

THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD

Founded in 1892

The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present

Events of 1987

Published in 1988

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**Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew**

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ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

THE KEW GUILD COMMITTEE 1987-88

Trustees:

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 Honorary Assistant Secretary: M. Sparrow
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 Honorary Membership Secretary: Miss E. H. Smith
 Honorary Editor: R. C. Ward, A.I.P.R.A.(Dip.), M.I.Hort.
 Honorary Member: R. Sealy, B.Sc., F.L.S.

Committee Members:

Retire 1988

D. J. Breach Pinner
 D. G. Every 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

Retire 1991

M. Bovey Wakehurst
 Dr. W. A. Lord Cheltenham
 G. A. Pattison Hampton Hill
 B. Phillips Bermuda

Award Scheme Chairman: P. Maunder

Events Officer: D. J. Breach

Badges and Emblems: S. J. Henchie

Honorary Auditors: H. J. Fliegner, L. A. Pemberton

Students' Union Representatives: Miss R. Ransom, Miss J. Jones

EDITORIAL

Thirteen years of editing coming up! I am happy to report that 'copy' has come in well for 1987 and, in fact, I have had to omit several interesting items for lack of space. For cost reasons we try to keep to approximately 92 pages.

Undoubtedly the main topic at Kew in 1987 was the 'hurricane'. It has been difficult to pull together all the info. on the damage done both at Kew and Wakehurst, and I have tried to precis write-ups received, as well as printing photographic records, for your interest. As an ex-Kewite I have been very aware of the enormous dedication of staff in getting the mess cleared up, and the widespread goodwill for the Gardens, together with the 'fellowship' the Gardens encourage.

Talking of fellowship, you will note the good work our President has done to try to contact ex-Kew members in Australia. This is the Kew Guild at work! Why don't you do the same, especially if you live out of Britain, and let us know the results? We are constantly striving to update our names and addresses list.

Finally may I remind members that advertising in the Journal is welcomed. Keep in touch!

Richard C. Ward
Hon. Editor

P.S. Is your subscription up to date? £7 at present. £3 for students. If in doubt, check with Miss E. Smith, Membership Secretary please.

NOTE

Subscriptions and change of address to the Membership Secretary: 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.

**THOMAS ROBERT NOEL LOTHIAN, O.B.E., N.D.H.(N.Z.),
L.F.R.A.I.P.R., J.P.**

President 1987/88



**THOMAS ROBERT NOEL LOTHIAN, O.B.E, N.D.H.(N.S.),
L.F.R.A.I.P.R., J.P.**

President 1987/88

Our President, Noel was born in Melbourne, Victoria and grew up amidst plants and the family publishing business, to which, as the eldest son he was expected to enter after completing his education at Scotch College. However, as both parents and a grandfather were good home gardeners this rubbed off and took priority over all else.

The decision made, two years were spent at Burnley Horticultural College, Melbourne, following which he was appointed to the Melbourne City Council's Parks Department. After three years working within the nursery and other locations an exchange with the Christchurch Botanic Gardens for 12 months was arranged. During this time many plant and seed collecting field trips were made into the New Zealand Alps and after this he returned home briefly before entering Kew in February 1938, with Frank Hazlewood, the first Aussies as students for over a decade.

In May 1939, Noel went to Munich Botanic Gardens as an exchange student, amid all the pre-war scares, and was rudely removed when war became imminent, getting out of Germany on the last train and finally arriving back at Kew in the early hours of Saturday September 2nd. The day following the balloons went up, sirens wailed and the rest is history.

After the Kew Course was completed in May 1940, Noel returned to Australia where for the next few years he served in the Army, finishing up in charge of several Army Farms in New Guinea.

Lincoln Agricultural College, Christchurch University (N.Z.), was in 1943 proposing to establish courses in Horticulture and he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Horticulture. For the next three years he was formulating and teaching students in the three year Diploma Course and during this time laid the foundations for the degree course in Horticulture which eventuated after his departure from the College.

Information obtained in 1947 that the Directorship of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens was vacant and a successful application brought Noel to Adelaide in 1948, where he remained in charge of the Botanic Gardens for 33 years. The then only Botanic Garden had been allowed to run down, there was plenty to do, not only in re-establishing the garden itself by improving its layout, the plant collections and glasshouses, but also re-establishing the herbarium, library and instituting an advisory service to the public, seed exchange and a four year training course for young gardeners.

As part of the process of increasing and improving the plant collections, especially Australian species, numerous field trips were made through the outback of South Australia and adjoining States. In addition to seeds, many herbarium specimens were collected giving new localities for existing species as well as collecting material which later were described as new species.

Because the Mt. Lofty Ranges lie close to Adelaide, a start was made in 1950 to obtain land in this region of high rainfall, non-alkaline soils with an amenable climate at 1,800 to 2,100 feet altitude. During the next 25 years further parcels of land were procured and planning and planting undertaken and

today Mt. Lofty Botanic Garden covers almost 250 acres. The site is excellent for the cool temperate northern and southern hemisphere and sub-alpine plants. These collections complement those growing in the Adelaide Garden where dry semi-tropic alkaline soil conditions are present. Then in 1965 the Ashby Family generously gave their wonderful 33 acres "Wittunga" garden at Blackwood (altitude approximately 1,100 feet) to the Board of the Botanic Gardens. This specialises in only Australian and South African plants, which were greatly augmented during the next 15 years.

While at the Gardens Noel became involved in radio, television and lecturing in horticulture and allied subjects at various institutions and societies as well as writing four books on general gardening and Australian native plants. Since arriving in Adelaide, he has been a member of the Floricultural Committee and a Councillor of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society. He was chairman and a member of various governmental committees dealing with tree planting and street trees, conservation and associated matters. He has been a member or office bearer of many horticultural and native plant societies and was editor of the '*South Australian Naturalist*' for 22 years. A foundation member of the (now) Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation, serving three years as President and a Councillor for over 15 years, he is now one of the five Trustees of the R.A.I.P.R. Education Trust Fund.

Noel is not a newcomer to the Kew Guild, having served on the Committee as Australian representative on two occasions, 1943-1947 and again in 1959-1963. In 1984 he was awarded the distinguished "George Brown Award".

He is a life member of several societies and in 1961 was honoured with the O.B.E. for his contribution to horticulture in the community and in 1975 the R.H.S. bestowed the Veitch Memorial Gold Medal for his work in horticulture through writings, radio and television.

Since retiring in 1980, Noel has maintained his interest in these matters with the setting up of an advisory and consulting service, lecturing to horticultural and other organisations, continuing his interest in the growing of bulbous plants, writing a few articles, photographing plants and enjoying and maintaining his garden. His hobby, as listed in '*Who's Who*' is "growing things!".

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD

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

On Saturday, 12th September 1987, 63 members assembled in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre for the Annual General Meeting. The President, Mr. J. B. E. Simmons, took the Chair accompanied on the platform by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. E. Storey and the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. W. E. Worth.

The President, welcoming everyone to the meeting, said how pleasing it was to have such a large attendance, more than for many years. The Secretary then read the names of those whose death had been made known since the last meeting: Past President T. H. Everett, G. A. Catt, J. S. Douglas, R. W. King, S. F. Ovenden. Members observed a time of silence in their memory.

Apologies for absence were received from C. A. Attwood (1950), Professor E. A. Bell, A. E. Boreman (1938), J. K. Burras (1954), H. R. Cocker (1933),

Mrs. E. J. Cowley, T. Dumont (1957), T. Garwood (1947), M. J. Griffin (1963), D. Hardman (1977), T. R. N. Lothian (1940), J. A. Maddox (1963), Dr. C. R. Metcalfe (1969), A. P. Paterson (1958), K. F. Pearson (1975), M. Sparrow, Mrs. E. M. Wakefield (1946), J. J. Whitehead (1972), J. R. Woodhams, K. R. Woolliams (1963).

The Minutes of the A.G.M. of 1986 were adopted.

The Committee then reported as follows:

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. E. Storey, presented the *accounts for 1986*, as printed in the *Journal* which showed a satisfactory situation with an excess of Income over Expenditure of £1,775 for the year. There were no questions so Mr. Storey continued by outlining the financial situation for 1987. In particular, he drew attention to the share holdings in The Charities Official Investment Fund which, since they were purchased some ten years ago, have carried a paper valuation of £6,000 in total. These yield a modest but regular income and also have the merit of increasing in capital value so that on the latest information available they now have a market value in excess of £20,000.

Mr. Storey also said that during his term as Treasurer he had been very touched by letters he had received from members all over the world who, although they may have left Kew many years ago, remember their connection through the Guild with fondness and with gratitude. Many enclose donations for the Guild, and this year he had received cheques for £100 from Philip Wood in Australia, and £1,000 from Edwin Cherry in Surrey, the latter specifically for the Award Scheme.

George Catt, who died in Australia in December 1986, has bequeathed the residue of his estate to the Guild. This consists of his house which has been sold for 51,000 Australian dollars, and investments in the U.K. of about £11,000. Mr. Catt's son has exercised his prerogative of contesting the bequest under the Australian Family Inheritance Act, and the matter is at present in the hands of Solicitors representing the Guild and Solicitors representing Mr. Catt's executors.

The President thanked Mr. Storey on behalf of the meeting for the excellent way in which he cares for the Guild's finances.

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. W. E. Worth, spoke of some of the year's events which were not covered by other reports.

At the suggestion of Mr. P. Maunder it was decided to revive the custom of providing Book Plates with the students' prizes. It had been possible to get them designed and printed in time for this year's Prizegiving. Miss L. Ponsonby in the Museum Department had kindly inscribed the names of recipients in the beautiful script she uses for the Certificates.

The Director, Professor E. A. Bell, very kindly agreed that Past Presidents of the Guild could apply for Golden Passes to the Gardens in recognition of their services to the Guild and to Kew. Most of those who were eligible had applied, and greatly appreciated the Director's generosity.

On May 13th Mr. Tom Sargent, who was believed to be the Guild's oldest member, celebrated his 97th birthday. A bouquet of flowers from Wakehurst Place was taken to his home in Haywards Heath with a card of good wishes from the Guild.

The granddaughter of George Nicholson, a founder member of the Guild, presented to the Guild a clock and a silver salver which had belonged to her grandfather. Our President hopes that sometime in the future it will be possible to have a Guild Club Room where such memorabilia can be displayed, together with our Coat of Arms.

Mr. M. J. S. Sands as chairman of the sub-committee appointed to make arrangements for celebrating the *Centenary of the Guild* in 1992, reported on a number of possibilities being considered.

His suggestion of establishing a Patronage had been discussed and tentative enquiries had been made towards finding an appropriate Patron. Constitutionally, the institution of such a post would have to be agreed by the Guild well in advance, so that the necessary change in the Rules could be passed by the A.G.M. in time for the Centenary Year.

Mr. Sands went on to report that Mr. Ray Desmond had agreed to write a book on the history of gardens and gardening with strong and particular emphasis on the contributions of Kewites in this field.

The first big event of the Centenary Year might take the form of a special lecture in the Spring at which the 'centenary' book would be launched, and there would then be a Grand Dinner in May at which the Patron would be guest of honour. The third event of the year might be a sponsored concert raising funds towards the acquisition and equipping of a Guild Club Room.

A special edition of the Journal and a memorial feature in the Gardens were also being considered. Finally the sub-committee were undertaking to bring together and properly file the Guild archives, material from which could be formed into an exhibition which would then be on display throughout the Centenary Year.

Mr. Storey, reporting on behalf of the *Membership Treasurer, Miss E. H. Smith*, said that numbers were rising steadily. As well as a good response from the students there were a number of Kewites re-joining after a period of years. In spite of 'teething troubles' which had not yet been fully resolved the address list was on the computer, and labels for the Journal mailing had been drawn from it. Miss Smith wished to express her thanks to Mr. G. Castle for his invaluable help in setting the system up and teaching her how to handle it. Members thanked Miss Smith for tackling this considerable task.

Mr. R. Ward, Editor of the Journal, said that last year's Journal cost £2,750 and next year's would cost £2,880. This is for a Journal of 92 pages. He had got a second quotation for comparison. He recommended that we continue to use our present printers who were co-operative and did their best to keep prices down. More advertisements which bring in £25 a time would help if that money were used to subsidise the Journal rather than being given to the Award Scheme fund which is now in good financial shape. This was agreed. Members expressed their thanks to Mr. Ward for producing an excellent Journal. Mr. Milne-Redhead said it was one of the best we had had.

The Events Officer, Mr. D. Breach reported a profit on the Annual Dinner of approximately £175. There was a record attendance for recent years of 136 members and guests. It was a great pleasure to have with us our President Elect, Mr. Noël Lothian and his wife from Adelaide who included this occasion

in their world tour. The principal guest was Sir Philip Dowson and a second speaker was Kewite Alan Titchmarsh. The evening was a great social success though there was a feeling that the meal was not quite up to the usual standard.

The President spoke of a very enjoyable *excursion to Oxford* ably organised by Mr. J. K. Burras and Mr. A. G. Burgess. Some 30 members gathered at Mattock's Rose Nursery in the morning. The afternoon was spent at Oxford Botanic Garden where members were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Burras.

Mr. S. Henchie reported the sale of five ties and three scarves this year. Apart from a large stock of the small metal badges, other stocks were low. There was much discussion about both the kind of goods which the Guild could usefully sell and the design of articles such as ties which, if more in keeping with modern trends, might sell better. Members were pleased to hear that the committee intended to review the situation, and would report back to the next A.G.M. Suggestions from members would be welcomed.

Reporting on the *Award Scheme Fund*, Mr. Storey announced that he was now 'time expired' and under the rules of the Award Scheme, must step down from the sub-committee. He paid tribute to the enthusiasm and hard work of the members and the sterling support he had received from them throughout his period as Chairman. This had made his task thoroughly enjoyable.

Seven applications for awards had been received in 1987 covering a wide spectrum of enterprising and worthwhile activities. Allocation of the £1,200 available was made easier because the majority of the applications were for specific amounts of £100 or less to 'top up' funds obtained from other sources. This left room for the sub-committee to award £300 to Penny Hammond for a study tour of tropical Australia and £500 to Michael Maunder towards the expense of the first year of his M.Sc. course for which no grant was available.

Members expressed great appreciation of the work Mr. Storey had done for the Award Scheme during his term of office.

The next item was consideration of the *revised Rules of the Guild*. Mr. Ward, in proposing their acceptance, said the sub-committee had spent a lot of time in detailed consideration of each paragraph. Their aim had been to bring the rules into line with modern thinking without in any way destroying the purpose and values on which historically the Guild was based. The revision had been checked by a solicitor and had been accepted by the Charity Commissioners with only very minor alterations. Mr. Sands seconded the motion. The revision was adopted unanimously.

Then followed the *Election of Officers*.

Mr. J. Simmons said how much he had appreciated the honour of being President. It had been for him a hectic year full of pleasures but with its share of sadness with the passing of so many members. He praised the members of the committee for their enthusiasm and their willingness to work together all in a voluntary capacity. The changes in the Rules which took a broader view of membership so far as staff were concerned, were in keeping with the times. Steady, solid progress had been made throughout the year, the most important part being played by the Award Scheme. In looking forward to the Centenary Mr. Simmons said he hoped it might be possible to obtain Royal Patronage which would much enhance the Guild's status. Referring to the legacy from Mr. Catt, Mr. Simmons hoped it might be possible to develop a

benevolent fund to help older members, a complement to the benefits which younger people get from the Award Scheme.

The President then proposed that Mr. T. R. N. Lothian, former Director of Adelaide Botanic Garden be elected President for the year 1987/88. This was accepted unanimously. As Mr. Lothian could not be present, Mr. R. I. Beyer accepted the badge of office on his behalf and read Mr. Lothian's letter to the Guild.

All other nominations were accepted en bloc.

Under *Any Other Business* members said how glad they were to see that Mr. Beyer had made such a good recovery following heart surgery in the summer.

There was discussion about the possibility of including in the Journal an article about proposed developments in the Gardens. At present, members can only read about what has happened some time after the event because of inevitable delays in publication time. The President, speaking as Curator, said this would be difficult because proposed schemes often did not materialise, and in certain circumstances, publication might make negotiations difficult. However, the matter could be considered.

On a domestic note, there were very justifiable complaints that members had not been able to get into the Gardens by the Jodrell Gate for the A.G.M.; this caused a lot of inconvenience, especially for elderly members. The secretary accepted full responsibility for not ensuring that the Gate was manned at all times. Mr. M. A. Arnold-Gilliat of Administration agreed to organise things better next year.

The date of the next A.G.M. is expected to be September 10th, 1988.

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m., and members adjourned to the Common Room for tea.

REPORT OF THE 1987 ANNUAL DINNER

by D. J. Breach

The 1987 Kew Guild Dinner was held in what has become the 'usual' venue, the Refectory at the Imperial College, on Wednesday, 20th May 1987. The occasion proved as popular as ever with the highest attendance of recent years, 136 members and guests taking the opportunity of supporting the President and his Lady on this auspicious occasion as well as seizing the opportunity to meet together, discuss events and experiences and to renew acquaintances.

A list of apologies were read out by our President and those tendering them were remembered, together with others, during the toast to 'Absent Friends'.

Nineteen students attended the Dinner, Penny Hammond, represented the Students' Union in which capacity she addressed those present and responded to the toast to the Kew Guild.

Keith Parker and his group of helpers held a very successful raffle and although voices became hoarse they were not deterred in their endeavours.

Our President welcomed Guild Members and their Guests and expressed his wish that everyone would have a very enjoyable evening. In his address he spoke of the history and traditions of Kew and the Kew Guild and the current activities of both. He also expressed the honour he felt at being elected President of the Kew Guild and how he was enjoying performing the duties of that office.

The principal speaker was Sir Philip Dowson, C.B.E., R.A., senior partner of Ove Arup & Partners and a founder partner of Ove Arup Associates, two organisations of International repute. Sir Philip, who is a member of the Royal Fine Arts Commission and is also a Kew Trustee spoke in some depth of the sympathetic use of landscaping in conjunction with architectural works. He also proposed the toast to the Kew Guild, the response being given by Penny Hammond.

The recipient of the George Brown Award for 1987 was Alan Titchmarsh who, 'having to work for his supper' entertained us with a witty and humorous account of some of his experiences.

Members and guests were able to stay until midnight.

(The Dinner will be on the 24th May, 1989 — *Ed.*)

KEW GUILD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee met four times in 1987 and amongst other topics discussed the following: Passes to Kew Gardens; bookplates for students' prize books; Computerisation of Guild records; Kew Guild Awards; Kew Guild Dinner improvements; recognition of Kew Certificates; Guild outings; Centenary celebrations 1992; revision of rules; simplification of subscription payments and membership forms; support for students; Guild publicity; Journal advertising; Guild regalia — possible new designs/choice; Past President badges.

KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME REPORT

Kenwyn Pearson, Secretary

The storm of 15th October 1987 has much to answer for and the Award Scheme Sub-Committee was forced to cancel its autumn meeting, with the Chairman, Peter Maunder with a flattened greenhouse, the Secretary, myself, with about £50,000.00 worth of damage to the London Estate and the rest of the Committee working at Kew on other things which seemed more important.

In March 1987 the Committee did meet and various applications were considered and awards were made through Mike Maunder undertaking a course in Plant Taxonomy, John Donavon for a Student Scholarship to the Canary Islands, Robyn Carter for travel to the Pyrenees, Helen Duncan for a Travel Scholarship to Israel, to Paul Cook on a botanical study trip to the

Trento region of Italy and to Sue Bell for a study tour to Denmark and Penny Hammond for an expedition to the tropical rain forests of Australia.

It is interesting to quote from the minutes of the meeting where the above awards were made:

'The Committee were favourably impressed with the standard of application, but in certain cases it was still felt that more information could be given, particularly relating to the amounts that are required for funding'.

A few years ago the Award Scheme needed a major injection of capital to enhance its work and with generous donations, the income from the sale of the Wakehurst Booklet and the generosity of Guild members and the income from advertisements in the Journal it has been possible to achieve some of the aims but still work has to be done. Through this fund and through the Guild backing, it should be possible to provide even more money to help Guild members on their chosen projects and I do urge members to consider this aspect of the Guild's work in relation to wills and donations from charitable trusts and other sources. As has been stated already, this is one of the greater aspects of the Guild's work.

The A.G.M. Evening was a success and enjoyed by an ever increasing number of Guild members and their invited guests — long may this continue.

To conclude, I must express my thanks to the Committee, who having put up with me as Chairman and Secretary, seemed to survive and work very hard in the interests of the Guild and rest assured that I will not rest until the amount available from the Award is even higher and more members are applying for benefit.

SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE LIVING COLLECTIONS DIVISION

PRESENTATION OF THE KEW DIPLOMAS AND PRIZES 1987 (Course 21)

Deputy Director Professor Keith Jones gave an introduction, followed by an address and presentation of prizes by Rosemary Verey.

THE KEW DIPLOMA

Honours

Ms A. Dayton	D. Pearson
C. Hannington	L. Searle
J. James	

Credit

A. Forrest	K. Parker
Ms P. Hammond	G. Redwood
B. Labey	Ms S. Rutherford
Ms J. Lipington	R. Welsh

Pass

H. Gregory

G. Smith

International Certificate

M. Muhandiram

O. Sebeseri

I. Bronstein



Horticulture Students Prizegiving, September 1987 — Course 22.

PRIZES

- The Ernest Thornton-Smith Travelling Scholarship C. Hannington
- Hendry Idris Matthews Scholarship Ms R. Carter, Ms H. Duncan
- Hoselock-ASL Prize Ms S. Bell
- G. C. Johnson Memorial Prize J. James
- Kingdon-Ward Prize L. Searle
- Landsman Bookshop Prize Ms A. Dayton
- Sir Joseph Hooker Prize Ms. R. Ransom
- * Donald Dring Memorial Prize to be awarded in 1988
- The Metcalf Cup Ms A. Dayton
- John Gilbert Prize No entries
- Matilda Smith Memorial Prize C. Hannington
- Dummer Memorial Prize G. Redwood
- Proudlock Prize Ms A. Dayton, S. Rutherford, D. Pearson
- Prize for best vegetable plot D. Pearson
- Kew Guild Individual Study Prize C. Hannington
- C. P. Raffill Prize D. Pearson
- Professor Keith Jones Cup D. Pearson
- George Brown Prize P. Brewster

Mutual Improvement Society's Prize	Ms S. Bell
Lecturer's Prize	D. Pearson
Photographic Society Prize	P. Cook
Plant Identification Tests	Ms P. Hammond
Rotary Club Prize	K. Parker
Students' Union Life Membership	Ms P. Hammond, A. Forrest, H. Gregory, G. Smith

*In 1988 Prize to be awarded to C.24 for the highest total in Pathology and Plant Protection.

TITLES OF MANAGEMENT PROJECTS (Course 22)

Abigail Dayton	The Finance, Maintenance and Staffing of Smaller Gardens in Private Houses.
Alan Forrest	Computers in Horticulture — Garden Centres.
Howard Gregory	Computers in Landscape Design.
Penny Hammond	An Investigation into the Management of two gardens of the National Trust, with emphasis on Policy and Finance.
Chris Hannington	The Use of Computers in Aboriculture.
John James	Computers in Horticulture — Mechanical Operations.
Bruce Labey	The Production of Technical Explanatory Leaflets for the Princess of Wales Conservatory.
Jane Lipington	Horticultural and Gardening Interests for the Keen Amateur and the Public at large with reference to Garden Tours, Flower/Plant Hunting including Photography, Holidays and Weekends in the U.K. and Abroad.
Keith Parker	The Management, Finance and Staffing of Smaller Gardens — especially the Historic Houses Assoc.
Daniel Pearson	Horticultural and Gardening interests for the Keen Amateur and the Public at Large in Botanic Gardens (including the R.H.S.).
Gregory Redwood	The Production of an Explanatory Booklet for the Palm House and the Marine Display Complex.
Sarah Rutherford	The Finance, Maintenance and Staffing of Smaller Gardens, run by Private Companies.
Lester Searle	A Feasibility Study for the Production of an Educational Booklet concerned with the Sir Joseph Banks Memorial Building, its Origin, Uses and Horticultural Features.
Gavin Smith	Horticultural and Gardening Interests for the Keen Amateur and the Public at Large.
Ron Welsh	Horticultural and Gardening Interests for the Keen Amateur and the Public at Large — The role of County Councils and Local Authorities.

For members' information details of prizes are printed below:

BENTHAM-MOXON TRUST

The following prizes are awarded under the aegis of the Bentham-Moxon Trust:

The Ernest Thornton-Smith Travelling Scholarship (Value: £1,250)

The prize is presented by the Thornton-Smith Young People's Trust under the auspices of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners in memory of Mr. Ernest Thornton-Smith, to enable a Kew horticultural student to travel to the Caribbean, tropical South America or Australasia for the purpose of enlarging his knowledge of the plants of these regions. It is awarded at the discretion of the Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Henry Idris Matthews Scholarship

This prize provides a contribution to the travel expenses and subsistence costs of the winner, a second year student who has been granted three weeks of paid leave to undertake gardens, field, or herbarium studies at or under the direction of an appropriate overseas botanic garden, herbarium or approved institution.

G. C. Johnson Memorial Prize

This prize, which consists of a copy of the RHS Gardeners' Dictionary, together with a cheque, is presented from a fund administered by the Bentham-Moxon Trustees on behalf of 'The Grower'. It was founded in memory of Mr. G. C. Johnson, a famous old Kewite who had the interest of Kew students very much at heart. It is awarded for the best overall performance on the Kew Diploma Course.

Kingdon-Ward Prize

In memory of the late Frank Kingdon-Ward, to whom gardeners owe a great debt for the contribution his plant-collecting expeditions made to British gardens. The prize was founded by his sister, Miss Winifred Kingdon-Ward, to provide a yearly prize of £20 to the student attaining the highest mark for the best individual study (project or thesis).

Landsman Bookshop Prize

This prize is awarded for the best work on landscape design and garden construction.

Sir Joseph Hooker Prize

Presented by Professor E. A. Bell, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, in memory of his famous predecessor, Sir Joseph Hooker, to the student who has done most for the Mutual Improvement Society.

Donald Dring Memorial Prize

In memory of the late Dr. Donald Dring who was a Mycologist at Kew. This prize is awarded to the student adjudged to have achieved the best results in the Crop Protection course.

The Metcalfe Cup

This prize, presented by Dr. C. R. Metcalfe, former Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory, is awarded to the student attaining the highest examination marks in the second year.

John Gilbert Prize

Is established to encourage the students to write articles and to publish their written work. It is awarded to the best piece of published horticultural work within the period of September 1980 to March 1985.

KEW GUILD PRIZES

The following prizes are awarded by the Kew Guild:

Matilda Smith Memorial Prize

Awarded in memory of Matilda Smith, artist at Kew for many years, to the student adjudged best at practical work.

Dummer Memorial Prize

As part of their training, horticultural students are required to make a collection of properly dried, named, mounted and labelled specimens of British weeds. This prize is for the best collection.

Proudlock Prize

The runner-up for the best weed collection also receives a prize.

Prize for the best vegetable plot

The students are required to maintain a vegetable plot during the first year of their three year Course. The best plot receives a prize.

Kew Guild Individual Study Prize

This prize is presented to the student with the second highest mark for an individual study.

C. P. Raffill Prize

Awarded in memory of C. P. Raffill, a former well known Assistant Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, to the student giving the best paper to the Mutual Improvement Society's Lecture Competition.

Professor Keith Jones Cup

Presented by Professor Keith Jones, Past Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory. This cup is awarded to the student giving the best paper to the Mutual Improvement Society, and is held for one year.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

The Mutual Improvement Society is an association of students and staff which meets regularly to hear papers read by its members, and organises debates, visits and other activities to further their horticultural knowledge. The Society awards the following prizes:

Mutual Improvement Society's Prize

For the member who has taken the most active part in its discussions and debates.

LECTURER'S PRIZE

Systematic Botany

This prize, introduced in 1978 by Dr. C. Grey-Wilson and Dr. P. Cribb of the Herbarium, is presented to the Second Year Student producing the best Systematic Botany Project.

Hozelock Prize

Is provided by Messrs. Hozelock Ltd. to assist with the travel expenses and subsistence costs of the winner, who is being granted three weeks of paid leave for specific studies at or with an overseas Botanic Garden.

ROTARY CLUB OF KEW GARDENS

Awarded to the student who is adjudged to have done most for the community in the past year.

STUDENTS' UNION PRIZES

The following prizes are presented by the Students' Union:

Plant Identification Tests

Awarded to the student attaining the highest average.

Photographic Society

The Students' Union present this prize for the best photographic effort by a Kew horticultural student.

Students' Union Life Membership

Each year up to three awards are made for Honorary Life Membership to the Students' Union as a token of respect and gratitude for services rendered.



Jodrell Staff, 30th September 1987.



International Diploma Course — Herbarium Techniques.



Kew Guild Team. Kew Wisley Relay Race. Left to right: Colin Porter, Dave Coleman, Ben Penburthy, David Morgan, David Francis and (below) Mike Pigeon.

THE KEW MEDAL AWARDS 1987



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.



Kew Medalists, 1987, left to right: Mr. R. I. Beyer, Mr. E. R. Guest, Mr. A. G. Cook, B.E.M., Mr. H. Fitzgibbon.

MR. R. I. BEYER

Deputy Curator. For quiet and exceptional commitment, ensuring continuing success of R.B.G. Kew.

MR. A. G. COOK, B.E.M.

Gardens Supervisor, Alpine and Herbaceous. For a lifetime's commitment to the Alpine and Herbaceous Collections.

MR. H. FITZGIBBON

Landscape Officer. In recognition of his work in the construction and commissioning of the Princess of Wales Conservatory and encouragement of good working relationships.

MR. E. R. GUEST

Botanist (Flora of Iraq). For his dedication and generous contribution towards the Flora of Iraq over many years.

REGRETABLELY NO STUDENT NEWS RECEIVED — *Ed.*

THE KEW MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

by Jo Jones, Chairperson

The Kew Mutual Improvement Society continues to thrive with increasing membership and good attendances to the Monday evening meetings. The lectures have continued to cover a wide range of subjects with an encouraging number of Diploma students participating in the Lecture Competition.

The A.G.M. was held on April 13th 1987. Sue Bell retired as chairperson and a new committee elected. Sue and her committee had worked very hard during their year of office and were duly rewarded for their commitment at the prizegiving ceremony.

The spring lecture programme, 1987, hosted such eminent guests as Alan Mitchell talking on 'Outstanding Trees', Pam Schwerdt discussing the White Garden at Sissinghurst and John Sales, Chief Gardens Advisor for the National Trust.

The Himalayas featured three times, with lectures given by Ron McBeath at Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, Brian Mathew and Dan Pearson.

Special thanks are due to Mr. Leo Pemberton for giving a talk at very short notice due to an unexpected cancellation entitled 'China after Chairman Mao'.

Two ex Kew Diploma students, Mike Maunder and Sophieke Piebenga, were very popular speakers on 'The Forgotten Forests of Jubba, Southern Somalia' and 'A Horticultural Exploration of Java' respectively.

Gavin Smith spoke on his trip to southern Thailand and Ron Welsh illustrated his thoughts on the Stoke Garden Festival.

The prizes for the 86/87 session were as follows:

Sir Joseph Hooker Memorial Prize (for the person who has done most for the K.M.I.S.) — *Rebecca Ransom.*

K.M.I.S. Prize (for the person most active in discussions and debate, and for their items of interest) — *Sue Bell*.

Keith Jones Cup (awarded this year for items of interest) — *Philip Brewster*.

C. P. Raffil Prize (for the winner of the Student Lecture Competition) — *Daniel Pearson*.

George Brown Prize (for the runner-up in the Student Lecture Competition) — *Sarah Rutherford*.

Inter College Quiz was won by Pershore College.

Inter Department Quiz was won by the Alpine Department.

The Tropical Department won the tankard for the most items of interest.

The winter session of 1987 found the Society in a sound position to repeat the musical recital of three years ago. Roger Chase and Claire van Kampen captivated the audience with their stunning performances for viola and piano.

Beth Chatto and Roy Lancaster both proved to be very popular and inspiring speakers, speaking on their own gardens and horticultural favourites. Mr. Brian Halliwell gave a fascinating talk on 'The History of Herbs' annotated with many fresh specimens from the Gardens.

Lectures based on travels abroad were numerous with Robert Mitchell in the Solomon Isles orchid hunting, Nigel Hepper in the Near East studying the impact of man, Tim Upson botanising in Greece, Blaise du Puy exploring the flora of the Christmas Isles and Clare Mooney in the threatened tropical rain-forests in Australia.

A duo lecture kindly given by Dr. Peter Brandam and Peter Gasson on their individual views of Yellowstone National Park, U.S.A., filled an unexpected vacancy in the programme.

Turning closer to home Sarah Leadbetter gave an illustrated account of 'The Camel Estuary, North Cornwall' and Steve Davis gave an enthusiastic portrayal of the campaign to save Gunnersbury Triangle, now a Local Nature Reserve in Chiswick.

Simon Moore from the Natural History Museum caused a stir with "The Girls"; two live red-kneed tarantulla — an eight-legged accompaniment to his lecture on 'Spiders'.

The items of interest continue to inform, entertain and promote discussion.

Special thanks are due to Tony Hall for his direction and help with the music recital. Also to Joe Ruddy for his help with 'updating' the K.M.I.S. publicity and with the publicity for the music recital. Thanks are also due to our two quiz masters, Mr. Gren Lucas and Mr. Simon Owens.

Socially the Cheese and Wine Party welcoming the first years to Kew Gardens was very well attended and very successful. The end of the winter session is celebrated with the Christmas Cake Competition followed by hot mince pies and punch. Disappointingly only two cakes were entered this year but they very justifiably won joint prize; Jenny Farrell created a stunning replica of the P.O.W. Conservatory and John Munslow entered a very tasty traditional Christmas Cake. Our warm thanks to Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Hazel Hyde for judging.

The sound state of affairs in the K.M.I.S. is largely a reflection of the hard work done by the committee, Alison Bowles and Tim Upson as secretaries and

Marc Long as Treasurer, to whom I take this opportunity to offer my thanks as Chairperson.

Thanks are also due for additional advice and support from Mr. Brain Halliwell, Dr. Peter Brandham and Mr. Dickon Bowling.

KEW CLUB — CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by B. Verdcourt

I am afraid it is true to say that probably two-thirds of the R.B.G. staff really do not care if there is a social club or not. They are not prepared to support a club which involves them turning out for anything that interrupts their prompt rush to home at 4 or 4.30. Many a time I have been on the verge of getting up at an A.G.M. and proposing the club be wound up and forgotten. The powers that be have never seemed over-sympathetic. The only event which is universally popular seems to be the annual Christmas 'Pies and Punch' lunchtime get-together — perhaps partly due to the fact that it is at lunchtime and gives practically everybody a chance to attend. This was as successful this year as ever before — perhaps even more so. The earlier recruiting drive which was successful largely due to the enthusiasm of Roger Howson meant we did not lack members but apathy is apparent. It makes the committee fearful of putting on large scale events such as have been successful in the past in case they flop and lose a lot of money. Members seem reluctant to spend even a quarter of what it would cost to go out to a restaurant in the evening so what can be done is rather limited.

But enough moaning because, nevertheless, we have had quite successful meetings apart from the 'Pies and Punch'. The 'Darts Tournament' in February was, as usual, well attended but marred by the disastrous lack of food. Thank heavens drink was available. The Theatre trip in March was fully subscribed but the play let us down — it really was not as interesting or amusing as the cast had led us to anticipate although by some miracle it went on to the West End. The 'Summer Ball' in June was held away from Kew and this proved not so good an idea. Although the British Legion Hall at Richmond is really very suitable for a dance (particularly after Sally Dawson had decorated it), the drink was cheap and the food very good indeed, thanks to a small band of helpers, the turn-out was only just enough to break even. One needs a big turn-out to get the right atmosphere. For various reasons it was not right so live and learn, although bearing in mind what happened at the Kew Restaurant our choice may perhaps be seen in a different light.

In September Mr. Desmond took a small party on a historical trip around the gardens which was most enjoyable but this has been criticised because a few visitors were given priority over actual members — obviously a valid complaint. Nevertheless, the event would not have taken place without the Club and a few foreign visitors were really very grateful for the experience. Apart from this the Keep Fit classes, ably run by Sue Bell, yielded enough for a donation of almost £70 to be sent to the British Heart Foundation.

A few of us helped at the Students' Fête on the 8th August by running the tea tent and although we dispensed some 500 or more teas the demand was

a good deal less than we had catered for. Fortunately the excess was mostly disposed of in the Herbarium.

I must admit to having been rather a caretaker chairman and not brimming with enthusiasm. I hope my successor will do a great deal better.

LIVING COLLECTIONS DIVISION REPORT 1987

by R. I. Beyer, Deputy Curator

In the opening paragraph of the report for 1986 I was foolish enough to say being busy allowed little time for reflection. Fate caught up with me in March when I was hastily deposited in Roehampton Hospital having suffered a medium-sized heart attack. My stay in hospital was relatively short, but further attacks of angina required a hospital bed on two more occasions, all of which was rather traumatic and frustrating. I will not bore you with a detailed account of how I was repaired, suffice to say a bypass operation in the Brompton Hospital at the end of July fixed my plumbing and by early September I was back at work. At the time of writing I am feeling very well and have been assured by the surgeon that I can expect to lead a normal life for a few more years yet, God willing.

Six months away was more than enough time to reflect, with the result that I now realise what is important and worth worrying about in life. During my enforced absence I was indebted to a loyal band of Kewites who kept me extremely well informed and in particular Charles Erskine, who unfortunately had to take over the job of Deputy Curator during the period leading up to and including the Royal opening of the Princess of Wales Conservatory. It could not have been an easy task picking up a lot of untidy loose ends I had left which he dealt with very efficiently and left me wondering if I would be allowed back into the organisation again.

Each year the Kew horticultural calendar revolves around the Chelsea Flower Show, be it for a regular exhibit in the scientific section or an occasional major stand in the main marquee. For the first time Kew collaborated with another botanic garden, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, in setting up a joint exhibit "Plants under Glass" which was shown at the Philadelphia Flower Show in March and then at the Chelsea Show in May. Kew and the Morris Arboretum combined their efforts to coincide with the restoration of the Morris Fernery (1899), the current restoration of the Kew Palm House and the centennial of the founding of the Morris Arboretum. It would not be true to say the presentation was exactly the same at both shows because site constraint and transport costs made this impossible. However, a common theme was followed. Though I could not see the Chelsea exhibit it received rave notices in the Press; *The Times* quoted it as "the star exhibit of exotic plants" and it was awarded a well deserved Gold Medal. Significantly this was the first time the Living Collections Division had worked in tandem with the newly formed Information and Exhibition Division at Kew and hopefully augurs well for future co-operative ventures.

Whilst the Temperate Section were labouring with Chelsea, a major push was on to prepare everything for the official opening of the new Conservatory

by the Princess of Wales in July. Because of necessary excavation of old foundations on the Ferneries site, the general ground levels were left much lower than the surrounding areas. Unfortunately we had used all our reserves of topsoil so the only alternative was to buy in fairly good quality infill. In future years gardeners may ponder why the soil in this part of the garden is much heavier and more difficult to work when wet, so we must hope they will take the *Kew Guild Journal* from the shelf to find out why. As a slight digression, I regularly read early editions of the *Journal* which contain a great deal of local interest and can be recommended when there is too much time to reflect.

In the Conservatory itself many problems needed to be resolved, including the humidification system which was potentially hazardous to anybody prone to bronchial problems. Our colleagues in the Civil Service Medical Advisory Service rightly pointed out that the system did not circulate back into the water storage tanks and there were stagnant lines which could/would be ideal breeding places for harmful organisms and if these were sprayed into the atmosphere it is not difficult to imagine the consequences. This was a complex problem which the water specialists resolved by removing dead leg feeds and fitting ultra-violet filters on each circuit as well as a larger unit in the pump room. (Having looked at various commercial fogging systems, which must be more problematical than the system we currently use, I suspect a few time bombs exist around the country.) Glass screens to protect small plants on the side benches were very late in arriving, however the Tropical Section somehow had everything ready for the Royal day, which I understand went very smoothly and was a wonderful success.



Princess of Wales Conservatory opening, 28th July, 1987.

To celebrate what was a unique day in the history of Kew the Director gave his support to a party in the evening to which staff, the project team and friends were invited. Music, food and fireworks ended a day which was the culmination of several years hard work by a very dedicated and professional group of people.

Beyond the Princess of Wales Conservatory, the Palm House is slowly donning a mantle of white paint but the anticipated spring 1988 completion date will not be met because of contractual and other problems. At the time of writing, the earliest handover date is the end of the summer but, being pessimists, we are inclined to think late autumn is a more realistic target. The plant collections currently in the Temporary Palm House and Nursery are outgrowing their allotted space but we hope to keep them in reasonable condition for one more growing season. However, if there are further delays, the consequences will be somewhat embarrassing and difficult to deal with. It is a pity palms cannot be pruned!

Summer Concerts in the Temperate House again disrupted the tranquility of the south end of the Gardens, specially as the music of artists such as George Melly and Kenny Ball is not particularly pastoral. In early October the Institute of Horticulture held its A.G.M. in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre. This was very appropriate as it marked the induction of the Curator as President for 1988. It was one of those very rare occasions for Kew when the weather nearly spoiled a special day. Despite heavy rain, over 320 people turned up to enjoy tours in front and behind the scenes and left, we think, exhausted but very well satisfied.

Waking early on the morning of 16th October I listened to the wind rattling the bedroom window, and decided I could enjoy a further hour or so's comfort beneath the sheets. If I had known the devastation that was taking place beyond the thick walls of Lion Gate Lodge I doubt if I would have felt at all comfortable. Outside my back door branches from the horse chestnuts bordering the 'London Welsh' rugby pitch were piled high and had to be cut through before I could find a way out. Beyond the Heather Garden, walnuts, hickories and legumes either lay like fallen soldiers or bent at drunken angles against each other. I dreaded to think what the rest of the Arboretum would be like.

It took a few hours to assimilate the extent of the damage, by which time the Press had descended upon us, and our first reaction was one of dismay and dejection. But two or three days later we realised we still had a good garden left; the losses could be made good in the long term, and we had the opportunity to solve a problem or two. Wakehurst, however, fared very badly and the tree framework on the high ground has been almost completely decimated, including the trees in the formal areas around the Mansion. Almost three months later Tony Schilling is still assessing the problem as he has seen years of work either destroyed or seriously damaged in a few fateful hours. At Kew about 500 specimens were blown over, with an equal number no longer safe and these will have to be removed. At such times one values the loyalty of staff who worked extremely hard in appalling weather to clear the damage so that part of the gardens at Kew could be opened within a week. It took Wakehurst a little longer but with the stoical help of the scientific staff and others part of the garden was accessible a few days later. The Minister of

Agriculture visited both Wakehurst and Kew, taking the opportunity to plant the first replacement trees as well as announcing a grant of £250,000 to go towards restoration work, which needless to say has mostly been committed already.

Numerous welcome words of sympathy and offers of practical help were received from old Kewites and others. Askham Bryan College of Agriculture sent their arboricultural students to Wakehurst for a week to help with initial clearing and they were followed by a skilled team from the Morris Arboretum, who did some valiant work. We hope to have most of Kew open by Easter but obviously Wakehurst is a massive problem which will take a long time to sort out.

Each year we have to say a sad farewell to members of staff who have reached the end of their allotted time at Kew. Alan Cook was the last of the old school who taught some of the present curatorial staff the rudiments of good botanic garden practice when they first entered Kew as students too many years ago. He is finding it difficult to leave the plant collections he made his own as Supervisor in the Alpine and Herbaceous Section and his shadow will no doubt be seen flitting across the Grass Garden at regular intervals in the years to come. Mike Sinnott has transferred from the Decorative Unit to take over Alan's duties. John Lonsdale was promoted to Assistant Curator to take charge of the Technical Section, so now he must face the hustle and bustle of Kew and no doubt our colleagues at Wakehurst miss him very much, particularly now that they are faced with so many horrendous problems.

Hans Fleigner, Assistant Curator of the Temperate Section, has for some time been involved in giving advice and guidance to a developing botanic garden at Trivandrum in southern India. Following on from his second advisory visit and on his recommendation a formal horticultural training programme was arranged under the professional guidance of Roy Bee (1953). This has proved a very worthwhile venture which will have helped lay a firm foundation on which to build. Jacob Thomas from Trivandrum has joined the Kew Course as an International Trainee and should return to Trivandrum well equipped to carry on the good work. Two or three years ago Kew was approached by the Overseas Development Agency (ODA) to help restore the old colonial botanic garden at Limbe in Cameroon. Nigel Hepper undertook a preliminary survey and during the last year Mark Bovey, Supervisor at Wakehurst, returned with Nigel to draw up recommendations for future development. If agreement can be reached with the Cameroon authorities a long term association with Kew could result and a very positive step be taken to help in the conservation of the threatened natural vegetation of this important area of Africa.

I am sure much more has happened which I should have reported but the editor's blue pencil will become very busy if I write too much. Like myself, Kew is looking a bit battered around the edges, but otherwise we are both in good health and look forward to seeing you when you pass this way again.

STORM AT WAKEHURST PLACE

Written in November for the A.B.C. Science Show and reproduced here by kind permission of Kathleen Hunt, Sevenoaks

Just a month ago — on Sunday 11th of October to be exact — my husband and I were walking in the grounds of Wakehurst Place in Sussex. This estate

which now belongs to the National Trust has been leased to the Royal Botanic Gardens since 1965, but long before that, ever since its purchase by Gerald Loder in 1903, the gardens at Wakehurst Place had been planted with exotic trees and shrubs, and its natural woodlands carefully tended. It has been a mild, wet autumn here in the South of England, but that Sunday was an interval of calm and sunlight. The leaves on the trees had barely started to turn colour, but they had been washed clean, and sparkled in the sun. The little brook was running like a millstream, and off the paths the ground was like a quagmire. Nevertheless, it was a delight to walk among the great trees — giant Redwoods from California, both **Sequoia sempervirens** and **Sequoiadendron giganteum**, English oaks and beeches, the curious pocket handkerchief tree, **Davidia involucrata**, grown from seed collected by E. H. Wilson from China in 1901, and probably the largest in the country, and magnolias of many varieties, as fine as any I have seen in Melbourne or Sydney Botanical Gardens. There was a sense of peace, of almost primitive security, under the shelter of the tall trees.

But even then a depression was gathering out in the Atlantic. As the days passed it deepened and intensified, until, in the early hours of Friday the 16th of October a storm such as no person living could remember swept across the south east corner of England. We went to bed on Thursday night knowing that it was a damp evening with a rising wind — nothing out of the ordinary for the time of year — and arose at first light to a devastated world. At Sevenoaks the barograph had fallen to 970 millibars, and wind gusts of up to 100 m.p.h. had torn the countryside apart. In our own small garden two apple trees had been blown over. On Sevenoaks Cricket Field six of the seven oaks planted to commemorate the Coronation of King Edward VII were torn up by the roots, but on exposed hillsides the storm had broken in turbulence like surf upon a beach, and Knole Park, Wrotham Hill, and Seal Chart looked as if they had been raked by shellfire, the trees shattered and twisted by the fury of the storm.

On Wakehurst Place too the storm had broken heavily. Some of the trees, heavy with wet green leaves, simply pulled up their roots and capsized like ships in full sail. Others were broken and corkscrewed as if twisted off by a giant hand. The storm was capricious in its effects. **Davidia involucrata** withstood the gale, but was crushed by a falling Norway Spruce. Down on the Rock Walk, under the shelter of the hill, where the beeches and yews had twisted their giant roots into the crag, damage was minimal, but on top of the hill, in the Pinetum, where the trees had shallow roots in a layer of soaking wet soil over the underlying sandstone, the conifers fell like matchsticks. The rhododendron walk was compacted into such a mass that it took three days (working from both ends) to cut a path 150 yards long. It is still too early to assess the full extent of the damage, but estimates are that 55% to 60% of the trees at Wakehurst Place have fallen completely, and of those still standing some 70% have been mutilated. Even that may not be the full extent of the tragedy, for many trees, including the delicate Japanese maples, had their leaves scorched and withered by the salt which the gale had brought in from the sea. The cost of the damage is incalculable, but even now it is glaringly obvious that such is the size and complexity of the task of restoration that the main problem will not be lack of money, but lack of skilled labour.

The first priority of the Deputy Curator in charge of Wakehurst, Mr. Tony Schilling and his staff was clearing the access roads and making them safe.

Only when this had been done could members of the public be re-admitted. In common with the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Wakehurst Place closes only on two days in the year, Christmas and New Year's Day, and the gardens, including the coffee room and bookshop, were once more open to the public on October 31st, at a time when many villages near Sevenoaks were still without electricity or telephone. Most of the woodland is still roped off for safety reasons, but a path has been cut into the Pinetum to the head of the Himalayan Glade, so that visitors can see the destruction which has occurred, and appreciate the magnitude of the task which lies ahead. Only when all the roads and tracks have been cleared will it be possible to begin the laborious and time consuming task of restoring the gardens — a task which in its discipline and complexity resembles the cleaning of an Old Master, but on a gigantic scale. Some of the smaller trees and shrubs were crushed by trees falling on top of them. Others have miraculously survived, cocooned in broken branches. The steep slopes and rocky outcrops which gave Wakehurst such a rich variety of habitats in the first place, now give a rich variety of problems to staff who were already fully occupied maintaining an undamaged garden.

Immediately after the storm there were great hopes that it would prove possible to salvage a lot of the fallen timber for the building and furniture industries. A couple of weeks hard work tackling the problem has shown that there is probably little of commercial value which can be salvaged. Timber merchants like their wood at least 3,000 mm in diameter, and cut into not less than four metre lengths, without blemishes or extraneous material (many plane trees from London squares contain pieces of shrapnel from the Second World War). They also prefer it to come neatly stacked by the side of a metalled road. At Wakehurst Place, there are many areas of the gardens where heavy machinery cannot be brought up to the fallen trees, because of the wet and steep terrain and the damage this would cause to a sensitive environment of lawns and flowers; the cost and effort of removing such large sections of timber by hand makes commercial salvage prohibitively expensive. Even at Knole Park, where the terrain is more open and access easier, it is likely that the income obtained by selling fallen timber will not even cover the expenses of removing it, let alone contribute towards re-planting. It must be remembered too, that all across Southern England, many of the trees which fell were ornamental specimens, over-mature and useless from a timber merchants point of view.

Some of the rarer and more valuable trees at Wakehurst — including box, the wood used by the famous 18th century wood engraver Thomas Bewick — and other fine hard woods, are in demand by turners and woodcarvers, people who can use small sections and odd angles, and even welcome contrasting blemishes. Wherever possible such fine wood will be salvaged and sold. Any of the other timber which is usable will go to the estate's own timber conversion unit, where it will be turned into structural timber, including stakes and fencing (every young tree planted at Wakehurst needs to be fenced against the deer which roam freely).

In the deep woods which are already treated as Nature Reserves the fallen trees will be allowed to lie, and the woods to re-generate naturally. This should have interesting consequences for wildlife. Owls and woodpeckers have lost their nesting holes as old trees have tumbled, but dormice should have a cosy

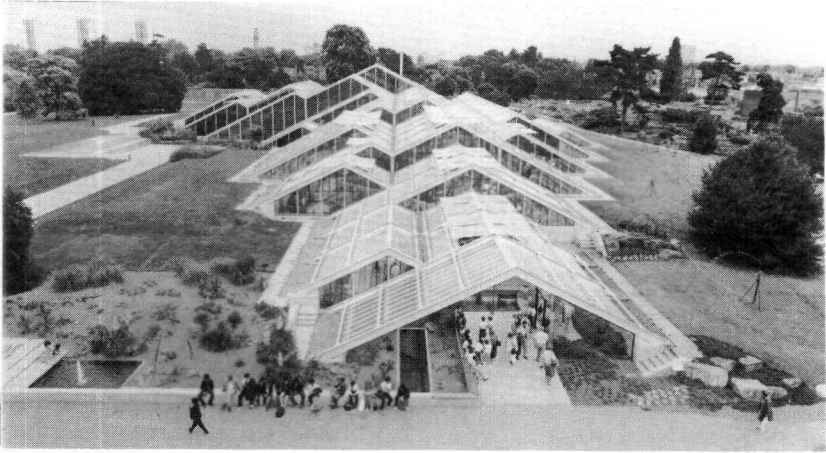
time of it this winter, in the tangle of fallen branches and dead leaves. Nightingales and other small song birds will come to the coppice which springs up in the gaps where light is now able to reach the forest floor. Ill blows the wind which profits nobody.

Even when all the fallen timber has been removed, there will still be the problem of how to get rid of the unsightly stumps which litter the gardens at present. Many of them are too big to tackle by hand, and Tony Schilling and his staff are considering using explosives to break them up. Once the stumps have been cleared the holes will need to be filled in with topsoil, and again, because of the sensitive nature of the gardens, this will have to be brought from the nearest access point by the lightest machinery.

When I compare this storm at Wakehurst Place with other natural disasters such as Cyclone Tracy in Darwin, and the Ash Wednesday fires in Victoria, I realise that Tony Schilling and his staff have one distinct advantage. Their administrative structure, their buildings, records, workshops and machinery have not been affected. This means that in spite of the havoc caused by the storm the normal routine and work of the garden has been maintained. This storm was a terrible shock to all of us who experienced it. At Wakehurst it has meant major interruption and an additional burden in the work of shaping the garden, but it has not put a complete stop to that work. Patterns of leaf and bough encouraged over the years have been destroyed, and new vistas must be cut, new prospects opened, but plans already in hand are still going forward. The intended extension of the Winter Garden has been delayed — but not stopped — by the necessity to remove fallen trees before continuing the work. Several years ago Tony Schilling took a cutting from *Davidia involucrata*, and planted it not far from the parent tree. This young tree is now 12 feet high, and has survived the storm. In the devastated woods bluebells will soon be pushing up, to be in time for spring.

Tony Schilling and his staff are well aware that there is a long hard slog ahead of them. He says ruefully that after 21 years building up the garden he now has only seven left before he retires in which to do the same job all over again. But seven years coming after 21 years in which he has built up a hard working and loyal staff who operate as a team is very different from seven years coming into a totally new situation with a group of people who have never worked together before. At the moment everyone is running on adrenalin, keyed up to tackle the biggest problem they have ever encountered in their lives. Later, as the excitement wears off and public interest slackens, there will be many days of mud and rain and dull repetitive work. That is the time when trust, experience, and loyalty will keep the team together.

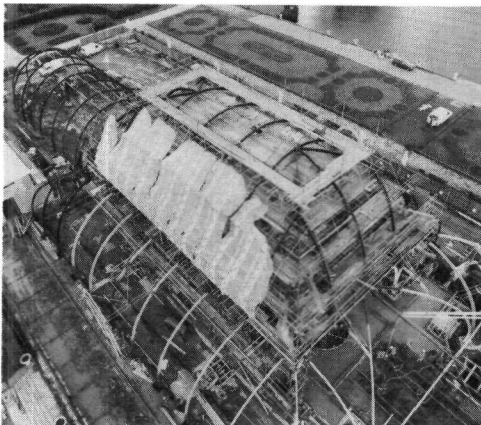
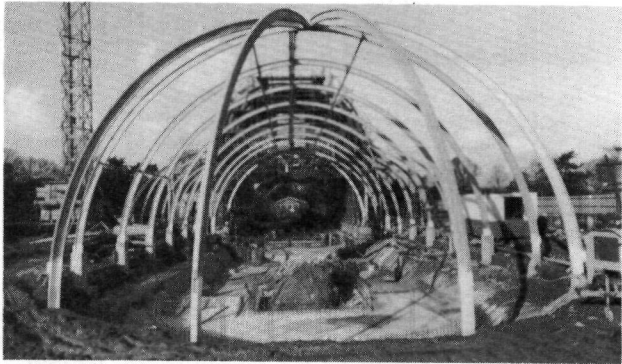
It was a grey November day when I went back to Wakehurst to talk to Tony Schilling. Branches from a tumbled Swamp Cypress dragged in the ornamental pond, and root formations stood out like modern sculpture against a skyline strangely bare and full of light. But there were delicate pale pink nerines in flower in the beds in front of the house, and a cock pheasant pecked and strolled unconcernedly among the fallen branches on the lawn. I know that never again shall I see Wakehurst in the splendour and majesty in which I saw it that golden Sunday in October. But I shall keep on coming, as the scars heal and the young trees grow. And maybe one day my Vietnamese God-daughter will be able to bring her grandchildren to see the biggest pocket handkerchief tree in the western world.



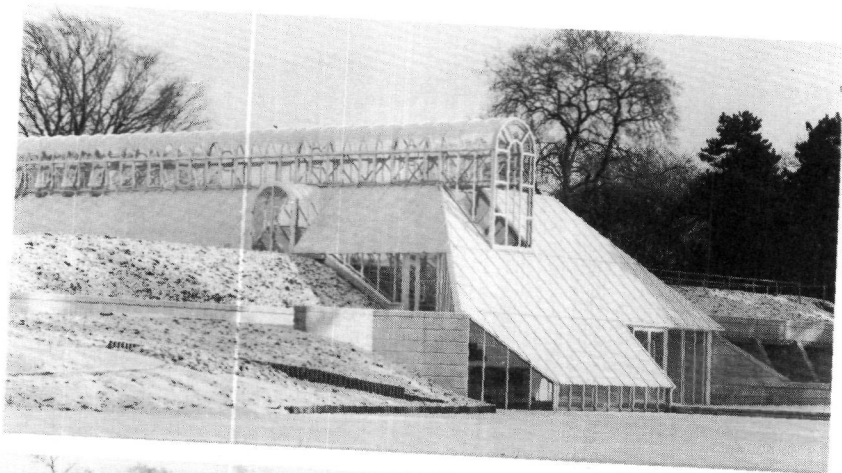
Above:
Princess of Wales
Conservatory (south
end). Good view of roof
ventilation. Summer
1987.

Right:
Palm House Restoration.

Below left:
Aerial view of Palm
House restoration.
Summer 1987.



Above right: Interior Princess of Wales Conservatory, tropical rainforest section.



Above:
Banks Building (new Museum of
Economic Botany) under cover.
Winter 1986/87.



Left:
Temporary Palm House damaged by
falling poplar branches in October
hurricane.



Storm damage. Baroness Trumpington with
Curator John Simmons.



Minister of Agriculture Tree Planting, 22nd
December 1987.



Above:
Silver lime tree in front of Mansion at Wakehurst, brought down by the October hurricane.

Right:
A general view of the extensive damage suffered by Wakehurst in October 1987.



Below left:
200 year old Turkey Oak by Palm House pond, felled by October hurricane.

Below right:
Storm damage — Wakehurst Place.



Thanks are extended to R.B.G. Photography Dept for making these photographs available. — *Ed.*

STORM DAMAGE AT BRIGHTON

by M. J. Griffin

Brighton's treescape suffered a near mortal "blow" during the night of 15th/16th October, 1987, when hurricane-force winds (registered locally at 108 miles per hour) tore through the town.

The town's position on the south coast of England adjacent to the English Channel and its very thin calcareous soil overlying the South Downs has, over the years, led to a predominance of Elms which, despite the ravages of Dutch Elm Disease in the United Kingdom, has with considerable effort from the Local Authority and its staff meant that one of the finest stands of this species had been preserved. All that changed between 2 and 4 a.m. when the worst of the storm passed over the counties of Kent and Sussex. Of some 700 trees in the town centre area of the Old Steine, Victoria Gardens and The Level Open Space, little more than 100 now stand and many of these are so badly mutilated by the wind that they will need to be drastically pollarded.

Unfortunately severe damage was not limited to the town centre. Scarcely a park or open space has been spared and the clearing up operation will certainly take months to complete; indeed, on some woodland areas like Stanmer Park, it is likely that a full clearance will never be completed. In all it seems some 10,000 trees are affected.

The Parks and Recreation Department's Tree Section were fully operational by 8 a.m., although since the public electricity supply failed it was not until midday that telephone and radio communications were restored and the overall picture became clear.

A conservative estimate indicates that some 75% of the town's trees were damaged in some way, many being completely uprooted, mainly as a result of there having been heavy rainfall for two weeks prior to the storm, giving the roots poor adhesion, and the fact that all were still in full leaf.

Once the major clearance work is completed, replantings must be planned, but little is likely to be contemplated until the autumn of 1988; Government grants are available but seem unlikely to go very far: the total cost of clearance, replanting and attention to damaged buildings controlled by the Department is estimated at some £2½ million; this includes work on two large glasshouses and a swimming pool which lost part of its roof.

It is certain that Brighton's treescape will never be the same again in our lifetime — but we must replant for the future.

"SOMETHING IS BLOOMING IN THE STATE OF DENMARK"

by Sue Bell

During the first three weeks of July, 1987 I travelled to Denmark to study their large and successful house plant industry. As well as trying to account for this success, I was hoping to visit the country's famous castles and gardens, and see something of the capital and countryside. The Hozelock-ASL prize and money kindly donated by the Kew Guild helped considerably in financing the trip.

It made sense to start in the capital, Copenhagen, which is on the island called Zealand and then work back via Funen, to the Jutland Peninsula, and the ferry home. Apart from my time in Copenhagen I stayed in Youth Hostels. Travel was easy, even between the islands as the Danish public transport system is very good. Whilst in North Zealand I made much use of a Copenhagen Card which gives unlimited use on the buses and trains, ideal for exploring.

I was first based at the Copenhagen Botanical Garden, where I stayed with a gardener, Gert Vold. Due to a civil service strike the garden was rarely open to the public. This was also sadly the case with all the national museums and palaces during my stay. The garden staff were very friendly and gave me many tips and contacts which proved useful later. Several of the staff spoke English and were familiar with Kew from exchange visits.

The garden is situated on the old city ramparts which gives it a very interesting topography. The rock garden resembles a hill top boulder field, from which one can just view a surprisingly large and natural looking lake. The garden is surrounded by trees and shrubs so the herbaceous areas and glass houses are sheltered. There are large and impressive collections of annuals and Danish native plants. One of the most interesting glass houses is the arctic house which contains many plants from Greenland, Denmark's largest island.

My stay in Copenhagen coincided with an exhibition of Denmark's most popular house plants in the city hall, this was to promote the Marguerite as Denmark's national flower. Needless to say the botanists were less happy with this choice of plant than the commercial growers! Even so, the scale and prestige of the exhibition was a clear example of the enviable status horticulture commands in Denmark and it's importance in the country.

Most of the pot plants grown in Denmark are exported. This puts the growers close to the capital at some disadvantage as the main export and marketing organisations are based on the island of Funen, the so called "Garden of Denmark". Even so the growers I did visit near Copenhagen had modern facilities and some felt confident enough to expand and even experiment with new crops.

Many of the marketing organisations are grower co-operatives, these are the GAZAs. The letters stand for Gardener's Sales Association. GAZA Odense and GAZA Arhus are two of the most important for pot plants. They actively promote and sell the plants in many countries, including the U.K. This means the growers are free to concentrate on what they do best, the growing. I was very fortunate to spend a day visiting the GAZA Odense and surrounding growers with a sales consultant from the GAZA, Kim Evald. The GAZA has its own lorry fleet, modern offices, warehouses and an auction.

When the plants arrive from the growers they are assembled into the orders that the sales consultants have taken previously, and placed on Danish trolleys. The trolleys are then programmed and can travel unassisted on rails through the warehouses to their point of departure, a GAZA lorry bound for the customer. Such is the success of GAZA Odense that growers who are members don't have to be ultra modern to survive even though many are. I was surprised to visit some very small growers with dilapidated buildings. They are able to make a living by concentrating on growing just one or two crops but to the high standard the GAZAs demand.

The Danish pot plant industry is well supported by an impressive advisory service the D.E.G. My visit to their offices proved very profitable, they were very helpful in arranging grower visits and answering my many questions. Denmark also has Horticultural Research Stations and like their counterparts in the U.K., they are experiencing reduced funding. I managed to visit two — one which specialises in pests and diseases at Lyngby and the other at Arsløv, The Glass House Crops Research Institute. Research and development is also carried out in the private sector. The breeding station of Daehnfeldt, the Seed Company was most impressive, especially their micropropagation facilities.

It was always refreshing to see some Danish culture as opposed to strictly horticulture. As the song says, Copenhagen is "wonderful!". The spectacular spires and towers of the city were unexpected and particularly impressive. I was most keen to see the Castle at Helsingør (Elsinore), immortalised by Shakespeare's Hamlet. It stands overlooking the Sound, a narrow stretch of water between North Zealand and Sweden. I visited in an evening when walking around the ramparts it takes little to imagine the scene of the midnight encounter between Hamlet and the ghost which ends on a note of ominous intent.

"Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.
Heaven will direct it."

Act I scene v

THE FRENCH PYRENEES

by Robyn Carter

Mountains hold a certain allure for many people. For those with an interest in plants the juxtaposition of differing rock types and microclimates create varying habitats, which together with the effect of altitude give an exciting range of plant life in a relatively short distance.

In June 1987, with the help of a Kew Guild Award, I had the opportunity of spending one month in the Pyrenees; a 435 km barrier of rugged peaks running from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean, which guarantees the presence of several endemic species. Taking advantage of the good transport network on the French side of the Pyrenees, the time was split between Gavarnie, 40 km south of Lourdes, and moving progressively eastwards to Lac d'Oo and L'Hospitalet with consequently drier climates.

Gavarnie is in the Parc National des Pyrenees Occidentales and at an altitude of 1,375 m affords immediate access to surrounding mountains. This is further enhanced by the GR 10, the coast to coast high level footpath. This makes the area extremely popular with walkers and climbers who use the refuges on route. Within the Parc are the Maison du Parc, which combine exhibition space with educational facilities. An excellent source of information regarding the fauna and flora of the Pyrenees, they obviously help promote awareness of conservation in an area suffering the pressures of forestry, tourism, agriculture and hydro-electric schemes.

Gavarnie is most famous for its cirque, which is indeed a spectacular site. Daily between 10 a.m.-5 p.m. day trippers arrive by the coach load, to make the short journey to the cirque by donkey! Fortunately it is easy to lose the crowds.

Alpine meadows here were rich and colourful. A backcloth of yellow, provided primarily by **Helianthemum nummularium** and **Rhinanthus minor** was highlighted by the blues of **Echium vulgare**, **Phyteuma orbiculare**, **Campanula glomerata** and isolated flowers of **Iris xiphoides** which would later add a significant splash of blue, as flowering had only just begun.

Even the roadsides were rich in flowers and two orchid species were particularly common, **Platanthera bifolia** and **Gymnadenia conopsea**. Away from the road, in grassier locations, was **Orchis ustulata** and more rarely the vanilla scented **Nigritella nigra**. Small numbers were found near Gavarnie and by the cascade above Lac d'Oo.

Meadows give way to woodland. Beech and subsequently pine reach a height of 2,500 m in the Pyrenees, the highest forests in Europe. Within the dappled shade of the beech woods, which were scarcely coming into leaf, could be found the exquisite **Ramonda myconi** on moss covered limestone rocks; equally happy in more exposed sites it was, however, less abundant. Beech is replaced by pine, principally the mountain pine **Pinus uncinata** which is particularly well developed in the eastern Pyrenees, also extending to the Alps. Finally rugged bare rock faces are exposed.

The affect of altitude on flowering time was most significantly witnessed at the end of June when walking beyond the Barrage d'Ossoue towards Petit Vignemale. Having crossed a small glacier at 2,000 m **Narcissus pseudonarcissus** was found still in flower, along with **Soldanella montana**, **Primula villosa**, **Daphne laureola** var. **philippii** and **Hepatica nobilis**. Other sites over 2,000 m sustained such species as **Ranunculus pyrenaicus**, **R. alpestris**, **Gentiana verna** and the attractive, compact **Leucanthemopsis alpina** and by the Lac des Especieres ou de Luhos a large patch of **Androsace carnea** var. **laggeri**, distinguishable from **A. carnea** by its hairless leaves.

The flora of the valleys and lower slopes was of variable merit, primarily due to the continued practice of transhumance leaving the vegetation shortly cropped. This left pockets of interest adjacent to streams and in wet pastures. In the Vallee de Pouey Aspe a large patch of **Primula farinosa** was located in conjunction with **Caltha palustris**, **Silene acaulis**, **Pinguicula grandiflora** and **Gentiana acaulis**. On drier limestone screes was **Hutchinsia alpina**, an attractive plant in its indigenous habitat.

In contrast to Gavarnie, L'Hospitalet at 1,428 m and on the eastern border with Andorra was at first sight a barren environment, there being fewer trees. However, quickly walking up one of the valleys a wealth of flowers are to be found. Finally perhaps the most beautiful endemic to the Pyrenees is found, **Lilium pyrenaicum**. Here also were **Gentiana lutea**, **Veratrum album** and **Astrantia major** familiar in the garden setting. **Chamaespartium sagittale**, **Sedum ochroleucum montanum** and **Potentilla pyrenaica** were among some of the species responsible here for the yellow backcloth covering the hillsides.

Perhaps my strongest memory is the journey by bus to Gavarnie, arriving in the evening. The low light levels accentuated the white panicles of **Saxifraga longifolia** which seemed to cover the limestone cliffs. Sitting on the bus I knew that during the next four weeks I would find many interesting plants.

STUDENT TRIP TO ISRAEL

by Helen Duncan

The whole trip involved an action packed five week stay in Israel from June 2nd to July 7th of last year. My first week was spent at the Jerusalem Botanic Gardens under the care of Michael Avishai, where I spent some time working in the nursery. The Gardens are in a juvenile state of planting so it was exciting to see how things were progressing. I was quite shocked to find myself one morning cleaning bulbs that were being grown in incendiary cannisters, "Charming" you might think! But remember Israel is a country with little money to spend on amenity horticulture and the Israelis have had to learn to put waste to good use. This was something which was to amuse me throughout my trip.

After acclimatising to Jerusalem's dry heat of 30° C and welcoming cool mountain breeze, I then set off south to bear the stifling heat of the Negev Desert to Kibbutz Quetura which lies in the Arava Plain 50 km north of Elait. Here there are some trial grounds (a large plain of desert which has never been cultivated before) where some drought tolerant species are being tried for the first time in such conditions. These were predominantly indigenous fruit and nut crops from Africa, and their growth and adaptability to these desert conditions as well as their drought and salt tolerance is being assessed. Their purpose is for future economic use as less water requiring crops for Israel, and to find those species that will be more adaptable for agroforestry in third world countries. I worked there for over a week with Elain Solomon who is responsible for the upkeep, recording of progress, planting and future development of the site.

From there I continued my trip with James Aronson, the Plant Introduction Officer at the Bengurion University of Negev. I was able to learn and help with some of the present projects being undertaken at Wadie Mashash and The Avdat run-off farms.

The whole trip proved fascinating and I also included visits to Tel Aviv Botanic Gardens, a biblical landscape reserve at Kneot Kedumin, the Galilee area and the Rothschild Flower Garden. I was able to learn much from James Aronson about the ideas, principles and practices behind agroforestry and the help that can be offered to third world countries. The experimental work which is being done out there is quite unique and therefore results will be of much value to those concerned in agroforestry and arid landscaping. I will be keeping a close watch on the progress and hope that the good work continues uninterrupted, despite the unsettling times Israel is going through.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Kew Guild for their assistance in financing this trip. Thankyou.

KEW OUTING TO OXFORD

by Graham Burgess

At 8.30 a.m. on the 6th June 1987 a luxury coach left Kew for a day in Oxford.

The passengers and other Kewites from far and wide met at Mattocks Nursery and Garden centre where John Mattock offered hospitality in the form

of coffee and biscuits. We all enjoyed the well-stocked Garden Centre before boarding the coach for the next stage.

This was a visit to Nuneham Courtenay Arboretum where Ken Burras, full of his wonderful enthusiasm, took us between the towering conifers. Peacocks strutted amongst the lawns and one very well-trained creature posed, fully exposing its plumage, for the party. Just towards the end of this visit Ken, who had organised beautiful sunshine, showed us how flexible he could be in these matters by arranging a rainstorm. It was all good fun however, nonetheless because of the excellent company.

Now do not go away thinking that this was just a working day with everyone frantically scribbling down notes about plants, no, the next important stage was a study of a very beautiful riverside pub called the Barley Mow. A room had been put aside and Mrs. Turner was waiting with homemade soup, wine and an enormous and very tasty buffet. We all tucked in.

After lunch the coach took us to Oxford Botanic Gardens where the sun shone brightly. Ken started by saying there would be tea at 4 p.m. The Garden looked neat and tidy and we enjoyed Ken's kindly and informative guided tour. By 4 p.m. we were all ready for tea but what a surprise. Not only was there tea but strawberries and cream and more food than we could eat. Ken's wife and daughter had prepared this feast and they were there to see we ate as much as possible.

Everyone enjoyed the whole day and agreed that another trip should be organised.

1956 TO 1988 LIST OF GUILD PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES, TREASURERS AND EDITORS

Compiled by Winifred Worth

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BIRDS AT KEW IN 1987

by Rupert Hastings

For the second year running, the picture was dominated by events during a very cold spell early in the year. In comparison the spring and autumn migrations did not make much impact, though it must be admitted that coverage was rather slender during those two seasons. There were a few interesting breeding records, though again coverage has declined following the departure of the Bird Keeper in 1986.

The year began in a mild fashion with nothing untoward happening. On January 5th a male *Sparrowhawk* was over the river and a *Redpoll* was at the Mound near No. 1 Museum. Then out of the blue came the rarest bird of the year, a *Red Kite* seen by a very lucky visitor on Sunday the 11th, as it flew slowly over the Temperate House. This distinctly rare visitor to London has now been seen twice over Kew Gardens, the other being as recently as November 1985 (not included in my 1985 account in this journal).

After 11 mild days the temperature plunged suddenly and the 12th dawned to reveal a complete covering of snow. The effects were instantaneous with a *Snipe* and a *Goosander* appearing along the river, together with groups of *Tufted Duck* and *Pochard*, and flocks totalling 99 *Skylarks* and 55 *Fieldfares* flew west in an attempt to escape from the bad weather. As the cold spell continued the Gardens seemed devoid of birds over large areas. The river remained the place to see unusual species and gatherings. On the 14th a flock of 103 *Tufted Ducks* was present and there was the amazing sight of six *Red-breasted Mergansers* sitting in mid-stream close to Kew Bridge. Such a group of sea ducks is very unusual in London except during distinctly severe weather, and then they are seen most often on the large reservoirs; by the evening they had moved on. Three *Goldeneye* were also present from the 14th to the 16th but *Teal* showed no particular increase with the usual group of 24 being counted. On the 15th *Tufted Ducks* had increased to 160, with 11 *Pochards*, and the next day there were 18 *Wigeon*, two *Gadwall* and 55 *Pochards*. On the 21st conditions became less severe but the following day still revealed activity along the river, led by a *Common Scoter* near Brentford Ait, another very unusual sea duck for the Kew area. Three *Goldeneye* were still

present, along with 16 *Little Grebes*, four *Goosanders* in flight, and two *Gadwall*. From this date onwards a thaw set in and there were no more extraordinary sights, though the 29th still produced four *Great Crested Grebes* (curiously scarce before this) and a high count of 23 *Hérons*. In the milder weather, a pair of *Collared Doves* winged in to grace some of the buildings around Kew Green.

On February 4th two *Skylarks* flew northeast, presumably returning to grounds that had become snow-covered in January. At the Lake the water had thawed to allow a good quantity of ducks to move in from the Thames; these included a *Shoveler*, 55 *Mallards* and some 60 *Tufted Ducks* (not all easily separated from Kew's pinioned residents!). A full-winged *Greylag Goose* at the Palm House Pond remained for the whole year, in the company of two of Kew's own *Greylags*. By the 12th *Shovelers* had increased to a modest peak of three at the Lake and four *Siskins* were close by, this finch being very scarce in the 1986-87 winter. Also scarce was *Grey Wagtail*, perhaps because of the hard spell, with just one sighting along the Thames on the 17th. That date also produced 10 *Little Grebes* along the river and a total of 21 *Hérons* over in Syon Park. For the second time ever in the Gardens, I came across a *Jay* giving a very life-like imitation of the "kewick" call of the *Tawny Owl*. *Jays* are extraordinary; I have also heard one mimicing what sounded like the song of a *Goldfinch*, which seemed a silly sound for such a large bird!

I was away on leave for most of March but returned to the Lake on the 24th to find a pair of *Great Crested Grebes* in residence. One bird was sitting on a nest built in the same spot as in 1986, close to the easternmost island. Two *Shovelers* were still present, as well as two *Siskins* and two *Redwings* which were the last of either species to be seen this winter. In contrast, three *Stock Doves* were the first ones back for the summer half of the year. Later in the month, the peculiar pair of *Canada Goose* by *Barnacle Goose* hybrids were back at the Lake. These show an interesting mixture of their parents' characteristics, leading to a partial resemblance to some of the smaller races of pure *Canada Goose*.

On April 7th an early *Swallow* fluttered through rough winds over Syon Vista and a *Kingfisher* was a very welcome sight, investigating a hole in the Syon Park riverbank. This bank is no use for nesting as it is covered at high water but Kew staff have since recreated a suitable nest bank in the pit in the Queen's Cottage Grounds. All concerned hope that *Kingfishers* will return to nest at Kew in 1988. On the 15th it was very unusual to see a pair of *Ruddy Shelducks* standing in the river; these were no doubt escapes from some local collection and I saw what looked like the same pair at Osterley Park in May. The month was unusual in producing no migrant *Meadow Pipits* or *Willow Warblers* though a shortage of watching may have been to blame. Other regulars appeared as always so that, by the end of the month, *Blackcaps* and *Chiffchaffs* were established in the Rhododendron Dell and the Queen's Cottage Grounds, with a further *Blackcap* passing through Kew Green on the 28th. Near the Azalea Garden two *Green Woodpeckers* were gradually eased out of their nest hole by a pair of (much smaller) *Starlings* and the *Grebe* clutch hatched out at the Lake to produce four young who quickly moved onto their parents' backs.

On May 1st a pair of *Collared Doves* was feeding next to the Wood Museum, raising hopes that they might stay for the summer, however they did not

reappear. In the Queen's Cottage Grounds, a male *Lesser Whitethroat* sang from the 11th to at least the 15th in thick bushes next to the pit. Like the *Collared Dove*, this warbler is a rare breeder at Kew. Though there were no later sightings, it is possible that a pair formed as males tend to go quiet once they have attracted a female. On the 26th a *Lapwing* was seen flying past the Herbarium; this probably constituted the start of autumn passage in this early-moving species! Late in the month, one of the *Great Crested Grebes* was already back on the nest, incubating a second clutch.

From May and on into the summer there was the usual warbler population in the Gardens, except that the Rhododendron Dell now seemed to be lacking its *Blackcaps*. A male *Chiffchaff* was singing at the Dell as normal, being still audible in July, and the Queen's Cottage Grounds held at least two male *Chiffchaffs* and four male *Blackcaps*. Along Syon Vista, a roosting *Tawny Owl* was clearly visible in its holm oak during May and June; it was regularly mobbed by smaller birds, particularly *Blackbirds*, which seemed to find it quite easily. In early June a new pair of *Great Crested Grebes* appeared at the Palm House Pond and by the 18th they were incubating eggs. This appears to be the first nesting at the Pond by this species. At the Lake, the original pair hatched out their second brood of four young by the 29th, when there was also a pair of adults on the river. Other breeding birds included *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, with families along Cedar Vista and near the Azalea Garden, and *Green Woodpecker* whose young were seen in two parts of the Gardens in July. On June 15th a *Stock Dove* was calling in the Queen's Cottage Grounds and the next day a *Spotted Flycatcher* had arrived outside the Herbarium. On the 22nd there were two flycatchers on Kew Green but this proved to be the last sighting of this summer visitor, which used to nest annually at Kew but has now missed three years in a row.

At the Palm House Pond a nesting female *Mallard* made a fascinating sight, well hidden on top of one of the urns along the Palm House Front, where hundreds of people must have passed very close by without seeing it. Another waterfowl, the *Canada Goose*, was unusually abundant since the departure of the Bird Keeper had resulted in no eggs being controlled. A great flock of 86 goslings was marauding about the area between the Palm House and the Lake. Three pairs of Kew's pinioned *Barnacle Geese* also raised young; the light grey goslings contrasted nicely with the yellow juvenile *Canada Geese*. On July 1st a *Redpoll* was in the Queen's Cottage Grounds. This small finch usually leaves in May but would seem to be a likely breeding candidate. An early evening visit on the 13th produced the sight of a *Tawny Owl* flying in daylight near the Azalea Garden. Breeding evidence for this species was lacking though another individual was known to be present in the Queen's Cottage Grounds where it sometimes hooted during daylight. Another scarce raptor, the *Kestrel*, certainly nested for a pair was fairly conspicuous raising at least two young in a black Italian poplar not far from the Brentford Ferry Gate. *Sparrowhawks* were seen in July as usual, and no doubt a pair was resident in the area, though I know of no nest or young being found this year.

During August a *Sylvia* warbler was often calling from thick cover by the pit in the Queen's Cottage Grounds. I never saw it but it sounded like a *Lesser Whitethroat*, suggesting a connection with the male back in May. It was a good

month for woodpeckers with four *Great Spotted*s and four *Greens* seen on the 4th and six *Greens* were counted along the towpath between Kew and Richmond on the 25th. Also on the 4th, a *Lesser Spotted Woodpecker* was heard calling in the Queen's Cottage Grounds. At the Palm House Pond two young *Great Crested Grebes* hatched out and these remained well into September, as did two young at the Lake, where it seemed that the other two juveniles did not survive their early weeks. Three families of *Great Crested Grebes* is the largest number ever raised at Kew.

With coverage a little slack, September produced no surprises apart from a *Yellow Wagtail* heard flying over on the 17th. Single *Common Sandpipers* were along the river on the 10th and 14th and seven *Swallows* were a pleasant sight moving south on the 14th also. Birds more characteristic of winter were soon back, with a *Teal* along the river on the 7th and two *Shovelers* at the Lake the next day. *Cormorants* became a regular sight along the Thames from about the 7th but more unusual was a *Kingfisher* near Brentford Ait on the 25th. Early in the month a rather tame *Cockatiel* was caught near the Isleworth Ferry Gate and returned to captivity; a cage had been found several days earlier and it seemed that both bird and cage had been deliberately abandoned in the Gardens, though not together!

In October an adult *Great Crested Grebe* remained at the Pond for most of the month. Last sightings of summer visitors included a *Chiffchaff* along the riverside on the 1st and 13 *House Martins* on the 6th. Two *Lapwings* passed over on the 23rd but, as in the spring, there were no records of overflying *Meadow Pipits* which had been regular in previous years. The infamous "hurricane" of the 16th felled some 500 trees but it did not appear to have any direct effect on the bird life. I was away at the time and returned to find nearly all the Gardens shut off for safety reasons, which is how they remained to the end of the year, so hampering coverage considerably. Late in October a second *Kingfisher* sighting involved one along the river near Ferry Lane.

November 2nd was misty with northerly winds and 16 *Skylarks* were seen to fly west at lunchtime. A *Shoveler* at the Pond heralded larger numbers in December but otherwise most birds were to be seen by visits along the towpath. On the 17th two *Mandarins* were accordingly seen flying about over Kew and Syon and a *Lesser Spotted Woodpecker* was over in Syon Park. As usual *Jays* were quite conspicuous at this time of year with 12 being seen. On the 27th *Little Grebes* had risen to eight on the river and two *Stock Doves* constituted a rather late record. It was most unusual to see a *Grey Heron* sit in mid-river for 10 seconds after it had unsuccessfully tried to grab a large flounder from a *Cormorant* (which had of course dived out of the way!). The *Heron* easily took off and returned to the bank.

Odd *Sparrowhawks* of both sexes were occasionally seen throughout the autumn and *Ring-necked Parakeets*, which were regular all year, numbered up to seven. The year closed quietly in December with the weather distinctly mild, especially around Christmas, and with the Gardens largely roped off. However it was still possible to see up to 10 *Shovelers* at the Pond, which is a high number for this site, and a *Lesser Spotted Woodpecker* was near the Herbarium on the 24th.

Thank you very much to all those who mentioned sightings to me during the year and I would also like to acknowledge the good work put in by Mark Bridger and Jon Forsyth at the Queen's Cottage Grounds pit which I hope is rewarded.

EXCERPTS FROM KEW NEWSLETTERS 1987

with thanks to the Editors Miss L. Ponsonby, Mr. G. Bromley

New Entrance Charges

From 1st January, 1987 entry to the Gardens has been increased to 50p. Season tickets are available, price £5.00, representing even better value, being a smaller percentage increase. Cumberland Gate re-opened on 2nd January to facilitate access to the Princess of Wales Conservatory which will be officially opened later in the year.

Garden opening times have been amended: opening each day at 9.30 a.m. and closing between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Sundays and Bank Holidays depending on the time of sunset.

As a point of interest Public Relations have received only four written and three telephone complaints to date, mainly concerning the issue of concessions for senior citizens.

(Christine Brandt, Information and Exhibitions Division — January 1987)

The Kew Magazine

As in previous years Kew subscribers to the Magazine are entitled to a one third discount. Existing subscribers will be notified individually but new subscribers are always welcome.

The price to Kew subscribers is down by almost £6 — the 1987 subscription will be £16.70 for the year. 1987 marks the 200th anniversary of 'Curtis's *Botanical Magazine*' (now '*The Kew Magazine*').

The new subscription price is a real bargain, even better than British Gas — even Sid is thinking of subscribing. What about it BH?

(Chris Grey-Wilson — January 1987)

Mr. John Simmons, V.M.H.

At the Royal Horticultural Society's A.G.M. on 24 February, the Curator, Mr. John Simmons, received the Victoria Medal of Honour. This medal was awarded to him not only for his outstanding work at Kew, but in recognition of his services to the Institute of Horticulture (of which he is President-Elect), to international botanic gardens and to horticulture world-wide. Congratulations again on this well-deserved honour!

(March 1987)

Kew and Wisley Relay Race — 14th March

Four teams took part in this year's race: Kew, Kew Guild, Wisley and Reading University. Kew's team consisted of Neil Wallsgrave, Gavin Smith, Graham Dear, Greg Leeson, Adrian Sparrow and Spencer Ambrose. The early stages of the race were dominated by Kew Guild building up a commanding lead

through their opening two runners. This lead was whittled down by an excellent run on the third leg by Graham Dear. By the end of the fourth leg Greg Leeson had taken the lead for Kew, which was maintained for the rest of the race, Spencer Ambrose "storming" across the finishing line, in a time of 2 hours 25 minutes. (See photo on page 626 — Ed.)

(April 1987)

Rotary Club of Kew Gardens

On Sunday morning 7th June members and families of the Rotary Club of Kew Gardens were taken round Kew Gardens by an Hon. member of the Club and Director at Kew, Arthur Bell, together with his wife Jean. Rotary President, Basil Pride, presented Professor Bell with a surprise — two wheelchairs for the disabled for use in the Gardens.

Following the 2½ hour walk the party retired to the Kew Gardens Hotel and enjoyed a magnificent buffet lunch until closing time.

(June 1987)

Habitat Creation in Progress

The gravel pit in the conservation area at Kew has always impressed me with its number and variety of plants, animals and invertebrates considering its size (it measures barely 40 feet long by 35 feet across at its widest). It is probably best remembered by people at Kew for its nesting Kingfishers which ceased to breed there three years ago due to the erosion of the vertical cliff face. I had often wondered whether the Kingfishers would return if the cliff was restored to its former state and was pleased to be given the chance to dig out the pit again along with Anton James. It was dug at the site of a previous nest-hole which had been pin-pointed by Rupert Hastings. When completed the cliff was approximately eight feet tall by six feet across, tall enough to deter any predator (bar man) from disturbing a well placed nest hole. This job took the two of us a week, and we must hope that the Kingfishers will return next spring.

(Jon Forsyth — July 1987)

Addressing the Problem

We have received several envelopes, memos etc. over the past few months drawing our attention to the amazing variety of ways in which the public address their post to Kew! We have compiled a list below for your amusement.

ROYAL BITANICAL SOCIETY
Kew Gardens
Richmond
Surrey

Messrs.
ROYAL ACADEMIC GARDENS KEW
Richmond
Surrey TW9 3AB
INGLATERRA

Mrs. A. Mayo
c/o Menbaruim
Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew
Richmond
Surrey

004500 004200 000000 000000 SL
Royal Botanic Gardens
Stanley Brookes 01/82ROY
K. Richmond
Secy
Surrey
England TW9 3AB

The Library, Royal Botanic Gardens
View, Richmond
Surrey, TW9 3AE
THE GREAT BRITAIN

MR. RICHMOND SURREY
Garden Enquiry Office
Royal Botanic Garden
Ken, United Kingdom

Dr. Wickens
Dept. of Arid Lands Research
Royal Horticultural Society
Kew Gardens
Middlesex

(July 1987)

A Royal Day

Gate figures have escalated and taro yams burgeoned. Visitors, as if in a magnetic field, are drawn towards the new conservatory, within which the plants have produced umbrella-sized leaves in just three months from small plants; and these are just two of the myriad indicators that now say to all — the conservatory functions as planned. Already though, that special day that everyone in Kew and PSA worked so hard for, has become a treasured memory, when a Princess's charmed presence gave life and inspiration to another chapter in Kew's long history. For such a very Royal occasion, held in the spotlight of an ever-attentive media, so much had to be right. Skills and resources strained to the limit as all involved worked long hours to gain due admiration on the day — Royal party, Minister and Parliamentary Secretary of State, Permanent Secretary, Mayor, the posied architect's daughter, heads of botanic gardens, all with our many other guests warming to the spirit of this achievement.

So much has been written about this building, its design, statistics and controlling computer, but the reality of this small, delicate and quite exotic biosphere is people — the staff of Kew and PSA, specialist horticulturists, builders, engineers and electricians, administrators and scientists, all imbued with a feeling that 'Kew expects' and so raising their achievements far beyond those cumulatively accomplished elsewhere. It is not resources, for we had but a small fraction of the funds available for such greenhouse projects elsewhere, and it is certainly not salaries that have inspired those involved to reach for the highest standards and intrinsically give that extra commitment of time, skills and knowledge that have historically marked Kew out from other gardens.

The conservatory has caught the imagination of the public since it allows them to personally experience diverse environments and exotic plants in a sensitively landscaped setting. Like a living machine, the house, its plants and visitors, interact — an interaction that is part of the magic of Kew and its crystal plant cages.

Most rewarding has been the very successful establishment of the collections in the house and this owes so much to the dedication of our horticultural staff. Within the dry zone, cacti flower and flourish, and the **Uncarina** has recovered from the trauma of its move. Tree ferns luxuriate throughout the tropical displays, looking healthier than ever before. Some 15,000 plants are on display, many never seen before; rare **Velloziaceae** from Brazil flowering happily. Even in the northern decorative entrance there are rarities such as the hybrid

Trochetiopsis from St. Helena, which is flowering very freely, along with the very difficult to cultivate Sturt's desert pea. In the centre, the gingers and their relatives have flowered remarkably, whilst alongside them the epiphytic ant plants from Asia (**Myrmecodia** and **Hydnophytum**) are on display, a first for Kew yet again. Similarly, within the carnivorous plant house, a greater range of species than ever previously seen at Kew just await protective glass screens for completion. Most of the growth-sustaining environmental control systems have worked extremely well from the beginning; the one outstanding problem is with the filtration of the water for the pools, for although the giant Amazon waterlily has exceeded expectations in this, its second season, the high pH resultant from the free lime, still in the walls of the pools and underground tanks, contributes to an excess of algae with which the filtration system cannot cope. Next season, with fresh water and a lower pH this problem should be resolved, and also by next year Kew's first audio-visual display will have a full range of programmes to help visitors interpret the house and its plants.

On the day itself, the overwhelming impression was one of Kew having succeeded with an exciting project. For myself personally the sight of so many of those *involved enjoying the evening's barbeque and music seemed to complete* an important occasion and highlighted the collective achievement of Kew's first major new conservatory in this century.

There was a tide and, because we took it on the flood, the results will live beyond our lives.

(John Simmons — August 1987)

Addresses — II

The list of addresses in the last edition of the newsletter obviously caught the imagination of the members of staff here at Kew and resulted in a deluge of further mis-spellings etc. of Kew's (and other) titles. The following is a selection of some of the funniest we have received starting with just a few of the amazing variations on the spelling of 'Jodrell'!

'Jodderal Laboratory'	Dr. Probert
'Jodress Laboratory'	Royal Britannic Hospital
'Godril Laboratory'	Radiography Dept.,
'Jodural Laboratory'	Wakehurst Place
'Judull Laboratory'	Ardingly
'Jodecell Laboratory'	West Sussex
'Zodrell Laboratory'	RH17 6TN
'Gobrell Laboratory'	The Director
'Dodrell Laboratory'	Rule Britannic Gardens
and 'Mr. Jodrel Gate'	Queue
The Chief Lecherer	The 'Religious Kipper' (addressed to the
Kew Gardens	Regius Keeper of R.B.G. Edinburgh)
Surrey	Mr. John Simmons
Dr. A. Radcliffe-Smith, Kiew (travelling	Endangered Species
via Kiev, USSR and Kiew, Australia	Kew Gardens, London, Surrey
before arriving here!)	(but who, we wonder, has taken the
	contract out on John?

(August 1987)

Kew Sports News — Clog and Apron Race 1987

The lead-up to this year's race was beset with a number of obstacles, not least numerous heaps of bracken, peat and manure strewn across the Broadwalk. Valiant and sustained effort (a first for Kew staff?) cleared these in time for the race. Last minute panic set in when it was found that the winner's prestigious Silver Trophy had disappeared from the Students' Union Office. It was later recovered, cleaned of past Gumley Cottage detritus, from the safety of Mr. Pemberton's office.

The race threatened to be a washout, literally, when it started to rain shortly before the race. Thankfully the skies cleared with the arrival of the first competitors.

After 375 yards and 58 seconds of agony, the winner thundered(?) across the finishing line, followed by a motley selection of other competitors in various states of distress!

Before a good crowd of both staff and visitors Mrs. Hazel Hyde then presented the Trophy, medals and obligatory tin of booze to the winners.

1st — Richard Baines (1st year student)

2nd — Kit Ashby (P.O.W. Conservatory)

3rd — Tom Parker (1st year student)

Ladies medal winner — Carolin Göhler (1st year student)

Intrepid Tim Bailey-Upson took some "in the thick of it" race action shots thanks to the poor acceleration of the cabriolet. He also took some shots before and after the race. These were shown at the Kew Mutual Improvement Society meeting of October 12th.

(September/October 1987)

'An Arboricidal Wind'

Woken by my Border Collies at 4 a.m. on the morning of the 16th October, though concerned by the strength of the wind that had disturbed them and expecting some damage I was not prepared for the scene of devastation that was revealed by first light. From the back of my house old paths were blocked by fallen trees, Gleditsias at crazy angles, Caryas lying around as skittles in a bowling alley. Outside, the Kew Road looked like a war zone, no traffic and people on foot trudging to work through the tree-strewn streets. Even the innate strength of plane trees could not withstand the violence of the wind and on blocked Kew Green Sandra Bell's Volkswagen Beetle was lifted up to a curious angle on the roots of the giant plane whose trunk then rested on our boundary railings.

Soon after eight I met a very saddened Charlie Erskine. He was quite in disbelief of the damage which now, as we know, amounted to some 500 trees down and a further 500 badly damaged as the wind butchered their crowns and tore their anchoring roots. Then a 'phone call from John Lonsdale stranded (luckily for us) at Wakehurst since Tony Schilling could not get in and had problems with the roof of his house. He told of yet greater ravages; it all seemed inconceivable.

We know now that so many great gardens and woods were damaged in those few short hours — from Hampshire to Norfolk millions of trees were lost. Not diseased trees, but for the most part healthy trees with a long life expectancy.

Nymans is thought to have lost about 80% of its trees, Chartwell is devastated and high on the Weald the top part of Wakehurst had truly caught the full rage of the wind. Certainly when I eventually reached Wakehurst on that Sunday I just failed to recognise parts of the garden so littered were they with the fallen remains of giant friends. The 'walk' to Westwood Lake had become a combat course taking six times as long in time; the **Machilus** was still there but much else, from **Parrotia** to **Davidia**, has been lost for a generation. Sheila Johnson's car fared worse than Sandra's as it still lies under the pine that crushed its roof down to the floor.

And then came the Press!

For all involved it has been a devastating emotional experience and now the long hard job of clearance, a full winter's work at Kew, much more at Wakehurst with its difficult terrain and perhaps as many as three times the number of trees lost as at Kew. Repair surgery to the torn and tattered trees will take longer, perhaps two years at Kew, maybe three at Wakehurst — but this is just a guess. Then what of the specimens made insecure. Many, at first seemingly unaffected, are leaning, some just slightly, but indicating root breakage from which they may not recover.

The full list of losses from Wakehurst will take a long time to compile as much of the estate is still inaccessible. At Kew the list of 500 shows many important losses and includes historic specimens such as the 200 year old **Zelkova** by the Herbarium and Turkey oak by the Palm House Pond. We have also lost the original (1902) introductions of **Nothofagus obliqua**, the rare **Malus trilobata** (Kew had one of the best specimens in cultivation), our only **Umbellularia californica**, the Costard Apple in the Cottage Grounds, **Castanea henryi**, and **Sorbus** 'Bellona'. The list continues with other trees, such as the Caryas, (particularly **C. cordiformis**) dating from the 1850's plantings, **Maackia amurensis** var. **buergeri**, **Pinus wallichiana**, **Fagus sylvatica** 'Prince Georges of Crete', **Broussonetia papyrifera**, **Catalpa fargesii** f. **duclouxii**, **Ehretia thrysiflora**, **Maclura pomifera**, my favourite Raywood Ash with its superb autumn colour — and so on.

The 'phones in LCD and IED rang endlessly, letters of sympathy and donations poured in. A call from Prince Charles' office asking if there was anything he could do, a note of sympathy from Princess Alexandra, the Venezuelan Ambassador, Seychelles High Commissioner, Prime Minister of Jamaica and many others offering help. The Baroness Trumpington came from our Ministry to visit both Kew and Wakehurst and the Minister himself is to visit the latter. And the letters still come from Zimbabwe, Canada, Australia, offers of help from other botanic gardens, New York, the Arnold Arboretum, Kirstenbosch, Hawaii, Chicago while the Morris Arboretum is sending two tree surgeons including Bill Graham, who spent time at Kew and Wakehurst two years ago. They will work at Wakehurst where already a team from the Askham Bryan College at York have helped clear some of the worst devastation in the Pinetum. Statements of intent to help with the national disaster were also made in the House of Commons and the European Parliament.

But in the battle zone we must now have great admiration for the skills and determination of our tree surgery units ably supported as they are by those driving and operating the machines that will clear the massive amount of debris.

The staff of both arboreta have responded magnificently to the challenge and many more from other Sections and Divisions have been involved including, at Wakehurst, the scientific staff and constabulary. From IED's 'phones to the anatomy's root survey, all have shown the Dunkirk spirit and the sadness of having to undertake such a depressing task.

For many like me, who walk each day in pleasure amongst trees, whether crystal with hoar frost or glinting with new growth, who love their strength and antiquity and is saddened by every loss — the night of the 15th October will be long remembered.

During the last 15 or more years at Kew and Wakehurst we have been aggressively acquiring original source material — planting young specimens to ensure greater stability — and lavishing care on our trees. A new generation is thus already awaiting, and from this loss there is surely the gain of a wider appreciation of the value of trees to us all.

(John Simmons — September/October 1987)

A Nasty Case of Wind!

In a gesture of international friendship, Wakehurst Place has donated its 1987 autumn colour to Norway — or at least that's the direction our leaves were heading when last seen on Friday 16th October!

On that fateful morning the familiar skyline of Wakehurst was transformed to resemble the aftermath of a cataclysmic explosion. (Remember the pictures after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens?) With the clearing up work still only just beginning, we can now see that overall 50% or more of the trees were uprooted and around 75% in the exposed areas damaged to the point of needing ultimate removal. The degree of damage varies through the estate, with the Loder Valley Reserve and Westwood Valley suffering least, but some areas such as the Rhododendron Walk losing virtually every tree.

To add to our problems, the estate was without power for 12 days and without telephones or the computer link for 22 days. (Don't recommend candle-lit dinners to the resident staff for some time!) Despite all the adversities, natural and otherwise, the staff here have worked tirelessly since the storm and achieved the near impossible in clearing sufficient ground to re-open part of the gardens in only 11 working days. Initially, to clear access, the LCD staff were assisted by members of the Physiology and Constabulary staffs in the removal and burning of debris, and even now the nursery unit has a normal complement for part of the week only. We have also been considerably helped by the week-long stay of the third year Arboriculture option of National Diploma students from Askham Bryan College, Yorkshire.

It is perhaps ironic that Wakehurst has also had ample publicity since the storm when normally we are hardly the household name that Kew is. Several national as well as local newspapers have sent reporters and photographers to record the devastation, and we featured largely in a half hour TV programme on the aftermath of the storm, shown on 6th November. This received a national screening on Friday 4th December on BBC 2, under the title "The Friday Report".

There was also the visit of the "Blue Peter" film crew which resulted in certain of the staff proudly displaying their "Blue Peter Badges" — until the

novelty wore off! Since I was tending the remains of the nursery and had no power, regrettably I missed both the filming and transmission of this minor epic, but I'm assured it showed us in a good light.

There are always positive aspects to a situation though . . . the nursery has become almost filled to capacity with young trees which will now have a choice of prospective planting sites. Think how much less top work and climbing the tree gang will have to do now that the trees have come down to them. The production of shade tolerant species for the winter garden scheme is no longer necessary as the beds have ample light. Even my own newly hirsute appearance after the power cut may, to judge by my elders and betters, result in an accelerated rise to authority and TV appearances!!

(Chris Clennett — September/October 1987)

'Helping' Hands Across The Sea

Philadelphia, PA (November 12, 1987) — Four arborists from the University of Pennsylvania's Morris Arboretum will be in England from November 13-24 to help conserve the priceless trees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew that were damaged by hurricane-force winds on October 15. Nearly 50,000 trees across London were levelled by the sudden gale. Certain areas of the gardens are still closed because of these public hazards.

The Morris Arboretum's expert arborists are the first American team whose offer to help the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew has been accepted. This project is being co-sponsored by the Morris Arboretum and the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society.

Dr. William M. Klein, Director of the Morris Arboretum, noted that more than 500 specimen trees have been lost and another 500 badly damaged in the Royal Botanic Gardens. "It is an irreplaceable loss in many ways," said Klein. "We simply had to help."

Jane G. Pepper, President of the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, concurred: "The Society is very pleased to have the opportunity to support such a significant project in cooperation with the Morris Arboretum".

Dr. Klein initiated a call to Professor Arthur Bell, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew after he learned that the devastation was so widespread and that all the Gardens' tree crews were occupied with clearing away debris. Because there was a shortage of personnel to do the specialist work of conserving specimen trees, he volunteered the assistance of William Graham, the Arboretum's chief horticulturist and arborist, and other experts: Richard Orth, foreman arborist, Douglas Soliday, staff arborist, and Stephen Emery, an arborist intern from England.

"A botanic garden like Kew is similar to a great museum or library," said Dr. Klein. "The trees are like basic scientific documents and are sources of information for research. They are living manuscripts and represent hundreds of years of study."

Klein noted that his colleagues at Kew were busy preserving cross-sections of trees for anatomical studies and excavating sections of roots to learn more about how trees absorb nutrients and water. These studies will provide invaluable information on tree growth as related to weather patterns.

The Morris Arboretum's arborist team will be working primarily at Wakehurst Place, a research outstation of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, which is known internationally for its rhododendron and azalea gardens. They will help prune and remove damaged branches and make the gardens safe again for public enjoyment. Their professional arboricultural procedures will also help facilitate the healing and growth of the trees.

The arborists' work will be done via elaborate riggings, as well as chain saws and hand saws. Safety of the climbers (or "top workers" as they are called in England) and protection of the azalea and rhododendron gardens below are primary concerns.

Responding to the American offer of assistance, John B. E. Simmons, Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew wrote: "The main problem is acquiring skilled arborists who can work intelligently and safely amongst a botanical collection. It is good to know that we have such good friends whose common commitment can reach across cultural and geographic divides."

Anthony D. Schilling, Deputy Curator of Wakehurst Place, also expressed his appreciation: "It goes without stating that we are both flattered and pleased by your tremendous empathy regarding this tragedy to the Gardens, and it is all the more obvious that the words "thank you" are quite inadequate at such times. Hands across the sea has taken on a whole new meaning."

(Extract from a document received by Tony Schilling — September/October)

Professor Keith Jones

At lunch time on 30th September the Wood Museum Conference room was packed to capacity with friends and colleagues of Keith Jones. It was good to see so many old friends who had come back to Kew to wish Keith well; it was a fine occasion. As Deputy Director, Keith had taken a keen interest in Kew and had a concern for all staff. He was (and still is!) proud of Kew, and threw himself into all that he did with enthusiasm and energy.

Keith came to Kew in 1960 as head of the newly formed Cytogenetics section of the Jodrell Laboratory. On the retirement of Dr. C. R. Metcalfe in 1969 he was appointed Keeper. He has been responsible for the expansion of the Jodrell and has made many important changes. The two sections of Cytogenetics and Anatomy were joined by Physiology and Biochemistry and under his leadership the scientific reputation of Kew has grown considerably. In addition he was not known as 'Jones the Party' for nothing.

The Director paid tribute to Keith's achievements and presented him with a cheque and an album of photographs. The album was viewed with considerable interest by those who could get to it. The staff in the Jodrell will have a constant reminder of Keith's time as Keeper as a portrait has been commissioned by Mrs. Juliet Pannett and will hang alongside those of his predecessors.

Keith will be back at Kew, continuing his writing, when he has completed the usual round of house redecoration.

(David Cutler — September/October 1987)

Letter from Professor Keith Jones to All at the RBG

Dear colleagues,

This letter is of course considerably overdue but is nevertheless sincere. So many distracting things have happened to us all since that farewell party but

it still stands clear and poignant in my mind. As I have passed so rapidly from deputy director to painter and decorator the memory of this event has been most consoling. It was so pleasing to be in the presence of many of my colleagues at that time and I send you all my heartfelt thanks for coming along and being so generous in your gifts. The card and album have been examined many times and scrutinized equally closely by Diana. Having also listed to Peter's recording of this event I am delighted that the occasion was fittingly somewhat hilarious.

As seems most appropriate the next few days were spent in a gentle hotel in St. Davids — just a short break as a transition between a desk and a ladder job. The seemingly endless task of decorating an attic conversion and redecoration of rooms which suffered from it has resulted in the shedding of pounds as well as responsibilities and this new preoccupation has given me no sense of being retired and unemployed. When all has been completed and made ready, a few weeks in the sunshine of the Canaries will enable me to turn my mind again to Kew and science when I hope to be a frequent visitor.

I must say that I have been sharing in the distress at the damage to Kew and Wakehurst by the hurricane and send my sincere sympathies particularly to those who have devoted themselves to Kew's plants for so many years.



Professor Keith Jones's Retirement.

Once again Diana and I would like you to accept our gratitude for making my time at Kew so satisfying and for providing a final party which was an unforgettable adieu.

Sincerely, Keith

(September/October 1987)

Dr. Michael D. Bennett (New Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory)

I am pleased to have this chance of introducing myself to people at Kew, as getting to know each other is my first priority. Next, must come getting to know Kew and its marvellous collections. I must say that the wealth of these excites me — because it has the potential for solving many of the problems which mankind now faces. "The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations".

When I was a student in the 1960's, the greatest problem which clearly confronted us was the awesome prospect of imminent world food shortage. I wanted then to be involved in solving this problem and as plants are the foundation of our food chain I became a plant scientist. Since then, applied biology has been very successful in buying us some time, but the problem has not gone away. True, there are now EEC grain mountains and milk lakes, thus local, wasteful and subsidy-driven over production is less important than the continuous planet-wide race between crop production and population. Plant science has been able to increase dramatically the yield of food for man — it has the potential to do so much more.

Today, plant science is more than ever in the front line of man's battle for survival and quality of life. Agricultural development, urbanisation and pollution are all threatening plant life; and genetic erosion is increasing apace. However, on the positive side we have recently experienced both a heightened public awareness concerning the vital importance of plant life on earth and major new discoveries in molecular biology and genetics which offer exciting new possibilities for genetic engineering and plant breeding. Kew and its resources has a central rôle to play.

I have come to Kew via Aberystwyth and Cambridge. Originally a Kentish Man, I was born in Gravesend — from the "Garden of England" you could say — and I would probably be selling plant produce today, following on the family greengrocery business, if I had not become interested in science at school. I owe a lot to the influence of a teacher at my grammar school who inspired me to study plants despite my initial reluctance to help tend the Order Beds in the school botany garden. My teacher being Welsh, I naturally went to Aberystwyth and read Agricultural Botany. This led to post-graduate work there under Prof. Hugh Rees on natural and induced variation in plant chromosome structure. Afterwards I went to the Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge to work with Prof. Ralph Riley on chromosome behaviour in wheat and other grasses.

I am still involved with research at the P.B.I. (now named the Institute of Plant Science Research — Cambridge laboratory) and will continue to supervise, with Dr. John Heslop-Harrison, the work of a team sponsored by BP Venture Research Unit. We have been looking at the three-dimensional arrangement of chromosomes and its significance for plant development. There may soon be the possibility of constructing stable "man-made" chromosomes carrying a selection of beneficial genes, both in plants and animals. The study of the shapes, sizes and positioning of natural chromosomes may help a lot there.

The world needs places like Cambridge and Kew, where fundamental research on the biology of plants can be pursued. I believe that "serendipity often rules" and because of this we usually are unable to predict which scientific findings will have a practical impact. Applied research is vital — but it rides

on the findings of a wide range of investigation — where dedicated people just followed their noses. At the same time those engaged in fundamental studies must be aware of practical needs. Plants, as I have already suggested, have many of the answers to pressing human problems. We therefore have a responsibility to investigate plants and to transmit what we discover. Without putting it too high, we have a moral obligation to bring what we find to the attention of the world, and to ensure that it is used to solve problems. I have a clear conscience about such mission-orientated pure research — it has to be done and Kew is an ideal place to do it.

On a personal note — my family are still living in Cambridge and for the present I am reverting to the hours worked in the Fruit and Vegetable Trade. Trips to Covent Garden at 5 a.m. as a boy were good training for my early morning travels to Kew!

(September/October 1987)

Alan Cook

In November Alan Cook retired after 38 years at Kew. At his farewell gathering, in a well-filled Jodrell Lecture Theatre on 9th November, the Director presented Alan with a painting of *Stokesia laevis* executed by Joanna Langhorne. At a separate reception, his fellow supervisors provided a typewriter, and his own staff gave him a glass paperweight.

From Suffolk, Alan Cook began his horticultural career on the estate of Lord Milford before going to work for the diamond millionaire, Solly Joel. During the war he served with the Royal Air Force and on demobilisation went to Bodnant. In 1948 he came to Kew as a student and at the end of his studentship spent a year at Swansea Parks before returning to Kew to take charge of the quarantine house. In 1952 he was appointed sole foreman in the Alpine Department under George Preston when his duties were: rock garden, order beds, (old) alpine house and alpine yard. Until 1960, when joined by Ian Beyer as a second foreman, he was involved with rebuilding the rock garden. Although the Order Beds were to remain important, he will be always associated with grasses.

A small collection of grasses (part of the Order Beds) used to be situated where the Jodrell now stands. During erection of the present building, the grass collection was moved to an area shared with an herbaceous border, managed by Decorative at the west of the T-range. Following reorganisation of the Dukes Garden in 1967-68, when island beds were introduced, the herbaceous border was abandoned. Subsequently it was decided to use the area to display grasses for amenity, education and science; work was completed in 1975. Only five years later it was realised that the grass garden occupied space that would be needed for the new conservatory, which was to replace the T-range. By 1982 the grass garden had been moved to its present site which had been formerly occupied by beds of bearded iris.

Alan's knowledge of alpine plants was extensive, for hardy herbaceous plants encyclopaedic and with grasses he was unequalled; he was familiar also with plants to be found in other departments. No one in LCD had a greater botanical knowledge and botanists held him in great respect. If Alan disagreed with their findings, even senior botanists were known to recheck their facts; he had a disconcerting habit of being invariably correct.

With his phenomenal memory, always better for the long distant rather than the recent past, he considered a record system a waste of time when introduced in 1969 and computers were science fiction rather than aids to horticulture. Even so his records were always well-kept and he became most adept with computers.

No matter how busy he was, he could always find time to help others even non-horticulturists.

There has been a long association with the Alpine Garden Society and he has been for many years, secretary, treasurer and chairman (sometimes all at once) of the West London Group.

Whilst a student, he won the Hooker Memorial Prize, awarded by the Kew Mutual Improvement Society to the member who did most for the society in a year. In 1978, the same year as he carried out a plant collecting trip to Greece, he was made an Associate of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society and in 1983 was the recipient of the British Empire Medal.

Whilst his main hobby has always been gardening, he was interested in music, and besides attending concerts, played the violin. Alan Cook has given 38 years unstinting service to Kew and we all wish him an enjoyable retirement and a chance to get to know his family.

Brian Halliwell — November/December 1987

Kew Weather for 1987

Year's total rainfall	685.2 mm	
Most rain in one day	39.5 mm	on 09.10.87
Highest temperature (maximum)	29.5°C	on 21.08.87
Lowest temperature (maximum)	-5.7°C	on 12.01.87
Lowest temperature (minimum)	-9.1°C	on 13.01.87
Highest temperature (minimum)	17.8°C	on 30.06.87
		15.07.87
Most sun in one day	15.3 hrs.	on 05.07.87
*Year's total sunshine	1,419 hrs.	
Mean daily average	3.89 hrs.	

The strongest wind speed was 35 knots with gusts up to 50 knots. It was a WSW wind on 16.10.87.

There was no sun recorded on 105 days and no rain was recorded as falling on 123 days.

There were 57 days (nights) when the air minimum temperature was below freezing, 130 nights when the grass minimum temperature was below freezing and 76 nights when the concrete minimum temperature was below freezing. There were also five days last January when the maximum temperature remained below freezing.

There were 24 days when snow was recorded falling, six days when hail was recorded, 13 days when thunder was recorded and two days, 27.03.87 and 16.10.87 when gales were recorded.

Of 114 pH tests ranging from 4.26 to 6.94, the average was pH 5.77.

There were 12 days when fog was recorded.

*1987 has proved to be the least sunny year since we started recording sun in 1981 and I think we also know that the gale of 16.10.87 was the worst on record for damage caused in our lifetime.

(Dickon Bowling — November/December 1987)

EXCERPTS FROM KEWTICLE 1987

Edited by J. Donovan

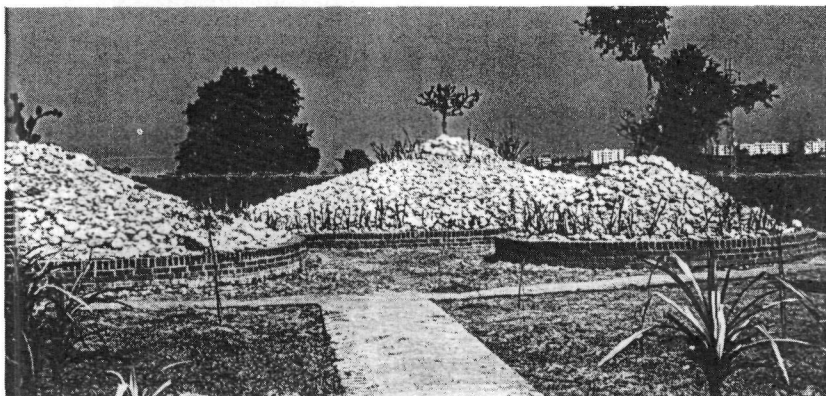
Revealing Facts . . .

"The house built for William Aiton in the north-east corner of the gardens, the outside of which can be seen by visitors as it fronts Kew Green but which cannot be seen by them inside the Garden as it is within the nursery called the Melon Yard, had been let after W. T. Aiton's death in 1849, but in the 1890's reverted to the Office of Works. In the 1880's it had been named Descanso House by a South American Merchant who rented it during the period 1888-92 and this name, which means in Portuguese 'resting place', has since stuck to it.

(Extracted from "Royal Kew" by Ronald King)

(February 1987)

1. "Great Rock Gardens Of The World"



National Botanic Garden, Murpur, Dhaka.

2. To boldly go . . .

Just two of the many applications for the Rolex Awards for Enterprise 1987. Students, now here is a chance to realise all your wildest dreams; apply now.

306. **Crossing the English Channel on board an office filing cabinet**

The aim of this project is to make a crossing of the English Channel on board an office filing cabinet fitted with a sail, a rudder, two catamaran-like stabilizers and two foam-filled buoyancy chambers. Should the attempt prove successful, a crossing of the Atlantic Ocean on the same craft might be considered.

Antonio Guillén Larraz

(Ref.: 4-B 11439), 2 Betanox, 7° Izq., 15004 La Coruña, Spain.

502. **Human/Dolphin Community**

The concept of an area where humans and dolphins meet to interact by sharing music and play has its roots in many ancient cultures. following a decade of study of human/dolphin interaction, this project will, in spring 1987 and 1988, establish a Human/Dolphin Community site along the Bolivian coastline to further explore the community concept and cultivate a relationship between humans and dolphins.

James M. Nollman (Ref.: 4-B 10176)

273 Hidden Meadow, Friday Harbor, Washington 98250, USA)

Surely this is illegal . . .

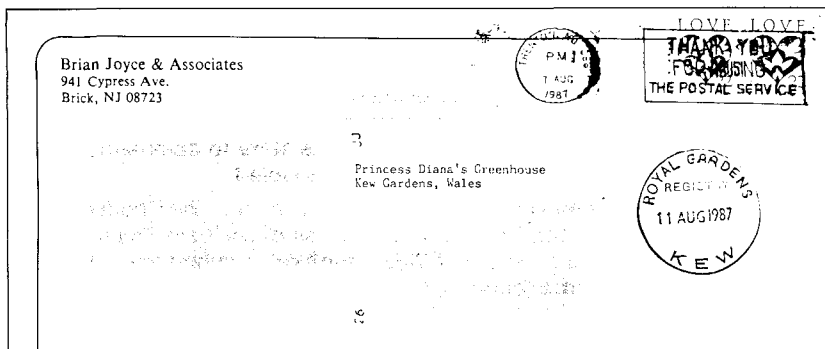
At last an alternative to the Kew Diploma . . .

3. **PHOTOTRON 2**
Japanese Garden



DEN: At the end of 90 days of using the PHOTOTRON and GROWING PLANTS PYRAPONIMETRICALLY, you will know as much about plant growth as many Botanists, Soil Chemists, Plant Physiologists, Horticulturalists or Floraculturists. PAINLESSLY. The PHOTOTRON is complete AND simple. The PHOTOTRON is NOT A TOY, but the complexity of using this sophisticated laboratory grade plant growth chamber has been removed so that IT IS FUN!

SCHOOLS: A most painless, interesting and enjoyable way to teach Biology, Botany, Chemistry, Physics, Ecology, Horticulture, Physiology and Floraculture.



(September 1987)

Kew Gate Figures 1987

The number of entrants into the Gardens to the end of November was 1,309,525, this exceeds the total for 1986 (1,147,101) with the December figures yet to be added. The highest monthly total was recorded in August, the month following the opening of the Princess of Wales Conservatory, with 271,974 passing through the gates, this was nearly double the average figure for this month.

(December 1987)

PROGRESS REPORTS

Hurricane Damage: North Arboretum

Over two months on and the North Arboretum has almost been cleared of the debris made by the hurricane on 16 October 1987. All that remains is the removal of butts of timber left strewn across the lawns, crown work in the badly damaged trees, repairs to holes that once housed the root balls of fallen trees and damage caused by the extraction of timber and rubbish. This in itself is a winter of work. Undoubtedly the most important work over the coming months will be the annual tree planting operations, which assumes greater significance than usual due to the effects of the storm. This will commence on Tuesday 22 December with a ceremonial planting of five trees from the Arboretum Nursery by the Agriculture Minister (Mr. Macgregor), the Permanent Secretary, the Mayor of Richmond, Jeremy Hanley, MP for Richmond, the Chairman of the Trustees and the Director.

The winds have acted in a very peculiar manner within certain areas picking out groups and single trees, and has either blown them over or torn off limbs and shattered the tops of trees. The **Ginkgo biloba** planted in 1761 suffered some damage, but the cable bracing in the crown (carried out many years ago) prevented more serious damage. One limb was lost, this snapped off directly above the eye bolt which secures the cable to the limb. If the limb hadn't been braced it may have resulted in the loss of the branch at the trunk, causing a severe and irreparable wound. We are fortunate that this limb can now be removed without further damage to the tree or surrounding plantings.

A **Juglans nigra** (Black Walnut) blocked the route past the Orangery and opposite this on the main gate lawn specimens of **Carya cordiformis** and **Carpinus betulus** had fallen damaging an excellent summer flowering **Cladrastis sinensis**. The **Cryptomeria japonica** planted by the Emperor of Japan in 1971 had once again been felled and another walnut, this time the Common Walnut (**Juglans regia**) planted by the Queen on 2 June 1959 to commemorate the bicentenary of the Royal Botanic Gardens, had toppled.

The Broadwalk will certainly look different this summer. The Rhododendron beds are even more exposed now due to the loss of six Tulip Trees and two of the largest specimens in Britain of **Tilia x moltkei**, a hybrid lime, the result of a cross between **T. americana** and **T. tomentosa**. This tree was raised by the German nurseryman Spath in 1883 and named in honour of General Moltke who planted an example outside Spath's house in 1888.

Forward planning in the Arboretum four years ago saw the replanting of a new avenue, behind the existing one, of various **Quercus** species which, with the aid of tree shelters, are now firmly established and ready to create a new Broadwalk.

Overlooking the Broadwalk is Crab Mound which suffered extensive damage. Several mature **Malus** cultivars were ripped apart, necessitating the removal of seven. Young trees in the Arboretum Nursery await planting on this site and with the recent planting of 6,000 **Narcissus** bulbs the Crab Mound will begin to take on a new look.

Location 162 behind the Waterlily House was severely hit and specimens of **Quercus castaneifolia** var. **incana** and **Fraxinus americana**, along with seven other mature broadleaved trees were felled indiscriminately. Fortunately the oldest and largest **Q. castaneifolia** in the country, planted around 1846 survived without the loss of a branch, which is most likely due to the extensive crown thinning carried out by the tree unit three years ago.

At least 12 **Fraxinus** species were lost, including good specimens of **F. pennsylvanica** and **F. latifolia**, from the Oleaceae collection and mature shrubs of **Ligustrum**, **Syringa** and **Osmanthus** were lifted out of the ground.

Syon Vista suffered no damage, which proves that evergreens must produce a stronger root system than deciduous trees. Pagoda Vista lost a splendid example of **Quercus coccinea** 'Splendens' and, significantly, another **Carya cordiformis**, five out of 11 trees of this species were lost from locations throughout the Gardens.

About 94 trees in total were lost in the North Arboretum, either felled or damaged beyond repair. Other notable trees which have been lost include the comparatively rare **Malus trilobata**, by the Colour Clump, two examples of **Ehretia thrysiflora**, **Rhus potaninii**, **Acer grosseri** var. **hersii** and **Sorbus mougeotii**, a member of the Aria section of the genus from the Pyrenees.

(Tony Kirkham)

South Arboretum

The south end of the Gardens suffered the greatest loss of trees, principally due to the higher density of planting and the fact this area also took the brunt of the storm.

In some cases it is surprising which trees were lost and which remain. Observations suggest that it was the broadleaved deciduous trees, such as **Tilia**, **Quercus**, **Aesculus** and **Castanea** that were the most vulnerable. The damage to cedars was minimal, no more than usual in a high wind, not even one was lost. Also the Holm Oaks (**Quercus ilex**) at Lion/Oxenhouse gate border were untouched, no doubt due to the extensive canopy work carried out by the Tree Unit earlier this year. The ferocity of the wind in this area can be judged from the fact that the artificial windbreak below was flattened, and a large lime in the same border came down (revealing an old brick boundary wall underground); both serve as examples of the wind-fastness of the Holm Oaks. Unfortunately the same degree of resistance was not shown by the Turner's Oak (**Q. x turneri**) at the Pavillion Gate toilets which fell, blocking the entrance way, despite the fact that this species has **Q. ilex** as one of its parents.

Limes were badly affected, six fell in the main collection plus seven elsewhere. The largest tree (in volume) in the South Arboretum, and one of the largest to come down in Kew, was the **Tilia x vulgaris** close to the hawthorns by the Rosaceae canal beds. It must have been getting on for 200 years measuring 90 feet with 18 feet diameter root ball. Two other limes of similar height came down near the Cottage grounds but could only have been up to 100 years according to their overall dimensions. What brings home the force of the wind is seeing a **Tilia x vulgaris** opposite the Cottage 90 feet high that had been snapped six feet from the ground on a trunk of 12 foot girth leaving the roots in the ground!

A valued spruce, **Picea likiangensis** var. **purpurea**, was lost near the Cottage itself, it had been raised from seed collected by Joseph Rock in western China. The Kentucky Coffee Tree is rare in British collections and the variegated form of this plant (**Gymnocladus dioica** 'Variegata') even more so. The destruction of the largest recorded specimen in the country is therefore a great loss. This tree grew in the Restaurant area and was lifted right out of the tarmac. Another rare tree **Malus** 'Costard Apple' (again growing close to the Cottage), important because it has been used in the breeding of many modern cultivars, was lifted out of the ground but not felled completely. An attempt will be made to winch it upright and make it secure. Only one Redwood went over, though this species might have been expected to withstand such winds. An examination of its root system, however, revealed extensive rotting. Another particular favourite lost was the **Koelreuteria paniculata** by the Ruined Arch, an attractive species producing yellow flowers in spring and bright red seedpods in autumn, this was an especially shapely example.

While looking at specific losses and seeming contradictions, it is worth noting the loss of four mature trees of **Nothofagus obliqua**. Other members of the genus (**N. procera** for example) escaped damage. The largest of the four grew in the woodland beds and its root system lifted an old unused sprinkler system! Another tree planted in 1961 had put on 61 feet of growth.

Certain collections will be left with large gaps, the larches lost 11 tall specimens, a mix of european and western larches, fortunately the younger plantings are unharmed. The area which suffered the most extensive damage was between the Restaurant and the Heather Garden mainly containing members of the families Juglandaceae and Leguminosae. Five hickories went along Kew Road

wall, one of which has been dated at 120 years old, matching up to the planting of the 1850s when the Arboretum was extended. An opposite pair of mature hickory trees were lost from Pagoda Vista, both being excellent examples of **Carya cordiformis** and dated at 118 years old. Two species of **Juglans**, **J. ailanthifolia** and **J. nigra** were also lost from the former area. The Leguminosae collections here have been devastated with 16 large trees being felled from the following genera, **Robinia**, **Gleditsia**, **Gymnocladus** and **Maackia**.

The last area to be cleared for public access will be the Conservation Area, where 23 oaks, three hornbeams, three beeches, and two larches of substantial size were lost. By means of good fortune, the commemorative oak planted for Laura Brightman has survived, (it was first thought lost under the crown of a mature oak). The scene in the Conservation Area might appear to be one of utter devastation, but such a superficial assessment is misleading. The size of the individual trees blown down has resulted in the destruction of the scrub below. Once these large trunks can be cleared the damage will be seen to be less serious than first appearances might suggest. Some of the blown timber will be left to provide a useful range of habitats for the wildlife.

The figure of trees lost in the storm is 167 in the formal areas and about 30 large trees in the Conservation Area. It will not be until spring that we have a better idea of the extent of the damage caused, through roots being disturbed by the wind lifting them. Meanwhile seed is being collected and vegetative material has been taken for propagation on the most valuable specimens. It has been a rare opportunity for root data to be collated, carried out by Jim Keesing amongst others, who was able to provide me with the ages of certain trees he had counted.

(Mark Bridger — December 1987)

After the Royal Opening

After the very successful opening, weekdays were like busy Sundays in terms of the volume of public visiting the Princess of Wales Conservatory. It was a couple of months before the numbers decreased to normal levels.

Meanwhile the plants keep growing, the Giant Waterlily in particular has maintained decent proportions up to the present time. Supplementary lighting has helped to improve conditions during the periods of more overcast weather. The lily has also been fed regularly since August. If the plant maintains a reasonable size through the new year, we may try to continue growing it for a second year (with the aid of lighting and feeding). Seedlings will be grown as usual, however, as a standby.

The pools filters have now been working efficiently for the last three months giving us the water clarity that was required on 28th July. The fish can now be seen clearly through the windows in the side of the top pool in zone 1. Tilapia (breeding out of control!), Tin Foil Barbs, Silver Sharks, add colour and interest to the water.

The Zingiberaceae and the Costaceae (zone 1) have done very well, and together with the Melastomataceae are three families that were not displayed in the old T-range. **Kaempferia pulchra** (Zingiberaceae) has started to die down following the intensive flowering period throughout the summer. Of interest at the moment is **Anthurium salviniae** which is flowering near to the entrance to The Tropix. Unusually the spadix is a beautiful light purple colour.

The insectivorous collection will be on the move during January, so that contractors can install the anti-theft screens which should have been in place long before the opening day. Some plants will remain in-situ during the work; **Drosophyllum lusitanicum** for example, which has self sown in the beds (the mature plants having flowered earlier this spring). The new seedlings will be protected from the builders dust with polythene. The sarracenias will also stay put. This zone can then be opened to the public. The majority of the plants will form a permanent display, others will be brought from the reserve collections during their period of maximum interest and plunged into the beds, later being returned to the Lower Nursery.

In the Arid zone, the large **Uncarina grandidieri** in the Madagascan collection, produced its large yellow flowers in June quickly followed by the leaves. Our fears that the plant would not survive the move from the old Cacti and Succulent House proved groundless. For the **Aloe** enthusiasts, many species are now flowering, including **A. ballyi**, and **A. volkensii**.

Further projects in the Conservatory include some re-organisation in The Tropix and the addition of further audio-visual packages to the main display. Also the resiting of some plants (in zone 1) to provide optimum conditions and visual continuity, adding to the public's enjoyment.

(Mik Marsh — December 1987)

Ferries

Conditions for the ferns in Zones 4 and 5 are a great improvement on the old houses. The winter light levels being far higher and the humidification system of great benefit. The shallow depth of compost and the good drainage at the higher levels are ideally suited to the surface rooting ferns. The fibre-glass rock-face has worked quite well, with the waterfall being in operation 24 hours a day to prevent drying out of the moss.

Dipteris conjugata, a spectacular fern when mature, is now well established, as are several species of **Lecanopteris**, the ant fern. The genus **Lycopodium** is also represented and several plants are growing well.

The drier ferns, including **Chielanthes**, **Actinopteris** and **Pityrogramma**, have a bed to themselves in Zone 5 in contrast to the wetter, more humid conditions of Zone 4.

Several species of **Cyathea** were planted in Zones 1, 6 and 7 to give added height and to provide a canopy. Growth has been very rapid and in a couple of years will give the desired effect.

(Peter Bradley — December 1987)

INSTRUCTIONS

Respecting the distribution of surplus bedding-out Plants from the Royal Gardens, Kew.

1. The distribution is confined to poor and working-class inhabitants of parishes nearer to Kew than to parks where similar distributions are made (Battersea, Hyde, Regent's, and Victoria Parks).

2. The distribution at Kew will take place on the and days of October, 188 , between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon.
3. Applicants will bring their own baskets, and produce this letter at the gate adjoining the fire-engine house in the Richmond Road near Kew Green.
4. No applications will be attended to on any other days or hours than the above.

By Order,

ROYAL GARDENS, KEW.

(Received from the Curator 1987 — *Ed.*)

NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD in 1987

Compiled by **MARTIN J. S. SANDS** and **HUGH FLOWER**

Welcome to **Dr. Robert Allkin**, formerly of the University of Southampton, who joined the staff of the Computing Section at Kew on 1st June, 1987 to work as a Research Fellow on database designs.

Susyn Andrews, a Scientific Officer in the Herbarium, took up her post as Gardens Verifier on 2nd January 1987.

Chris Bailes, (formerly Guild Treasurer and Garden Supervisor of the Tropical Orchid Unit) has been Manager of the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, with responsibility for the special collection in Jersey, since March 1985. On 6th April, 1987, he returned to Kew to give a talk on the work of the Foundation to the Mutual Improvement Society.

Welcome to **Mrs. Joan Barham**, who started work in the Herbarium on 14th September as a part-time Assistant Scientific Officer.

A welcome also to **Mrs. Christine Barker**, who at the same time took up another Assistant Scientific Officer post in the Herbarium.

News was received in 1987 of **Roy Bee** (1953) who has flown the flag of horticultural excellency in the North West for over 20 years. He started with Local Government, horticultural experience leading him to become Chief Officer of Lewisham Parks for five years. He became Deputy Director (1964) and then Director of Parks, Manchester in 1969 and Director of Recreational Services in 1974 retiring in 1985 — during which time there were many horticultural successes within the department, including the development of a seed exchange scheme from the Botanic Gardens at Didsbury. Urban renewal and landscaping demanded his attention to be given to a massive tree planting programme which brought him into close liaison with the Hardy Plant Industry both in the UK and on the Continent — landscape features he promoted include a Butterfly Garden, Chinese Garden and many new parks in the City. He is Manchester Horticultural Show Secretary (since 1969) and was President of the I.P.R.A. 1975/76. Roy was an officer adviser to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities Leisure Committee and is now an Examiner for the Royal Forestry Society Arboricultural Exams and I.P.R.A./I.L.A.M. He was also responsible for the English Garden at the Amsterdam Floriade and was a consultant for the Stoke National Garden Festival.

The Director, **Professor Arthur Bell** (a Trustee of the Guild), attended the Gordon Conference in Santa Barbara, California in January, 1987 where he spoke on 'New medicinal compounds from plants'. Later, in May, he gave a paper on 'Physiologically active compounds from plants' at the Australian Biochemical Meeting in Perth, Western Australia and then in June was invited to the official opening of the new City Conservatory at San Antonio, Texas where he spoke at a symposium on 'The expanding role of botanical gardens'. In July he attended the first part of the International Botanical Congress in Berlin but returned early for the opening of the Princess of Wales Conservatory at Kew. He was present at celebrations in Dublin in September to mark the Tercentenary of the Trinity College Botanic Garden and in October was at the University of British Columbia to give several lectures before returning to be confronted by the aftermath of the hurricane which involved him in very many meetings.

Sandra Bell (1983) has been appointed as Orchid Supervisor in the Tropical Department. She was a student on Course 18.

Welcome to **Dr. Michael Bennett**, who took up his appointment as the new Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory on 1st October, following the retirement of Professor Keith Jones (q.v.). Michael Bennett was educated at Gravesend Grammar School and read Agricultural Botany at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth where he was subsequently awarded a Ph.D. for his research on "Chromosome structure and behaviour". In 1968 he joined Professor Sir Ralph Riley at the Plant Breeding Institute (PBI), Cambridge to work on meiosis and from 1980 until his move to Kew he was head of the PBI Cytology Group. His recent research involves a study of possible links between 3-D nuclear architecture and gene expression in development, work which was presented at the Royal Society Soirée in June, 1987. Since arriving at Kew Dr. Bennett was pictured as one of just three scientists among the 100 people who the *Sunday Times Magazine* (November 22nd d1987) predicts "will run Britain in the Nineties".

John Beswick (1967) is now permanent head of the Landscape Section of the Highways Department, dealing with all roads in South Australia. His work involves the design and construction of varied works, including the direct sowing and seeding system of ecological associations for denuded roadsides. Before leaving England, he gained the Diploma of Landscape Architects (Manchester) and is an Associate of the Landscape Institute of England and of Australia. He is president of the South Australian Branch of the Australian Institute of Landscape Artists. John has recently resumed his interest in water colour painting, and has held a few exhibitions including two 'one man shows'.

On 12th February, 1986, **Sally Bidgood** (Herbarium) began a six-week visit to Tanzania, where she stayed with Jon and Jill Lovett and undertook field work in the Southern Highlands (Mbeya Region) as well as in the Uzungwa Mountains (Morogoro and Iringa Regions). In December 1986 her promotion to Scientific Officer was announced taking effect from 1st January, 1987 and we extend congratulations to her.

Congratulations to **Frances Booth** on her appointment in August, 1986 as a Scientific Officer to the Economic and Conservation Section of the Herbarium, where she had been employed in a temporary capacity as a founder member of SEPASAT since 1981. From 14th to 17th September, 1987 she was in

Stockholm to attend the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences Symposium 'Systematic Botany — A Key Science for Tropical Research and Documentation', where she presented a paper entitled 'Economic Botany, Taxonomy and Plant Collecting'.

In August, **Mark Bovey**, a Garden Supervisor at Wakehurst Place, joined Nigel Hepper (q.v.) in Frankfurt to attend the 10th International Association of Botanic Gardens Conference during which they spoke about their Cameroon Project.

Welcome to **Peter Boyce** who began work in the Herbarium as an Assistant Scientific Officer in February, 1987.

Congratulations to **Gail Bromley**, Guide Lecturer, on the birth of a son, Alex, on 27th August, weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz.

In July, **Dr. Dick Brummitt** (Herbarium) and several colleagues attended the XIV International Botanical Congress in Berlin, including the Nomenclatural sessions.

Jim Buckland (1982) reported in 1987 that he is now working with his wife, Sarah as part of a team of five on a large estate in Hampshire. It is a restoration project of a 25 acre Mid-Victorian Garden with many differing features.

Congratulations to **Rosemary Casserly** of the ECOS Section of the Herbarium on her engagement to Dr. David Simpson (q.v.).

Dorothy Catling (1970), a past Vice President of the Guild, retired from the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratories in October, 1987. She is now working for a Ph.D. on the anatomy of Proteaceae dividing her time between the Jodrell Laboratory and Reading University.

Welcome to **Martin Cheek**, who joined the staff of the Herbarium as a Scientific Officer on 2nd March, 1987.

After only a year, we were sorry to see the departure in early September of **Andrea Chivers**, an Assistant Scientific Officer. She left to take up a post at the same grade in MAFF at Tolworth, where she is now working on scientific research with rats and mice.

At the end of July **Dr. Derek Clayton**, an Assistant Keeper in the Herbarium, accompanied by several colleagues spent a week in Washington DC attending the 'Grass Systematics and Evolution' Symposium. With them they took a proof copy of the 'Genera Graminum', a large work by Derek Clayton and Steve Renvoize (q.v.) in order to give it advance publicity. Later Derek left on 15th November to attend a meeting of the Taxonomic Databases Working Group which was held in Pittsburgh.

Mark Clements, who worked at Kew for 18 months, until 1st August, 1984, on the micropropagation of endangered species, visited the Herbarium in August, 1987 to check material for the second edition of his "Checklist of Australian Orchidaceae" and the forthcoming "Checklist of New Zealand Orchidaceae". Mark is a member of staff of the Australian National Botanic Garden, Canberra.

With regret we record the return to MAFF on 3rd April, 1987 of **Miss Jenny Collins**, who, in recent years during her time at Kew, was Personnel Officer.

Jim Comber (1955), who for a long time, has worked for CIBA-GEIGY, more recently in Thailand, is now writing up his account of Javanese orchids, an undertaking on which he has been working for many years.

On 11th November, **Alan Cook** retired after 38 years at Kew and at a farewell gathering on the 9th, the Director presented him with a painting of *Stokesia laevis* executed by Joanna Langhorne. Alan came to Kew as a student in 1948, after serving in the Royal Air Force and working on several estates including Bodnant and that of Lord Milford. At the end of his studentship he spent a year at Swansea Parks before returning to Kew to take charge of the Quarantine House and in 1952 was appointed sole foreman in the Alpine Department under George Preston. With his extensive knowledge of alpine and hardy herbaceous plants the rock garden and Order beds were always an important part of his work by he will probably be best remembered for his achievement in developing and maintaining the exceptionally fine grass collection. In 1978, the same year that he carried out a plant collecting trip to Greece, he was made an Associate of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society and in 1983 was the recipient of the British Empire Medal. We wish Alan a long and enjoyable retirement.

Paul Cook with John Donovan, Helen Duncan and Daniel Pearson won third prize in the Ghent Floralaies 1990 for their design of a Spring Woodland Garden.

David Cooke, with John Dransfield (q.v.) and Jim Beach and Peter Lowry from Missouri Botanic Garden, travelled to Madagascar in September 1986, to collect Herbarium material and record the distribution of endemic palms, one species of which was found after a six hour walk and was clearly a new genus. Herbarium material was collected as well as living material and seeds of other palms.

George Coombes (1915) died in October aged 95 years. It is with sadness that we record his death. His son, Anthony, wrote recounting the fact that George was the oldest living member of his class 'at Kew'. During his later years George began writing his autobiography which he never completed.

Dr. Tom Cope (Grass Section, Herbarium) spent a week from 7th March, 1987, as a guest of the University of Kuwait in order to discuss proposals to prepare a "Flora of the Arabian Peninsula" with University authorities. Later, on 31st March, he was in Muscat until 10th April attending the 'Oman Wahiba Sands Symposium', a meeting jointly organised by the Sultan Qaboos University and the Royal Geographical Society as a follow-up to the 1986 expedition. In August he travelled to North Yemen on a visit sponsored by the Overseas Development Administration (UK) as part of an aid programme to the Yemen Agricultural Research Authority. In Yemen he spent four weeks collecting woody plants and grasses for a new herbarium in Ta'iz.

Jill Cowley officially joined a party of 15 geologists and 15 plant enthusiasts between 23rd May and 6th June, on a trip to Eastern Anatolia, Turkey, organised by the Alpine Garden Society. The plant group, mainly studying the bulb populations was led by Brian Mathew (q.v.).

Dr. Phillip Cribb (Herbarium) attended the World Orchid Congress in Japan in March, 1987.

Dr. David Cutler, with several of his colleagues from the Jodrell Laboratory, attended the XIV International Botanical Congress in West Berlin from 24th July to 1st August, 1987, at which he presented a paper on wood anatomy.

Rosemary Davies, who heads the Index Kewensis team in the Herbarium, travelled to Berlin in July with Dr. Dick Brummitt and Nigel Taylor (q.v.) to attend the Nomenclature sessions of the International Botanical Congress. They were later joined by several other colleagues from the Kew Herbarium.

Steve Davis (Threatened Plants Unit) returned early in March 1986 from a visit to the Arnold Arboretum and Smithsonian Institution, U.S.A., where he had discussions about the planned IUCN Plant Sites Red Data Directory. [This entry was inadvertently omitted from the previous journal].

Congratulations to **Dr. John Dickie** (Plant Physiology, Wakehurst) on his promotion to Senior Scientific Officer from 1st January, 1987. On 7th and 8th July, he was invited by the Austrian State Agricultural Research Station in Linz to attend its Second International Seminar on the 'Origins of Cultivated Plants and the Preservation of Natural Diversity'. At the Seminar he presented a paper on his apple seed storage work.

Alex Dison (1960) was in touch in 1987 relating his experiences since leaving Kew. He has been involved in London Boroughs and at present is Assistant Parks Manager at Sutton. He has had three sons since his marriage to Heather, the eldest working in a Kent Nursery, the youngest at Merrist Wood.

John Donovan — see entry under Paul Cook.

For six weeks from 2nd February, 1986, **Dr. John Dransfield** (Herbarium), accompanied by his wife, Soejatmi, were in Malasia. Together with Peter Edwards and Susyn Andrews (Herbarium) and Peter Bradley (Living Collections Division), they spent one week in peninsular Malaysia, visiting F.R.I., Kapong and the Endau Rompin Nature Reserve, and then went on to the Danum Valley in Sabah to continue Kew's involvement in the Sabah Foundations/Universiti Kebangsaan/Royal Society project. On 14th June he presented a paper on rattan cultivation at the Society for Economic Botany Palm Symposium at the New York Botanical Garden and then attended the International Palm Society's Biennial meeting. Soejatmi joined several colleagues for a week at the end of July 1986 in Washington, DC for the 'Grass Systematics and Evolution' Symposium, and from 10th to 17th August John attended the AIBS annual meeting at Amherst, Massachusetts, where he presented a paper on primitive palms, jointly written by him, Dr. Keith Ferguson and Natalie Uhl. In September, on 24th, he left, with David Cook (q.v.), for two months' fieldwork on palms in the rainforest area of north-eastern Madagascar, an expedition funded by NSF (Washington) as part of his joint project with Cornell University and organised through Missouri Botanic Garden's Madagascar programme. They were joined by James Beach (Rutgers University) and Pete Lowry (Missouri). From 4th to 26th January 1987, John and Soejatmi travelled to China, Thailand and Sri Lanka to review the progress of rattan and bamboo projects financed by the Canadian International Development Research Centre. Later, on 17th June, he travelled to Cornell University to speak at an International Symposium 'Systematics and Evolution of Palms', the symposium being to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the L. H. Bailey Hortorium and the publication of *Genera Palmarum*. On the 24th September 1987 he presented a paper on 'Rattan as a crop for smallholders in the humid tropics' at the International Symposium on 'New Crops for Food and Industry', at Southampton University, and from 21st to 30th October he was working on Madagascan palms in the Paris

herbarium. In mid November he travelled to Chiangmai in Thailand to present a paper at the International Rattan Conference, his attendance being funded by the International Development Research Centre (Canada). [This extended entry includes activities in 1986, omitted in the last Journal].

Stephen Droop, Research Officer for Africa in the Threatened Plants Unit left on 7th March 1986 to take a post in the publishing field, after working at Kew since October 1983.

Helen Duncan — see entry under Paul Cook.

At the end of August, 1986, **Dr. Clyde Dunlop** completed his term of office as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer, being replaced by Dr. Gordon Guymer. We wish Clyde every success now that he is back in the Darwin Herbarium.

David Dupuy (Herbarium, Bentham Moxon) and his wife Blaise (née Clifford, formerly a Kew student and then staff member) attended the World Orchid Congress in Japan in March, 1987, before travelling on to Christmas Island for field work in connection with David's work on the Flora of the island.

On 22nd January, 1987, **Peter Edwards** (Herbarium) travelled to Brazil with Brian Stannard (q.v.) to attend the Brazilian Botanical Congress in Sao Paulo before undertaking field work in N. E. Brazil and Maraca Island.

From the middle of September until 2nd October **Dr. Hansjorg Eichler** of the Australian National Herbarium, Canberra, was working in the Herbarium on Australian Umbelliferae, Ranunculaceae and Sygophyllaceae. He was at one time, Australian Liaison Officer at Kew.

Jean Farmer (née Thompson) recently came to England from Iowa, where she visited Reading University but because of illness was unable to visit Kew. In her letter she mentioned her memories of the Dig for Victory campaign in several acres of ploughed land near Kew Palace. Whilst thinning onions then she found an Elizabethan signet ring which is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum. During the war she sometimes worked on the switch board directing the fire trucks and one morning she had to pick her way out of the main gate because so many incendiary bombs were lying about, which she was later told were duds filled with sand.

A welcome to **Adam Faruk** who joined the Herbarium staff as an Assistant Scientific Officer on 7th December.

Dr. Linda Fellows (Jodrell Laboratory) attended a symposium held at Utah State University, U.S.A., from 10th to 14th August, 1987, at which she delivered a lecture dealing with the biological activity and medical applications of the alkaloid Swainsonine.

Dr. Keith Ferguson, an Assistant Keeper and head of the Palynology Unit in the Herbarium, was at Cornell University in June, 1987 to take part in an International Symposium on the "Systematics and Evolution of Palms" to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the L. H. Bailey Hortorum and the publication of *General Palmarum*. In July, he and several colleagues attended the XIV International Botanical Congress in Berlin and on 6th October he left for a short study visit to the Smithsonian Institute and to travel on to the University of Oklahoma to continue collaboration on pollen morphology of Papilionoideae.

Belatedly we welcome **Mark Flanagan**, who was appointed as a Gardens Supervisor in the Planning Unit of the Living Collections Division on 6th January, 1986.

During 1987, **Hugh Flower** (1976) met up with several Kewites. In June to travel with Kenwyn Pearson (1975) and Tony Lord (1977) to Tuscany and Latium in Italy to look at Italian gardens in their many forms. Later in the year he baptised the third child of David and Margaret Hardman (1977) (q.v.) in their parish Church. In November, Hugh travelled to Rome, with several thousand pilgrims for the Beatification of a further 85 English martyrs. The ceremony was held in St. Peter's Basilica, and was celebrated by Pope John Paul II. The following day the Holy Father gave a special audience to all the pilgrims in Rome for the occasion.

Dr. Peter Gasson (Jodrell Laboratory) spent 19th May to 30th June visiting various wood anatomy laboratories in the U.S.A., including the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, to discuss methods of computer-assisted wood identification. Subsequently he was invited to form part of a working party to revise the IAWA standard list of characters suitable for computerised wood identification.

Ian Gayton (1984) wrote in 1987 of his success in passing Part I of I.L.A.M. Diploma P.R.A. and his intention to continue with Part II. He also indicated his change of address to Fetcham.

Alex George returned to Australia after serving as Botanical Liaison Officer in 1968 and thereafter continued in the West Australian Herbarium where he produced a revision of the genus *Banksia*. In 1979 the Government approved a new Flora of Australia for which Alex was appointed Executive Editor in 1981. In July, 1981 the first volume was published and has been followed by seven more. In his spare time he has produced a popular book on *Banksia* and developed a garden in Canberra in an area of great climatic variations.

Peter Green, formerly Deputy Director, Keeper of the Herbarium and a past President of the Guild, left on 27th May for Denver to attend the annual convention of the International Lilac Society and on his return journey spent about 10 days visiting the Arnold Arboretum and the herbaria at Harvard University.

Dr. Chris Grey-Wilson (Herbarium) in the company of Tony Schilling (q.v.) left on 16th May, 1987 for a six week expedition to the Lichiang Range, north-western Yunnan, at the invitation of the Kunning Institute of Botany. They were joined by David Chamberlain and Ron McBeath of Edinburgh Botanic Gardens as well as several Chinese botanists.

On 16th September, **Dr. Gordon Guymer** left Kew to return to Queensland Herbarium, Brisbane after serving as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer for a year in the Herbarium at Kew and our best wishes go with him. He has been succeeded by Dr. Judy West (q.v.) during the year 1987/88.

Hearty congratulations to **Pat Halliday** who, at the end of September, celebrated 40 years working in the Herbarium.

Penny Hammond applied in 1987 for a position in England on her return from Australia. Whilst in Australia she accomplished some seed collecting in Queensland. In May 1987 she joined Clare Mooney (q.v.) and Paul Morgan

and all made a successful sponsored parachute jump for MENCAP. About £250 was donated.

Chris Hannington, currently a student at Kew, was awarded the Ernest Thornton-Smith Scholarship in 1987, and travelled to Chile for two months where, soon after his arrival, he met up with John Whitehead (q.v.) in Portillo.

Since 1971, **Robert Hardie** (1954) has been the field instructor for horticultural students attending Burnley College Campus of the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture. The three year Diploma course in Applied Science in Horticulture has been replaced by a four year degree course, one year post graduate course, and a two-year Associate Diploma in Horticulture. As well as field instruction Robert is also involved in the practical instructions for these courses, and many part-time courses. He is involved in his local church having attended a three-year Bible Course at the Bible College, Victor Harbor, South Australia before going to Burnley College.

David Hardman (1977) and his wife Margaret live in Heaton Chapel, Stockport and have three children, Gregory, Elizabeth and Brendan. In November, David gave a talk to the Kew students on his work as Senior Horticultural Officer with Stockport Parks Department. He has recently been involved in setting up a new plant production nursery using many of the latest technological advances. The nursery uses a double glazing method for energy conservation although the structure has no glass in it whatsoever and includes double condensing gas boilers.

Dr. Ray Harley (Herbarium) left on 1st January 1987 to attend the Brazilian Botanical Congress in Sao Paulo before undertaking fieldwork and moving on to join the Royal Geographical Society expedition in Maraca Island.

Frank Hebden (1947) retired in 1972 after a distinguished career in parks departments and later with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as Regional Horticultural Adviser based in Cairo, Cyprus, Rome and finally New Delhi and East Africa. Frank and his wife Joan, emigrated to Australia from the Isle of Wight in 1982 and quickly established a garden, specialising in native plants in the Blue Mountains. Recently they have visited many places of interest in New South Wales and elsewhere, before going on to South Australia, where they stayed with our President, Noel Lothian, and his wife.

Nigel Hepper (Herbarium), a former Vice-President of the Guild, accompanied by Mark Bovey (q.v.) attended the 10th International Association of Botanical Gardens Conference in Frankfurt in August, where they spoke about the Cameroon Limbe Botanical Garden Development plan.

On 1st January, 1987 **Professor Vernon Heywood**, then one of the trustees of the Gardens, and formerly Professor of Botany at the University of Reading, took up a new post as Associate Director of Plant Conservation of the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre. In addition to IUCN plant activities at Kew, he is responsible for the IUCN Botanic Gardens Conservation Secretariat.

Arnold Himson (1948) attended Kew's ex-Servicemen's course. Both he and his wife (herself a life member of the Guild) have retired, but he has had many and varied experiences working for the Queensland Forestry Department as nursery overseer — four years outstationed in the Northern Territory. He was then in Papua New Guinea for a time, establishing high yielding clones of *Hevea brasiliensis*, and training the local people in grafting techniques.

Finally he served as orchardist in Tasmania, where he now lives. He and his wife have a great interest in the Tasmanian Flora and have contributed to the Lord Talbot de Malahide's 'Endemic Flora of Tasmania'. They have also assisted Dr. Winefred Curtis with collections for her standard work 'The Student Flora of Tasmania'.

Stan Hitt (1955) took early retirement from his post as Assistant Director at Bath's Leisure Services Department. He now has a five year contract to develop the Botanic Gardens there, which celebrated its centenary in 1987.

Mrs. Susan Holmes (Herbarium) left on 11th November to join Dr. Heidi Hartman of Hamburg University and Dr. Ekhlas Bari of Khartoum University on a month-long expedition to the Red Sea Hills in North-eastern Sudan. They visited some of Schweinfurth's localities of 1864, 1866 and 1868, Theodor Bent's of 1896 (latitude 21°N.) and Bally's 1949.

Our sincere condolences and sympathy to **Professor Holtum** on the death of his wife, Ursula, on 13th June, 1987. Professor Holtum is an Honorary Research Fellow in the Herbarium and celebrated his 92nd birthday on 20th July.

Belatedly we welcome **Susan Howes**, who joined the General Service Unit, main office of the Herbarium as a Clerical Officer on 28th July, 1986.

Welcome to **Vicki Humphrey**, who took up a post as Kew's first paper conservator at the beginning of April, 1987. Some weeks after her arrival, a Paper Preservation Laboratory, where she now works, was completed in the basement of Wing D of the Herbarium.

In April **Dr. David Hunt** (Herbarium) attended the nineteenth IOS Congress in Argentina and then undertook some herbarium and field research on Cactaceae before returning to Kew on 5th May. Later on 29th November, he and Nigel Taylor (q.v.) left for Venezuela to study Cactaceae. They returned towards the end of January, 1988.

Charles Jeffrey (Herbarium) joined a number of colleagues in Berlin in July, 1987 for the XIV International Botanical Congress.

Since retiring as Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, **Dr. Laurie Johnson**, a former Australian Botanical Liaison Botanist at Kew, is continuing with the immense task of reclassification of the genus *Eucalyptus*. Before retirement, he was much involved with the development of the two new Botanic Gardens of Mt. Tomah and Mt. Annam, the former to feature cool temperate plants from both the Southern and Northern hemispheres, and the latter collections of Australian plants. In 1986 he was elected a fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and visited Berlin in 1987 to participate in the XIV International Botanical Congress.

Our very best wishes to **Professor Keith Jones**, a past President of the Guild, for a long and happy retirement. Keith retired on 30th September, 1987 as Deputy Director and Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory, to where he first came to work in 1960. He became Keeper in 1969 when Dr. Metcalfe (also a past President of the Guild) retired, and was appointed Deputy Director in 1983. During his time as Keeper he encouraged the expansion of the Anatomy Section, development of the Physiology Section following the move to Wakehurst and was instrumental in the formation of a new Biochemistry Section.

Despite his retirement he intends to be at Kew from time to time to continue his research and will undoubtedly maintain his keen interest in the whole of Kew, its staff and Kew Guild.

Dr. Ronald Keay, who worked at Kew from 1951 to 1957 on the Flora of West Tropical Africa, was awarded an Emeritus Fellowship, by the Leverhulme Trust early in 1987, to assist him in revising the book 'Nigerian Trees'. This is to be a shortened version of the work, published in two volumes (1960 and 1964), of which he was a joint author. In particular the award enabled him to visit Nigeria several weeks later in the year. In 1987 he became President Elect of the Institute of Biology, his term of office (for two years) commencing in March, 1988.

Dr. Anne Kenton was one of several Jodrell Laboratory staff who presented a paper at the XIV International Botanical Congress held in West Berlin from 24th July to 1st August, 1987.

With regret we record the death in January, 1987, of **Ronald King**, formerly Secretary of Kew and more recently the author of a number of books.

Dr. Leslie Laking (1941), who, until his retirement in 1981, was Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Hamilton in Canada, wrote in September 1987. Very sadly he told of the death of his wife, Barbara, the previous year after an illness of several months duration. Barbara was one of the wartime women gardeners at Kew. Leslie visited Britain in 1987 with Frank MacKinnon who was also at Kew in the war years, leaving in 1942. They spent their last day at Kew before returning to Canada, where Leslie still has some involvement with R.B.G., Hamilton. In 1981 Leslie was honoured with the Order of Canada before retiring.

Jock Lawson (1927) is now aged 87! He retired in 1966 after 38 years in charge of the Parks and Gardens at Yallourn, Victoria, a town that has since been destroyed because it was sited on rich deposits of coal.

Sandra Leche (1977) was visited by John Whitehead (q.v.) during 1987 and also Chris Hannington (q.v.), who was in Chile on a Thornton-Smith scholarship and arrived in time to see the desert flower. All of them travelled to Portillo for the day and amongst other things saw three condors. Sandra is busily involved in creating extensive ornamental areas, developing a nursery and running training courses in the grounds of the Chilean Air Force at Colina, north of Santiago.

Congratulations to **Gwilym Lewis** (Herbarium) on his promotion to Senior Scientific Officer from 1st January, 1987. On 28th February, he left for Brazil where he joined the Kew team participating in the Royal Geographical Society's Maraca project in the northern Amazon. After five weeks there he joined Brazilian colleagues in the Botanic Gardens of Rio de Janeiro from whence they travelled northwards along the coastal forests searching for species of the leguminous genus *Caesalpinia*. Gwilym returned safely to Kew in mid-June after some horrific experiences having survived fire, water and two car crashes. On 6th October he returned to Brazil for a second visit to Maraca Island, where he spent three weeks collecting legumes in the latter part of the rainy season. Before returning to Kew on 6th November, he spent a week in Rio de Janeiro working with colleagues at the Botanic Garden and presenting an illustrated lecture to the taxonomy students.

Congratulations to **John Lonsdale** (Wakehurst Place, Technical Section) on his promotion from Gardens Supervisor to Assistant Curator in 17th August, 1987.

In March, 1987, **Gren Lucas** (Keeper of the Herbarium) was in Dublin to attend the European Conference on 'Biological Diversity: A Challenge to Science; the Economy and Society' organised by the National Board for Science and Technology (Dublin) and the Commission for European Communities. On the 19th April, accompanied by Anne Mayo (q.v.), he left for Caracas to attend an IUCN Species Survival Commission Steering Committee meeting and the 62nd IUCN SSC meeting. In May he travelled to the United States, to Boston and New Jersey, to present two lectures on the role of Botanical Gardens in Conservation and in June, in Frankfurt City Hall, he was presented with the Bruno H. Schubert Prize of DM 40,000 for 'outstanding contribution to his worldwide commitments to the protection of threatened animal and plant species'. Later, in July he and several colleagues attended the XIV International Botanical Congress in Berlin. In October he visited Belfast and Dublin to deliver two lectures in the Royal Horticultural Society's 'Out of London' series and also in October he was in the Netherlands for more meetings of the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

Congratulations to **Duncan Mackinder** (Threatened Plants Unit, IUCN), on his engagement in June, 1987 to Barbara Swain (q.v.).

Congratulations also to **Andrew McRobb** on his promotion to the grade of Senior Photographer on 2nd November.

Best wishes to **Bruce Maslin** of the West Australian Herbarium, (Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew 1977-78) and his wife Veronica on their marriage early in 1987. Later in the year, from 7th to 14th August, he visited the Kew Herbarium to work on *Acacia*.

Congratulations to **Brian Mathew**, on being awarded (in July, 1987) the RHS Lyttel Lily Cup in recognition of his work in the petaloid monocots, particularly Liliaceae. The cup was first presented in 1939 by the late Reverend Professor E. S. Lytell. On 2nd January 1987 he took over as head of the Petaloid Monocots Section in the Herbarium. Later in the year, from 23rd May to 6th June he led a group of 15 plant enthusiasts, mainly studying the bulb population, to Eastern Anatolia in Turkey. The party, which also included Jill Cowley (q.v.) as well as a number of geologists, was organised by the Alpine Garden Society.

Michael Maunder (1986) who is now studying for an M.Sc. in Pure and Applied Plant Taxonomy at Reading, was involved in the Somalia Research project and visited Somalia for three months during 1986. Widely differing research was carried out including the recording of forest status in the Jubba region, as well as forest structure, and bird and animal populations. On his return, Michael gave a lecture to the Kew Mutual Improvement Society which was repeated in April 1987. In the spring he participated in a Reading University field trip to south-east Spain and then in July acted as angiosperm botanist for the National Museum of Wales Iceland Expedition.

Anne Mayo travelled with Gren Lucas (q.v.) to Caracas on 19th April 1987, to attend an IUCN Species Survival Commission meeting. Anne also accompanied him in October to SSC meetings in the Netherlands.

Dr. Simon Mayo (Herbarium) joined Ray Harley (q.v.) and other colleagues in Brazil for two weeks at the end of January, 1987 and in July attended the XIV International Botanical Congress in Berlin.

Edgar Milne-Redhead, a past President of the Guild, who retired as Deputy Keeper of the Herbarium in 1971, returned to Kew in June 1987 to check the first Suffolk record of the Northern Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza purpurella*).

Welcome to **Jim Mirabal**, who took up his post in the Administration Section on 5th May, 1987 as Financial Controller.

After emigrating to Sydney in the 1960s, **James Mitchell** (1966) established his own business of landscape architects, environmental consultants and recreation planners. He is now a principal with Mitchell & Clouston, a member of the Association of Consulting Planners and a trustee of the Elovera Bushland Natural Park, Sydney. He has been responsible for a number of publications including suitable plants for growing under Transmission lines for the Electricity Commission of New South Wales. James is now working on a walking track study for the National Parks and Wild Life Service; a master plan for White Creek Valley Park, Leichhardt and many other studies in New South Wales. He is also deeply involved in the imaginative and major development of the Darling Harbour Project, an important area of Sydney Harbour.

Clare Mooney (a Course 22 student) apart from joining Penny Hammond (q.v.) in a sponsored parachute jump in 1987 also took part in a sponsored walk for Oxfam and raised £100 for the people of the Amazon to fight the misuse of their environment.

David Morgan (1963) was appointed to Kings College Sports Ground (London University) as Grounds Manager on 1st September, 1987. Previously he had been manager of Motspur Park, (the University of London's Sports Ground) for nine years, where he had also been involved in the filming of 'Chariots of Fire'. After leaving Kew he specialised in Sports Ground Management and has much experience at a variety of famous sports centres. In 1969/70 he represented Wales in several track events including the 400 m hurdle, two miles and a semi-marathon. He has also represented the Guild in the Kew Wisley relay race. Now he only jogs and has turned his attention to writing! However, he still continues his interest in athletic events by managing athletic teams.

Paul Morgan — see entry under Penny Hammond.

Patrick Nutt (1953) of Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania, led a tour of 24 American horticulturists to England during May, 1987. They attended the Chelsea Show and, of course, Kew, as well as other gardens in the South. He also gave a paper on the propagation and hybridisation of Nymphaeas at an International Symposium held in Denver Botanic Gardens in August. Similar lectures were given during the year on water gardening at a variety of centres.

Dr. Simon Owens, (Jodrell Laboratory and at one time Secretary of the Guild) presented a paper at the XIV International Botanical Congress in West Berlin in July, 1987.

Dr. G. Panagrahi, who was Indian Liaison Officer for three years at Kew up to December, 1975, returned to Kew for a fortnight in August 1987. It was a great pleasure to see him once again.

Congratulations to **Dr. Barbara Parris** on her marriage to Esmond Hart on 20th June, 1987. In July, with several colleagues, she attended the XIV International Botanical Congress in Berlin and then on 19th August left to join Operation Raleigh in Seram, Indonesia for seven weeks.

Daniel Pearson — see entry under Paul Cook.

Congratulations to **Dr. David Pegler** (Herbarium) on his appointment as Assistant Keeper for Mycology at Kew from 14th September. Earlier in the year on 12th January he departed for Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he delivered a paper at the Congresso Nacional de Botanica, gave a one-week course on Agaric structure and classification and undertook field collecting throughout the State, before returning to Kew on 18th February. Later, with others from the Herbarium, he attended the XIV International Congress in Berlin in July and from the 4th to 11th August he visited Poland at the invitation of the University of Silesia, Katowice, giving him an opportunity to collect in the Tatra Mountains.

Best wishes to **David Philcox** on his retirement at the end of March, 1987 after 28 years working in the Herbarium.

Dr. Roger Polhill (an Assistant Keeper in the Herbarium) with several colleagues attended the XIV International Botanical Congress in Berlin in July.

Colin Porter (1983) left Capel Manor, where he had been working for some time, and immediately set out in August, 1987, for six weeks collecting in Ecuador. He is a garden consultant and now lives in Standon near Ware.

From 3rd to 9th August, 1987, **Dr. Robin Probert** (Plant Physiology, Wakehurst Place) attended the European Symposium on Plant Photomorphogenesis and the associated Workshop on Molecular Physiology of Phytochrome Action, on the Greek island of Spetses. At the symposium he presented a poster entitled 'Interactive Effect of Pfr and Applied Chemical on Population Sensitivity to Temperature Shifts in Seeds of *Ranunculus sceleratus*).

Dr. Derek Reid retired as Head of the Mycology Section on 2nd September, after completing 36 years continuous service. The occasion was marked by presentations on behalf of both Kew and the Commonwealth Mycological Institute at an informal gathering of his colleagues on 3rd September. Although officially retiring — and we extend our best wishes to him — Derek expects to continue working in the Herbarium for many years to come.

Welcome to **Tatalia (Tasha) Reilly**, who began work as an Assistant Scientific Officer in the Herbarium on 24th August.

Steve Renvoize (Herbarium) was collecting in Bolivia from 3rd February to 17th March, 1987, in connection with his Bolivian grass flora.

Welcome to **Sara Robbins** who took up her post as an Assistant Scientific Officer in early September to work in the Orchid Herbarium.

Congratulations to **Paula Rudall** on her promotion, from 1st January, 1987, to Senior Scientific Officer. From 24th July to 15th August, Paula and several other members of the Jodrell staff attended the XIV International Botanical Congress, West Berlin.

Roy Rumsey (1932) remains in good health, and is still growing roses, but specialising in old varieties and species. During 1987 he was preparing for the

8th World Rose Conference to be held in Sydney, in April, 1988. He was appointed to propagate and distribute the 'Australian Bicentennial Rose'.

Martin Sands (Co-ordinator in the Herbarium and formerly Honorary Assistant Secretary of the Guild) was in Western Australia from 14th to 31st May on a third planning visit in connection with his work as Deputy Leader of the Royal Geographical and Linnean Society's 'Kimberley Research Project, 1988'. Although much of his time was taken up with planning meetings in Perth, during the middle weekend of his stay, he travelled several hundred kilometres south to the giant Karri forests near Pemberton and reached the D'Entrecasteau Reserve bordering a vast hinterland of sand dunes on the southern coast.

Tony Schilling, Deputy Curator, Wakehurst Place, joined Dr. Chris Grey-Wilson (q.v.) in May, 1987 on a six-week expedition to the Lichiang Range in north-western Yunnan, China. The party also included several Chinese botanists.

Lester Searle (1987) now in Queensland, Australia started working as a contracts administrator for a Landscape Construction Company in Brisbane in the latter part of 1987. Whilst visiting Melbourne he met up with Michael Looken now Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, Melbourne. Lester has also opened a small shop selling pot plants as well as choice material for the garden. This shop has subsequently become his full time work.

Caroline Shaw (née Davey) a Kew member of staff for a number of years, working at the British Museum (Natural History) on 'Flora Zambesiaca', had a son, Oliver on 30th December, 1986. Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Dr. Monique Simmonds** (Jodrell Laboratory) on her promotion to Senior Scientific Officer from 1st January, 1987.

Congratulations to **John Simmons** (Curator) on his being awarded an O.B.E. in the 1987 Queen's Birthday Honours list. During his Presidential year for the Guild, John Simmons was also President-Elect of the Institute of Horticulture, becoming President in October. These responsibilities also brought an additional requirement for lectures given to the Royal Society of Chemists, the Institute of Biology and the Royal Horticultural Society amongst many others, and conference papers and speeches for the Institute of Horticulture. One such happy task was to address the Prizegiving ceremony at Askham Bryan College of Agriculture and Horticulture in Yorkshire. As series Editor, John also devoted a considerable amount of time to the launch of 'Kew Gardening Guides' which are published by Hamlyn and proving very popular — all royalties going to Kew. Kew had a high media profile in 1987 with the opening of the new Conservatory and the Great Storm which involved many interviews and articles. A busy year curtailed overseas travel to one attendance on Longwood's Visiting Committee.

Congratulations to **Dr. David Simpson** (Herbarium) on his engagement to Rosemary Casserly (of the ECOS Section of the Herbarium) at the beginning of 1987.

Nigel H. Sinnott (1970) migrated to Melbourne in 1976, and since then has twice visited England and Kew in 1980 and 1986. He has produced several books including a checklist of Victoria Agaricales, and of Cantharellaceae as well as an Australian anthology of poems. He joined the staff of the Victoria Road Traffic authority, and now deals with correspondence from the ombudsman,

and members of parliament. The Department probably has the best collection of office pot plants in the Authority because it is unlikely that there is another Kewite on its staff.

On October 1st, 1987, **Roger Smith** was elected chairman of the UK Plant Genetic Resources Group and became the UK National Co-ordinator for Plant Genetic Resources. This followed from his attendance by invitation at various meetings in 1986 and 1987, and from visits acting as IBPGR consultant to the National Genetic Resources Programmes of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe to evaluate their facilities for seed storage and suggest useful organisation and physical improvements.

Alan Snelson (1985) has now become a lecturer at the County of Durham Agricultural College, Houghall.

Carlos Sombrero (1984), on completing his degree in Botany (Honours) is continuing at Reading University undertaking a Ph.D. project on plant secondary products.

Dr. Brian Spooner (Mycology Section, Herbarium) attended the residential Autumn Foray of the British Mycological Society from 7th to 10th September.

Brian Stannard (Herbarium) left for Brazil on 22nd January, 1987 with Peter Edwards (q.v.) to join Dr. Ray Harley (q.v.) for the Brazilian Botanical Congress in Sao Paulo and subsequent field work in N. E. Brazil and on Maraca Island, the location for a Royal Geographic Society expedition.

Joyce Stewart who has worked at Kew for several years and is currently a Sainsbury Fellow working on Orchid conservation and related matters, joined Dr. Phillip Cribb (q.v.) to attend the World Orchid Conference in Japan in March, 1987.

Congratulations to **Charles Stirton**, for several years a Krukoff Fellow studying legumes in the Herbarium, on his appointment as Associate Professor in the Department of Botany in the University of Natal. He took up his new position on the 1st January 1988.

Congratulations to **Barbara Swain** (Herbarium) on her engagement to Duncan Mackinder (q.v.) at the end of June and also on being awarded a B.Sc. degree in Biological Sciences (Immunology). Barbara has spent three years part time study at the N. E. Surrey College of Technology.

Very sadly we record the sudden death of **Dr. Tony Swain** in a car crash on the M4 on the 25th September. He was some time head of the ARC Biochemistry Laboratory at Kew and had returned to work at Kew following his recent retirement as an Honorary Research Associate. Tony was both a founder member of the Phytochemical Society of Europe and an initiator of plant chemical studies at Kew when with a grant from the ARC he converted the annex into a laboratory. He left Kew for Boston University in 1976.

Hubert Taylor (19033) has again been in contact after many years with Mark Stanley who lives in Keswick. They last met in 1937 to go to Teesdale.

Nigel Taylor (Herbarium) left his post as Gardens Verifier to join the staff of the Dicotyledons (I) Section of the Herbarium on 2nd January, 1987. Later, in July, he joined Dr. Dick Brummit and Rosemary Davies (q.v.) in Berlin to attend the Nomenclatural Sessions of the International Botanical Congress and

joined Dr. David Hunt (q.v.) on a visit to Venezuela to study Cactaceae from the 29th November until the end of January, 1988.

Percy Trevaskis (1927), a life member of the Guild, retired in 1964 from the Public Works Department as State Superintendent of Parks and Gardens in Victoria, Australia (a position he held for 14 years). Nevertheless, at 85, he is still energetic and takes an active part in advisory work to various organisations.

Bernard Verdcourt officially retired from his post as a Principal Scientific Officer and Researcher in the Herbarium on 19th January, 1987 and transferred to the Bentham-Moxon Trust, being funded by FTEA to carry on his research on the Flora.

Kaj Vollesen (Herbarium) began a six-week visit to Somalia on 16th May, 1987, where he was joined by Ib Friis of the Institute of Systematic Botany, University of Copenhagen to work on a survey of the coastal vegetation of the southernmost part of the country.

It was a pleasure to welcome back to Kew **Dr. B. M. Wadhwa** of the Botanical Survey of India, Dehra, Dun, who until 1986, had been Indian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew. From early December until 8th January, 1988, he worked at intervals in the Herbarium on the genera *Parnassia*, *Ribes* and *Vahlia* for the Flora of India.

Welcome to **Mrs. Valerie Wally** who joined the Kew staff on 13th April, 1987 as a Senior Executive Officer taking up the post of Administration Manager.

Editor **Richard Ward** married Wiens Way on 30th October, and they expect an addition to the family next August.

A warm welcome to **Dr. Judy West** of the Australian National Herbarium, Canberra, who took up her post in the Kew Herbarium as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer for the year 1987/88 in early September. She succeeded Dr. Gordon Guymmer (q.v.) and her research interests mainly concern the families Portulacaceae and Caryophyllaceae.

In 1987, **John Whitehead** (1972) of Merrist Wood Agricultural College undertook a survey of the Champion trees of Cyprus at the invitation of the Department of Forests who arranged accommodation in a log cabin in the idyllic forest area of Stavros. Acorns of the endemic 'Golden Oak', *Quercus alnifolia* have germinated at Kew from the recent collection and have been distributed to various botanic gardens. With a Cypriot friend, Chris Chimonides, he measured various specimen trees of this species which, as a high altitude understory element, does not usually form a large tree. They found the largest known tree to date with a girth of 9' 3" (11' at the base) and named it the "Chimonides Golden Oak", which the Director of Forests has put on the tourist trail by installing information signs and a pathway built into the steep slope by the tree. A highlight of John's year was being the first recipient of the Oleg Polunin Memorial Fund award which he used to study the conifer and alpine plants in Chile, a country he had first visited in 1973. During his 1987 visit he had an opportunity to meet Sandra Leche (q.v.) and was involved in arboricultural demonstrations and as examiner for a chainsaw workshop session. His last day in Chile was spent with Chris Hannington (q.v.) in Portillo where they were lucky to see three condors.

From 17th January to 3rd February 1987, **Dr. Gerald Wickens** (ECOS section of the Herbarium) was in Egypt to supervise a Ph.D. student and attend the second International Conference on Desert Development. On his return journey he visited Rome. Later in the year he attended the International Symposium on New Crops for Food and Industry at Southampton University from 22nd to 25th September where he presented a paper entitled 'Economic Botany and Kew in the Search for New Plants'. On the 17th December he retired and was given a presentation by the staff after 20 years working in the Herbarium, latterly as Head of the ECOS Section. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Dr. Hazel Wilkinson joined several of her Jodrell Laboratory colleagues from 24th July to 1st August to attend the XIV International Botanical Congress in West Berlin, where she presented a contribution.

Congratulations to **Melanie Wilmot-Dear** a Scientific Officer in the Herbarium, on her marriage to Owen Thoma on the 4th April, 1987.

Alan Wilton (1972) until a reduction in funding prevented it, was actively lecturing in horticulture in Further Education Colleges in Adelaide. Now he is concentrating on developing his landscape and consultancy business.

We extend a welcome to **Deborah Winter** who began work as an Assistant Scientific Officer in the Herbarium in early September.

OBITUARIES

MRS. M. J. BINTNER

Mrs. J. Bintner, née K. M. Harper, met her husband, Jean, at Kew in 1914. Both were keen Kewites. At this time Jean was in the Chair at meetings and almost four million people visited Kew. Sudell, one of the Founders of the Landscape Institute, won the Hooker Prize and the flagstaff was renewed.

Next year Jean Bintner won the Hooker prize for his lecture on carnations.

In 1917 the Bintners left Kew for the Grand Duché of Luxembourg where he was Director of Horticulture.

In 1929 they were back in England living in Lewisham but they were soon to travel abroad again, this time to Paris. They were there at the outbreak of war. Life was tough for Mrs. Bintner as her husband was a member of the French Resistance and her son was in the British Navy. Jean Bintner was captured by the Gestapo, but they lost his file. He was released and then re-captured but fortunately he was able to escape and go into hiding. He died in 1967.

They were some of Kew's many real heroes.

To their relatives we send our condolences.

GEORGE COOMBES — died October 2nd 1987

Anthony Coombes wrote to us in October 1987 to tell us his father had passed away at home aged 95 years and six months.

Anthony said his father had started to write his life story in the latter part of his life but after many months of writing realised he was only scratching the surface so he gave up. We have a letter he sent to our Secretary and in it we see a part of this abandoned task. Writing in 1986 his still bright and active mind not only recalls events, but also refers to world trends, paraphrasing Dickens and the French Philosopher Montaigne. It makes fascinating reading but one can see what George saw, that he would need to live another lifetime to get it all done.

In the last line of his letter he said he had seen Halley's Comet when a boy and never thought he would see it again.

George started work at Nuneham Park, Oxford. He entered Kew in September 1913. In 1915 he was a sub-foreman in the Herbaceous Department. On June 26th of that year he married Miss V. Pearce at Gunnersbury and immediately set off with her for Nyasaland.

In 1916 he was in Natal. In 1929 he turned up in Michigan and over the next few years moved to New York, Hollywood and California.

George was much travelled and he wrote copiously of his work, in his diaries and occasionally in the Kew Guild Journal.

In spite of his great age George attended a recent Kew Guild Dinner.

MR. C. COLLINS — died October 13th 1987

Charles Collins died in Colchester aged 79 after a heart attack. He started work in Cheam, as an apprentice gardener, 61 years before. Then he set out as a Journeyman Gardener learning his trade all over Britain. He became Garden Foreman to the Marquis of Headfort in County Meath, Ireland where he



stayed for three years before coming to Kew. Charles is a member of the rare priesthood who have carried out one of the great Kew traditions, namely the periodic moving of the large Chilean Wine Palm. He and his family visited Kew recently and saw a picture of him moving the tree, 50 years ago (1938), on display. Rafill, under whose instruction the plant was moved, estimated the weight at 54 tons.

On leaving Kew in 1939 he studied in Germany and the United States before going to the Parks Department in Fleetwood, Lancashire. In 1946 he moved to Chester where he was Superintendent of Parks. In 1950 he had been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Park and Recreation Administration and taken up a post as Superintendent Parks, Colchester. At Kew the Jubaea, encouraged by its earlier move, flowered and fruited.

Colchester's parks and gardens had been neglected during the war and Charles was instrumental in restoring them.

He retired as Director of Amenities and Recreation but continued his interest in his garden, which was always his main hobby.

To his widow, daughter and son we send out condolences.

MICHAEL JOHN DAWES — died 1987



Michael was born and educated in Northampton. On leaving school he joined the local Parks and Recreation Department. He later moved to Brighton Parks where he worked in the Royal Pavilion Gardens to widen his experience prior to entering Kew in 1964.

After winning the Mathilda Smith Prize and gaining his Kew Diploma he joined the Kew staff as a Foreman in Arboretum South.

We now accept the fully computerised systems which have become such an important part of Kew life, but there was a time when the only information handling systems were thousands of thumbed cards in various offices and squirrel-nibbled

lead-tags and plastic labels on the plants outside. John Simmons set up the first Technical Services Department and Mike spearheaded the laborious task of collating information from the Arboretums.

In 1967 he wrote in the journal on the topic of *Populus* Propagation and he edited the Kew Guild Journal in 1974 and jointly in 1975.

Mike left Kew in 1974 to join Hammersmith and Fulham Parks Department where he was initially Projects Officer under Guild Editor Richard Ward. His Chelsea Flower Show Exhibit was a blaze of colour, as if all his flair for using plant colour had been bottled up at Kew. At the time of his death, aged 46, he was Assistant Director with Hammersmith and Fulham.

He was a staunch supporter of the Liberal Party and served as a magistrate on the bench of the Juvenile Court. A keen patron of the Arts he was a member of the National Portrait Gallery and of the National Trust.

To his parents, two brothers and friends we send our condolences.

DR. R. ALLEN DYER, D.Sc.

Allen Dyer entered Kew as Botanist for South Africa in 1931. In 1934 he moved closer to the Flora in which he was a renowned expert, when he took up a post as Botanist in the Division of Plant Industry, Pretoria, South Africa.

He worked all of his life on the African Flora and was appointed Chief Director of Botanical and Plant Pathology in the Union Department of Agriculture for South Africa.

He passed on in October 1987 and is sadly missed.

R. D. HOGG, M.B.E., A.H.R.H.S.

R. D. Hogg left Kew in August 1937. In 1939 his address was Palutul, Mogoşoia, Ilfor, Roumania.

After the Second World War he took up a post with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Arras, France, where he retained his rank of Captain.

H. M. HOLLOWAY

H. M. Holloway died in May 1987.

He left Kew in 1930. In 1933 he was working at Castello Cap Roig, Callelade, Pala Gerona, Spain.

By 1941 he had moved to Windhoek in South Africa in which country he resided and worked for the rest of his life. In 1984 he was appointed Senior District Superintendent of Parks.

To his relation in South Africa we offer our condolences.

RONALD KING

Ronald King, who was Secretary of the Gardens from 1959 to his retirement in 1976, died at the end of January after being ill for some time. He was the author of a number of books, including two on Kew, and was the first editor of the *Newsletter*, when it was originally produced in December 1967.

Sir George Taylor, who was Director of Kew from 1956 to 1971, has sent the following tribute to Ronald King.

I am grateful for the privilege to acclaim my departed friend and former colleague, Ronald King, who was for 17 years Secretary of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and devotedly served under me for 12 years of my Directorship. No one could have wished for a more loyal, discreet, unflappable and efficient assistant during a period when Kew was recovering from the ravages of war

and when it was imperative to implement in timely sequence the far reaching recommendations of the Ashby Visiting Group. Ronald King rapidly caught the spirit of what was needed for the regeneration.

His work was particularly valuable in the discussions leading to fundamental changes in the students training scheme. Throughout his secretaryship, in liaison with the constabulary, he greatly relieved the burden of dealing with cases of untoward behaviour of visitors, which are bound from time to time to occur in a place of public resort and enjoyed by hundreds of thousands each year.

But Ronald King's tireless devotion to Kew went beyond his official duties. It was his habit, with my warmest encouragement, to spend his lunch-times in the library delving into the archives and his copious notes will, I hope, eventually come to Kew. A distillation of his researches appeared in his book 'Royal Kew', which without notice was dedicated to me and which in places is embarrassingly fulsome.

Ronald King was a sensitive and caring person who was a founder of the Samaritan Group in Weybridge and was admitted to the Roman Catholic Church thus embracing the faith of his wife, who hailed from the West of Scotland in an area not reached by the Reformation.

During the war Ronald King served in Coastal Command with the R.A.F. and took part in 25 sorties during the Battle of the Atlantic and was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross. With his reticence he never spoke of his own achievements and he was no mean poet as is revealed in his verses entitled "When I Die", which epitomise his life's philosophy and which were read at the conclusion of his Funeral Mass.

We have lost a highly cultured friend who always had the interests of Kew at heart.

Extracted from R.B.G. Newsletter of February 1987)

BARBARA MARY LAKING (née Tarver) — died November 18th 1986

Barbara was one of the early wartime women-gardeners of Kew and it was within those sheltered walls she met her husband to be, Leslie Laking. He was an exchange student 1939-41.

They both returned to Canada in 1984 but made return visits to Kew. Frank was here recently but apart from the pleasure of seeing the MacKinnons with whom he stopped he saw no-one he knew.

Frank is still involved in R.B.G. Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

We offer belated condolences as we have only recently heard the sad news.

STANLEY OVENDEN

Stanley started work at Barton Court, Canterbury. In April 1924 he entered Kew as a student. He rapidly threw himself into all the Kew activities. In the December of his first year he gave a Mutual on "The Cultivation of Sweet Peas". He was a regular attender at Kew Guild Meetings and this did not stop him achieving great success in his examinations. He always got high marks e.g. 100% in Economic Botany and 98% in Plant Ecology.

Stanley was Honorary Secretary of the Cricket Club. He had to relinquish this job in 1927 when he was offered a position at La Mortola, Italy.

He was obviously infected with a need for sunshine, for he returned not to Kew but to the Riviera of the South, Torquay.

In 1931 he went to the Parks Department in Margate, Kent where he stayed until his retirement.

He was to return to La Mortola when he took part in a television appeal hosted by the plantsman Roy Lancaster. The gardens had been somewhat neglected over the years and Stanley helped promote them through his fascinating recollections.

We offer our sympathy to his relatives and friends.

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

Members are invited to send details and photographs of deceased ex-Kewites to the Secretary who will forward details on.

KEW GUILD INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1987

Year to 31.12.86			Year to 31.12.87	
£	£	INCOME	£	£
2,105.80		Annual Subscriptions and arrears	2,010.30	
452.07		Donations — General	200.85	
267.07		Donations — Award Scheme	1,010.00	
	2,824.94			3,221.15
		Dividends from Charities Investment Fund:—		
544.30		— General Account	790.38	
472.43		— Award Scheme	295.91	
	1,016.73			1,086.29
123.80		Bank Interest — General Deposit A/c	90.59	
247.01		— Award Scheme Deposit A/c	142.54	
567.40		— Charities Deposit Fund	814.44	
	938.21			1,047.57
1,896.50		Wakehurst Booklet Receipts	770.00	
(510.50)		(Less value of stock sold)	(266.00)	
	1,386.00			504.00
58.50		Sale of Emblems	54.00	
(46.50)		(Less value of stock sold)	(43.00)	
	12.00			11.00
1,254.80		Annual Dinner Receipts	1,686.88	
(1,297.54)		(Less cost)	(1,508.73)	
	(42.74)	Annual Dinner Profit/(Deficit)		178.15
—		Oxford Visit	343.00	
—		(Less cost)	(357.00)	
	—			(14.00)
428.72		Sales of Past President's Jewel	45.60	
(422.40)		(Less cost)	(45.60)	
	6.32			—
201.00		Award Scheme Soiree/Raffle	277.16	
92.57		Sale of Journals	105.07	
16.00		A.G.M. Tea	16.53	
150.00		Journal Adverts	245.00	
	459.57			643.76
	6,601.03			6,677.92
		EXPENDITURE		
		3,357.00 Kew Guild Journal — Printing	2,816.00	
		94.00 Prizes awarded by the Guild	232.00	
		145.00 Hon. Officer's expenses	359.39	
		467.58 General Printing, Postage, Stationery, etc. ...	610.51	
		653.50 Award Scheme Prizes	1,175.00	
		14.06 Insurance	14.06	
		20.00 f. P. Knight Memorial Contribution	—	
		74.33 Bank Charges and Commission	101.14	
		— Donation to Kew Mutual Society	80.00	
	(4,825.47)			(5,388.10)
	1,775.56	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		1,289.82

KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1987

Year to 31.12.86			Year to 31.12.87	
£	£		£	£
INVESTED ASSETS				
Charities Official Investment Fund:—				
4,000.00		General Fund (Note 1)	4,000.00	
2,000.00		Award Scheme Fund (Note 1)	2,000.00	
6,000.00		Charities Deposit Fund	9,000.00	
	12,000.00		15,000.00	
 CURRENT ASSETS				
576.57		Stock — Emblems	533.57	
45.60		— Past Presidents Jewel	—	
919.38		— Wakehurst Booklets	653.38	
	1,541.55		1,186.95	
1,510.88		Bank — General Deposit Account	1,301.47	
4,892.12		— Award Scheme Deposit Account	3,945.01	
542.95		— Current Account	193.89	
	8,487.50		6,627.32	
 LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES				
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	—	(200.97)
(150.00)				
	8,136.53		6,426.35	
	20,136.53	NET ASSETS	21,426.35	
	20,136.53		21,426.35	
 FINANCED BY				
18,360.97		Capital Fund	20,136.53	
1,775.56		Add Excess income over expenditure	1,289.82	
	20,136.53		21,426.35	
	20,136.53		21,426.35	

W. E. Storey
Hon. Treasurer

Audited and found correct

Hans Fliegner
L. A. Pemberton
18th February 1988

Note

- (1) The market value at 31st December 1987 of Income Shares held with C.O.I.F. was £21,237. Based on a total holding of 5,302 shares at 396.79 pence per share.

REVISION OF THE RULES OF THE GUILD

by Winifred Worth

At the Annual General Meeting in 1985 two changes to the Rules were proposed by Richard Ward (Vol. 10, No. 90, p. 394). The meeting asked the committee to consider these and report back.

The sub-committee appointed to do this (Martin Sands, Kenwyn Pearson and Richard himself) realised that the Rules as a whole needed some revision. Not surprisingly, since it seems that the last revision was in 1962/63 when the Guild applied for Charitable Status.

Much time and thought was put in to bringing them more in tune with present day thinking. Besides being submitted to the main committee the revision was scrutinised by a solicitor to ensure that the wording was legally acceptable, and finally submitted to the Charity Commissioners for their approval. I am pleased to say that the revision passed all these hurdles and was accepted unanimously by those present at the A.G.M. last September.

Many of the changes are just a tightening up of the wording, with minor adjustments such as the inclusion of Wakehurst Place as part of Kew, and the substitution of 'Horticultural Students' for 'Student Gardeners', a term no longer in use. It was also thought necessary to include the Award Scheme as an important part of the Guild's work.

The bigger changes you will notice include making membership of the Guild open to those who are devoted to Kew but who, by virtue of their grades, were previously excluded. This, we think, is more democratic.

Another concern is a shorter time for payment of subscriptions. We hope this will encourage members to pay by standing order if they possibly can. It is too expensive these days to send out a lot of reminders, but also too costly to send Journals to non-payers. There is a change too in the number of days' notice involved in calling a Special General Meeting.

The Rules, as you know, are published every two years, but in view of the revision, they are given a prominent place in this issue. It will remind you that, in spite of their usually modest position at the back of the Journal in small print, they are a vital part of our organisation. I am sure you join me in thanking Martin, Kenwyn and Richard for the excellent job they have done.

RULES OF THE KEW GUILD

Published every second year.

Alternating with Staff List, and incorporating any changes.

Name of the Association.

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

Objects.

- (2) The objects of the Guild shall be—
- (a) the advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge, particularly in connection with the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Wakehurst Place (hereinafter included with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) and among members of the Guild.
 - (b) the encouragement of horticultural and botanical education at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, by the provision of prizes and grants for Horticultural Students 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 Horticultural Students 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 Award Scheme and other charitable funds of the Guild for the objects of the Guild, and the assistance from such funds to members of the Guild who are in need as deemed appropriate by the Committee.
 - (e) the publication of a Journal in furtherance of one or more of the objects of the Guild.
 - (f) generally to do all such acts as shall further the active and corporate life of the Guild as 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 staff members of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, International Trainees and Research and Liaison Scientists, provided they have worked continuously **AT THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW, FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS**. Membership of the Guild shall be open to Horticultural Students as from the commencement of their course of training.
- (b) In addition, at the discretion of the Committee, any member of the Kew staff outside the categories set out in (3) (a) may be admitted to membership of the Guild.
- (c) Honorary Membership may be awarded at the discretion of the Committee.
- (4) Members of the Guild shall have the right to vote at meetings 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 written notice to the Secretary or the 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 stating concisely the grounds on which it proposes to act, call upon any individual to resign from the Guild. If the member does not so resign within forty-eight days, the Committee may, by resolution, terminate his or her membership.
- (b) Before coming to any decision, the Committee shall give the affected member proper facilities for stating his or her case to it 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 each issue of the Kew Guild Journal. A member whose full subscription is unpaid by 30th April in the relevant year shall not be entitled to receive the Kew Guild Journal until his arrears be fully paid. The annual subscription is £7.00 (HORTICULTURAL STUDENTS £3.00 — AS AT SEPTEMBER 1982).

- (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 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 of members as follows.
The officers, all of whom are honorary, shall consist of the President, two Vice-Presidents, the immediate Past-President, the President-Elect, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Editor. The ordinary Committee members shall consist of four Kew staff members, twelve Old Kewites and two Horticultural Students.
- (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 Secretary request him or her 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 giving 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 on the grounds that a member of the Committee was not qualified at or had become disqualified after the date of his appointment. The Chairman of the Committee shall have no second or casting vote.
- (d) At least seven days' written notice of a meeting of the Committee shall so far as practicable be given to every Committee member.
- (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, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Editor shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. One Vice-President shall be elected annually 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 only until the elections at 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 to the main Committee for at least twelve months after the end of their term of office. Any vacancy among ordinary Committee Members shall be filled at the next Annual General Meeting, the member elected completing the term of office of the member whom he or she has replaced. The two Horticultural Student Representatives shall be elected by the Horticultural Students.
- (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 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. **AT LEAST FOURTEEN CLEAR DAYS BEFORE THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE SECRETARY SHALL CIRCULATE TO ALL MEMBERS A FINANCIAL STATEMENT** and 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 convened at any time by the Committee and shall be so convened within forty-two days of receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing. Such a requisition must be signed by not less than thirty-five members stating the purpose of the meeting and setting out any resolution which it is intended to propose thereat. Notice of the meeting with an agenda thereof shall be sent to all members at least twenty-eight days before the date appointed for the meeting. Amendments to any resolutions set out in the agenda shall be sent to the Secretary at least fourteen 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 any duly proposed amendments. 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 members 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 Secretary in writing at least twenty-one clear days before the date of the Annual or Special General Meeting and shall be sent by him or her to all members at least fourteen 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 among such Trustees shall be filled by the Committee. Such property may also be invested in the name of a limited company established by and wholly 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 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. The relevant Trustee shall be permitted to state his case 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 may from among their number appoint a Secretary.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

SENIOR SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

(31st December 1987)

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