnie Scott and Humphrey Lyttleton raised the temperature of the enthusiasts considerably. The picnic hampers resembled Harrods food hall with gateaux, mousse and salads by the ton and wine by the bucketful! The splendid firework display rounded off the memorable concerts with the customary "BANG".

A good time was had by all.

*(Christine Brandt — August — 1986)*

### **Wakehurst Place**

"Quote of the week" (ending 31st July)

A heavily built lady steps slowly into the Henry Price Walled Garden, glances around, and shouts back through the gateway to an unseen companion, "It's only a garden in here, aunty" and rapidly departs.

The staff of Wakehurst consider this a 'Priceless' remark.

*(Tony Schilling — August 1986)*

### **'Percy' the Pigeon**

As the third and final bird item in this newsletter, mention must be given to Percy the dropped-out racing pigeon that arrived in the Herbarium quadrangle in late June. For three weeks Susie Dickerson and her colleagues in the Kew Record office entertained this bird daily outside their window and it showed a clear preference for their company, only ever joining up with one other 'friend' racing pigeon. For the first two days it was very tired and they were able to read its ring details. From her home base Kim Meacher rang up various pigeon racing magazines in an effort to trace the owner. Eventually she succeeded. It transpired that the owner lived in Newport, Gwent, and that 'Percy' had dropped out of a race that had begun in Scotland! The owner came through on the phone saying he would like his bird back and could they try and 'launch' it! Of course they could not and the bird continued its lengthy stay. At the end of the third week, everyone went home on Friday leaving Percy still in residence. Imagine the surprise in the Meacher household that followed when the owner rang up to say his bird had returned to his loft on the Saturday. For some reason, after a three week holiday, Percy had decided to return home (perhaps it was the weekend quietness) and he had done so with unerring accuracy and no time wasted. We obviously do not know why Percy came to London instead of Gwent in the first place but this is a remarkable example of the accuracy with which birds can navigate. Percy obviously had a mind of his own when it came to racing and he was quite a character, much missed by the girls he left behind.

*(Rupert Hastings — August 1986)*

### **Clog and Apron Again!**

Overheard from a trio of elderly ladies at the end of the Clog and Apron Race when a group of contestants were talking to some of the constabulary:

"Ooo look they're going to arrest them — and quite right too — people like that shouldn't be allowed in the Gardens."

*(Brinsley Burbidge — October 1986)*

### **Rotary Club of Kew Gardens**

The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens is flourishing! Local businessmen and residents meet every Wednesday evening a 8 p.m. for Dinner at the Kew Gardens Hotel upstairs function room. Professor Bell has accepted Honorary Membership for the second year, and visitors/speakers have included Professor Keith Jones, Gren Lucas and others. The Club has initiated for the first time this year, a prize for the student who has contributed most in the community during the year, thus encouraging vocational activities locally. Anyone interested to go along to a meeting may contact Richard Ward (ex-Kew and a Rotarian) on Tel: 01-876 6577.

*(November 1986)*

## BIRDS AT KEW IN 1986

by Rupert Hastings

1986 was a fairly quiet year ornithologically, not just at Kew but also over a much wider area. Both spring and autumn passages were less varied than normal, thanks in part to a preponderance of southwesterly winds, and the weather was too mild late in the year to bring in many winter visitors. However, there were some very unusual occurrences in February during very cold weather with persistent easterlies.

A notable event in January was the presence of *Siskins* in the Gardens; most were to be seen in alders by the Lake and a fine maximum of 34 was noted on the 27th. A *Jackdaw* flying past the Temperate House on the 6th was a scarce visitor, as was a *Woodcock* seen later in the month in the Queen's Cottage Grounds. Two *Lapwings* flew east on the 9th while the river produced a *Snipe* on the 13th and peaks of 17 *Teal* on the same day and 20 *Cormorants* (the year's highest count) on the 30th. *Redwings* were rather few, with a peak of just 12 on the 6th. Notable counts included 13 *Jays* on the 6th, 15 *Magpies* on the 30th and 31 *Coots* on the 27th; this last bird has rarely been counted inside the Gardens.

The picture changed dramatically in February with a large snowfall on the 6th, followed by much colder weather for the rest of the month. Ornithological events on the 6th were highly memorable with great flocks totalling 430 *Skylarks*, 160 *Redwings* and 40 *Fieldfares* all fleeing the snow. With standing water frozen, many waterbirds were forced onto the Thames, including species not normally seen at Kew. Outstanding was a male *Ruddy Duck* outside Brentford Ferry Gate on the 10th, the first individual of this species ever to be seen here. A *Shelduck* on the 12th was also rare and other waterbirds included up to eight *Shoveler*, 10 *Pochard*, 49 *Tufted Ducks*, two *Greylag Geese* on the 14th, nine *Little Grebes*, a massive total of 20 *Great Crested Grebes* on the 18th, two *Gadwall* on the 18th and 21st and a fine male *Goldeneye* on the same two dates. As if all this was not enough, the persistent cold and easterlies brought a *Guillemot* in from the North Sea on the 11th, followed by three more on the 28th. This turned out to be part of an incredible influx of this rare auk into London, with the majority of birds found on the Thames. Inside the Gardens, the *Siskins* reached a splendid new peak of 70 on the 4th and *Redpolls* arrived with a maximum of 15. Other sightings during this outstanding month included *Snipe*, *Kingfisher*, *Meadow Pipits*, a *Woodcock* and several *Jackdaws*.

Cold conditions lasted into early March so that two further *Goldeneye* were on the river on the 2nd and one or two *Guillemots* were to be seen right through to the 27th; surely these seabirds will never again be seen at Kew on so many days, and I shall never forget the sight one evening of a *Guillemot* flying low over my car while I was driving down the Mortlake Road! With something of a thaw on the 6th 48 *Tufted Ducks* descended on the Lake while a pair of *Long-tailed Tits* optimistically began building a nest near the Tea Bar. After the *Guillemots*, the oddity of the month had to be the *Oystercatcher* which Ken Richardson saw standing on Lot's Ait on the 13th; when the tide rose it moved east to Barn Elms Reservoir near Hammersmith Bridge.

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April was a relatively quiet month but Ken was in luck again with a *Wheatear* on the 3rd on the new museum site (later to become the Sir Joseph Banks

Building). The first *House Martins* were quite early, with two over the Green on the 11th, but the first *Swallow* was not seen until the 29th. *Sand Martins* are always much rarer at Kew and two over the river on the 29th were the only ones seen here this year. The most beautiful sight of the month had to be the full-plumaged male *Redstart* which graced the hornbeam grove near the Azalea Garden on the 17th, some 20 years since the last Redstart was seen at Kew. This lovely summer visitor has declined greatly in the London area.

May can be the month for warbler passage but unsettled weather seemed to put a damper on the movements of many summer visitors. A *Willow Warbler* on the 1st followed on from three sightings in April. The only other warblers to occur were those two regulars, *Blackcap* and *Chiffchaff*. Four singing males of each species were found, three of both being in the Queen's Cottage Grounds which emphasises the importance of this area for breeding birds. One would hope that recent clearance of undergrowth in these Grounds has not reduced their value. A pair of *Great Crested Grebes* again chose to nest at the Lake where they succeeded in hatching three young (one later disappeared). *Redpolls* lingered later than usual, to the 16th, but once again it seemed they did not stay to breed. The only odd visitor of the month was a wild male *Mandarin* at the Lake from the 2nd to the 8th.

As usual things became more static in June. *Chiffchaffs* and *Blackcaps* remained in song, young *Coal* and *Long-tailed Tits* were about, and single *Swallows* were interesting occurrences on the 2nd and 27th. The Birdkeeper, John Bartram, saw three *Sparrowhawks* in the air together, while along the river there was a scarce yellow-legged *Herring Gull* on the 27th. Only two *Spotted Flycatchers* were seen all summer, one on June 9th and one on July 30th, their second poor summer in a row. However, two scarce species were proved to have nested in July. Early in the month, a young *Tawny Owl* was found in the Queen's Cottage Grounds and handed in to John Bartram, who successfully reared it to the flying stage. Meanwhile, over by the Rose Garden, a pair of *Kestrels* raised three young in a *Pinus wallichiana*. The return movement of *Swifts* begins in early July and there was a particularly large gathering of 210 over the Green on the 8th, in front of a thunderstorm.

It was a surprise in July to see the *Great Crested Grebes* back on the nest at the Lake and by August 11th they had hatched a second family. Again there were three young but this time all survived to leave the Gardens in October. The original two young were not seen on the Lake after July 30th so they may have been forced away by the adults. Another special event in August was the appearance of two young *Sparrowhawks* near the Queen's Cottage on the 4th. These had clearly been raised locally. *Bullfinches* also had young and an increase in *Chiffchaffs* in the Cottage Grounds suggested the presence of juveniles. As autumn migration got under way, the 20th was a particularly good day with two *Willow Warblers* and a scarce *Garden Warbler*, a *Spotted Flycatcher* and two *Mandarins* at the Lake.

Migrants continued to pass through in September with *Chiffchaffs* on the 10th and 22nd, *Blackcaps* on the 23rd and 30th and *Meadow Pipits* flying over from the 23rd. Nothing too out of the ordinary appeared, though a *Budgie* on the 8th was a novelty. A late *Swift* was seen on the 2nd but *House Martins* were very scarce with no more than 17 together, while *Swallows* did not show

at all. A touch of winter arrived with the first *Teal* on the 8th and *Shovelers* were later regular at the Lake with a peak of 11 on the 30th. A group of 13 *Ring-necked Parakeets* over Cumberland Road was the year's largest gathering of this quite regular visitor.

From October 1st it was evident that a free-flying *Greylag Goose* had taken up residence at the Palm House Pond, where it consorted with two of Kew's captive Greylags. Up to 10 *Shovelers* were still at the Lake and two *Jackdaws* on the 7th were followed by a series of sightings throughout November. November 3rd was a good day with 40 *Redwings*, 14 *Jays* and a *Fieldfare* indicating some arrival. One can never tell, unfortunately, which *Jays* are Continental rather than British in origin. A second *Fieldfare* occurred on the 14th, feeding on Holly berries near the famous Stone Pine. On the same day, three *Snipe* could be seen circling over Syon marsh.

By December 3rd the *Teal* flock on the river had grown to a gathering of 23 birds and *Magpies* had risen to 14 in number; they seem to be most numerous at Kew during the winter months. Their relative, the *Jay*, still numbered 14 on the 8th, suggesting some stop over by the autumn visitors. The year otherwise closed in a quiet fashion, with the weather distinctly mild and with few winter visitors about, including a remarkable lack of *Redwings* which was true for much of southeast England at this time.

Once again, I owe many thanks to all the observers who kindly passed sightings on to me during the year.

## NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 1986

Compiled by **MARTIN J. S. SANDS**

With assistance from **HUGH FLOWER**, a member of the Guild Committee, whose help is very gratefully acknowledged

The Director, **Professor Arthur Bell** (a Trustee of the Guild) continued his commitments as a member of several important councils and committees outside Kew during 1986 and completed his three-year term as external examiner for Birmingham University's M.Sc. course in the Utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources. He acted as external examiner for various Ph.D. students and in January became President of the King's College, London Association presiding over its Annual Dinner held at Kew in July. In 1986, at MAFF's invitation, he became a Trustee of the Thomas Phillips Price Trust. This administers an estate at Markshall, near Coggeshall in Essex, which was left to the Ministry for the furtherance of horticultural and arboricultural knowledge and with which the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens has been connected since the turn of the Century. At the British Museum in March, he spoke on 'Naturalists and the Community — Botanic Gardens' to the Centenary Symposium of the Society for the History of Natural History and then, in April and May, the Director and Mrs. Bell went to Japan under the auspices of the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science. They visited many parts of the country and he gave numerous lectures and seminars on the history and activities of the Royal Botanic Gardens as well as in his own field of research. Many useful contacts with Japanese scientists were made or renewed. From 23rd to 27th June, with several members of staff, he was in St. Louis for the Second International Legume Conference and in July he attended the Sixth International Symposium

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on Insect-Plant Relationships held at Pau in France where he gave a paper on 'Secondary compounds and insect herbivores'. At the summer meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Bristol, he gave the Presidential address to Section K (Botany), and then in November he attended the British Crop Protection Conference at Brighton, giving a paper on 'Plants as sources of novel pest and disease control agents'.

In a letter received from **Peter Benton** (1947) in August 1986, he spoke of a special collection of Cocoa plants he now has, brought from Brazil by his nephew Dr. Forbes Benton. Peter Benton wrote of the viral trouble he had encountered on plants in Ghana, which had led to him raising a resistant strain. Peter left Kew for Ghana in 1947 where he stayed for nine years, in charge of horticultural operations. Similar work continued thereafter in Lake Chad and Mombasa. In the mid 1960's he returned to England, working first of all in Richmond upon Thames (1965-66) and other parts of the country until 1974. In the 1970's he again took posts abroad in Lusaka, Durban and Oman, and then, back in England, he was working in Devon in 1978. Peter now lives in retirement near Wadhurst.

**Mark Bovey**, a Garden Supervisor at Wakehurst Place, travelled with Nigel Hepper (q.v.) to Cameroon in December to help in assessing the Limbe Botanic Garden for development.

In September and October, **Dr. Peter Brandham** (Jodrell Laboratory) travelled extensively in South Africa, particularly in the Karoo and Namaqualand, where he collected bulbs of *Massonieae* and *Lachenalia*.

Congratulations to **Christine Brandt**, formerly of the General Services Unit in the Herbarium, on her promotion to Executive Officer in May, 1986. Shortly afterwards, on 30th June, she transferred to the Information and Exhibitions Division to take up her post as Public Relations Officer.

After resigning from her post on 3rd October, **Elizabeth Brentnall** set out for Australia, travelling first to Perth and then moving on to Tasmania. During her six years at Kew, Elizabeth was employed as a Special Gardener in the Tropical Section with particular responsibility for the *Begonia* stock collection.

Welcome to **Mark Bridger**, who was appointed as a Garden Supervisor in the Arboretum of the Living Collections Division on 24th March, 1986.

**Rupert Browning** (1976) took up a new position with Mid Sussex District Council in late 1986, having spent two years in Knowsley. His new job is in a Leisure Department, based in Haywards Heath. In his letter referring to the new post he wrote that he and his wife Barbara were expecting their fourth child, their eldest starting at his Secondary School during the next academic year.

Early in October, **Dr. Dick Brummitt**, with two of his Herbarium colleagues, spent a week working in Brussels and then on 9th November, he joined Jon Lovett and Peter Goldblatt in Tanzania for three weeks' collecting, continuing to Malawi for 10 days before returning to Kew on 15th December.

Welcome to **Dr. Brinsley Burbidge** who took charge of the newly established Information and Exhibitions Division on 3rd February, 1986, after many years working at Edinburgh Botanic Garden.

**Graham Burgess** (1972) has won one of Britain's most prestigious Landscape Design Competition projects for the Trustee Savings Bank's Head Offices and Training Centre in Andover, which will involve years of high quality landscape work. His landscape company also built a Historic Garden at Peter de Savarys' new Historic Theme Park Home in Royal Berkshire during 1986, and the garden designed by Graham and built by him and Richard Ward (1963) at the Chelsea Flower Show in 1980, has emerged recently in picture form in the Paving Section of the New Texas Home Stores book.

On 24th July, **Rosemary Casserly** of Galway, Eire arrived at Kew to work for four weeks with Sabina Knees (q.v.) in the ECOS Section of the Herbarium to study the plant trade in relation to conservation. On 3rd November, she formally joined the staff of the ECOS Section as an Assistant Scientific Officer.

With sadness we record the death of **George Catt** (1929) on 20th December 1986, in Perth, Western Australia.

We extend a welcome to **Andrea Chivers**, who began work as an Assistant Scientific Officer in the 'Dicots. I' Section of the Herbarium on 1st September.

**Henry Cocker** (1933), a life member of the Guild, and an Associate of Honour of the R.H.S., was 80 in 1986 and still lives in the Province of Venezia in Italy. Writing in October he indicated that, during the war he served in the RAF in India and explained how, through the Journal and a former Kew student, Frank Shaw (1938), he was able to make contact with an old friend and fellow officer, with whom he had lost touch. Henry has written more than 10 books during his many years residency in Italy and now, despite severe arthritis, continues with some advisory work as a garden consultant and horticultural advisor.

In 1986, **Mark Coode** (Editor of the Kew Bulletin, Herbarium) left on Easter Monday for a week in Kuala Lumpur, followed by 5-6 weeks field work on the island of Mindoro, Philippines.

**David Cooke**, who works in the Temperate Nursery of the Living Collections Division, joined John Dransfield (q.v.) for two months' field work on palms in the rain-forest area of north-eastern Madagascar in September. The expedition was organised through Missouri Botanic Garden's Madagascar programme and funded by the N.S.F. (Washington).

**Dr. Tom Cope** (Grass Section, Herbarium) left for Oman on 6th January, 1986, for five weeks field work with a Royal Geographical Society expedition. Later, at the end of July, he joined several colleagues for a week in Washington, DC., to attend the 'Grass Systematics and Evolution' Symposium. From 5th to 7th September he led the students' 'Ecology Weekend' at Bicton College of Agriculture in Devon, departing immediately after his return for Istanbul for the 5th OPTIMA Symposium.

On 6th November, 1986, **Rollo Corkill** retired after four years as Secretary of the Royal Botanic Gardens and more recently to the Board of Trustees. Before coming to Kew he had spent nine years as a civil servant with MAFF after a military career spanning 33 years, which he completed in the Royal Artillery with the rank of Colonel. During his relatively short period at Kew, his personality and forthright approach to his work, not least the very important role he played in the Gardens' transfer to Trustee status, has been very much appreciated and we now wish him a long and happy retirement.

**Dr. Phillip Cribb** (Herbarium) was collecting in Malawi in January and then spent a fortnight in the USA in April, 1986, visiting the West Coast and Harvard.

Congratulations to **Dr. Barbara Croxall** (Fern Section, Herbarium) on her promotion to Senior Scientific Officer from 1st January, 1986.

At the invitation of the Chinese Academica Sinica, **Dr. David Cutler** (Jodrell Laboratory) travelled to China in November to give lectures and develop corporation research projects. Also in 1986 he was made chief editor of the *Annals of Botany*.

**Dr. Frances Davies** (néé Bell) retired on medical grounds on 21st February, 1986, from her post as a Senior Scientific Officer in the Herbarium.

Congratulations to **David Dupuy** (Herbarium, Bentham-Moxon Trust), on his award, on 12th December, of a Ph.D. by Birmingham University for his work on the Orchid genus, *Cymbidium*.

Very sadly we record the death at the age of 83, of **Tom Everett**, (1927) a life member and former President of the Guild. Before his retirement, he was Director of Horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden and author of the New York Botanical Garden Encyclopaedia of Horticulture. (An obituary is to be found elsewhere in this journal).

**Dr. Keith Ferguson**, an Assistant Keeper and head of the Palynology Unit in the Herbarium, was in St. Louis with several colleagues attending the Second International Legume Conference held from 23rd to 27th June. In October he visited the University of Massachusetts at Amherst to give a seminar and then travelled to the University of Oklahoma for a two-week study visit.

Congratulations to **Laura Fitt** (Herbarium) on her promotion to Scientific Officer, in November, 1986, to fill a vacancy in the Economic and Conservation Section of the Herbarium (ECOS) on 22nd December.

**Hans Fliegner**, Assistant Curator of the Temperate Section, spent a month beginning in October, at the Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Trivandrum in the Kerala State of India, which he first visited in 1984. His second visit was made to advise on developments and to set up a training course.

Welcome to **Carol Furness**, formerly on the staff of the British Museum (Natural History) on her appointment as a Scientific Officer in the Palynology Unit of the Herbarium. We wish her success in her new job and congratulate her on gaining a Ph.D. for a thesis submitted towards the end of 1986, under the auspices of Reading University and the BM (Natural History).

From 22nd May until early July, **Mike Gilbert**, who has worked for several years in the Herbarium, was in Ethiopia with Kaj Vollesen (q.v.) to continue their work on that country's flora.

**Jan Gillett**, formerly a member of staff for many years and subsequently a frequent visitor, was appointed an Honorary Research Associate in the Herbarium in April, 1986.

With deep regret, we record the death on 3rd June, 1986, of **John Gilmour**, a past President of the Guild. He died at Cambridge after a short illness. His long association with Kew began in 1931, when he was appointed Assistant Director and, in 1946, he became Director of Wisley and then from 1951 to 1973, Director of Cambridge University Botanic Garden.

Congratulations to **Laura Giuffrida** on her promotion to Graphics Officer III in the Information and Exhibitions Division from 29th May, 1986.

After 45 years in local government, **Eric Grant** (1948) has now retired, but is still busy giving talks to local horticultural clubs, judging flower shows and serving as Secretary to the district Federation of Allotment and Garden Societies. He is still living in Slough, Berkshire.

With regret the death is recorded of **John Gibson Grant** (1928) in May, 1986 at the age of 84.

**Peter Green**, formerly Deputy Director, Keeper of the Herbarium and a past President of the Guild, left on 11th January, 1986, for meetings of the Publications Committee of the Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden on Kauai, Hawaii. Towards the end of the month, breaking his journey, he spent a short while in Southern California.

On 1st September, **Dr. Gordon Guymer**, of the Queensland Herbarium, Brisbane, took up his post as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer (A.B.L.O.), after a short holiday in Scotland. While at Kew, he is working on woody rain-forest families, with an emphasis on *Myrtaceae*. In taking up his post he replaced the previous A.B.L.O., Dr. Clyde Dunlop (of Darwin).

In February, 1984, news arrived from South Africa of the death, in his 80th year, of **Harry Hall** (1933) from his widow Lisabel. They last visited England in 1978, when Harry lectured on South African plants in Holland. At that time they stayed with E. G. Hooper (q.v.), continuing a lasting friendship having first met at the John Innes Institute in Wimbledon in 1928. Harry continued working then at Dartington Hall, Totnes, before going on to Kew. Harry travelled to Corsica, and then La Mortola, where he began specialising in Succulents, before moving to the Darrah collection in Manchester. After service in the war with the RAF, he was welcomed to Kirstenbosch, South Africa, and from there took up plant hunting and perhaps two dozen plants now bear the name *hallii*. After his retirement he found *Cotyledon fragiles*.

In the summer, **Brian Halliwell** (Assistant Curator, Herbaceous Section) represented Kew at the Alpine Gardens Society's North American Alpine Conference which was held in Boulder, southern USA.

**Chris Hallsworth**, who left Kew in 1971, is now living in South Woodham Ferrers, Essex.

At the end of May, **Dr. Ray Harley** (Herbarium) spent a week in Sweden, primarily to examine a doctoral thesis on the genus *Aeollanthus* (Labiatae) at Uppsala University, but also to work in the Herbarium at Stockholm, studying New World Labiatae. Later, on 22nd June, he flew to Colombia, firstly to attend a meeting of the Flora Neotropica Commission, followed by the Latin American Botanical Congress in Medellin.

Congratulations to **Rupert Hastings** (Herbarium, Economic and Conservation Section) on his promotion, from 1st January, 1986, to the grade of Scientific Officer. On March 20th he joined friends to begin a three week ornithological holiday in peninsular Malaya. They first visited Templer Park, about 15 miles north of Kuala Lumpur, and then, after a while spent on Mount Brinchang and by the coast of Kuala Gula (where they say Whiskered Terns as well as the rare Milky Stork and Chinese Egret), — they set out for the Taman

Negara forest reserve where the ornithological highlights were sightings of three species of pitta, the 'Hooded', 'Banded' and 'Garnet' Pitta. The party completed its stay in Malaya in lowland forest at Pasoh and the upland resort of Fraser's Hill.

On 14th January, 1986, **Nigel Hepper** (Herbarium and a former Vice-President of the Guild) left for Cameroon to spend a month leading an ODA consultancy on genetic resources in relation to the humid forest and Limbe (Victoria) Botanical Garden. From 17th September until 7th October he was in Lund and Leningrad, in order to search for isotypes collected by P. Forsskal during the Danish Expedition to Egypt and the Yemen, 1761-63. During his visits he gave lectures on this expedition and about Kew, as well as a seminar on West African rain-forests. Then, from 1st to 12th December, he returned to Cameroon where he and Mark Bovey (q.v.) continued the assessment of the Limbe Botanical Garden, following the Cameroon Government's acceptance of the ODA financial plan.

With sadness we note the death of **Colin Hilton** (1971) on 25th June last year.

**Mr. Hooper** (1986) writes of his friendship with the late Harry Hall (q.v.) from Cornwall, who, he recalled, supplied plant material to the "Educational Garden" in Torquay during his time at Manchester.

**Will Howell** (1925) moved during the last year from Polegate to Eastbourne, from where two letters reached the Guild. Will has happily settled in his new home where he enjoyed his 87th birthday in 1986.

Congratulations to **Mark Jackson** (Computer Unit) on his promotion, on 1st December, to the rank of Higher Executive Officer.

**Charles Jeffrey** (Herbarium) attended the Boden Conference in Australia on the 'Concept of the Genus' in February, 1986, before examining specimens in the herbaria in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne. Later in the year, with two of his colleagues, he left on 5th October to spend a week working in Brussels.

In May, 1986, **Professor Keith Jones**, Deputy Director and a past President of the Guild, attended the Orchid Conference in Budapest and, at the end of June a Chromosome Conference in Marseilles. Later, in July, he joined colleagues attending the Latin American Botanical Congress in Medellin, Colombia.

**Dr. Ronald Keay**, who was at Kew from 1951 to 1957 working on the Flora of West Tropical Africa, and who is a member of the Guild, returned to Kew in October to begin working one day a week in connection with his revision of "Nigerian Trees".

Congratulations to **Jim Keesing** (Living Collections Division) on his promotion to Senior Scientific Officer on 1st January, 1986.

We are pleased to report that **Dr. Anne Kenton** (Jodrell Laboratory) was promoted to Senior Scientific Officer on 1st January, 1986. Shortly afterwards she returned with Dr. Paula Rudall (q.v.) from a collecting visit to Peru. Later, in October, she travelled to Mexico, and, at the invitation of the Cytogenetic Laboratories of the Universidad Autonoma de Mexico, she gave a week's course in cytogenetic techniques for research workers and students in various disciplines. Afterwards she undertook two weeks of field work, collecting living material of *Iridaceae* and *Commelinaceae*.

Congratulations to **Michael King** on his regrading and appointment as Secretary of the Royal Botanic Gardens, on 6th November, following the retirement of Rollo Corkill (q.v.).

**Sabina Knees** (Conservation Officer in the Economic and Conservation Section of the Herbarium (ECOS)) attended the CITES Plant Working Group and Technical Committee meetings in Lausanne from 23rd to 27th June, and then, on 26th September, she began a month's study leave in Madagascar. During her visit, she surveyed the effect of national and international trade on the past and present distributions of endemic succulents. On 18th November, she left for Brussels to attend a hearing of the European Parliament on the effectiveness of international wildlife conventions.

**Frank Knight** (1929), a past President and life member of the Guild, who died in 1985 (see K. G. Journ. 10: 469 & 485) was a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Garden Club from 1955 onwards, being its President from 1960 to 1961. In 1986 it was agreed that a memorial to him should take the form of a gate and a memorial ceremony took place on Garden Club Day, 13th September, in the Walled Garden at Wisley.

**Dr. Edmond Launert**, who is a member of the Guild, officially retired in April, 1986, but has continued as Editor of the *Flora Zambesiaca*, employed by the Bentham-Moxon Trust.

**Christine Leon** (Threatened Plants Unit, Herbarium) travelled to Lodz in Poland on 2nd September to attend the 47th Congress of the Polish Botanical Society, the theme of which was plant genetic resource conservation. From Lodz she went on to Istanbul for the 5th OPTIMA meeting held from 8th to 16th September and from 3rd to 5th November, she was in Strasbourg to attend the Council of Europe's 3rd Colloquy on 'Computer Applications in the field of Nature Conservation'.

**Gwilym Lewis** (Herbarium) left for just over four weeks in Brazil on 15th January, 1986, where he presented a paper at the 37th National Botanical Congress in Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais and then visited herbaria in Mato Grosso and Bahia. Later in the year he joined several colleagues from Kew to attend the Second International Legume Conference held in St. Louis from 23rd to 27th June, and then travelled to Medellin in Colombia to present a paper at the Latin American Botanical Congress. His promotion to Senior Scientific Officer was announced in December (taking effect from 1st January, 1987), and on this we congratulate him.

Hearty congratulations to **Betty Lodge**, Officer Keeper at Kew for many years, on being one of the 1986 recipients of the Kew Medal for 'her quiet enthusiasm and diligent work as Kew's Office Keeper'.

**Gren Lucas** (Keeper of the Herbarium and formerly a member of the Guild Committee) travelled to Minnesota on 11th April, 1986, to Chair a meeting as Chairman of the Species Survival Commission, before flying on to Chicago to lecture on the botanic gardens' role in Conservation. In May he attended a celebration in connection with the re-opening of the Gothenburg palm house, and the plant conservation conference associated with it, and on 8th October, again as Chairman of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, he attended the SSC Steering Committee Meeting and full Commission Meeting being held in the Netherlands from 9th to 15th October. While in the Netherlands he

received the Order of the Golden Ark from Prince Bernhard for his work on plant conservation and we offer him our congratulations. On 6th November, he left Kew to attend a series of IUCN Bureau and Council meetings in Gland, Switzerland.

**Philip Lusby** (1981), who is doing research for a Ph.D. at the University of Aberdeen, returned to Kew on 22nd April, 1986, to study material of arctic *Cerastium* in the Herbarium.

**Mike Lycett** (1960) wrote during the year of his involvement in the introduction of the new GCSE, and the extra planning required for the academic year. He is also involved in merger plans for a new Junior High School. Recently he has completed five years research as co-author of one of Australia's early convict artists, Joseph Lycett, who contributed many landscape paintings, and others of early Australian plants. His book, of 50 Aquatint paintings 'Views of Australia' was published in 1824, the originals being in the British Museum. It is hoped that Mike's book will form a contribution to Australia's bicentennial celebrations.

Belatedly, we sadly record the death, on 7th November 1985, of **Mary McCallum Webster** (1963) at the age of 78. She often visited the Herbarium in connection with her study of the flora of Scotland and, for the years 1960-63, was on the staff researching African grasses.

**Duncan MacKinder** (Threatened Plants Unit, Herbarium) was in Geneva from 1st April, 1986, where he joined Hugh Syngé (q.v.) and they experimented with the transfer of conservation data onto the GRID (Global Resource Information Database) Geographical Information System. Later, from 31st May to 6th June, he attended the 'Conference on Conservation and Development: Implementing the World Conservation Strategy' in Ottawa, Canada. The Conference was sponsored by IUCN, UNEP, WWF, Environment Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Between 16th and 18th November he was in Pittsburg, USA, again with Hugh Syngé, attending the Second Meeting of the Taxonomic Databases Working Group in the Hunt Botanic Library.

**Wessel Marais** (Herbarium) retired on 3rd June, having been for many years the Kew editor and the major contributor to the joint Mauritius/Paris/Kew Flore des Mascareignes project and also an authority on petaloid monocots. We wish him happiness in his new home in France.

Best wishes to **Jim Mateer** (Supervisor in the Arboretum) on his retirement on the 3rd February, 1986, after many years working at Kew.

**Brian Mathew**, while retaining his existing 'Dicot' responsibilities in the Herbarium until the end of 1986, also took responsibility for petaloid monocots and editorship of 'Flora of Iraq' from 9th June. Also in June, he was awarded the Silver OPTIMA Medal (jointly with T. Baytop) for their book 'Bulbous Plants of Turkey'. We offer him congratulations, not only for this award, but also for another honour in June, namely the American Rock Garden Society's Worth Award, 1986, for his contributions to the literature of alpine and rock garden plants.

Welcome to **Victoria Matthews** who, on 1st October, took up a post as Deputy Editor of the Kew Magazine (a continuation of Curtis's Botanical Magazine) under the auspices of the Bentham-Moxon Trust. Before coming

to Kew she worked as a botanist for many years in the Herbarium of Edinburgh Botanic Garden.

From 9th to 15th October, **Anne Mayo** (Herbarium) was in the Netherlands attending the Species Survival Commission Steering Committee Meeting as well as the full Commission Meeting.

Congratulations to **Simon Mayo** (Herbarium) on being awarded a Ph.D. by Reading University in June, 1986, for his thesis on research in the Araceae.

**Dave Menzies** (Tropical Orchid Unit) resigned in August in order to take up an appointment in Glasgow Botanic Garden. We wish him well in his new post.

**Clare Mooney**, née Hawking, a current Course 22 student, spent the latter part of 1986 away in Australia. In a letter sent to Kew from the Atherton Tableland, Queensland, in November, she detailed some of her exploits. At first, under the auspices of 'Operation Raleigh', she was engaged in mapping rain-forest vegetation in a remote part of Queensland under threat from gold mine excavations. It is hoped that this information will support the case for the area to be made into a national park and thus be protected from further exploitation. Clare's second exploration, along the Johnstone River in Queensland, resulted in interesting discoveries. The Johnstone itself she described as 'a beautiful river with white water rapids cutting through a fantastic area of rain-forest' and although she did not find the rock art she was seeking, she and another girl with whom she was walking, discovered two 400' waterfalls only previously seen from a helicopter, but not previously reached by anyone. They named them 'Clare's' and 'Ally's' Falls and the Parks and Wildlife surveyor agreed to get the names authorised and put on the map.

In 1986 news reached the Guild of **Patrick Nutt** (1953) who lives in Pennsylvania. During the past year he visited Britain, and Kew, and, also in 1986, he received the Pennsylvania Flower Grower's 'Flower Grower of the Year' award.

Two letters were received from **S. F. Ovenden** (1928) during the year. The first tells of a return visit he made to La Mortola in Italy after 60 years. He was invited by Granada T.V. to return to the gardens and assist them in the making of a film which was subsequently shown on New Year's Day, 1987. Mr. Ovenden recounts the poor state of the Gardens now, compared with his time working there 60 years ago. However, it is hoped the the University of Genoa will be able to do something about the renovation of the gardens in the near future. Subsequent to his return, Mr. Ovenden was taken to London for a preliminary showing of the film, where he met amongst others, Thomas Hanbury, the last of the family from La Mortola.

**Graham Pattison** (1981), formerly Supervisor in the Tropical Section, returned to England with his family at the end of a five year contract as Curator of the botanic garden, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Sobre Recursos Bioticas, Xalapa, Mexico. Writing in February, 1986, he indicated that in 1984 he had attended and presented papers at the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta Annual Meeting in Edmonton, Canada, speaking on Xalapa and endangered plants. During 1984, he was instrumental in forming the Mexican Association of Botanic Gardens, which had its first meeting in May, 1985 in Mexico City with a second reunion in September, 1986 in Saltillo. Graham is now working as an advisor to the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG), based in the RHS Gardens, Wisley.



On 5th April **David Philcox** (Herbarium) and Gerald Pope (q.v.) began several weeks' collecting in Zambia and northern Malawi, concentrating on their respective plant families for Flora Zambesiaca. During their visit they were joined by Sylvester Chisumpa, who has often spent time working in the Kew Herbarium. On 11th November, David left to work for 10 days in the Lisbon Herbarium in continuation of his work on *Scrophulariaceae* for Flora Zambesiaca.

**Barry Phillips** (1972) travelled with John Whitehead (q.v.) in Peru, Equador and the Galapagos Islands during the summer of 1986.

**Mrs. Sylvia Phillips**, who worked in the Grass Section of the Herbarium before she left Kew in 1972, still continues to work on grasses in the Herbarium from time to time, and at the end of July, she joined several Kew staff members attending the 'Grass Systematics and Evolution' Symposium held in Washington, DC.

From Hertfordshire (Knebworth), news was received from **Sophieke Piebenga** (1984). She has now taken the post of Head Gardener at Knebworth House. During the Winter Programme she was to give a talk on Java to the Mutual Improvement Society.

**Dr. Roger Polhill** (an Assistant Keeper in the Herbarium) left in March, 1986, for South Africa and Namibia in order to collect *Loranthaceae* and, in April, his wife, Diana, joined him for their return journey via Nairobi. Later, from 23rd to 27th June, he joined several others from Kew in attending the Second International Legume Conference held at St. Louis.

**Gerald Pope**, working for several years in the Herbarium for the Flora Zambesiaca with the support of the Bentham-Moxon Trust, joined David Philcox (q.v.) and Sylvester Chisumpa on 5th April, 1985, to collect in Zambia and northern Malawi. Later in the year, on 5th October, he joined two of his colleagues to spend a week working in Brussels.

It is with sadness that belatedly we record the death of **Donald Hunter Ransom** (1925) two years ago.

**David Ransom** (1959) is the proprietor of Ransom's Garden Centre in Jersey, and a son of Donald Ransom (q.v.).

**Patrick Reid**, Exhibitions Officer for the Information and Exhibitions Division (formerly known as the Museums), retired on 28th February, 1986, after 17 years working at Kew. Pat was widely known for his masterminding of exhibits displayed on many occasions including Chelsea Flower Shows, R.H.S. Shows, Royal Society Soirees and of course those staged at intervals in the Orangery. More recently he spent much of his time working on the Exhibition hall of the new Museum Building. We wish him every happiness in his retirement.

**Steve Renvoize** (Herbarium) and Derek Clayton, (q.v.), co-authors of the recently published magnum opus 'Genera Graminum', spent a week in Washington, DC. at the end of July, attending the 'Grass Systematics and Evolution' Symposium.

**Dr. Paula Rudall**, accompanied by Dr. Anne Kenton (q.v.), both of the Jodrell Laboratory, returned, early in 1986, from a trip to Peru, including a three week period in the Crusco area. With the help of Peruvian botanists from Lima they collected bulbs and living material of *Iridaceae* and *Commelinaceae*.

**Martin Sands** (Co-ordinator in the Herbarium and formerly Honorary Assistant Secretary of the Guild) was promoted to the rank of Principal Scientific Officer from 1st January, 1986. During the year he continued his work as Deputy Leader and Leader of the Biological programme of the joint Royal Geographical and Linnean Societies' 'Kimberley Australia, 200 Project' and on 3rd December he left for two weeks in Australia to take part in a series of planning meetings. With Professor Andrew Goudie (Oxford), who is overall leader of the Project, he travelled to Sydney, Canberra, Perth and Melbourne and, during a weekend break, they visited some of the extensive salt lakes of Western Australia. The joint project is scheduled to take place in 1988 in various parts of the Kimberley Region of North Western Australia.

With regret we record the death of **Desmond Saville** (1923) during the early part of 1986. At the time, Desmond was living very close to Kew Gardens in Ennerdale Road.

**Brian Schrire**, South African Liaison Botanist in the Herbarium since July, 1985, joined several of the Kew staff at the Second International Legume Conference held at St. Louis from 23rd to 27th June.

Welcome to **Dr. B. V. Shetty**, who, at the end of April, 1986, took up the position of Indian Liaison Botanist at Kew, replacing Dr. Wadhwa (q.v.). Dr. Shetty, of the Botanical Survey, Coimbatore, is working in *Vitaceae* for the Flora of India.

Congratulations to **John Simmons**, Curator and President of the Guild, on the award, in 1986, of the Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria Medal of Honour for outstanding services to Horticulture. In a very full year, he paid a spring visit to America, lecturing on aspects of Kew to both a Garden Conference in Williamsburg and at Swathmore College, and giving a seminar on the management of botanic gardens to the University of Delaware M.Sc. Horticultural students at Longwood. During the year he also gave lectures on a variety of topics to the Royal Institute of Chemists, the Forestry Commission research staff at Alice Holt and to staff of MAFF's Experimental Horticultural Station. He is now the technical editor of a new series of popular books to be known as 'Kew Gardening Guides', of which the first four titles are to be published in 1987, and was elected, in 1986, to the Westonbirt management committee as well as to the office of President-Elect of the Institute of Horticulture. He is also Chairman of their Finance and General Purposes Committee. ITV's Naturewatch programme, featuring the Curator, was later taken up by the National Geographic Society for screening in America.

**Lloyd Snellgrove** (1984), while continuing his work as a Horticultural Co-ordinator for the Chapel Green Community Project in Sheffield, is now studying for a Diploma in Leisure and Amenity Management. The Community Project was launched in 1985 and, after a year in the Nursery Section, was reported to have an established bedding programme with firm wholesale connections. The objectives of the Community Project Nurseries are to provide integrated training and occupational opportunities which involve both handicapped and able-bodied people, and two acres around the Project Centre are now being developed having landscape plans designed by Lloyd. In 1986 he joined the Curator of the Botanical Gardens in Sheffield to put on a half-hour programme on Radio Sheffield called 'Garden Talk'.

On 17th January, 1986, **Brian Stannard** (Herbarium) left to join Gwilym Lewis (q.v.) for the Botanical Congress in Ouro Preto, Brazil. Brian began working in the Herbarium in 1974 after being awarded a Kew Diploma in the previous year.

In April, 1986, **Professor William T. Stearn** was appointed an Honorary Research Associate in the Herbarium.

**Charles Stirton**, on a long-term Krukoff Fellowship to study Legumes in the Herbarium, joined several colleagues in attending the Second International Legume Conference held at St. Louis from 23rd to 27th June. Afterwards he went on to the fourth Congreso de Lanino Americano Botanico and spent 11 days along the Rio Yari in Colombia.

Congratulations to **Margaret Stone** on the award of an honorary doctorate by Louisiana State University. For many years she prepared drawings at Kew for the Botanical Magazine.

**Peter Styles** (1969) wrote of the success of his practice, in 1986, in receiving a large Gold Medal for the Welsh Theme Garden, at the National Garden Festival in Stoke-on-Trent. A number of other awards were received by his practice during the year, and especially one presented by the Prince of Wales in person in Colwyn Bay.

**Barbara Swain** (Herbarium) was among several Kew staff who attended the Second International Legume Conference held in St. Louis from 23rd to 27th June, and she is to be congratulated on her promotion to the rank of Scientific Officer which was announced in December and took effect from 1st January 1987.

**Hugh Sygne** (Threatened Plants Unit, Herbarium) travelled to Geneva on 23rd March, 1986, where he visited the UN environment database system known as GRID (Global Resource Information Database). Duncan Mackinder, from the same Unit, joined him on 1st April, and they experimented with the transfer of conservation data on plants, animals and protected areas onto the GRID Geographical Information System. Between 23rd May and 1st June, he was in Morocco to represent IUCN at a planning meeting for a conference to be held there in 1987, on the theme 'Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources in Morocco'. Soon afterwards, on 26th June, he left for the Latin American Botanical Congress in Medellin, Colombia, and attended the third meeting of the IUCN/WWF Plant Advisory Group in Quirama (also in Colombia) before returning to Kew on 15th July. Later he was in Pittsburg, USA with Duncan Mackinder, to attend the Second Meeting of the Taxonomic Databases Working Group held in the Hunt Botanic Library between 16th and 18th November. The Group is an informal consortium of herbaria set up to establish common standards for computerising botanical data.

During 1986, **Hubert Taylor** (1933) who lives in Horndean, Portsmouth kindly obtained detailed information for the Guild about the life and work of his friend Jim Taylor (q.v.).

Many years after his death, interesting details reached us, via Hubert Taylor about his friend **Jim Taylor** who was a life member of the Guild. It is of interest to note that both Hubert and Jim Taylor were at the John Innes Institute together in Merton between 1928 and 1930. Jim Taylor worked at Guelph University in

Canada, as Professor of Horticulture, and in his memory a nature centre has been named after him. Jim moved to Canada on leaving Kew in 1936, and continued working there until 1974 when he retired. Throughout his life he retained great interest in the cultivation and development of the hardy lily. Some new cultivars were introduced to Kew by Jim in the 1960's.

Congratulations to **Nigel Taylor** (Herbarium) and his wife, Ruth, on the birth of their son, Charles Edward, on 17th December, weighing 7 lb. 5 oz. Earlier in the year, from 23rd April to 2nd May, Nigel was in Switzerland to visit the 'City Succulent Collection' where he studied living and herbarium material of *Melocactus*. Soon afterwards, on 23rd May, he left for 10 weeks' study in Mexico, five weeks being sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund-US as part of a two-year survey of Mexico's endangered cacti. The second five weeks were occupied with studies of *Echinocactus* and *Melocactus*.

**Peter Taylor** (Herbarium) retired on 15th January, 1986, after 38 years working at Kew. However, as an expert on *Utricularia*, he has continued to return to the Herbarium from time to time, working towards completion of his monograph. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

**Cliff Townsend** (formerly an Assistant Keeper in the Herbarium) retired in April, 1986, after many years working at Kew, not least as editor of the 'Flora of Iraq' since its inception and as a world authority on Umbelliferae and Amarantaceae. Since leaving officially, he has returned regularly to continue some of his work during retirement which we trust will be a long and happy one.

Our congratulations to **Dr. Bernard Verdcourt** (Herbarium) on the award, in 1986, of a Kew Medal, for 'his work as an outstanding taxonomic botanist and prolific author; an inspiration and friend to many of his colleagues'.

**Kaj Vollesen**, with Mike Gilbert (q.v.), spent part of May and June in Ethiopia continuing their work on the flora. Kaj has worked in the Herbarium for several years on the Ethiopian flora.

After four and a half years as Indian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew, **Dr. B. M. Wadhwa** completed a long and valuable term of office in February, 1986. We look forward to a continuing link with him and extend best wishes to Dr. Wadhwa and his wife.

**David Wallace** (1981) has been on a three-year contract with the Bermuda Government since May, 1984. In his post in the Botanic Gardens his responsibilities included the orchid, bromeliad and cacti collections.

Welcome to **Jeffrey Wheatley**, who joined the staff of the Monocot Section of the Herbarium as an Assistant Scientific Officer on 15th September.

**John Whitehead** (1972) who is a lecturer and Head of Photography, Merrist Wood and currently a member of the Guild Committee, returned to Kew on 27th February, 1986, to give a lecture to the Kew Photographic Society on 'A Photographer in Namaqualand'. Early in the year he visited Turkey and saw interesting forests of blue and green foliage forms of *Cedrus libani* ssp. *stenocoma*. During the summer he was joined by Barry Phillips (q.v.) and together they travelled to South America. In Peru they saw the giant *Puya raimondii* and while at Tulcan in northern Ecuador they visited a cemetery famous for its magical topiary. On the high paramo they photographed *Espeletia hartwegiana* and then ended their journey in the Galapagos islands to view the wealth of animals and the huge cactus trees of *Opuntia echios*.

Very sadly **Alan Wilton's** wife, Merridy, died in March 1986 and all who know Alan will wish to extend their deepest sympathy to him. He is now involved in teaching in Mt. Barker, Southern Australia, where he lives with his two children, Ashley and Eloice.

On 1st January, 1986, **Jeff Wood** (Orchid Herbarium) was promoted to Higher Scientific Officer, on which he is to be congratulated.

Welcome to **Elizabeth Woodgyer**, who took up her appointment as an Assistant Scientific Officer in the General Service Unit of the Herbarium on 22nd September.

Congratulations to **Anne Woodward** on her promotion to a permanent Clerical Officer post in the Library at Kew.

**Keith Woolliams** (1963) who is Director of the Waimea Arboretum and Botanic Gardens in Hawaii and currently a member of the Guild Committee, briefly returned to the Library at Kew on 28th August, to investigate references on *Hibiscus*.

We congratulate **Sue Zmarzty** (Herbarium) on her promotion, from 1st January, 1986, to Scientific Officer.

As far as our records show it is of interest to note that the only Japanese member the Guild has ever had was a **Mr. Yashiroda** who left in 1926 and died in 1979.

# OBITUARIES

## LAURA BRIGHTMAN

It is with great sadness that we have to record the death of Laura Brightman on 11 June, 1986. Laura was a first year horticultural student who endeared herself to those who knew her in the short time she was at Kew and impressed all with her positive outlook and courageous fight for life.

from July Kew Newsletter

## GEORGE CATT — died 20th December 1986

If one reads the *Journals* of the late 1920's one sees a panoply of names, many of whom left Kew for work abroad. This entrepreneurial spirit filled George Catt from tip to toe.

He started as an Improver in Chester Lodge Gardens, St. Leonards and then became a Journeyman Gardener at Aldenham House Gardens. Then onto promotion as Foreman at Edgewarbury House and in 1927 onto Kew where he spent a year as a student.

In 1928 he had moved, upwards again, as he was Sub-Foreman Propagator in Orchids and T Range.

In notes and gleanings p.1145 there is a list of the places George worked. We reproduce it here.

Assistant Horticulturist, Lancelilla Experimental Station, Tala, Representative of Honduras; Horticulturist, Siquirres Experimental Station, Costa Rica, Central America; Agronomist in Charge, Cedar Grove Experimental Station, Jamaica, B.W.I.; Head Gardener, Boars Hill, Oxford; Estate Manager, London Film Productions, Denham; Curator University Botanic Gardens, Istanbul, Turkey; Estate Manager, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer British Studios Ltd.; Studio Manager, M.G.M. British Studios Ltd., Boreham Wood; Company Director and Studio Manager, M.G.M. British Studios; and Company Secretary and Administrator, Borde Hill Garden Ltd.

George, however, never lost touch with Kew. If there were Kewites where he went he gathered them together for meetings and communicated the fact through the *Journal* to Kew. His long, well written articles not only cover Botanical and Horticultural aspects of the countries he visited, but social and political matters, and he was never short of an opinion. This forthright, honest manner contributed to George's rapid establishment wherever he went.

In his report on The Garden Horticulture of Turkey he says Kewites with itchy feet following the War should go for experience only. He obviously enjoyed himself there "gaining experience" and his ready humour came through in his report in the *Journal*.

In another article he wrote on "Horticulture in Filmland". Millions of filmgoers (that was when millions went to The Pictures) have seen George's landscapes set up in front of enormous photographs in order to create special effects.

Then, as now, there was high unemployment and George's moral conscience pointed out that it was not only wars that created starvation and moral destruction of people.

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Then, as now, there was high unemployment and George's moral conscience pointed out that it was not only wars that created starvation and moral destruction of people.

He recognised and wrote of 'The egotism of men and the realisation of their own insignificance'.

He said he had a successful career with luck guiding his footsteps and his green fingers consolidating what chance had thrown his way. Words full of meaning to all of us who share and admire such spirit. At the end of his article on work in the film studios he wonders what the reaction of Kewites will be to the story and in his own words says "I hope it will be an encouragement for those inclined towards the adventurous rather than the safe, to the opening of new trails rather than the consolidation of old".

George and his wife, Violet, retired to W. Australia in 1970 and Violet sadly passed away in 1976.

There are many who will remember George Catt, active to the very end. Students in particular should read his past articles in the *Kew Guild Journal* for they are full of personality, sometimes confident, sometimes humble.

### TOM EVERETT

Tom Everett died in September 1986 aged 83 years. His life from beginning to end was one of constant effort and bounding enthusiasm.

From 1916-1920 he served as an apprentice, Improver or Journeyman on various private estates in Manchester, finally entering the gardens of the Cheadle Royal Hospital. I remember looking over the walls of the extensive kitchen garden when I was a boy, and being impressed by the scale and efficiency of the production. In its day it was renowned. In addition to working in the garden, Tom studied, and before he entered Kew he passed the RHS Senior Examination. He came to Kew in 1925.

The British Botany Club recorded the excellent quality of his Wildflower Collections and later he was the first to receive the Dummer Memorial Prize for the best Collection of British Flora.

After two and a half years at Kew he was selected to fill the position of Assistant Director of the Botanic Gardens at Victoria, Camerouns, but instead he journeyed to the USA. For a while he worked at the Untermeyer Estate before taking a Head Gardener's position on the Pleasantville Estate.

In 1930 he returned to the U.K. to take the final examination for the National Diploma in Horticulture.

In 1932 he was appointed Horticulturist at the New York Botanical Garden. He constructed the new Thompson Memorial Rock Garden and re-arranged the Conservatory with a naturalistic layout.

As the years went by his academic and practical knowledge was applied across a wider area as he was appointed firstly Horticulturist and Curator of Education (1954) and later Assistant Director (Horticulture) and Senior Curator of Education (1959). Rutgers University awarded him an Honorary Degree of Master of Science in 1959.

Tom's efforts were continually being recognised by his peers and in 1946 he was awarded the Thomas Roland Medal for skill in horticulture by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. In 1959 he was granted the Funders



Award by the Garden Club of America. This brought him back to the U.K. on a three month tour of horticultural establishments.

He travelled widely throughout the world in his work and when the call went up at the Kew Guild Dinner for international visitors to stand up Tom Everett was often amongst them. Apart from the built works he has left behind there is the wealth of knowledge he has unselfishly passed on to students old and young alike.

In the great Kew tradition he has written books, some of them simple handbooks but others comprehensive works of the sort which are the pillars upon which other professionals may use in the continuing enrichment of our profession.

Throughout his career Tom was an ebullient and confident adventurer and one of Kew's great bridges between his country of birth, Britain, and his chosen homeland, America. To his family and friends we offer our condolences.

### IAN GALLOWAY

Ian Galloway died suddenly at home on the 1st March 1986 aged 57.

New Zealand has lost one of its most valuable horticulturists and Parks Managers and, as many New Zealand friends will attest, an enthusiastic Kewite.

He was director of Parks and Recreation for 20 years.



Kewites and wives that attended the 1986 I.F.P.R.A. 14th Congress and the 51st New Zealand Institute of P. & R. Conference in Aucland, New Zealand, 23 Feb-1 March 1986. *Back row:* Bob Kerr (UK), Alan Pedley (UK), Ian Galloway (NZ), Neil Gilmour (UK), Alistair McArthur (NZ), John Reed (Australia), David Lowe (NZ), Gilbert Briscoe (South Africa), John Taylor (NZ), Phil Jew (NZ). *Front row:* Audrey Kerr (UK), Margaret Redley (UK), Alison Galloway (NZ), Claire Jew (NZ), Morag Taylor (NZ), Sheila Gilmour (UK). *Lying down:* Ian McDowell (NZ).

Ian started work with the Parks and Recreation Department of Wellington in 1945. For five years he worked in the Botanic Gardens after which he worked his passage to England on the Dominion Monarch.

After six months at Bournemouth Parks Department he entered Kew on 2nd April 1950. On completing the Kew course he returned to New Zealand where he took up the post of Maintenance Officer, then Deputy Director and finally Director.

Ian Galloway was very much admired by his colleagues; not only was he madly enthusiastic, his ideas were well planned and he made sure he had a well trained staff able to carry them out.

The photo shows Ian with his wife, friends and colleagues at the 1986 I.P.R.A. Conference in New Zealand.

His presence is sadly missed.

### JOHN GIBSON GRANT

John entered Kew in 1923 where he stayed for five years.

Up until his death on 11th May 1986 he treasured his long association with Kew and Edinburgh.

To his daughter, Mrs. D. E. Grant, we send our condolences.

### J. S. L. GILMOUR



J. S. L. Gilmour first became seriously interested in plants at Preparatory School. The enthusiastic love of plants was to remain with him always, a strand which remained simple and pure in spite of the remarkable achievements of this brilliant man.

After graduating at Cambridge he spent a year as Curator of the Herbarium and Botanical Museum at the Cambridge Botany School.

In 1946 he came to Kew, ably filling the shoes of Major T. F. Chipp, whose untimely death had deprived Kew of an Assistant Director.

He gained the respect of all around him and in keeping with his generous professionalism spoke to the students. His Mutual Improvement Society Lecture was entitled "How our Wild Flowers were Discovered".

John loved music and not many can boast conducting a choir in the Temperate House or arranging concerts where madrigals were sung in the King

William Temple. The role of entertainer enriched Kew Guild Dinners and Christmas carol singing sessions.

In 1951 he was recalled to Cambridge. At the same time the Cory Bequest facilitated a re-design and enlargement of the garden.

His old and beloved college of Clare honoured him with a Fellowship.

In 1957 he was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour by the R.H.S. whom he had long served as a Council Member.

In 1963/64 he was elected President of The Kew Guild, an honour which his many Kew friends could celebrate with him.

There is not enough room here to catalogue the many achievements of John Gilmour. He achieved a combination of continuing personal charm, intellectual vitality, international recognition for his learned opinion and unflinching commitment to all he believed in.

Our World of Plants has lost one of its finest cultivators of all things good.

John died on 3rd June 1986. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.

### HARRY HALL

Mr. Harry Hall died on 18th February 1986 at his home in South Africa, aged 79 years.

Harry Hall was trained at the Chester School of Horticulture; the John Innes Institute and Dartington Hall, prior to entering Kew in September 1929.

Harry was always a keen plant collector. During his first leave he went plant collecting with W. E. Ingwersen in Corsica.

After training at Kew he visited Tresco and spent two years at La Mortola after which he decided that the more equable climes had a lot to offer. In spite of this he returned to Manchester and Alexandra Park where he looked after the famous Darrah Collection of Cacti and Succulents.

The war years were spent in the RAF but after his demob in 1947 he resigned from Manchester Parks and went to those warmer climes.

In 1958 he took up a post at Kirstenboch Botanic Gardens, South Africa. Again every leave was spent collecting plants with the result that he has two dozen plants bearing the epithet 'hallii' as well as finding 110 species previously unrecorded. He has said, with characteristic humour, that it was difficult *not* to find an un-named plant in South Africa!

E. J. Hooper carried out a long correspondence over the years with Harry Hall and he speaks highly of this energetic plantsman.

To his wife Lisabel, who remains at their home in South Africa, we send our kindest wishes.

### COLIN HILTON

Colin died in 1986. I remember him very well at Kew. He would always participate to the full in social events.

After leaving Kew he took up a post at Clifton Nurseries in London.

In 1973 he started a garden design business in Richmond. The business, Hillier and Hilton, expanded in 1976 to a shop in Barnes. Gardens were designed in Britain, France and America. One project in Dorset included walled gardens, a maze and an avenue of white chestnuts half a mile long.

In Gloucestershire another garden lay between two large lakes. A French garden clung to the rocky sides of a hill village.

Colin and Malcolm indulged their fantasies by creating fantasies for the movie business. They provided flowers and plants for award winning films such as 'The French Lieutenant', 'Greystoke', 'The Shining' and 'Yentel'.

Towards the end of his life Colin, with Malcolm Hillier, wrote 'The Complete Book of Dried Flowers'. The book has become a best seller and a living and useful memorial.

Colin died at an early age (41 years) but his contribution to life was great. To all his friends we offer our deepest condolences.

### **GORDON LEITH**

Gordon retired several years ago after many years in local government. He became Area Superintendent for the London Borough of Richmond following re-organisation of the London Boroughs.

We offer condolences to his daughter.

Richard Ward

### **DONALD HUNTER RANSOM**

Donald Hunter Ransom died in 1984. He was an apprentice gardener until the age of 17. He then joined the army for the First World War, after which he worked as an apprentice at Wisley. He later became a student/apprentice at Kew leaving in 1925. He then took a post as a private gardener in Yorkshire.

Following this he worked on Herm in the Channel Islands for two years. He returned to England and worked for the London County Council as a Journeyman with Wally Dunk, but in 1929 he returned to the Channel Islands where he worked at Samares Manor until the 1940's, when he got married.

During the Second World War, to save deportation, he ran supplies to a Childrens' Home.

At the end of the war he sent The Kew Guild Journal fascinating extracts from his diary where he described the German occupation of Jersey.

After the war he took a job as a Mushroom Grower, then became self employed as a Landscape Gardener until his retirement.

In 1961 his son David returned from America (after also studying at Kew) and went into partnership with his father, eventually buying the business. His grand-daughter, Rebecca Ransom, continues the tradition, presently enjoying a studentship at Kew.

**DESMOND SAVILLE**

Desmond Saville entered Kew in 1920 as a Student Gardener. He always had a close affinity for plants.

In 1921 he gave a lecture on Chrysanthemums and in 1922 the British Botany Club gave him a special mention.

In June 1940 he entered the Herbarium as a Preparer where he worked until his death on 16th March 1986.

To his family we offer our deepest sympathy.

We are sorry to hear of the death of A. Short. No further information is available at the time of going to press. Further information on this, or other past members, should be sent to The Secretary, Kew Guild, R.B.G. Kew, Richmond, Surrey, as soon as possible please, together with available photographs and career/family information.

*Obituaries are kindly collated by Graham Burgess, and printed alphabetically*  
— Ed.

## KEW GUILD INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1986

Year to 31.12.85			Year to 31.12.86	
£	£	INCOME	£	£
2,074.01		Annual Subscriptions and arrears .....	2,105.80	
35.67		Donations — General .....	452.07	
1,077.00		Donations — Award scheme .....	267.07	
	3,186.68			2,824.94
504.23		Dividends from Charities Investment Fund:—		
437.70		— General Account .....	544.30	
		— Award Scheme .....	472.43	
	941.93			1,016.73
213.21		Bank Interest — General A/c .....	123.80	
509.81		— Award Scheme .....	247.01	
—		— Charities Deposit Fund .....	567.40	
	723.02			938.21
1,564.00		Wakehurst Booklet Receipts .....	1,896.50	
(308.00)		(Less value of stock sold) .....	(510.50)	
	1,256.00			1,386.00
45.50		Sale of Emblems .....	58.50	
(35.00)		(Less value of stock sold) .....	(46.50)	
	10.50			12.00
	284.00	Award scheme soiree and raffle .....		201.00
	54.50	Sale of Journals .....		92.57
	10.00	A.G.M. Tea .....		16.00
1,251.67		Annual Dinner Receipts .....	1,254.80	
(1,448.42)		(Less cost) .....	(1,297.54)	
	(196.75)	Annual Dinner Deficit .....		(42.74)
	220.00	Journal Adverts .....		150.00
261.00		Welsh visit receipts .....	—	
(235.00)		(Less cost) .....	—	
	26.00	Sales of Past Presidents Jewel .....	428.72	
—		(Less cost) .....	(422.40)	
—				6.32
	6,515.88			6,601.03
	<u>6,515.88</u>			<u>6,601.03</u>
		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
	2,359.00	Kew Guild Journal — Printing .....		3,357.00
	104.00	Prizes awarded by the Guild .....		94.00
	96.20	Hon. Officer's expenses .....		145.00
	577.83	General Printing, Postage, Stationery, etc. ...		467.58
	400.00	Award Scheme Prizes .....		653.50
	14.06	Insurance .....		14.06
	22.70	Bank Commission .....		74.33
	—	F. P. Knight Memorial Contribution .....		20.00
	3,573.79			4,825.47
	<u>3,573.79</u>			<u>4,825.47</u>
<b>1985</b>			<b>1986</b>	
£		<b>SUMMARY</b>	£	
6,515.88		Total Income .....	6,601.03	
(3,573.79)		Less total expenditure .....	(4,825.47)	
2,942.09		Excess of income over expenditure for the year	1,775.56	
<u>2,942.09</u>			<u>1,775.56</u>	

## KEW GUILD INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1986

Year to 31.12.85			Year to 31.12.86	
£	£	INCOME	£	£
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1,077.00		Donations — Award scheme .....	267.07	
	3,186.68			2,824.94
		Dividends from Charities Investment Fund:—		
504.23		— General Account .....	544.30	
437.70		— Award Scheme .....	472.43	
	941.93			1,016.73
213.21		Bank Interest — General A/c .....	123.80	
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	723.02			938.21
1,564.00		Wakehurst Booklet Receipts .....	1,896.50	
(308.00)		(Less value of stock sold) .....	(510.50)	
	1,256.00			1,386.00
45.50		Sale of Emblems .....	58.50	
(35.00)		(Less value of stock sold) .....	(46.50)	
	10.50			12.00
	284.00	Award scheme soiree and raffle .....		201.00
	54.50	Sale of Journals .....		92.57
	10.00	A.G.M. Tea .....		16.00
1,251.67		Annual Dinner Receipts .....	1,254.80	
(1,448.42)		(Less cost) .....	(1,297.54)	
	(196.75)	Annual Dinner Deficit .....		(42.74)
	220.00	Journal Adverts .....		150.00
261.00		Welsh visit receipts .....	—	
(235.00)		(Less cost) .....	—	
	26.00	Sales of Past Presidents Jewel .....	428.72	
—		(Less cost) .....	(422.40)	
—				6.32
	6,515.88			6,601.03
		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
	2,359.00	Kew Guild Journal — Printing .....		3,357.00
	104.00	Prizes awarded by the Guild .....		94.00
	96.20	Hon. Officer's expenses .....		145.00
	577.83	General Printing, Postage, Stationery, etc. ...		467.58
	400.00	Award Scheme Prizes .....		653.50
	14.06	Insurance .....		14.06
	22.70	Bank Commission .....		74.33
	—	F. P. Knight Memorial Contribution .....		20.00
	3,573.79			4,825.47
<b>1985</b>				<b>1986</b>
£		<b>SUMMARY</b>		£
6,515.88		Total Income .....		6,601.03
(3,573.79)		Less total expenditure .....		(4,825.47)
2,942.09		Excess of income over expenditure for the year		1,775.56

## KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1986

Year to 31.12.85			Year to 31.12.86	
£	£		£	£
<b>INVESTED ASSETS</b>				
Charities Official Investment Fund:—				
4,000.00		General Fund .....	4,000.00	
2,000.00		Award Scheme Fund .....	2,000.00	
—		Charities Deposit Fund .....	6,000.00	
	6,000.00			12,000.00
 <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
623.07		Stock — Emblems .....	576.57	
—		— Past Presidents Jewel .....	45.60	
1,429.88		— Wakehurst Booklets .....	919.38	
2,052.95			1,541.55	
2,087.08		Bank — General Deposit Account .....	1,510.88	
8,321.78		— Award Scheme Deposit Account .....	4,892.12	
100.16		— Current Account .....	542.95	
12,561.94			8,487.50	
 <b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
		Life Subscriptions	£	
		48 @ £1.00 Half rate	— 24.00	
		41 @ £2.00 Half rate	— 41.00	
		73 @ £3.15 Half rate	— 114.97	
		4 @ £5.25	— 21.00	
(200.97)			(200.97)	
—		Creditor — Portrack Trust .....	(150.00)	
	12,360.97		8,136.53	
18,360.97		<b>NET ASSETS</b> .....	20,136.53	
 <b>FINANCED BY</b>				
15,418.88		Balance brought forward .....	18,360.97	
2,942.09		Add Excess income over expenditure .....	1,775.56	
	18,360.97		20,136.53	

W. E. Storey  
Hon. Treasurer

Audited and found correct

David Field  
Hans Fliegner  
23rd January 1987



## RULES OF THE KEW GUILD

Published every second year.

Alternating with Staff List, and incorporating any changes.

### *Name of the Society.*

- (1) The name of the Society shall be "The Kew Guild".

### *Objects.*

- (2) The objects of the Guild shall be—
- (a) the advancement of knowledge of horticulture generally and in particular in connection with the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and among members of the Guild.
  - (b) the encouragement of horticultural education at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, by the provision of prizes and grants for Student Gardeners and the administration of the educational funds of the Guild.
  - (c) the provision of facilities for leisure time education and recreation in the interests of the social welfare of Student Gardeners and others having need of such facilities who are within the provisions of Section 1 of the Recreational Charities Act, 1958.
  - (d) the administration of the charitable funds of the Guild and the assistance from such funds of members of the Guild who are in need.
  - (e) the publication of a *Journal* in furtherance of the objects of the Guild or any of them.
  - (f) generally to do all such acts as shall further the active and corporate life of the Guild and may be lawfully done by a body established only for the purposes recognised by the law of England as charitable.

### *Membership.*

- (3) (a) Membership of the Guild shall be open to past and present Curators, Assistant Curators, Garden Supervisors, Student Gardeners, scientific, horticultural, professional and executive members of the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Wakehurst Place; also International Trainees and Research and Liaison Scientists, provided they have worked continuously **at Kew or Wakehurst Place for at least twelve months**. The term "Kewites" where used herein or by the Guild in other publications shall mean a paid-up member of the Guild.
- (b) In addition, the Committee may admit to membership of the Guild any member of the Kew staff outside the categories set out in (3) (a) who is deemed worthy of membership of the Guild.
- (c) Honorary Membership may be awarded at the discretion of the Committee to a former officer (Hon. Editor, Secretary or Treasurer) who has rendered outstanding service.
- (4) Members of the Guild shall have the right to vote at meetings and to compete in competitions, and shall be eligible for election as officers of the Guild or to serve on the Committee.
- (5) Any member wishing to resign shall give notice to the Honorary Secretary or the Honorary Treasurer before the first day of December in the year of his or her intention to resign.
- (6) (a) The Committee may by resolution communicated to the member in writing and stating concisely the grounds for which it proposes to act call upon any individual to resign from the Guild and if the member does not so resign within forty-eight days after being so called upon the Committee may by resolution terminate his membership.
- (b) before coming to any decision the Committee shall give the member affected proper facilities for stating his case to them either orally or in writing as the Committee may determine.

### *Annual Subscriptions.*

- (7) The Annual Subscription which shall be payable on January 1st of each year shall be such a sum as the Annual General Meeting shall from time to time determine and shall entitle members to all publications of the Guild. A member whose subscription is one year in arrears shall not receive further publications until his arrears be fully paid. The annual subscription is £7.00 (**Student Gardeners £3.00 — as at September 1982.**)

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- (8) Any member whose subscriptions are fully paid may on the payment of a lump sum predetermined by the Annual General Meeting become a Life Member and be entitled to all the privileges of the Guild without further payment. A sum representing not less than one-half of each life subscription shall be invested in the name of the Trustees and the liabilities to Life Subscribers shall be clearly shown in the annual Statement of Accounts. The provisions of this Rule may be suspended by resolution of an Annual General Meeting for such period as the Annual General Meeting shall think fit. (This rule is at present suspended.)

*Management of the Guild.*

- (9) (a) The business of the Guild shall be conducted by a Committee composed of the officers and ordinary Committee members. The officers shall consist of the President, two Vice-Presidents, the immediate Past-President, the President-Elect, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Membership Treasurer and Honorary Editor. The ordinary Committee members shall consist of four present Kewites, twelve Old Kewites and two Student Gardeners.
- (b) Nine members of the Committee shall form a quorum. The Committee shall meet from time to time as may be necessary. Nine members of the Committee may by signed written notice to the Honorary Secretary request him to call a meeting of the Committee and if such meeting be not called within thirty days of the despatch of such notice the said nine members may themselves call a meeting of the Committee by twenty-one days' notice in writing sent to all members thereof.
- (c) The Committee may regulate its own proceedings by standing order or otherwise as it may think fit. No act or proceedings of the Committee shall be invalidated by any vacancy on the Committee or any sub-committee thereof on the grounds that a member of the Committee or of a sub-committee thereof was not qualified at or had become disqualified after the date of his appointment. The Chairman of the Committee shall at Committee meetings have no second or casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.
- (d) At least seven days' written notice of a meeting of the Committee shall so far as practicable be given to every officer and other members of the Committee.
- (e) A Chairman of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee to take the Chair in the absence of the President, the immediate Past-President, the President-Elect and Vice-Presidents.
- (f) There shall be two Honorary Auditors chosen from among members of the Guild who are not members of the Committee.

*Election of Officers, Committee, and Auditors.*

- (10) (a) The President, the President-Elect, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Membership Treasurer, and Honorary Editor shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. One Vice-President shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for two years. Any vacancy among the officers shall be filled as soon as possible by co-option by the Committee, and any person so co-opted shall hold office until the conclusion of the following Annual General Meeting.
- (b) Four ordinary Committee Members (three of whom shall be Old Kewites) shall be elected each year and shall hold office for four years. They shall not be eligible for re-election for at least twelve months after the end of their term of office. Any casual vacancy on the Committee shall be filled at the next Annual General Meeting, the member elected completing the term of office of the member whom he has replaced. The Student Gardener representatives shall be elected annually by the Student Gardeners.
- (c) One Honorary Auditor shall be elected each year and shall hold office for two years.
- (d) Candidates for election as officers or ordinary Committee members or Auditors may be proposed by any member of the Guild provided that the names of candidates be sent in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least twenty-eight clear days' before the Annual General Meeting.

*Meetings.*

- (11) The Annual General Meeting shall be held at Kew on either the second or third Saturday in September. At the Annual General Meeting the Report of the Committee and a Statement of the Accounts shall be submitted and election of officers and Committee members and Auditors shall take place. **Fourteen clear days before the Annual General Meeting the Honorary Secretary shall circulate to all members with an address in the United Kingdom a financial statement** together with the agenda of the meeting which shall include a list of candidates for election as officers or ordinary Committee members or Auditors together with their proposers.
- (12) A Special General Meeting of the Guild may be called at any time by the Committee and shall be so called within fifty-six days of receipt by the Honorary Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by not less than thirty-five members stating the purpose for which such a meeting is desired and setting out any resolution which it is desired to propose thereat. Notice of the meeting with an agenda thereof shall be sent to all members with an address in the United Kingdom at least forty-two days before the date appointed for the meeting. Amendments to any resolutions set out in the agenda shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary at least twenty-eight clear days before the date of the meeting and shall be sent by him to all members with an address in the United Kingdom at least seven clear days before the date of the meeting. No business shall be transacted at such meeting other than that specified in the notice and no amendment of any substance to any resolution proposed at the meeting shall be allowed. The Chairman of the meeting shall be nominated by the Committee.
- (13) The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by any member shall not invalidate any proceedings or resolutions at any meeting of the Guild or any Committee thereof.
- (14) At a General Meeting each individual member whose subscription is fully paid up to the date of the meeting shall have one vote and no more except the Chairman who shall have a second or casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

*Alterations to the Rules.*

- (15) These rules may be altered by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an Annual or Special General Meeting. Any proposals for the alteration of Rules shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary in writing at least twenty-eight clear days before the date of the Annual or Special General Meeting and shall be sent by him to all members with an address in the United Kingdom at least seven clear days before the date of the Annual or Special General Meeting.

*Dissolution of the Guild.*

- (16) A motion to dissolve the Guild may only be made at a Special General Meeting and to effect a dissolution at least three-quarters of the members actually present and voting at the meeting shall vote in favour of the dissolution. If a motion to dissolve the Guild is carried by the said majority the Guild's surplus funds, property and assets (if any) shall be disposed of for charitable purposes in connection with education and research in connection with botany and horticulture as the members may at the said Special General Meeting decide, or failing any such decision to a charity connected with botany and horticulture to be nominated by the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for the time being, to the intent that no member of the Guild shall receive any of the said funds, property and assets by virtue of his membership.

*Property of the Guild and Trustees.*

- (17) (a) The Guild may purchase or otherwise acquire and hold property of any nature and may sell lease mortgage or otherwise deal with the same. Any property belonging to the Guild may be invested in the names of not more than four and not less than two Trustees who may be appointed from time to time by the Committee and any vacancy amongst such Trustees shall be filled by the Committee. Such property may also be invested in the name of a limited company established by and under the control of the Guild for Trust purposes.

- (b) Such investments may be in or upon such shares, stocks, funds, securities, investments, and property, real or personal, freehold or leasehold in any part of the world upon such terms and conditions (if any) as the Committee shall in their absolute discretion think fit and in all respects as if the Committee were the sole beneficial owners thereof. The Committee may from time to time direct the Trustees to sell vary and transfer such investments and property.
- (c) The Committee may deal with the said investments as if they were the sole beneficial owners thereof.
- (d) If legal proceedings of any kind are resorted to or defended by the Guild the Trustees shall on the instructions of the Committee but not otherwise prosecute or defend such proceedings either in the name of the Guild or in the name of the Trustees or otherwise on behalf of the Guild as may be necessary.
- (e) The Trustees shall in all respects act as required by the Committee and a copy of a minute of the Committee signed by the Honorary Secretary shall be conclusive evidence of its decision.
- (f) Any Trustee may be removed from office by a resolution passed at a meeting of the Committee by a vote of not less than three-quarters majority of the members of the Committee present and voting at the meeting. At least seven clear days' notice of a special meeting to remove a Trustee shall be given to all members of the Committee and the agenda for the meeting shall state concisely the reasons why the removal is considered necessary and the accused Trustee shall be permitted to make his defence orally or in writing.
- (g) The Trustees shall be effectively indemnified by the Committee from and against any liability costs expenses and payments whatsoever which may be properly incurred or made by them in relation to the trusts of the property and investments of the Guild or in relation to any legal proceedings or which otherwise relate directly or indirectly to the performance of the functions of a Trustee of the Guild.
- (h) Except where otherwise provided the Trustees may act by a simple majority of those present and voting at a meeting of the Trustees.
- (i) The Trustees shall from among their number appoint an Honorary Secretary.

### Editor's Note

The Kew Guild Committee are currently updating the Rules, details of which will be presented to the A.G.M. for approval.



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