

# **THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD**

**Founded in 1893**

The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present

## **Events of 1995**

**Published in 1996**

**Volume 11  
Number 100**

Registered charity No. 306064

Hon. Editor: Richard C. Ward  
Printed by Rowling Printers Ltd., 5 Horsham Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 2JN.  
Telephone: (01306) 886198 Fax: (01306) 742148

**Royal Botanic Gardens  
Kew**

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# ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

## THE KEW GUILD

**Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra**

### THE KEW GUILD COMMITTEE 1995-96

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 Events Officer: T. Risely

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##### *Retire 1996*

D. McGuffog	Tunbridge Wells
M. Biggs	Brentford
P. Boyce	Kew
J. Redman	Canada

##### *Retire 1997*

Ms D. Cooper	Kew
A. Hart	London
P. Styles	Powys
M. Bental	South Africa

##### *Retire 1998*

R. Storr	London
Miss S. Fitzgerald	Kew
M. Leppard	Zimbabwe
A. Cooke	Ludlow

##### *Retire 1999*

M. Clift	Camberley
D. Barnes	Kew
C. Foster	Kew
J. Winter	South Africa.

Award Scheme Chair: N. Hepper

Honorary Auditors: D. Field and C. Hindmarch

Students' Union Representatives: D. Webster and V. Wells

## EDITORIAL

When the Guild Committee decided to implement regular mailings of these papers to Guild members I was selfishly delighted, as I thought I would no longer have to print the 'excerpts' in future *Journals*. Also it would save pages/printing costs for *The Journal*. But during the months it became obvious that the new arrangement was great for communicating to current members, but in the years to come there would be no Journal information available on many of the important or interesting things that had happened at Kew. It is *The Journal's* job to provide a historical record, for posterity, as well as a record each year of the previous year's happenings of the Guild and Kew.

It is difficult to keep *The Journal* to an economical size at the same time though, also bearing in mind that Award Scheme recipients have approximately 700 word write-ups published. News of Kewites at home and abroad will inevitably be expanded due to better communication, and we encourage you to send in your news.

The Guild is a registered charity, all Committee members are voluntary and our time is limited. Donations, bequests and legacies to the Guild are much appreciated and well used. No costs are deducted for administration and advice on these matters can be provided by contacting our Guild Secretary in the first instance.

Enjoy this Journal. I thank contributors and our printer for their valuable input. Invite your non-Guild member colleagues to join the Guild for it is Guild policy that normally we only publicise news of ex-Kewites if they are paid up members of the Guild. You get out of the Guild what you put into it. And don't forget that you can get valuable discounts if you join the Friends of Kew when you are a Guild member.

Keep in touch.

Richard C. Ward  
Hon. Editor

Your Guild contacts are:

Secretary: Kenwyn Pearson on 01444 232973

Membership/Subscriptions: Jill Cowley on 0181 332 5296

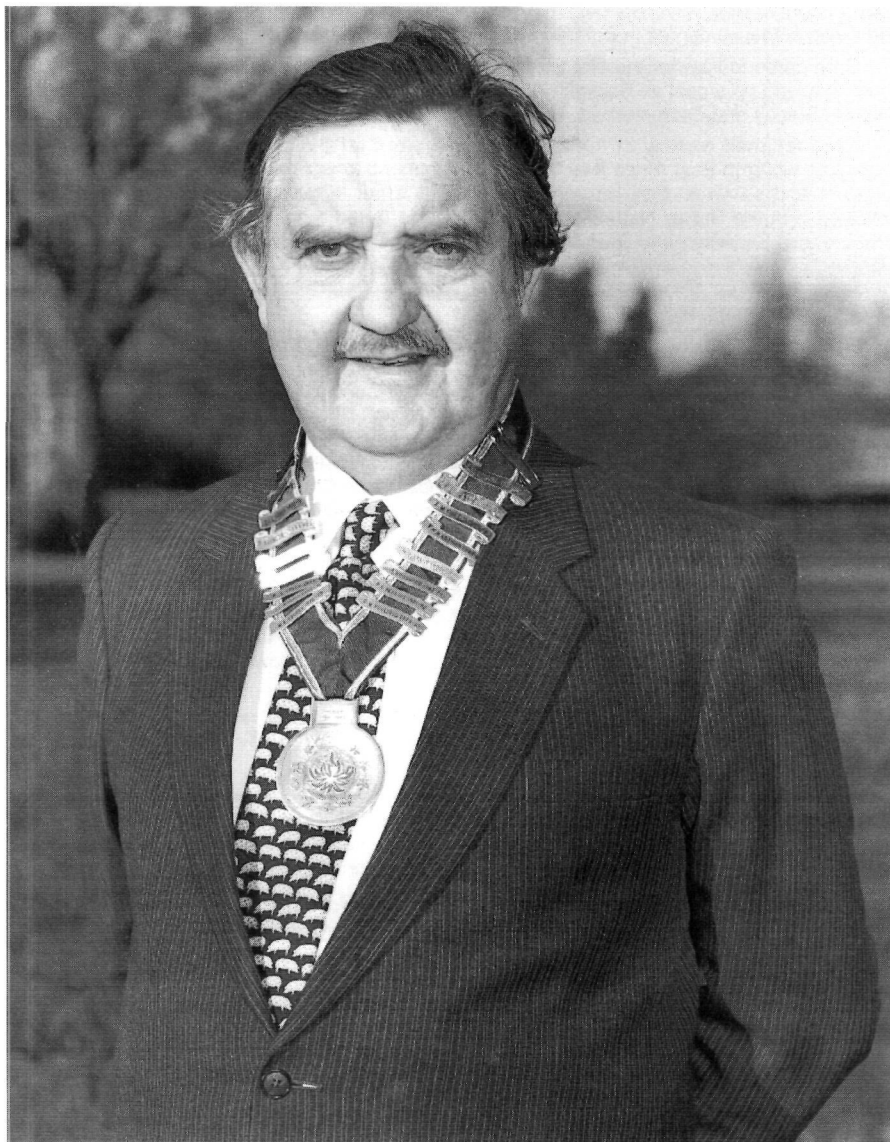
Editor: Richard Ward on 0181 878 6696

## ADVERTISING

Next year's *Journal* will have a new approach to advertisements. You will receive more information by post later in the year. Support the Guild, we need each other!

**GREN LUCAS, O.B.E., B.Sc., F.L.S., F.R.G.S.**

President 1995/96



Gren Lucas at a very early age was interested in plants and from his early teens he collected them for the 'wild flower table' at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff. However, his interest in chemistry provided him with his first job working for The Distillers Company on

the development and use of plastics and resins. Gren's return to the world of plants was brought about by his reading Professor Ronald Good's book on Plant Geography. The Botany Department of Hull University became his new home where he studied under Professor Good, receiving a special degree in Botany in 1958. Whilst at University he met his wife to be, Shirley.

Gren came to Kew for the first time as a research student, under the then Colonial Office, prior to taking up a post as Scientific Officer in Nairobi at the East African Herbarium. Whilst in Nairobi Shirley and Gren married. They have a daughter, son and one granddaughter.

They returned to Kew in 1962, for Gren to work on the Flora of Tropical East Africa. However, whilst in East Africa they had been stimulated to work for various early conservation projects and so, when they returned to Britain, it is not surprising to find that they became involved with the Surrey Naturalist's Trust, as it was called then. At one time Shirley was the Membership Secretary and Gren the Editor of the newsletter. Many mailings were prepared and despatched by Kew colleagues helping out in night-time sessions at their flat at Ham under the guidance of Edgar Milne-Redhead – not just Surrey Trust affairs – but the "battle for Cow Green", newsletters, etc.

Conservation, both in off-duty hours and at work, combined together when Professor Heslop-Harrison, the Director, asked him in 1974 to create the Kew Conservation Unit. Central funding was provided for work on the plant-element of Convention on Controls on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (C.I.T.E.S.) for the U.K. government. This research was prepared alongside programmes for WWF and the setting up of the I.U.C.N. Threatened Plant Committee Secretariat – that was eventually to become integrated into what is now called the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, in Cambridge. *The International Plant Red Data Book*, prepared with Hugh Synge, was one of the many products of these hard working years to elevate the awareness of plant conservation needs to the scientific community and the general public at large.

Voluntary work as a Trustee of WWF (U.K.) from 1979-90 and as a Council Member of I.U.C.N., 1978-90, ensured that Gren was always lecturing on his favourite topic of 'Plants – man's life support system'. Following Sir Peter Scott as Chairman of the Species Survival Commission of I.U.C.N. ensured Gren travelled the world and Kew grew to be the centre for plant conservation activities.

Gren's activities were recognised in 1980 with the O.B.E. for services to Conservation. This was followed in 1986 with the award of Officer of the Golden Ark from the Prince of the Netherlands.

In 1984 Gren was appointed as the Keeper of the Herbarium and Library, in which post he remained until his retirement in 1995. However, he did not leave Kew at this point as he was asked by Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance to head up the new Information Services Department at Kew, which is a key element in the new long-term planning for Kew to 2020.

Gren's passions are book collecting and book-binding and so it is not surprising that, in seeking his new home after leaving Herbarium House, the key consideration seemed to be not so much comfort, but the strength of the walls to support his book shelves. He is a keen supporter of the Guild and all that it stands for in the life of Kew staff and students, past and present.

## LOUISE BUSTARD

Vice President (1995-96)

Louise Bustard was born in North London on 31st July 1955. On moving to West Sussex after leaving school, she got a job in a garden centre close to Chichester. It was the best possible grounding in horticulture as it meant doing every job on site. It was also a very good experience for learning to deal with the public. After three years she returned to London to a job in Queen Mary's Rose Gardens, Regents Park. Whilst there, Louise gained her City

and Guilds in amenity horticulture and the Certificate in Arboriculture. Promoted to forewoman, she found herself responsible for the rock garden, several large borders as well as rose beds. As a result of that period of her life she has two main horrors: 1. badly maintained secateurs and 2. badly pruned roses (she belongs to the 'extremely brutal' or 'cut it to the ground' school of pruning).

In 1981 the Kew Diploma beckoned. After the obligatory six months in Alpine it was then off to Tropical and into a collection everyone else avoided. For Louise it was love at first sight. Cacti and succulents were to dominate her life for the next 11 years. On gaining the Diploma there was a weekend of freedom before returning on Monday morning as a member of staff.

During the Kew years tours were undertaken to Holland and Sweden (as a student), Germany, Switzerland and Austria, also the southwestern U.S.A. and Mexico. The latter two sponsored by the Kew Guild. During the American tour Louise had her first encounter with ethnobotany and became fascinated by the subject. At the same time a long-held desire to enter the field of horticultural education came to the surface. So when the offer came of a place on the M.A. course in Social Anthropology at the University of London, it was too good to miss. So followed an inspiring, hard but thoroughly worthwhile year. Unfortunately, the euphoria was fairly short-lived as 18 months of unemployment followed. However, in between sending job applications the opportunity was seized to take four courses in computer studies.



Everything happened at once as 1995 started. Firstly, Page & Moy Ltd. (travel agents) asked if Louise would lead four consecutive garden tours through the French Riviera and Italian Lakes in the spring of that year. At the same time the offer came from Glasgow Botanic Gardens of Assistant Curator of Information and Customer Services. She did both. Four days after returning from Europe she moved to Scotland. Settling in was not a problem as the Glaswegians are exceptionally friendly. The post is a new one and so it's very exciting being able to develop it. It includes responsibility for the library, enquiries, producing information leaflets and education packs, as well as running courses and taking all tours around the gardens. So all you Kewites planning to come north of the border – instead of heading for Edinburgh, come west for a change – come to Glasgow!

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD

By **Kenwyn Pearson**, Hon. Secretary

On Saturday September 9th, 1995, 44 members attended the Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre. The President, John Sales was in the Chair and the Secretary, Kenwyn Pearson, recorded the minutes of the meeting.

*Apologies for absence* had been received from the following: Peter Maunder, Roy Mowforth, Brendan Mowforth, Bob Hughes, David Hardman, Noel Lothian, Allan Paterson, Edgar Milne-Redhead, Louise Bustard, John Swithinbank, Anne Swithinbank, Hugh Flower, Nigel Taylor, Dick Bennett, Eric Curtis, C. Mitchelmore, G. Graham, Cheryl Piggott, Hans Fleigner, Daniel Slack, Mike Maunder, Tom Garwood, J. Tregear, Winifred Worth, H. Burkill, Sally Bidgood, Joanna Waumsley, P. Huggett, M. Bentje, J. Borrin, David Simpson, Mathew Biggs, Mike Arnold-Gilliatt, Roy Jones, Mary Grierson, Chris Leon, David Cutler, Norman Robson, I. Gayton, E. Turrel, T. Dumont, D. Pearce, Mike Griffin, T. Garwood, S. Bird, Barry Phillips, Roger and Diana Polhill, L. Foster, Martin Sands.

In his opening remarks the President thanked everyone for attending and said how much he had gained from his year of office and the many people he had met and how he had come to realise the importance of the Kew Guild, particularly as a means of keeping like minded people in touch with Kew, from all over the world.

The President informed the Membership of the new Publicity Brochure which he felt would be of benefit in promoting the Guild and enrolling new members.

The President extended a warm welcome to Errol Scarr who had flown in from South Africa via Belgium to be with the Guild, for its A.G.M. Day.

A period of silence was observed while The Secretary read out the names of members whose deaths had been announced. They were: L. G. Thomas (1950), Henry Cocker (1933), E. Verdun Wray (1948), F. G. Mackaness (1938), Andrew H. Pettigrew (1940), L. P. Barker (1958), P. Benton (1947), Mrs. E. M. Wakefield née Moss-Holland (1946), R. S. Davies (1951), Frank R. Lavender (1949), Grace Lofthouse (1982), F. H. Mackinnon (1942), Roy Rumsey (1932), W. R. Rutter (1928), K. Wharton (1949).

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 1994, which had been printed in the 1994 Journal, were approved as a true record. Proposed by Mike Clift and seconded by Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, with unanimous approval.

There were no matters arising other than those covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

*The Secretary's Report:* Kenwyn Pearson said that this was his first report as Secretary to the A.G.M. and said that it was 23 years since he had first entered Kew and become involved in the Kew Guild. He had enjoyed being involved with many areas of the Guild and particularly with the Kew Guild Award Scheme, and now serving the Guild as Secretary.

He went on to say that the Guild was fortunate in having a good team of dedicated people who act in the best interests of the organisation and, without this support, it would be impossible for the Secretary to function.

A letter had been received from the Patron, informing the Guild that Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra was willing to extend the period of her patronage for a further three years from the 24th August 1995.

The Secretary congratulated Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance on receiving his Knighthood and reported that he had been in correspondence with him after receiving the award, when he said he hoped that it would be used to help the cause of the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Guild.

The role of the Trustees was under review and Martin Sands was helping in this area. With the greater questioning from the public, from members, from donors and the Charity Commission, the responsibility of the Trustees was important, particularly to ensure that the Kew Guild was run in a right and proper fashion and was seen to be charitable.

The Secretary drew attention to the number of resignations that had been received during the previous 12 months. The reasons given were various, but mostly because of age and inability to attend functions and support the Guild. Some were involved in too many organisations so were resigning, but only one member could no longer afford the subscription.

The membership application form had been updated and redesigned and special thanks were expressed to Professor Gren Lucas and Jill Cowley for ensuring that it was printed and made available to the membership.

Concern had been expressed during the year that more Kew Guild Members did not take advantage of the concessionary membership rates to join the Friends of Kew and this needs promotion, both to help the Guild and Kew Gardens.

The new subscription had been well received and many had indicated that the new level of subscription was acceptable and members were impressed with the increased level of communication and news of Kew. This was of benefit to the members and also acted as a regular communication with the membership and allowed inserts throughout the year. The Secretary

indicated that he had received only one letter indicating that it had not been a good move to send the *Guardian* to members and that it had been inappropriate to increase the subscription to cover this cost. He felt that the issue had been well discussed by the Committee and put to the A.G.M. in 1994 and had received a good response from Kewites.

The Committee had been pleased to learn at its January meeting that all the new intake of students had joined the Kew Guild.

During the year, at four Committee meetings, there had been discussions on regional organisers, regional membership, recruitment, regional talks by Kew staff, publicity material, free admission to the Gardens on one day a year, the Award Scheme, the Dinner, other functions, nominations for Committee, Editorial and *Journal*, and many other items. The Secretary said he has been heartened by the amount of work put in by members of the Committee and with their attendance at meetings.

The Secretary paid tribute to Dianne Cooper for organising the events for the A.G.M. and the contribution made by the Friends of Kew to help the Guild to function. He also thanked Jill Cowley and Sandy Atkins for their support and help throughout the year.

Graham Burgess congratulated the Kew Guild on its success with communication through the *Kew Guardian* and for helping in networking to members. Tom Risely appealed for members of the Guild to send copy for printing to the *Guardian* Editor.

*Membership Secretary's Report:* This was presented by Jill Cowley who confirmed that there were 573 members of the Guild. There were eight corporate members, 40 student members, 68 staff members, 64 life members and 393 standard members.

There had been several measures imposed to ensure that people paid subscriptions and where this was not the case the removal from membership and mailing was carried out much more quickly than in the past. It was suggested that the new promotion leaflet should be made available to all members to help in enrolment of new or lapsed members.

John Gaggini proposed that the Membership Secretary's report be accepted and this was seconded by Leo Pemberton and adopted by the meeting.

*The Treasurer's Report* was presented by Rebecca Bower and she made reference to the accounts printed in the 1994 *Journal* on pages 415 and 416. The Guild had a more normal year following the events of the Centenary year. All major investments were now invested through the Charities Official Investment Fund. The amount available for awards had steadily increased.

The sales of the book 'A Century of Kew Plantsmen' have gone down but stocks were still high. She encouraged everyone to help sell the book. On the expenditure for the *Journal* cost was high because of extra reports on the Award Scheme, but this has always been seen to be of interest to the members and a condition of accepting an Award. Bank charges had been removed in the last 12 months. There was still a stock of badges, books and ties.

Pamela Holt asked whether, in future, items of merchandise could have a slant towards the women members of the Guild. Perhaps the range could be extended. The Committee were asked to investigate this and look at the services to members.

Allan Hart proposed accepting the Treasurer's report and Pam Holt seconded. The meeting gave it unanimous support.

*The Editor's Report* was presented by Richard Ward and he thanked all the contributors to the *Journal*. There has been considerable discussion on the *Journal* and Gren Lucas, Roger Storr and the Editor have examined its future production carefully, but all agree that the existing printers do a marvellous job in production of a first class *Journal*. For 1996 the Editor had negotiated a price with a £100 reduction on the production costs of the 1995 *Journal*. Advertising was being considered and £430 had been received from adverts in the current year. The Advertising Sub-committee hoped to report to the next Committee meeting on progress.

The Editor asked the meeting to note that the 15th January was the deadline for inclusion of articles in the next *Journal*. A direct approach to potential advertisers was considered. The

Committee were asked to consider advertising in the *Journal* carefully and also to look at other sources of revenue through wills and legacies in favour of the Guild.

Richard Ward was congratulated on the production of the *Journal* and adoption of his report was proposed by Nigel Hepper and seconded by Peter Green and it received unanimous support from the meeting.

The Events Officer's Report was presented by Tom Risely who said that 1995 had been a unique year in the Guild's history. One hundred and thirty-two members and guests had attended the Annual Dinner in the Orangery. He said that the caterers had been nervous of the numbers and the function, but it had been a huge success.

It was regrettable that more student members had not been present at the Dinner.

The Events Officer noted comments from individuals, particularly with regard to toilet facilities, table layout, formality and bar extension.

Graham Burgess wondered whether a future event should not be considered by taking over an hotel, out of season, at the seaside, with lectures and other events.

The price for the 1996 Dinner would be £25, with a student reduction to £12.50.

There had been an upgrade in the event for the A.G.M. evening which, going on numbers, appeared to be popular. Special thanks were due to the Director and his wife and senior officers at Kew for helping to make events run smoothly and efficiently. Special thanks were recorded to Dianne Cooper and the Friends of Kew for their help with events.

In discussion, many felt that the idea of an annual lecture at the A.G.M. was a good one.

Leo Pemberton proposed acceptance of the report and Don MacGuffog seconded and it was then approved unanimously.

*The Award Scheme Report* was given by Nigel Hepper, who gave an extensive report of the year's activities and details of the awards given which will be reported in full in the 1995 *Journal*.

There were some Committee changes with Hugh Flower and David Barnes, the Secretary, retiring by rotation and Jean Griffin was joining the Committee. Nigel Hepper thanked all the members of the Committee for the way in which they gave of their time.

Ian Leese thanked the Award Scheme on behalf of the School of Horticulture for the way in which they had assisted both staff and students to travel abroad to further their studies and also the work of Kew.

The Award Scheme report was proposed by Graham Pattison and seconded by Mike Lycett and adopted unanimously by the meeting.

*Students' Prize Day* was reported to the meeting by John Woodhams, on behalf of the President, who said that the prize day had taken place on the 8th September and he had been impressed by the relations between the School of Horticulture and the Kew Guild. In particular he had noted the number of prizes donated by the Guild.

The President thanked the retiring members of the Committee for all their hard work. They were, Gordon Fraser, Mark Pitman, Hugh Flower and Ian Leese. Ian Leese, as the Principal of the School of Horticulture, would remain on the Committee, ex officio.

*Election of Officers:* There had been two nominations to serve on the Committee, other than those detailed in the A.G.M. notice, and these were Alan Cook, proposed by Kenwyn Pearson and seconded by Jill Cowley, to take the place of Grace Lofthouse who had died, and David Barnes, proposed by Kenwyn Pearson and seconded by David Hardman, as a Committee member. It was proposed by the President that all nominees should be approved en bloc and this was seconded by Brian Pitcher and accepted in full by the meeting.

*The Auditor's Report* was given by Colin Hindmarch, who congratulated Rebecca Bower on the way that she handled the money affairs of the Guild and this had also made the work for the Auditors, Ian Leese and himself, easy. The Auditors had examined the Accounts, Invoices

and Receipts of the Guild and examined its financial affairs for the year ending 31st December 1994 and found everything to be in order and had signed a statement as produced in the *Journal*.

Rebecca Bower reported on the *Appointment of Auditors*, and said that after the A.G.M. of 1996 it would not be acceptable to the Charity Commission to carry out an in-house audit as previously, and that an independent auditor would need to be appointed. This would be reviewed and reported on to the Committee in due course.

Rebecca Bower proposed Colin Hindmarch and David Field as auditors for the current year and this was seconded by Pam Holt and approved by the meeting.

*Any Other Business:* It was asked whether the Guild Room in the Herbarium was being used to the full and this was confirmed.

*Inauguration of New President:* Professor Gren Lucas took the Chair and received the Presidential Chain and paid a warm tribute to the retiring President, John Sales, saying how hard he had worked on behalf of the Guild and also in furthering its work.

Professor Gren Lucas confirmed the date of the next A.G.M. as Saturday 7th September 1996 and thanked everyone for attending. After explaining the arrangements for the rest of the day and there being no other business, he closed the meeting.

**Editor's Note:** For economy reasons further details of events reported to the A.G.M. may be reported elsewhere in this *Journal*, i.e. Annual Dinner, Students' Prizegiving etc.

## THE KEW GUILD COMMITTEE AT WORK



This photograph shows some of the Kew Guild Committee after their June 1995 meeting. *Back Row, left to right:* Ian Leese, Don McGuffog, Matthew Biggs, Guild President John Sales, Gordon Frazer, Guild President Elect Gren Lucas, Roger Storr, Sandy Atkins. *Front Row, left to right:* Sylvia Fitzgerald, Grace Lofthouse, Rebecca Bower and Allan Hart.

If you want to know what the members do on the Committee check out the third page of this *Journal*! The Guild Committee meet about four times per year. If you would be interested to get involved, why not contact our Secretary, Kenwyn Pearson, for details on 01444 232973.

## REPORT ON THE KEW GUILD ANNUAL DINNER 1995

By Tom Risely, Events Officer

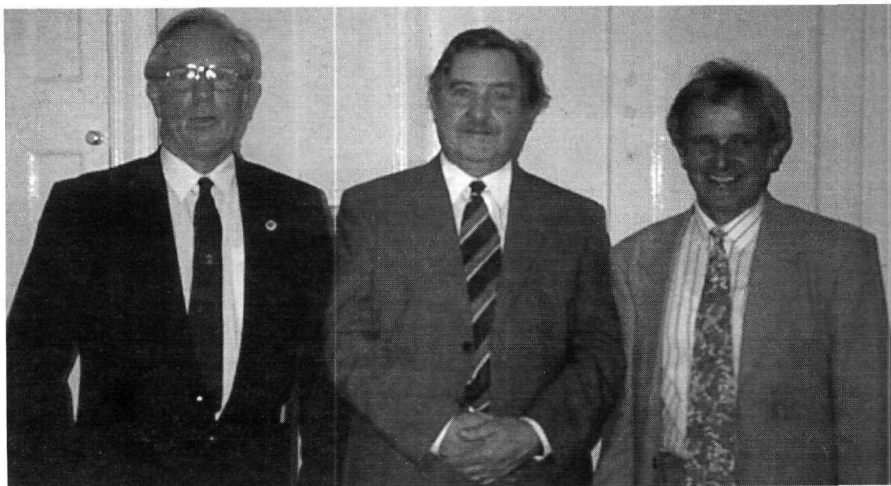
The Annual Dinner of the Guild was held on Wednesday, 24th May 1995 at the Orangery at Kew Gardens. John Sales, President for 1994-95, presided over the evening's events.

The 1995 Dinner changed the pattern of previous years, during which the event had been held at a venue outside Kew. There was much enthusiasm for holding the dinner within the Gardens and, as far as can be determined, this was the first time ever. Despite some organisational difficulties, arrangements were eventually in place and a successful evening ensued. It was attended by 119 members and their guests, six Guild guests and seven student members.

The evening began with a pre-dinner reception in the Kew Gallery, when members and guests were able to partake of ample quantities of chilled champagne whilst wandering in pleasant surroundings and meeting old and new friends, and also meeting the President.

Following the reception, the party moved to the Orangery, splendidly set out for the Dinner. The catering was by Town and County, Kew's official caterers, and consisted of three courses, the main one of which was salmon and prawns with mayonnaise. At the end of the evening everyone expressed pleasure at the quality of the food and the extremely pleasant surroundings. During the first part of the evening daylight enabled the diners to enjoy views of the Gardens and, as evening fell, the focus turned inwards and to the after-dinner speakers.

At the conclusion of the meal the President proposed the Loyal Toast and, after a short break for smoking outside, the toast to the President was proposed by Tom Risely – a fellow student during 1956-58. He referred to the fact that it was almost 40 years since John Sales had first entered the staff gates and those years had seen considerable achievements (chronicled in the last *Journal*). Our President as a student was much the man he is today. He was top student of his year, yet everything he did was in a quiet, unassuming yet effective way. He was not necessarily at the forefront of activities, but always there. An essential part of the team, a leader from within, and a friend to all his fellow students. His professional career, especially as Gardens Adviser to the National Trust, had continued in the same way – quiet, effective and with achievements for all to see.



Left to right: President 1996-97, Tom Wood; President 1995-96, Gren Lucas; President 1994-95, John Sales.  
(Photograph: courtesy of Tom Risely)

The President, in his reply, referred especially to his time with the National Trust. Trust membership has expanded almost tenfold in recent years and the Trust's gardens are a leading attraction in the endeavour to obtain new members. Many Trust members had joined the organisation in a garden. Garden visiting is one of the nation's favourite occupations and it is important because it is educational and stimulates participation – in gardening – a pastime that provides both physical exercise and academic interest.

Managing gardens that have large numbers of visitors can be a taxing occupation and he related a number of amusing anecdotes involving the fickle public and idiosyncratic guides: for example, an enquiry from a visitor wanting to know why there are no gardens at Stourhead. He likened organisations managing large gardens to newspapers – disseminating information. The National Trust could be compared to *The Independent*, Kew to *The Financial Times* and the R.H.S.? well maybe *Exchange and Mart*!

He also referred to Kew's rôle in education and hoped that a policy of continuing to give as wide a range of instruction as possible, would be continued. In his professional life he came across too many specialists – people who know everything about very little and whose contributions to a project were thereby limited. In proposing a toast to The Kew Guild, the President linked this to a toast to John Simmons, shortly to retire from his post as Curator.

The President then introduced and proposed a toast to the guests. Bill Simpson and his wife, Ann, were his personal guests. Bill, a former President of the Institute of Horticulture, was soon to retire from his position as the Royal Horticultural Society's Director of Horticulture to take up a new career. He would continue to make a significant contribution to the profession and especially to education. The Guild's guests were Mary Grierson, Barbara Shepherd and Peter and Ann Thoday. Mary and Barbara represented the Friends of Kew. Not only do the Friends play an increasingly significant part in the progress and wellbeing of Kew, but also they contribute substantially to the Guild through many hours of unpaid work for our association.

Peter Thoday, President of the Institute of Horticulture, replied to the toast on behalf of the guests. He continued the excellent high standard set by recent guest speakers and addressed himself especially to the students, with observations on educational trends. He advised students that they were as right as their predecessors – that the horticultural emperors they saw before them really did have no clothes. He had picked up whispers of criticisms of Kew's educational course. What did this matter? Oxford and Cambridge had survived for over 400 years without structured courses. The first Professor of Botany at Cambridge had given no lectures. The chief value of being a student at Kew is in doing things in knowledge-rich surroundings. This approach infuriates professional educationalists – but don't worry – in these surroundings people excel. You cannot become expert in three months or three years. Most of what you need to know and learn you acquire after someone is stupid enough to appoint you.

The evening concluded with a toast to absent friends from student Darren Webster. Ten former Presidents attended and, when asked to stand up to be recognised, beamed benevolently at the assembled company.

## **KEW: THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS**

By Ray Desmond, published by Harvill Press, 1995 – 466 pages, £25

This history, written by the former Chief Librarian at Kew, surveys the development of the Gardens from two Royal estates in Georgian times to the present day.

The archives at Kew and elsewhere have revealed new facts about Kew's past. The Royal Family, members of the staff at Kew and others who have contributed to advancing the Royal Botanic Gardens, make their appearance. Particular attention has been given to the landscaping of the grounds. Kew's international role since the days of Sir Joseph Banks is discussed.

The book is generously illustrated with 34 colour and about 250 black and white plates.

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT THE ANNUAL DINNER

The President welcomed his personal guests Mary and Bill Simpson. Bill began his professional career with him at Writtle, went on to Oaklands and Merrist Wood, became Principal at Pershore College and then Director of Horticulture, R.H.S. He also gave a warm welcome to the Guild's guests, Mary Grierson and Barbara Shepherd of the 'Friends of Kew', who help the Guild in a variety of ways.

In his response to Tom Risely's generous remarks and toast to the President, John Sales paid tribute to the hard work of the Guild Committee and to their achievement in arranging the Dinner in the Orangery – a great success. He also drew attention to the work of the Awards Committee, through which much of the Guild's charitable work is achieved.

He acknowledged that the great honour of being President of the Guild was due at least as much to achievement as to personality, in his case that of the National Trust in garden conservation, with which he is proud to be associated. His contribution over 25 years would not have been possible without the loving and loyal support of his wife, Lyn, both personally and professionally. Similarly, it has been through the work of his colleagues of all kinds that so much has been possible, not least the gardeners, who are some of the most genuine, effective and enthusiastic people he has ever had the pleasure to work with.

It has been a privilege to be involved with both the world's greatest assembly of historic gardens and its greatest collection of plants. It is an absorbing and creative challenge to attempt to conserve their special qualities with slender resources and in the face of all the other modern constraints of reduced staff, government legislation and mass visiting. The remarkable popularity of the Trust's gardens and the pleasure they give to so many millions of visitors is both rewarding and stimulating.

The Trust's reputation and its achievements in conservation are based on demonstrating what can be done through an enthusiastic staff and a large and loyal membership. This gives enormous encouragement to the cause of conservation generally, of which Kew plays such an important part. Being part of such a broadly-based organisation as the National Trust emphasises the degree to which all aspects of conservation are interdependent. At all costs be wary of the narrow specialist in any field.

Before proposing a toast to the Kew Guild, the President paid special tribute to John Simmons, who was attending his last dinner as Curator. For more than a quarter of a century John Simmons has been a leader in the cause of plant conservation, serving Kew with great distinction. On behalf of the Guild, the President wished him a happy and inevitably busy retirement.

## NEW KEW GUILD COMMITTEE MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

### ALAN GEORGE COOK, A.H.R.H.S., B.E.M.



Alan George Cook

Alan, born in 1922, the eldest son of a West Suffolk village blacksmith, did not follow his father's trade, for leaving school in 1937 his was to be in horticulture. It began in the potting shed of Dalham Hall Gardens, then moving on to another county estate as a journeyman gardener.

In the last month of 1941 at 19 he saw war service with the R.A.F. which took him to India and Burma. A furlough in Sikkim and a two week trek over the high passes to the Chumbi Valley initiated an interest in Alpine flora.

On demobilisation in the summer of 1946 an application for the one year course at Kew was not successful. To overcome this, a position was obtained in the Bodnant Garden, North

Wales. Within the year he applied again to Kew, gaining a place on the then two year Student Gardener Course of April 1948. The final six months of this was in the Alpine Propagation Yard under George Preston.

After a year with Swansea Parks he returned to Kew at the request of the Tropical Assistant Curator, Mr. L. Stenning, to take charge of the new Plant Quarantine House. In 1952 he took up the then vacant Foreman position in the Alpine and Herbaceous Section. This proved to be the year in which 35 years of cultural care of the hardy plant collections began. Years, which have seen many changes and a number of improvements, e.g. the rebuilding and enlarging of the Rock Garden, the Rose Pergola erected and the Woodland and Grass Gardens created.

Now in his ninth year of retirement he is involved in varied horticultural activities; giving talks to Gardening Societies, Secretary of the local Horticultural Society, also actively involved with the Alpine Garden and Hardy Plant Societies.

*(Editor's Note: Alan was elected onto the Committee during 1995 to replace the late Grace Lofthouse.)*

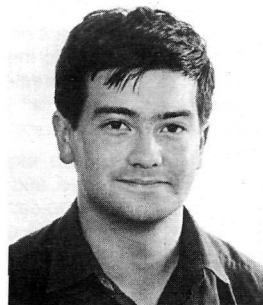
### DAVID BARNES

David was born in Clapham, London in 1964. After completing 'A' levels in 1983 he gained employment at the Plant Sciences Department of Kings College London as a Horticultural Technician. Duties involved maintaining the varied collections in the two span glasshouse on the roof and the three-quarter acre grounds which provided specimens for lectures and experimentation. During this time David studied at South London College, passing the City and Guilds examinations and in 1986 he joined an independent expedition to conserve a rainforest valley in southern Ecuador.

David was interviewed for the Diploma course on his return, beginning the Course in 1987 and continued at Kew as Staff Training Manager the week after graduating.

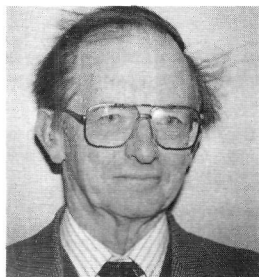
He is still heavily involved with the School of Horticulture and greatly enjoys watching the students development during and after the course.

David was Secretary of the Guild Awards Scheme Sub-committee for three years and was happy to continue his association with the Guild on the main Committee and is the person to contact if you wish to purchase Kew Guild ties or badges! David lives in Carshalton with his wife, Claire.



David Barnes.

### MIKE CLIFT



Mike Clift.

Mike Clift began his horticultural career at Stewarts Nurseries, Ferndown, in 1950.

Then came the obligatory National Service.

After National Service he then obtained more experience at Hilliers Nurseries, Winchester, before entering R.B.G. Kew as a student in 1956 to 1958.

He joined Waterers Nurseries at Bagshot which later, in 1982, became a division of Notcutts Nurseries of Woodbridge. During this time he faced various challenging rôles at Bagshot, Woodbridge and Cranleigh.

His second period on the Kew Guild Committee coincided with his retirement, during 1995.

### CLIVE FOSTER



Clive Foster.

Clive Foster has been employed at R.B.G. Kew for eight years.

After spending three years as Hardy Nursery Propagator in the Temperate Section, he transferred to manage the Science Support Unit in the Melon Yard.

He successfully passed the M.Hort. in 1992 and has since completed the Diploma in Management.

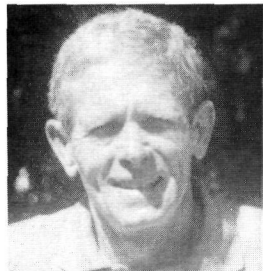
Prior to Kew he was employed for one year at Brighton Parks (as part of the National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture at Writtle) and for two years as Propagator at Cambridge Botanic Garden.

### JOHN WINTER

John was born in Cape Town, South Africa, and completed his education in Zimbabwe. After qualifying as a Horticulturist and working for the Pretoria Parks Department, he spent two years as a student gardener at Kew from 1963 to 1965. After a year as "gardener" on R.M.S. Queen Elizabeth he returned to South Africa and was appointed Assistant Curator at Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden in the Western Cape Province.

For the past 16 years he has held the post of Deputy Director in the National Botanic Institute and is Curator of the garden. One of his main interests is going into the veld to collect botanical specimens (all plants grown at Kirstenbosch are indigenous to South Africa).

The gardens have expanded and changed considerably during his time there and it is a constant challenge leading Kirstenbosch into the so-called "new South Africa". Labour-related challenges are a feature of most working days and it is with some nostalgia that he looks back to contented days in the potting shed! Nevertheless, Kirstenbosch is a garden with spectacular natural assets and a wonderfully rich and diverse flora, so life is never dull and his work is constantly rewarding.



John Winter

His hobbies are running marathons (now mainly half marathons!), growing and bottling fruit grown in his orchard. He lives in Kirstenbosch with his wife, Meg and, for some of the time, with four of their five children.

## THE KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME REPORT FOR 1995

By Nigel Hepper

*This has been my first year as Chairman of the Awards Scheme, although I have been a member of the Committee for several years, and I must say that I find it one of the most exciting and satisfying functions of the Kew Guild.*

This year we received 20 applications and we able to support 15 of them, amounting to a total of £4,016. Only the interest from the capital is used. More capital from, for example, a legacy, is always welcome.

The following list shows what diverse and fascinating activities we support:

Shelagh Kell	£200 from general funds for study of conservation of the native flora in Colombia.
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\* Gwender Kitchener £200 from general funds for the study of Cacti and succulents in Mexico.

- \* Anna Bayley                    £635 from the Dallimore Award to visit arboreta and gardens in Northwest America.
- Sarah Higgins                £100 from general funds to study *Cistus* in Portugal.
- \* Markus Radscheit           £350 from the Redman Award for his study tour to Australia.
- Cathy Philo                   £256 from general funds towards her R.H.S. Diploma in Horticulture.
- Robert Brett                 £180 from the Arnold Award to study orchids in Mauritius.
- \* Harvey Stephens           £200 from general funds to study *Meconopsis* in Nepal.
- Course 30                    £450 from the Redman Award to tour Portuguese gardens.
- (9 students)
- \* Jan Burnell and             £200 (£100 from the Redman Award and £100 from general funds) for Wolfgang Bopp             a visit to the Gambia to plan landscaping for a Maternity and Health Clinic.
- \* Ruth Davis                  £200 from general funds to study orchids in Canada.
- Colin Porter                  £280 Network S.E. Award towards his post-graduate course in Landscape Design.
- \* Richard Ottaway           £500 from the Redman Award to investigate horticultural therapy offered in U.S.A. gardens.
- \* Jay Venn                    £165 from the Dallimore Award towards his Royal Forestry Society's Certificate in Arboriculture.
- Christopher Bailey        £100 towards his Pesticides Application Test Certificate.

According to our rules for the rotation of Committee members, Hugh Flower and our Hon. Secretary, David Barnes, must retire this year. I should like to thank them on behalf of the Guild for their willingness to serve on the Awards Scheme Committee so faithfully for several years. I shall miss them!

I am glad to report that Mrs. Jean Griffin, who has previously served on the main Committee, has kindly agreed to fill one of the vacancies. The Honorary Secretary vacancy has been taken up with enthusiasm by Chris Kidd, who is a former student, now on the staff of the Living Collections Division.

*(Editor's Note: Asterisks denote write-ups provided by Award recipients for publication in The Journal. A condition of accepting Awards is that a report of not more than 700 words is submitted to the Award Scheme Chairman by the 1st December of that year.)*

## **EIGHT REPORTS WERE SUBMITTED THIS YEAR FROM AWARD SCHEME RECIPIENTS**

One of the conditions of the Awards is that winners submit their reports for publication in *The Kew Guild Journal*.

### **A STUDY TRIP OF GARDENS AND ARBORETA IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

By Anna Bayley

I chose the Pacific Northwest Coast of North America as the destination for this study tour as I have had a particular interest in visiting a number of gardens there for some time. My main aims for the trip were to increase my horticultural knowledge and understanding of the maintenance of public gardens, and also to study and gain work experience in arboreta in the United States.

The trip, which lasted for four and a half weeks, began in Vancouver, British Columbia, where I visited a number of renowned gardens. One of these, the VanDusen Botanic Garden, particularly impressed me and was perhaps my favourite of the trip. The climate in Vancouver

is relatively mild and it is for this reason, therefore, that the VanDusen garden contains one of the most comprehensive plant collections in Canada with 6,500 taxa from six continents. The garden, which offers some views of the beautiful mountain setting of Vancouver, also runs a number of visitor education programmes.

Other gardens visited in Vancouver included the University of British Columbia Botanic Garden, which is the oldest garden associated with a university in Canada. It is divided into a number of smaller gardens, among which is the Asian Garden which is set in a huge second growth coastal forest.

Very close to the U.B.C. Botanical Garden was the Nitobe Memorial Garden, which is considered to be the most authentic Japanese garden outside of Japan. It was the first Japanese garden that I have visited and as a style of gardening I found it quite wonderful. Their main aim was to provide peace and harmony, which they achieved perfectly as the garden was so tranquil and beautiful.

Among a number of other gardens visited were the Bloedel Conservatory, located in Queen Elizabeth Park, which is the second largest triodetic dome in the world and Stanley Park, which is largely forest and, at nearly 1,000 acres, is about the same size as Central Park in New York.

My next stop of the trip was Victoria on Vancouver Island, where the main garden that I would visit was the Butchart Gardens. After studying at Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania for a year, I was particularly keen to see this garden as many people have compared the two.

The gardens, which were founded in 1904, were originally limestone quarries, one of which, the Sunken Garden, is one of their most famous attractions. The standard of the display was very impressive, with every part of the garden beautifully maintained. The garden follows a recommended route and has various different gardens including, among others, the Rose Garden and Japanese Garden. Fountains, ponds and streams also add to the gardens features. The main display from March to October relies largely on bedding plants.

From Victoria, the next destination of my trip was to Seattle in the United States where I was to spend just over a week at the University of Washington Park Arboretum. My aim here was to study their *Acer* collection which would help me with my systematics project. The arboretum is 200 acres in size and holds a number of good collections including *Ilex*, *Quercus* and *Pinus*.

The final destination of my study tour was Portland, Oregon, where I participated in work experience for a week at Hoyt Arboretum which largely involved the putting together of an inventory of the plants in their nursery. The 175 acre arboretum, which has 10 miles of hiking trails running through it, is home to one of the largest *gymnosperm* collections in the United States.

The study tour was a wonderful experience that I gained a great deal from and, thanks to the generosity and kindness of a number of people during my visit, I was able to achieve all of my aims and objectives for the trip and more.

## A MULTIPURPOSE GARDEN FOR A GAMBIAN HEALTH CLINIC

By Janet Burnell and Wolfgang Bopp

Ardingly in Sussex, the village closest to Wakehurst Place, has been 'twinned' with Old Jeshwang, a suburban village of Banjul, the Gambian capital. The Ardingly-Old Jeshwang Association's main concern is to build a health clinic in the Gambian community as a self help project. Wolfgang Bopp and Janet Burnell, both students of Diploma Course 30, have been asked by the above association to develop a plan and proposal for an appropriate garden to surround this clinic. Following some literature research the two authors travelled, supported by The Kew Guild and The Kew Rotary Club, to The Gambia for one week on a fact finding mission.

The Gambia, a country two-thirds the size of Northern Ireland and situated at the western most point of the African continent, is virtually surrounded by the Senegal. The population pressure, highest near the coast, has resulted in widespread destruction of the native coastal

palm woodland. The prime land use outside habitations is for agriculture and farming. At the same time there is very little green-space in towns and villages, which is particularly noticeable in the greater Banjul area, including Old Jeshwang.

Although cases of extreme malnutrition are rare amongst the Gambian population, the authors learned from a national adviser on food and nutrition, that it is important to raise the population's awareness of the importance of fruits and vegetables for the daily diet, which primarily exists of rice. The above, together with the fact that the new health clinic is being built in the centre of the community, has defined the priorities for the plant selection of the garden, namely fruit and vegetable cultivation as demonstration garden, ornamental plantings and the incorporation of native species as far as possible. The garden is to be used as a teaching aid for health, environmental and horticultural education. Several 'meeting places' (Gambian meetings are held outside, preferably under a tree) will also give the community, including the local school, the opportunity to use the site.

During their visit the authors saw comparable projects and consulted people from Government Departments and non-governmental organisations to hear their advice and learn from their experience. In several meetings with the Old Jeshwang community, the authors had to match the community's wishes with the seemingly most promising way for the long term success of this self help project. At the close of the last meeting consensus was reached that the newly established Garden Development Committee (G.D.C.) will be fully responsible for the management of the project. Their funds will be separate from those of the clinic and the G.D.C. must ensure that the garden is self sustainable and is not dependent on the clinic staff and/or its funds. For this reason the G.D.C. will encourage all members of the community to take part in the decision making process, the development and the maintenance of the clinic garden. This will give the community as a whole a sense of pride and ownership in their new garden and the overall benefit and learning process will be increased. In their proposed budget the authors made an allowance for on-site training (horticultural and management), which should further this process.

The authors were also able to establish a Gambian Technical Support Group, consisting of (at the time of leaving the country) four individuals, who volunteered to give their expert advice to the Old Jeshwang community, after having met the authors and heard of the project.

Following their visit the authors prepared a project proposal including a budget for the development and maintenance of the site, which was sent to the Old Jeshwang community and will, in due course, be used by the Ardingly-Old Jeshwang Association to raise the funds for the site development.

In summarising their project the authors would like to say that, despite being hard work, it has given them a unique opportunity to learn a great deal about people, a different culture and how to deal with sensitive issues. Janet and Wolfgang hope that the Old Jeshwang community will make their clinic garden a great success and eventually increase the cultivation of plants around the family compounds in their own as well as other communities in The Gambia. On behalf of the Old Jeshwang community and themselves, the authors would like to thank the Kew Guild for their support of this project.

**P.S.:** Having read this short account, many Kewites will quite rightly ask themselves why Wolfgang and Janet did not include the cultivation of medicinal plants in this garden which, after all, is to 'serve' a health clinic? The answer is, that although this was brought into the discussion at the beginning, on speaking to community members of Old Jeshwang as well as to a doctor at the Medical Research Council Hospital, the authors had to accept the fact that, at least in this part of the country, the western medicine appears not to value the use of local plants as alternative medicines and the native people themselves have largely forgotten how and what to use.

**P.P.S. Editor's Note:** Liaising with Ian Leese, Principal of the School of Horticulture, the Rotary Club of Kew Gardens were able to pay for a large part of Janet and Wolfgang's return air fare for this project.

## ORCHID HUNTING IN CANADA

By Ruth Davis

I organised a study trip for the summer of 1995 to Canada with the following aims:

To collect material of leaves of orchid species for Dr. Alec Pridgeon, of the Jodrell Laboratories at Kew (now the Sainsbury Orchid Fellow) to continue his biosystematic studies.

To arrange legitimate seed exchange programmes between the Living Collections Department at Kew and orchid researches in Canada. This would serve two purposes. Firstly, it would enable workers in the Sainsbury Project to test the efficacy of their techniques developed on European species on similar North American material. Secondly, Kew could build up a population of plants which would be available for research and display and, perhaps eventually yield seedlings for a non-commercial distribution programme, which would reduce the demand for wild collected specimens.

To visit and learn from Canadian orchid enthusiasts and help to continue the friendly relationship between our two countries.

To study Canadian orchids in their natural habitats.

I arrived in Ottawa on 18th May and was met by Dr. Marilyn Light and her husband.

Spring in the woods of eastern Canada is an exotic parallel of our own. **Fagus grandifolia**, the dominant tree in the woods of Gatineau Park, north of Ottawa, sheds a light which is subtly softer than that of our beech or oak. Seen against armies of its die-straight, grey trunks, the thousands of Trilliums made me feel giddy. In the midst of this already extraordinary sight, Marilyn showed me a colony of yellow lady's slipper orchids (**Cypripedium calceolus**), perhaps 50 yards across, with robust clones each carrying up to 30 flowers on stems two feet high.

As well as arranging trips into the field, Marilyn showed me how she was able to germinate and grow so many orchid species in her kitchen and basement. She sows seed quite successfully without a laboratory or a flow bench: her sterilant is household bleach.

I left Ottawa and set out for Guelph, seven hours southwest by train. I wasn't to know that my host there had more in mind for us than strolls in the woods. Once I had arrived it didn't take me long to realise that Alan Anderson was a man with a mission – to spend as much time as possible up to his waist in sphagnum bog. There is no getting away from the fact that, in North America, Orchids Grow in Bogs. Not all of them, but a fair proportion of the species you might think of as typical – **Calopogon pulchellus**, **Arethusa bulbosa** as well as many **Platanthera** species and **Pogonia ophioglossiodes**. To see a sphagnum bog covered in flowers of these plants must be quite a sight, but I was two months too early for this, having timed my visit to coincide with the flowering of the lady's slippers. Nonetheless, it was part of my practical aim to collect leaf samples of a number of these species, and so 'bog-trotting' was inevitable.

Not all our time in southern Ontario was spent in bogs, however. **Cypripedium candidum**, the white lady's slipper, is a species with very few stations left in Canada. It is thought that it was dependent on patterns of burning and renewal on old prairie which have long since been 'controlled' by the fire-conscious modern Canadians. The plant has retreated to tiny residual areas of prairie. One of them is on an island in the Detroit River, which it would be charitable to describe as God forsaken.

The plant itself is a pretty one, not the most spectacular of lady's slippers, but graceful and fine. One of the curious aspects of its conservation programme is the problem posed by its inclination to hybridize with local forms of small yellow lady's slipper (**Cypripedium parviflorum**), a species growing in the nearby woodland fringes. There were many obvious hybrids amongst the plants we saw, raising questions about what conservation status these should have and how much of a threat they posed to the continued existence of **Cypripedium candidum** as an independent entity.

Our last botanical expedition during my stay in Guelph was to the Bruce Peninsula, a finger of land which projects out into Lake Huron, and which is famous for its orchids. We were able

to collect samples from a number of the orchids on my list: **Coralorrhiza striata** growing in dense coniferous forest, **Spiranthes lucida**, found just above the line of the spring melt-water of the Sauble River and, best of all, **Platanthera orbiculata**, which has two basal leaves, silver green and large as dinner plates. This was my final day in Ontario and a most rewarding one. I was reluctant to leave, but at the same time looked forward to travelling west to my next stop, Edmonton.

My visit to Edmonton coincided with the Canadian Orchid Congress and I was able to attend their show and a number of lectures and seminars on terrestrial orchid conservation and propagation. At the end of the Congress meeting a visit had been arranged, for delegates with a particular interest in Canadian orchids, to an area of forest west of Edmonton. I was very pleased to be asked to join this party by Gordon Heaps, the Curator of the Mutart Conservatory, which has a large orchid collection.

My final destination was Vancouver. During my stay with Mary Miles in Lion Bay I was again lucky enough to be able to join a botanising visit organised by some local people, this time some of the staff at Van Deusen Botanic Garden, where Mary works as an artist. This visit to Botanie Valley, 3,000 feet up in the Cascade Mountains, was perhaps the most spectacular of my whole trip. It began when, on the road up to Botanie, we found a group of mountain lady's slipper, **Cypripedium montanum**, growing on the steep bank above the unmade road. This is a grand orchid: everything about it is on a large scale and, unusually for a **Cypripedium**, it carries many flowers on a single stem.

I had one last orchid mission to attempt: I had been told of a colony of **Listera cordata** on a trail near the Joffre Lakes, which was on our way home. I didn't expect to find such a tiny plant with no reference in such a vast area of forest, but it was a lovely walk, so we clambered out of the car and set off. I had the most ridiculous piece of luck and stumbled over the orchid, only an inch tall, on my way back down the trail: it was a nice way to finish off an enormously enjoyable trip.

(These notes have been extracted from the full report.)

## A STUDY VISIT TO MEXICO

By Gwenda Kitchener

Following a period of work in the Cacti and Succulent Section of the Tropical Nursery at R.B.G. Kew, I found that I had developed a great interest in these plants. When it came to deciding on a location to visit for the Kew Diploma scholarship, I approached Nigel Taylor (Curator of R.B.G. Kew) for suggestions. He suggested working with Cante, a Mexican conservation organisation which has a botanic garden in the town of San Miguel de Allende. I was invited to visit and carry out some project work there by Charles Glass (the Curator).

Cante is a non-profit making, independent Mexican organisation. Although not directly controlled by the government, it does have recognition from the government agency SEDISOL (the Secretariat for Social Development). Cante is involved in the conservation of the endangered plants of Mexico and has been awarded a generous and fairly comprehensive collecting permit. Cante always tries to involve the participation of local people in any action to be undertaken.

The main threat to the endangered plants of Mexico (in particular cacti) used to come from private and commercial collectors that used to decimate whole species populations. However, due to greater awareness of the need for conservation, the main threat now is due to habitat loss caused by the rapid development of man's activities. The work that Cante is carrying out is of particular importance as Mexico has a rapidly increasing population, rapid habitat destruction and has been designated an extinction hotspot. There are a high number of endangered species found only in Mexico. Agenda 21 of The Convention of Biological Diversity (agreed at the Rio Conference 1990) has emphasised the importance of non-government organisations as being integral parts of a national response to the rational utilisation of biological diversity.

San Miguel de Allende is a small city, located in the heart of the central high plain (Altiplano) in the state of Guanajuato. It is a beautiful colonial town in a beautiful setting and has become known for its large community of artists, who started coming to the town in the 1940's. The surrounding rural area nurtures a great diversity of plants and animals and is particularly rich in cacti and succulent flora.

For approximately half of my stay I worked in the nursery and conservatory at the botanic garden. Most of the work involved propagating plants in the collection and reorganising the collection. The Botanic Garden is very wild and beautiful. There is a large ravine running through the centre of it with a natural population of **Ferrocactus** growing up the cliff face. A large collection of golden barrel cactus (rescued from a dam development) is another impressive spectacle.

For the other half of my stay I was invited to join two field expeditions that Charles Glass was organising. The first was to the Sierra Madres mountain range and lasted for 10 days. We met up with another botanist, Alfred Lau, who was accompanied by a Philippino monk and 10 children from his missionary school. We travelled up through the mountains and stayed either with Mexican Indians, or camped on dried-up river beds. The area was extremely remote and quiet. We collected a new species of **Euphorbia**, which the Mexican boys said had hallucinogenic properties. We also collected **Tillandsias**, orchids and many species of cacti. Many of these plants are as yet undescribed and the whole region has not yet been fully botanically explored.

The second field trip was to the state of San Luis Potosí. We visited a site that Cante had bought in order to protect an extremely rare cactus there. We saw new and undescribed species of **Turbinocarpus** and **Mammillaria**, which was particularly exciting. Another high point was seeing a colony of star shaped **Asterophytum** growing on a rock face. This region was characterised by hillsides covered in **Bursera** scrub and giant **Setnocereus** cacti.

Cante is a very unusual organisation as it is a Mexican charity. The people who work there are extremely dedicated to plant conservation and, as a consequence, have a policy of employing and training young and enthusiastic Mexican boys in order to educate and instil an appreciation of their own flora. The visit proved to be a wonderful experience and it was a pleasure working with such knowledgeable, friendly and generous people.

## HORTICULTURAL STUDENT GOES IN SEARCH OF THERAPY AND BEAUTIFICATION

By Richard Ottaway

In late May 1995 I flew to the U.S.A. and spent four weeks visiting the Botanic Gardens of Denver, Chicago and Brooklyn (New York). I went to look at how those Gardens are using horticulture to improve the quality of life for people. That is, people visiting those Gardens, people living in urban environments in the vicinity and people who might be denied, but benefit from the opportunity to experience the pleasure of being near to and working with plants.

Part of this area is covered by the term 'Horticultural Therapy', which is when horticulture is used to help those with special needs. *Although I did look at this, I wanted to explore all areas where horticulture has a therapeutic nature.*

Denver Botanic Gardens, through the Morrison Centre, has an active Horticultural Therapy programme aimed at those with special needs, whilst its Demonstration Garden (the first of its kind in the U.S.) demonstrates practical adaptations for 'disadvantaged' gardeners. Its accompanying greenhouse is used for teaching horticultural skills both to encourage individual development, and also vocational training to help those with disability find work. Amongst the greenhouse staff one individual stands out – an insect-eating gecko named Art.

The Urban Horticulture Department at Chicago Botanic Garden runs a similar programme. Its Horticultural Therapists contract out throughout the city, which means that they visit the clients rather than the clients visiting them. As a result they visit hospitals, residences for seniors, and the developmentally disabled.

Its Green Chicago programme is committed to developing community gardens, working with and 'beautifying' neighbourhoods in the dangerously run-down South and West Sides, whilst G.R.O.W. (Gardening Resources On Wheels) provides further outreach into the city.

Back at the Garden busloads of kids from the heart of the city descend on the vegetable garden to grow things previously associated with the supermarket. Nextdoor in the Demonstration Garden volunteers, including some less able, help plant out the summer bedding.

The Botanic Garden of Brooklyn, New York, has, like Chicago, a commitment to support community gardens in its more deprived areas, whilst at the same time promoting environmental awareness through programmes such as its 'Urban Composting'. This is designed to alleviate New York's mounting waste problem and provide the sort of stuff the community gardens are crying out for. Brooklyn B.G. also has its Childrens' Garden and set, as it is, in the heart of a heavily urbanised area, it serves as a focal point for the community with hundreds of children getting their first chance to grow flowers and vegetables.

The trip also gave me the opportunity to see what other organisations are doing in these cities. These included Operation Greenthumb in the bleakest parts of Harlem; a roof-top garden for AIDS patients in Manhattan; a rehabilitation garden at the famous Rusk Institute, N.Y.; commercial herb growing by the developmentally disabled in the Colorado Mountains; and flower and vegetable growing in Canon City's Correctional Facility for Women.

As a result the trip was wonderfully exciting, stimulating and diverse. Three very different cities, three very different Botanic Gardens and many different approaches. But in each there was the same warm welcome and the same commitment to the idea of bringing plants and people together so that all, no matter who, could enjoy and benefit from that experience.

Thanks to everyone who made this trip possible.

### **'THE GREEN SCHOOL OF AUSTRALIA'**

#### **Report of a Travelscholarship to Eastern and Western Australia to study environmental education in action**

By Markus Radscheit

In October I returned from a study tour to Eastern and Western Australia. The tour aimed to observe environmental education in Botanical and Zoological Gardens. I also had the opportunity to study the vegetation in the Kwongan, North of Perth and to participate on the '4th International Botanic Garden Conservation Congress'. A total of 12 institutions was visited and many lasting friendships were established during the six week journey.

The tour started at Sydney, the capital of New South Wales. At the Royal Botanic Garden I was able to spend a day with the education team. One of the most fascinating educational programmes is the 'R.B.G.-Goes West Project'. This outreach programme is unique and backed by an extremely motivated and encouraged team of teachers and horticulturists of the garden. New South Wales is a vast State, with large remote areas. Many children from these remote areas of the State very rarely have the chance to travel to the capital. However, if they were doing so, only a minority would visit the Botanic Garden. Staff of the Education Department realised that bringing these children to the Botanic Garden is not possible because of the distances involved. So, why not bring the garden to the children?

The education team had to overcome the problem of distance and twice a year organises an educational expedition to the remote schools of the State. These outreach tours usually last for two weeks and four teachers travel a total distance of some 3,000 miles in order to teach at four to five schools. Plant material is taken from the Botanic Garden at Sydney and used to offer an insight into the fascinating world of plants.

Following the week busily spent at the Zoo and Botanic Garden of Sydney, I travelled on to Canberra, the capital of Australia. The National Botanic Garden was established in the 1950's and houses exclusively native plants from all climatic zones of the continent.

Education Officer, Julie Foster, presented her work in the 'Centre for Horticultural Therapy'. This newly established building is situated in the heart of the wonderfully created botanical collection. The centre aims to use horticulture as a medium to stimulate the senses of the handicapped and elderly people. There are raised beds, wheelchair accessible greenhouses and the tools are especially designed for those with handicaps. The centre is regularly visited by many elderly people from local nursing homes. A day's work in the garden of the C.H.T. is to brighten up the monotony of the nursing home.

After a couple of days I moved on to the Royal Botanic Garden at Melbourne, where Rod Dunstan and his family generously took me as their guest for a week. Rod is solely in charge of the school education work in the garden and runs horticultural sessions for school classes. During the time at Melbourne I could help him with visiting school groups and preparation of education projects. Rod includes practical horticulture in his day classes, so some school kids find themselves suddenly planting trees or pricking out seedlings. Not all become gardeners in their future career, but practical horticultural skills are part of Australia's national curriculum.

One of the days at Melbourne was spent at the Zoological Garden. The zoo has one of the largest education departments of its kind and arranges classes for around 75,000 school children every year. In addition, the teachers produce study material for 35,000 self-guided tours. These numbers imply that the zoo-school is an extremely busy department. I am, therefore, most grateful that some teachers took the time to explain their work and allowed me to attend their classes.

The Zoological Garden is known worldwide for its highly advanced and stimulating enclosures. The zoo tries to present animals as if they were in their natural environment. Plants are therefore an important part of the design in and around the enclosures. There are no metal bars, but plenty of 'green' that gives the visitor (and the animal) the impression of being somewhere in the jungle, when observing Gorillas playing in the trees.

I used the last day at Melbourne to travel out to the giant *Eucalyptus regnas* forests. It was an unforgettable experience standing at the bottom of some of the tallest trees (140m!!) on earth.

Following a night of travel to Adelaide, I visited Steve Meredith at the Royal Botanic Garden. Together with a primary school class, Steve took me on a 'bush tucker walk' through the garden. During this tour Steve demonstrated how the aborigines use native plants for food, shelter, clothing and 'glue'! For several years it has been compulsory to teach aboriginal sciences in Australian schools. This is part of Australia's policy to improve integration of the native Australians into society.

The Bicentennial Conservatory at Adelaide is very remarkable. This egg-shaped structure is apparently the largest and most expensive display glasshouse in the southern hemisphere. The house was opened in 1988 when the Australians celebrated the 200th anniversary of Captain Arthur Phillip's landing at Sydney.

From Adelaide I took an internal flight to Perth in Western Australia, where final preparations were taking place for the '4th International Botanic Garden Conservation Congress'. Prior to the conference I joined up with 50 other delegates, amongst whom there were some Kewites, to participate on the Northern Flower Tour.

The four days tour took us to the area north of Perth, where the Kongwan is dominant. Kongwan is found throughout much of the southwest of Western Australia and is regarded as one of the most species-rich habitats in the world.

Our 'expedition' was headed by Kingsley Dixon and Bob Dixon of the King's Park and took us through heathland and woodland communities with more than 1,000 species in flower! Prior to the tour there was a lot of rain (probably arranged by the Congress Committee) and therefore the spring flower display was most fascinating: carpets of golden *Waitzia* and pink *Helipterum* species were scattered to the horizon. The majestic smokebush, *Conospermum triplinervum*, covered vast areas in white and the first *Banksia prionotes* started to come into flower.

Every one of the delegates was most impressed by this natural spring flower festival. However, after returning to Perth, the pleasure of studying flowers was over and the hard work at the Congress began. The meeting took place in the Hyatt Congress Centre and was attended by around 350 delegates from 42 countries. The Congress title was 'Reaching out into the 21st Century' and therefore subjects like education, conservation, fund-raising and visitor services were intensively discussed in lectures, workshops and training sessions.

The end of the conference meant the end of my study tour and I had to return to London. During my tour I collected very many suggestions and ideas that are now in the process of being implemented at Kew and elsewhere.

I wish to express my greatest appreciation to the Kew Guild, who generously sponsored parts of this unforgettable expedition to the 'Green School of Australia'.

### EXPEDITION BLUE POPPY

By Harvey Stephens

In July and August of last year, the author participated on a six week trip to Nepal visiting The Royal Botanic Garden Godavari, Nepal's only botanic garden. The principal reason for going to Nepal was to join an expedition to the Arun and Barun Valleys in the eastern region of the country. Our intentions were primarily to study the rich flora and develop an understanding of the many ecosystems that exist in the high Himalayas. A further goal which we achieved to some extent, was that of finding and studying habitats and forms of the genus **Meconopsis**, mainly in the Barun Valley. During the course of the trip we discovered the species **M. horridula**, **M. paniculata**, **M. grandis** and **M. nepaulensis**, collecting useful data and seed for the national **Meconopsis** collection in Scotland. The following paragraphs are a short extract from the author's main report.

After a short period and only a little rise in altitude we were once again above the tree line, passing through **Salix** scrub along a path that crossed the valley floor from side to side. **Meconopsis grandis** became extremely plentiful, though not a flower in sight. **Primula** and **Ligularia** occurred in small pockets. It was most encouraging to see a mammal, a marmot I believe, moving rapidly between the rocks. The **Salix** scrub eventually merged with the dwarf **Juniperus wallichiana**, which grew between the boulders and tightly grazed turf.

Jark Kharka consisted of 3/4 stone shacks nestled between the surrounding boulders. The afternoon was spent exploring a nearby hillside and clambering between the scree, searching for **Meconopsis**. The only thing of real interest was **Parnassia rubicola**, distinguished by its solitary white flower and single leaf clasping the stem with several basal leaves. After another relatively fruitless forage we descended back to camp.

The mist once again descended, creating a rather peaceful, calm ambience. After walking over an area which had suffered a small landslide, we dropped back below the tree line into an **Abies** forest. The weathered appearance of several trees an indicator of the harsh conditions.

That night we camped in a small clearing in the forest sheltered from these elements. Our tranquility was disturbed only by the continuous pounding of water on stone in the river below. Morning started with a further scramble down a narrow ravine overhung by **Rhododendrons**, **Sorbus**, pines and countless other species. Many rocks were covered with green algae, which made them extremely dangerous at times. It was fortunate that there had been no rain the previous day, otherwise the path could have been a cascading stream. Below, brief glimpses of the white water rapids could be seen as we started the long haul up the Barun Valley. The sound of boulders rumbling along the river bed was quite eerie.

The path soon came to an abrupt end. We stood at the edge of the forest, the remains of a landslide stretching ahead of us, into the far distance. With no other choice we started to hop from boulder to boulder, following each other like a camel train. I was firmly concentrating on placing my feet on safe boulders at this point, rather than on the sparse vegetation.

These few paragraphs briefly give a flavour of my experiences in the Himalayas. Without the financial help of the Guild and a number of other trusts, I would not have had this opportunity to learn so much in such a short time. I must again thank the Guild for their support.

### **KEW GUILD FUNDING FOR THE ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY CERTIFICATE IN ARBORICULTURE**

By Jay Venn

Longer ago than I care to think (1986, in fact) I studied for and passed examinations for the theory part of the R.F.S. Certificate in Arboriculture. Quite a lot of people do this. The other requirement to gain the full certificate is to take eight practical tests, some of which are compulsory and some of which can be chosen by the candidate, from the N.P.T.C.'s standard tests for arboriculture/forestry craft certificates. This is the more difficult part of the exam, not only because the tests are thorough and some of them physically hard work, but because they need quite large amounts of physical resources to do them. For example, one of the compulsory tests – Chainsaw Operations – requires one to fell a number of trees of differing sizes to demonstrate competence with chainsaw use. There are two compulsory climbing tests, one to thin the crown of a tree with a bowsaw and one to use a chainsaw in the tree to dismantle it (fell in stages).

I was fortunate to have worked previously for the National Trust, who had allowed me to use trees in their woodlands for the felling and climbing tests and, as a certificated instructor myself, I was granted exemption from the Chainsaw Operations test. I had also taken a test unit in Machinery Operations so, when I came to Kew, I had four tests left to complete, two compulsory ones – one in planting hardy stock, and the second F.E.P.A. spray tests – and two optional ones, Winch Operations and Specialist Pruning.

When I came to Kew as a member of Diploma Course 30, I was able to take formal training for the F.E.P.A. Pesticide Application Tests and I applied to the Guild for funding to take these tests and to pay for the other outstanding modules. This came to £165, which the Guild awarded to me. Actually it came to more than that, because the F.E.P.A. tests had gone up in price, but it enabled me to go ahead and book the tests.

I took the Planting, Specialist Pruning and Winch Operations Tests in May 1995, all on one day and I am grateful to Roger Howard, Supervisor of the Tree Unit, for allowing me to use the Unit's winches for one test and to Martin Staniforth, Supervisor of the Temperate Nursery, for providing me with bunches of whip trees to plant out in a simulation of forestry planting, and spare nursery stock of different sizes to move, plant and stake as required in the test. The specialist pruning test was mostly done as a simulation, as it was an inappropriate time of year for most formative pruning. I passed all three tests after an exhausting morning dashing about.

I took the F.E.P.A. Pesticide Application tests – the core module Unit 1 and Unit 6a, Use of Knapsack Sprayers – at Capel Manor Environmental Centre, in August 1995 and was happy to pass both of these units too.

This means that I have now completed all the practical tests required and I can add the letters 'R.F.S. Cert.Arb.' after my name and join the small, select band of people who have persevered through all the difficulties of organisation and expense to achieve this very worthwhile qualification. I am most grateful to the Kew Guild for the financial help they gave me to help make this possible.

### **A CENTURY OF KEW PLANTSMEN**

Edited by Ray Desmond and Nigel Hepper, this excellent book was published in our Centenary year. Copies are still available at the special price to Guild members of £12 (r.r.p. £15), on application to Guild Treasurer, Rebecca Bower, c/o R.B.G. Kew. All you ever wanted to know about the Kew Guild.

## SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE KEW DIPLOMA PRIZE DAY 1995 SPEECH

By Ian Leese, Principal, School of Horticulture

Madam Deputy Mayor, Sir Roy, Chairman, Director, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, may I add my own welcome to you all today and use this opportunity to review some of the many successes associated with the School of Horticulture which have occurred during the past year.

The career paths of Kew Diploma graduates are varied. In the area of academic achievement, for example, last year's top graduate, Annabel Chantler, won the Aberconway Medal and £1,000 travel bursary from the Institute of Horticulture for her Kew Diploma management thesis. In addition, she was awarded the Martin McLaren Horticultural Scholarship/Garden Club of America Interchange Fellowship to attend the first year of a Master's programme at an American university.

Ruth Davis, another graduate from 1994, has been accepted onto the Master of Science in Plant and Fungal Taxonomy course at Reading University, starting in October.

Sally Kelly, who graduated in 1992, has been awarded a Master of Science in Environmental Resource Management from University College, Dublin.

Quite a few Kew Diploma graduates pursue careers in botanic gardens. Two Assistant Curator posts at Kew have been gained recently by Jenny Evans and Tony Kirkham who have both worked here for a number of years. Louise Bustard, from 1984, has been appointed Assistant Curator, Information and Customer Services, at Glasgow Botanic Gardens.

Overseas, Sunia Teo is now Nature Conservation Officer for the National Parks Board, Singapore Botanic Gardens. Amanda Lind has been recruited as Nursery Manager of Jerusalem Botanical Garden. Lorraine Perrins, from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, has been seconded on a one-year project to protect the genetic diversity of medicinal plants in a National Park near Hanoi, North Vietnam.

At Kew, Chris Kidd in the Tropical Section, has beaten all previous records in cultivating the largest-ever leaf of the giant waterlily, **Victoria amazonica**. Whether this has been due to a mystery fertiliser ingredient, or the high light levels during the summer, we shall never know!

A number of Kew Diploma graduates go on to specialise in landscape design. Brita von Schoenaich, now one of our landscape design tutors, gave a paper at the Institute of Horticulture's Spring Conference 'Plants for Landscape Sites'. Peter Thurman, external examiner for arboriculture, won a competition to design an English style garden in a public park in Japan. Rupert Golby won a gold medal at this year's Chelsea Show with his garden design constructed for 'Country Living' magazine.

Communication skills play an important part of the Kew Diploma course and, for some, particularly so beyond it. Michael Looker has been commissioned by Oxford University Press as joint-editor for a forthcoming title, 'The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens', due for publication in 1998. Geoff Stebbings, former Technical Editor of 'Practical Gardening' magazine, won the title of 'Garden Writer of the Year for Committed Gardeners'. He is now Features Editor of 'The Garden', the journal of the Royal Horticultural Society.

The field of commerce provides career opportunities for Kew graduates. This year, for example, Neil Huck became Sales Manager of Worth Trees in Spalding, Lincolnshire. Alternatively, amenity horticulture is another direction. Mark Lamey has been promoted to the post of Gardens and Arboretum Manager at Barnsley Park, near Cirencester, after a two-year research assistant position there.

The career interests of current students reflect a similar range of activities. Academic successes have been achieved by final year students Darrin Duling and Carl Nelson who have obtained places for Higher Degrees at Reading and Greenwich Universities, respectively.

Another third year, Colin Parbery, has won funding from the Martin McLaren Horticultural Scholarship for a study programme at Fairchild Botanical Garden, Florida. Second year student, Markus Radsch, was awarded the James Bruce Prize by the Institute of Horticulture for being the top candidate in the Stage I practical examination of the Master of Horticulture (Royal Horticultural Society) qualification.

Botanic gardens attract much attention from all three years. Sixth-form entrants Stefan Czeladzinski and Stewart Lester spent their year's practical experience away from Kew at botanic gardens in France and the U.S.A. respectively. Several second years have used their Kew travel scholarships, supplemented by funding from The Merlin Trust, the Royal Horticultural Society, the Studley College Trust and the Kew Guild, to visit overseas botanic gardens. Third years went on a study tour to Portugal to see botanic gardens, national parks and gardens, and several are now applying for posts at Kew and overseas botanic gardens.

Two third years are pursuing landscape careers. Richard Smedley has a place on the Architectural Association's two-year Postgraduate Diploma in the Conservation of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens. Guillaume Baltz has private work both in the United Kingdom and Spain.

On the amenity side, first year students planted out the garden of the nearby former home of Sir Joseph Banks, Kew's unofficial director in the reign of George III, and final year student, John Borrill, has already secured a position on a private estate in Henley.

Apart from the Kew Diploma course the School of Horticulture also co-ordinates a three-month internship programme of practical work experience in the gardens. This year we have had 25 students from 14 countries covering all five continents.

Another course offered by the School is the two-month International Diploma in Botanic Garden Management, run in association with Botanic Gardens Conservation International. This has continued to be a very successful professional training programme for middle and senior managers of overseas botanic gardens. This year, the participants came from Barbados, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Sardinia, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the U.S.A. All were successful in obtaining their diplomas on completion of the course last Friday.

Particularly pleasing this year was the increase in the number of sponsoring agencies to enable participants to attend. Apart from The British Council, funding was also obtained from The Lennox-Boyd Memorial Trust, The Peter Moores Foundation, The Commonwealth Secretariat and The International Dendrology Society.

A final, but also very important, aspect of the work of the School of Horticulture is its role in the training of staff in the Living Collections Department. During the past year we have seen an advance in the number of staff attending modules of the Kew Diploma course. Also, I shall announce later some new travel scholarships available to the Department.

So far, I have talked about the present, but today we also look to the future. For the School of Horticulture this will include completing the changes in the Kew Diploma course that were successfully begun with Course 32. The securing of £117,000 Darwin Initiative funding from the Department of the Environment means the planning and executing of a new course for overseas botanic garden technicians in the propagation and maintenance of rare and endangered species. For those of Course 30 who graduate today, it is the start of your various careers. You have the role-models of those such as I have described earlier for you to emulate and you are, I believe, well equipped with the knowledge and inspiration given to you by all who contribute to the Kew Diploma course.

I hope that you have enjoyed your time here. Thank you for the contributions you have already made to the work of Kew. I wish you well in your chosen fields where you will take with you the mission of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Please keep in touch through the Kew Guild, and let us know the many successes I am sure you will achieve.

## PRESENTATION OF KEW DIPLOMAS AND PRIZES 1995 (Course 30)

We begin with the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes to our third year students. Thanks must go to all sponsors of our prizes, many of whom are in the audience today. I would also thank all those who contribute to the Kew Diploma from lecturers, gardens staff and the School of Horticulture team for helping each student reach such high standards in their work.

### CHRISTOPHER BAILEY

*The Kew Diploma.*

*The Proudlock Prize* donated by the Kew Guild, an association of past and present Kew staff and students, to the runner-up in the Herbarium Weed Collection project.

*The Prize for the best vegetable plot* given by the Kew Guild to the student obtaining the highest marks in this practical first year project.

*The George Brown Prize* donated by the Kew Guild in memory of a former Assistant Curator to the runner-up in the Kew Mutual Improvement Society's student lecture competition.

### GUILLAUME BALTZ

Deferred results for the *Kew Diploma* pending re-submission of a project.

*The Landsman's Bookshop Prize* awarded for the best third year Landscape Design project.

*Life Membership of the Students' Union* for services rendered during the course.

### WOLFGANG BOPP

*The Kew Diploma.*

*The G. C. Johnson Memorial Prize* administered by the Bentham-Moxon Trustees on behalf of the magazine 'The Grower', in memory of an ex-Kewite. The prize is for the best overall performance on the Kew Diploma course.

*The British Friends of Jerusalem Botanical Garden Scholarship* for a six-week placement in the gardens made earlier this year.

*The Matilda Smith Memorial Prize* donated by the Kew Guild in memory of a botanical artist at Kew, and given to the best practical student. This year it is a joint award.

*The Metcalfe Cup* donated by the late Dr. Metcalfe, a former Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory, to the student attaining the highest second year examination marks.

*The Kew Guild Individual Study Prize* given to the student with the second highest mark for their management thesis.

*The C. P. Raffill Prize* given by the Kew Guild to the winner of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society student lecture competition. This year it has been awarded amongst three people.

*The Lecturers' Prize* donated by Drs. Nicholas Hind and Phillip Cribb of the Herbarium to the student attaining the highest mark for their Systematic Botany project.

*The Plant Identification Tests Prize* given by the Students' Union to the person with the highest marks overall in these tests.

### JOHN BORRILL

*The Kew Diploma.*

### JANET BURNELL

Janet Burnell is unable to be with us today because she is part of an official Kew expedition to Pakistan. Apart from the *Kew Diploma* she has also obtained:

*The Kingdon-Ward Prize* given by Mrs. Winifred Kingdon-Ward in memory of her brother, Frank, a noted plant collector, to the student attaining the highest mark in their management thesis.

*The Dummer Memorial Prize* awarded by the Kew Guild for the best Herbarium Weed Collection project.

These plant pressing skills will be invaluable on the trip to Pakistan, together with Janet's knowledge of the area through previous visits.

#### DARRIN DULING

*The Kew Diploma.*

*The Matilda Smith Memorial Prize* as a joint award for the best practical student.

*The C. P. Raffill Prize* given by the Kew Guild to the joint winner of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society's student lecture competition.

#### LANCE INGRAM

*The Kew Diploma.*

#### SUZANNE MICHAL

Deferred results for *The Kew Diploma* pending project re-submission.

*The Ernest Thornton-Smith Travelling Scholarship* which is the major final year travel award, presented by the Ernest Thornton-Smith Young People's Trust to allow a Kew Diploma graduate to travel overseas, in this case for a year's placement at The Katherine Dunham Botanical Garden in Haiti.

#### BENEDICT MURRELL

*The Kew Diploma.*

*The Sir Joseph Hooker Prize* presented by the Director in memory of his famous predecessor to the student who has done most for the Kew Mutual Improvement Society, in this case as Chairman for the past year. The prize is augmented by a cup presented by Mrs. Hazel Hyde who retired as Administrative Officer of the School of Horticulture in 1993.

#### CARL NELSON

Carl Nelson has been off sick for several weeks and is unable to be with us today. He has deferred results for *The Kew Diploma* pending project re-submissions.

He receives *Life Membership of the Students' Union* for services rendered during the past year as President.

#### COLIN PARBERY

*The Kew Diploma.*

*The C. P. Raffill Prize* as joint winner of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society's student lecture competition.

#### RICHARD SMEDLEY

*The Kew Diploma.*

#### JAY VENN

*The Donald Dring Memorial Prize* presented by the Bentham-Moxon Trustees in memory of a former mycologist of the Jodrell Laboratory to the student attaining the highest marks in the Crop Protection project.

*The Tony Kirkham Arboricultural Prize* donated by Matthew Vincent, a Kew Diploma graduate with a plant business called "The Kew Gardener" situated near Kew Gardens station. The prize is named after the principal lecturer of the arboriculture course.



Kew Diploma and prize winners after receiving their awards. Seated on the front row are (from left to right), Anna Bayley, Ian Leese, Principal, the Deputy Mayor, Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, Director, Sir Roy Strong, Guest of Honour, Mr. Robin Herbert, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Lady Lennox-Boyd, Trustee, Professor Charles Stirton, Director of Science and Horticulture and Christopher Clennett (kneeling).

*The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens Prize* awarded by the local club to the person who has done the best work towards charity, in this case singing for charity, in particular for the Harlington Hospice Association.

*Life Membership of the Students' Union* for services rendered during the course.

That concludes the presentation to third year students. A further award, *The Kew Diploma Postgraduate Fellowship*, is available to them, but this year has been jointly presented to a member of staff and a Kew Diploma graduate from 1994.

#### CHRISTOPHER CLENNETT

Christopher Clennett is a member of staff at Kew's satellite garden, Wakehurst Place.

*The Kew Diploma Postgraduate Fellowship*. The first award is made for funding a two-year part-time Master of Science in Plant and Fungal Taxonomy course at Reading University.

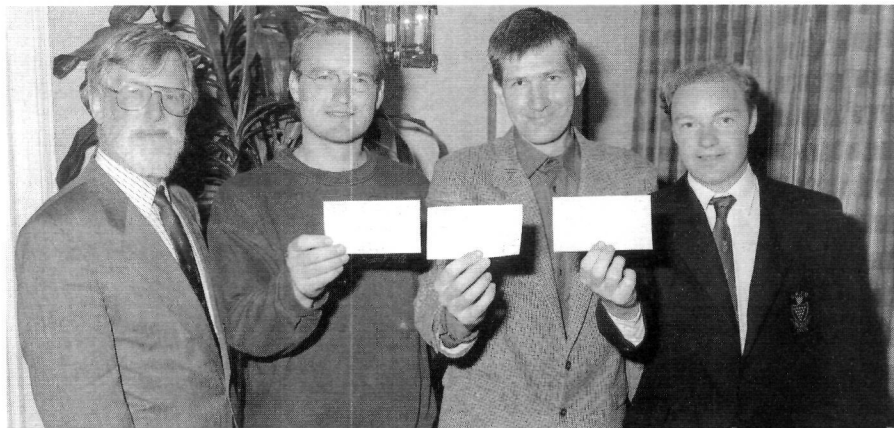
#### SHELAGH KELL

The second *Kew Diploma Postgraduate Fellowship* is for the funding of the one-year Master of Science in the Conservation Utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources at Birmingham University, followed by a year's paid appointment at Kew. Shelagh Kell, the Kew Diploma graduate recipient of the award, is unfortunately unable to be with us today.

We turn now to second year students who have been awarded travel scholarships. We begin with:

#### DARREN WEBSTER

*The Stanley Smith Travel Fund Scholarships* administered by the Bentham-Moxon Trust. The first Scholarship will be used to fund a trip to the Drakensberg Mountains in Lesotho to study the alpine flora of this region, along with colleagues from R.B.G. Edinburgh.



The Director, Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, is photographed with Bentham-Moxon Trust Travel Scholarship winners (from left to right) Markus Radscheit, Darren Webster and Harvey Stephens, all from Course 31.

#### HARVEY STEPHENS

The second *Stanley Smith Travel Fund Scholarship* has been used to join a botanical expedition in Nepal to study **Meconopsis** in the wild. In addition, the *Kew Mutual Improvement Society's Prize* has been awarded for taking the most active part in running that Society as Secretary over the past year.

#### MARKUS RADSCHEIT

The *Henry Idris Matthews Award* is also given by the Bentham-Moxon Trust. This year's winner, Markus Radscheit, is currently on a study tour of education departments of Australian Zoological and Botanical Gardens which will include attending the 4th International Botanic Gardens Conservation Congress in Perth later this month.

#### SARAH HIGGENS

The *Hozelock Prize* is donated by the manufacturers of garden irrigation equipment. The award will be used to join a botanical expedition to Spain to study **Cistus** species growing in the wild.

#### ANNA BAYLEY

The *David Dalziel Travel Scholarships* are given by Mr. Dalziel who lives in Florida.

Earlier this year Anna went on a study tour of public display gardens, botanic gardens and arboreta in the Pacific North West Coast of North America.

#### GWENDA KITCHENER

Gwenda made a visit to Mexico to study endemic cacti and succulents working with Cante, a conservation organisation.

#### RICHARD OTTAWAY

Richard made a study of the use of horticulture as a therapeutic medium at the botanic gardens of Brooklyn, Denver, Chicago and New York.

#### JOE ROWNTREE

Joe will make a trip to southern-Chile to study **Araucaria** populations in a National Park under the auspices of the Chilean Forest Service.



Second year Kew Diploma student, Sarah Higgins (centre), received the 1995 Hozelock Prize from the Company's Technical Director, Peter Fewell (left). Looking on (right) is Ian Leese, Principal of the School of Horticulture.  
(Photograph courtesy of Hozelock)

#### EDINA GALLICK

Due to the generosity of one of our lecturers, Mr. Tom Reynolds of the Jodrell Laboratory, the achievement of a first-year student is recognised today. This year's winner of *The Tom Reynolds Prize for Plant Biochemistry and Physiology* is Edina Gallick, who obtained the highest marks in the subject in the first year examinations.

#### NIGEL ROTHWELL

Gardens staff have opportunities to compete for awards alongside Kew Diploma students. Several staff attend the weekly lectures of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society and some actively participate in the proceedings. *The Professor Keith Jones Cup*, given by a former Keeper of Jodrell Laboratory, is presented to the person who has given the most 'items of interest' short talks to the Society. This year's winner, Nigel, is from the Tropical Section of the Gardens.

#### DAVID COOKE

For the first time this year we have been able to make the *John Scott-Marshall Travel Scholarships* available from a bequest of Mr. Scott-Marshall who was a former editor of 'Gardeners' Chronicle'. Mr. John Hope, the Executor of the Estate, is with us today. The awards have allowed four study tours to be made. The first, to visit Canada and the United States, to investigate the cultivation of tropical waterlilies and plant display associations has been made to David Cooke, the person who looks after Kew's Palm House and Water Lily House.

#### FELICITY FROST

The second *John Scott-Marshall Travel Scholarship* went to Arboretum staff member, Felicity, who made visits to various sites in the United Kingdom to study their woodland management regimes and compare those in relation to our own conservation area at Kew, the Queens Cottage grounds.

## DAVID JONES

The third *John Scott-Marshall Travel Scholarship* went to Wakehurst staff member David Jones. A trip to Western Szechuan to study plant habitats and associations in relation to the phytogeographic plantings of Chinese plants at Kew's satellite garden, Wakehurst Place, will be made soon.

## RICHARD WILFORD

The fourth and final Scholarship went to Alpine staff member Richard Wilford for a visit to Turkey to advise the Turkish Society for the Protection of Nature on bulb cultivation methods and to conduct fieldwork with them.

That ends the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes. I now hand over to the Director who will read the citation for the award of the Kew Medal.

## THE KEW MEDAL AWARD 1995



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 (built 1844-48) 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.



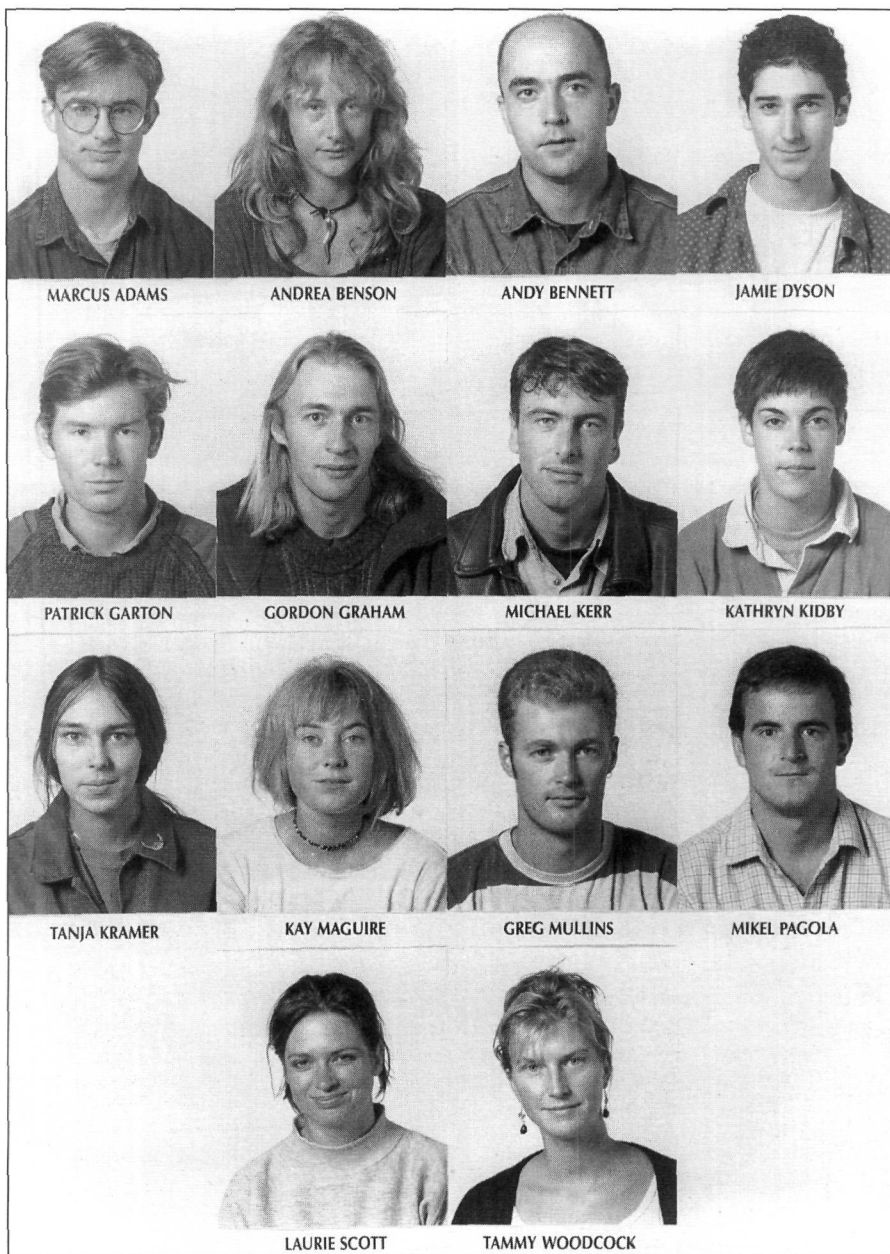
Sir Roy Strong (right) presents Fred Warrington with the Kew Medal.

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.

## FRED WARRINGTON

Fred Warrington is one of Kew's longest serving contractors. He is always cheerful and eager to help with any task he is asked to do and is well known throughout the Gardens; indeed, he has become an institution.

He has provided Kew with sterling service over many years and indeed continues to do so even though he is officially retired. By producing high class work that is always done with good grace he has added to the quality of our organisation in a way that has benefited us all.



Kew Diploma students of Course 33.



Participants on the two 1995 International Diploma Courses of Botanic Garden Management and Conservation Techniques pictured with the Director, Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, and course administrators (from left to right): Ian Leese, Mike Maunder, Sarah Oldridge and Dr. Colin Clubbe. The group represented institutions from Barbados, Germany, India, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Scotland, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the U.S.A.



Course 33 students at the end of their traditional initiation, the Clog and Apron Race. 1995 competitors raced in pairs with one being pushed in a wheelbarrow. The winning pair (pictured right with the cup) were Patrick Garton from Madeira and Mikel Pagola from Spain (holding the wheelbarrow).



*Pictured left: Course 33 Kew Diploma students pictured with Nigel Taylor, Curator (third from left), and Ian Leese, Principal, School of Horticulture (sixth from left, standing), during their team-building weekend in Northumbria in September 1995.*

## THE KEW STUDENTS' UNION ANNUAL REPORT 1995

By Darren Webster, President 1995-96

The present committee is as follows:

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Sports/Social  
Fund Raiser

Darren Webster  
Mark Paterson  
Markus Radscheit  
'Neeth Abeygunawardana  
Harvey Stephens

The gradual process of restructuring the academic component of the Kew Diploma Course is well under way, with Course 32 now benefiting from the new system. Among other things these changes will allow for a greater degree of specialisation in their final year prior to graduation.

The Union continues to actively pursue links with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, now that Edinburgh has once again reinstated a student programme. It is hoped that an exchange programme can be brought back on line in the near future.

On the social side, the annual inauguration of the incoming first year students was highlighted not only by a highly successful cheese and wine party organised by the Kew Mutual Improvement Society, but also with the Clog and Apron Race, which this year became a wheelbarrow race.

This year's Christmas party was again held in the School of Horticulture and was a great success with a turnout larger than ever. Again in conjunction with the Kew Mutual Improvement Society, the evening ran smoothly and, for the first year ever, a small profit was made.

## STUDENTS' UNION SPORTS AND SOCIAL REPORT 1995

By U. Abeygunawardana, Sports and Social Secretary

The year 1995 has passed by quickly adding many activities to the sports and social calendar.

The events started in the spring with the magnificent victory from the Kew football team, who visited R.B.G. Edinburgh and claimed a massive victory of 6-1. The considerable interest from both staff members and students led to continuous practice, resulting in a very strong team this year.

Victories did not stop with the defeat of Edinburgh and a few weeks later another performance from our "Footy Boys" led Kew to claim their second successive championship by beating Wakehurst 6-2.

A six-a-side team from Kew were entered in the M.A.F.F. sports day and showed some early success. Unfortunately some better performances from other teams closed our door to the victory.

David Barnes (Staff) brought Kew another victory at the M.A.F.F. Sports Day, when he won the annual Bowls Competition for the fourth year in succession.

The cricket team had very good participation from both the staff and students from all departments and this made difficulties for team managers (who ever they are) to pick the best eleven.

What better way to start the cricket season than the revival of an old tradition. The first game got under way as R.B.G. Kew met R.B.G. Edinburgh on Kew Green, the first such match since 1929.

The two innings (20 overs each) international match started with a large crowd looking on. Kew lost the toss and were put in to bat and ended their innings with a massive 94 runs for 7 wickets with help from fine Captain's innings of 29 not out from Madill, 23 from Hull and 13 from Barnes (D.M.). Aggressive bowling from Kew kept Edinburgh's run rate down to a score of 92 for 5 giving Kew a thin lead of only 2 runs.

Kew's second innings started badly when the first wicket fell for only 3 runs. Beaven and Abeygunawardana struggled to keep-up Kew's spirits, scoring 27 runs in a valuable partnership. But with the disruption of this partnership the Kew middle order collapsed, losing 3 more wickets for no runs. Kew finished their innings with an overall lead of 69 to defend. The strong determination of the Kew bowlers, plus some excellent fielding, kept the run rate down. But after a strong battle, Edinburgh claimed the victory with 2.2 overs left. Not only did we lose the game but also one player for the rest of the season, as Charles Stirton was injured during the match. Edinburgh invited us to a return match and we look forward to beating them on their ground next year.

This was a busy season for the Kew Cricket Team with many fixtures on their calendar and the next game was against Wakehurst place at their own ground. Unfortunately, after a close fight Kew lost the battle again, by giving Wakehurst a two wickets victory. Scoreboard – Kew 107 for 6 in 20 overs, Wakehurst 108 for 4 in 18 overs.

A new fixture got underway with our own battle, the young Kew versus the Olds. After a great match the Kew under 30 side won the game. Scoreboard – Under 30 were 135 for 9 in 30 overs, the Veterans were 108 for 9.

The last game of the season was the traditional L.C.D. versus 'The Rest', which was surely the match of the year. The L.C.D. team, captained by Phil 'The Cactus' Griffiths, went in to bat first. The early batsmen did their job well (as the might of Kew's finest L.C.D. always does) and reached a massive 131 for 4 at the end of their 25 overs. A magnificent 26 runs from David Hardman and 23 runs from Dave Barnes (student) helped L.C.D. to this superb position.

'The Rest' team, captained by Simon Owens and with their Sri Lankan and West Indian imported players, were forced to accept this massive challenge. The L.C.D. bowlers did well but they were not at their full form. 'The Rest' team won the game by reaching 132 for 7 wickets with just one over left. Both the teams and the crowd enjoyed the battle and the man of the match prize went to Palitha (the Sri Lankan import) who scored 85 not out.

An invitation from Simon Owens for both teams to come to his house for a cup of tea when we play next year was the last page of the cricket diary.

As a cricket team organiser, I would like to thank both John Lavin and Professor Charles Stirton for their support of the cricket team. This enabled us to buy £573 of new equipment which was desperately needed. With further contributions from the team, in future we hope to purchase needed equipment.

The team is looking forward to more fixtures next year and hopes to win them as equipment cannot be blamed anymore.

September saw 14 new students start on the Diploma Course. This is the time to continue one of Kew's most popular traditional events, the Clog and Apron Race. Although the weather was not at its best, the new students looked forward to the evening and a large crowd gathered

around the finishing line on the Broad Walk. The students turned the race into a wheelbarrow race and first home were Mikel Pagola, pushing Patrick Garton, while Greg Mullins helped Kathryn Kidby to be first lady home. The cup and awards were presented by Nigel Taylor.

As the autumn arrived it was time to hold the traditional Round the Gardens Race. The event was a success and attracted an enthusiastic entry of staff and students. Nigel Rothwell (as usual) completed the 2.7 miles track in 14 minutes and 51 seconds, leaving Steve Davis in second place. Kathleen King was the fastest lady home. The awards were presented by Jenny Evans, the new Assistant Curator of the Tropical Section.

One more event had to be completed before the year end. The annual Darts Competition was held in early October and attracted many competitors. After a long night of fighting, the competition was won by Chris Kidd.

As the new year has just arrived, I would very much like to continue those traditional events and to add new fixtures to football and cricket. Some new events, such as separate Round the Gardens Race for the ladies are planned. It is also hoped that it will be possible to organise other events to include a wider range of garden staff. Any ideas or suggestions would be gratefully received.

Finally may I use this opportunity to thank all those who have helped and supported the various events throughout the year and I hope that the next year will see Kew's sporting activities reach new heights.

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS' AGO

Prepared by Graham Burgess

The 1895 *Journal* ran to 57 pages, starting with a portrait of Sir William Jackson Hooker. The accompanying article described his career which was instrumental in forming the basis of what we all know as The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

The Kew Guild Committee submitted their Second Annual Report. The Balance Sheet showed a turnover of £43.2s.9d.

One million, three hundred and seventy seven thousand five hundred and eighty eight people visited the garden (1,377,588). The 10 year average was 1,416,887.

The first of a series of Hand Lists of the Living Collections was issued (**Polypetalae**) also a list of all the Ferns cultivated at Kew.

The heating in the Palm House was improved, giving a total of five miles of hot water pipes there.

A decision was made to complete the building of the Temperate House. This entailed building the two wings. The new conservatory, which stood where the Princess of Wales Conservatory now stands, was renovated with metal glazing bars replacing the old wooden ones. Generally the green glass in many of the houses was replaced with clear glass to great effect.

Some comment was made on the spread of houses around the Gardens, the growth of the fashionable Kew Gardens Community. There was also mention of increasing pollution from smoke and fog.

At this time, trained gardeners were used to maintain the Temperate House, Flower Gardens, Herbaceous and Arboretum Departments. Hitherto they had been maintained by labourers. The labourers were paid 21 shillings a week, and a long week at that. A concession was made 100 years ago which, provided the weather and the condition of the works permitted, it allowed the gardeners leave of one Saturday afternoon in four.

Developing democracy allowed smoking in the precincts of Kew, also the consumption of oranges and buns whilst sitting in the shade of the trees. The staff were even allowed to skate on the ice in front of the Palm House in the evenings.

The *Journal* was full of news of members working all over the world. The conditions of appointment of gardeners in service in India was given, also advice on how to live a healthy life in tropical Africa.

F. W. Burbidge wrote about Kew as a University of Gardening and gave the characteristics which are good in a chap, one of which was that he should be "manly". An ideal course in gardening lasting seven to nine years was given.

The Mutual Improvement Society grew from strength to strength with names like Watson, Dallimore and Bean appearing on the Lecture Programme.

The Obituaries contained sad news. Now Kewites generally tend to make fairly old bones, but in the early days of colonisation it was different. In 1895 two young Kewites died of remittent fever, Uraemia, exhaustion and kidney failure in Africa.

There were 35 staff in post and this included the Sub-Foremen in charge of the departments. There were an additional 30 gardeners. It is difficult to realise what the standards of cultivation might have been as there was little mechanisation to help with mowing. The staff worked long days and many of them, so productivity was obviously high. Some areas of Kew were quite rough and natural, so the old Roman figure of a man for each four acres cannot have been far from the mark.

This year, 1895, was the fifty-fourth year of Kew's life and the second of the Kew Guild.

## THE KEW MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY 1995 REPORT

By Harvey Stephens, Chairman

Having entered its 126th year, the Mutual lecture series continues to draw increasing numbers, a simple sign of its success. The Standing Committee remain the same as in previous years with Dickon Bowling, Peter Brandham, David Cooke and Chris Kidd all lending helpful advice to the new committee members elected from the student body. The organisation and day to day running of the Society has again been down to four students – Harvey Stephens (Chairman), Azra Secerbogovic (Secretary), Mark Paterson (Assistant Secretary) and Roger Fischer (Treasurer).

After a financially successful previous year we felt it unnecessary to raise the admission fees again and have, therefore, continued with the season ticket at £7. The fee goes towards travelling expenses incurred by the lecturers, the free buffet at the annual cheese and wine party and the prize for the best student lecture.

The Mutual calendar started with rich wines and mature cheese on offer at a party held to welcome the new Diploma students and celebrate the start of another Mutual season. Although there was a fine student turnout, we were disappointed at the low number of staff making an appearance, though I'm sure all those who were there enjoyed it.

With a great deal of time and effort we prepared a lecture schedule hoping to satisfy the wants of most. With support from the Friends of Kew, we increased the advertising through local papers, magazines and radio which have consequently seen a further increase in attendance from a far wider field.

The lectures started off with a fascinating insight into the 'Natural History of New Zealand' by Dr. P. Gasson from the Jodrell Laboratory. With the help of some wonderful slides, especially those of birds, he certainly whetted the audience's appetite for a holiday abroad.

The first and only student lecture during the autumn schedule was given by Richard Ottaway. Partially funded by the Guild, Richard visited several botanic gardens and cities, seeing how horticultural therapy was achieved within their landscapes. With the presentation entitled 'Kew Student in Search of Thereapy and Beautification' the lecture was well received by all.

The return of Chris Grey-Wilson saw the account of an expedition to China, complemented with an array of excellent slides. October saw Graham Pattison telling us how Mexico was not all deserts and Kew graduate, John Foster, described how there was life after Kew! in the tropics. The return of Mike Nelhams drew an audience of well over 150, who were fascinated to hear his story of Tresco Abbey Gardens before and after the storm of '87.

November indicated the return of two more successful Kew graduates. Isabella van Groenigen, now a Conservation Consultant, among other things, impressed on the audience the importance and use of plants within historic gardens. Now Head Gardener of Mount Usher, John Anderson delighted the audience with a lecture entitled 'Gardens of Ireland'.

Roger Joiner, Kew's Marketing Manager, fought off a nagging cold to present a lecture entitled 'Weather and Visitors at Kew'. With the use of several graphs, Roger showed many interesting trends and patterns for visitor numbers occurring at Kew in previous years.

It was left to Peter Thoday, President of the Institute of Horticulture, to round November off. With great enthusiasm, Peter described the rôle of Victorian walled gardens, highlighting the restoration and return to fashion of several gardens.

December marked the first and only double lecture given by that duo from the Palm House, David Cooke and Jane Allen. Both received partial funding from Kew to visit America and Australia respectively. Dave travelled the east coast, visiting botanic gardens renowned for their water features and water lily collections. Jane, Kew's emerging Cycad expert, travelled extensively in Australia visiting Cycad collections and participating on field trips. Both presentations generated much interest.

'To Russia with Love, Behind the Green Curtain' was the title of Tony Kirkhams' latest lecture. A wonderfully personal account of Tony's most recent expedition in search of plant material to complement the collections at Kew and Wakehurst.

The season was brought to a close with the Mutual Christmas party, again held in the School of Horticulture. The lack of live music didn't inhibit those party goers who danced the night away, once the lights were put out. One pair, Steve Ketley and Briony from the Temperate House, really let their hair down and were caught dancing on the bar! A wonderful climax to the end of '95, though thoughts were already with the new year and the coming speakers.

Jonathan Jukes starts the season with the hidden treasure of Essex, while Sue Minter (Curator, Chelsea Physic Garden) hopes to get you thinking with your nose and Colin Clubbe gives us a taste of Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Nigel Taylor hopes to enlighten us on the Christmas Cacti and other rare epiphytic cacti while Gren Lucas returns to discuss the rôles plants have with the arts. With several student lectures to come we look forward to presentations about 'The Botanical Curiosities of Nepal', 'The Gardens of the Pacific North West' and 'The Green School of Australia'.

The continued success of the Mutual lectures relies not only on the Mutual Committee, but all those who either help or support the weekly lectures. On behalf of the Committee I thank you all. Lectures take place on Monday evenings at 6.30 p.m. between September to March. Please contact Barbara Hanson in the School of Horticulture for the latest Schedule (Tel. 0181 332 5545).

## THE DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITIES DURING 1995

By Eleanor Bunnell

The highlight of the year for the Director was when he received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours this summer, for scientific services to conservation; he was named a Knight Bachelor on the Prime Minister's list. The honour is regarded as recognition of the leading rôle of R.B.G. Kew in conservation, and of the work of all of its staff towards preserving the worldwide treasury of plants for future generations.

The other important event for the Director was the publication of his biography 'A Passion for Plants' by Clive Langmead, which was published this year and launched in March.

As usual the Director did his fair share of globe trotting. In January he went to Japan for an exhibition of his work in Amazonia in the Tobu Department Store and in February visited South Africa as part of a group reviewing the National Botanic Garden Network there. He visited Brazil twice, once in April to be presented with a grant for *Plantas do Nordeste* from the Brazilian

Research Council, and then again in November to give a paper at the E.U. workshop in Brasilia on 'The sustainable use of the Amazon Rainforest and its Informational Requirements'. He also made a fleeting visit to Germany as part of the Richmond/Konstanz exchange celebrations at Mainau Castle. He made two trips to the U.S.A.; the first was for a meeting at the Board of Trustees of the Au Sable Institute, and the second was a lecture tour when he gave a lecture in the symposium to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Smith College Botanic Garden, and then a lecture to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Horticultural Library of the University of Washington. He also managed to fit in a visit to his old haunt, New York Botanical Garden, where he was appointed Honorary Senior Curator and gave an evening lecture to Brooklyn Botanic Garden. In September he and Lady Prance accompanied a group of Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, which proved to be very successful.

In between the travelling abroad he managed to do an enormous amount of lecturing up and down the country. He gave the Templeton Lectures, a series of four, at the Linnean Society earlier on in the year. He also talked to groups of students at Haywards School, Rutland, Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, Royal Holloway College, Universities of Portsmouth, Kent, Reading, Newcastle and Oxford Forestry Institute, the Reuters Foundation for students studying environmental journalism. He spoke to the Castle Horticultural Society in Winchester, the Royal Zoological Society, to the Diocese of Liverpool Environmental Forum in Southport and to Senior Army Officers in Bagshot.

He continues to serve on numerous organisations including the Royal Horticultural Society, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, the Horniman Museum, the Margaret Mee Amazon and Lovaine Trustees, the Plant Sciences Advisory Committee of Reading University and the World Humanity Action Trust. As Director he continues to be a Botanical Advisor to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and has an advisory rôle in the Environmental Change Unit of Oxford University.

He received an Honorary Doctorate from St. Andrew's University in July and the Ordem Nacional do Mérito Científico - Grã Cruz from the Brazilian Ambassador in December. He was also appointed Honorary Fellow of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

The Director published several scientific papers and continued with his research on the **Chrysobalanaceae**, **Caryocaraceae**, **Dichapetalaceae** and in ethnobotany.

### Visitors

On a beautiful sunny day in July the Prince of Wales came to open the Evolution House exhibition which is in the former Australian House. This exhibition is an entirely new idea to Kew and shows the evolution of plants, complete with bubbling pools of mud and waterfalls. Prince Charles also visited Wakehurst Place this summer.

The Rt. Hon. William Waldegrave, as Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, came in January and then in November the Rt. Hon. Douglas Hogg, the present Minister, visited Kew. The President of Costa Rica gave the Environmental Lecture in March and Sir Roy Strong presented the prizes at the School of Horticulture prizegiving. Other visitors included the Chinese and Russian Ambassadors, Princess Alexandra, the First Lady of the Philippines, Baroness Chalker and Baroness Trumpington and Lord and Lady Palumbo.

There have been some major changes within Kew due to the retirement of Professor Gren Lucas and John Simmons. The new Keeper of the Herbarium is Dr. Simon Owens and the new Curator is Nigel Taylor; both come from within Kew. Professor Lucas has not left Kew but has taken over as Head of the newly formed Information Services Department and Maureen Long has become the new Head of People Planning and Development Department.

Four members of the Board of Trustees retired this autumn and they are Sir Philip Dowson, Mrs. Victoria Wakefield, Mr. Julian Pettifer and Professor Bob May, who has been appointed Scientific Advisor to the Cabinet. They have been replaced by Sir Jeffery Bowman, Anna Ford, Spencer de Grey and Professor Hugh Dickinson.

## LIVING COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT REPORT 1995

By David Hardman, Deputy Curator, Head of Living Collections

In presenting this report it is noteworthy that the Curator John Simmons retired at the end of July after many years at the helm. The Gardens also lost the services of two other long serving and respected senior managers: John Woodhams, Assistant Curator in Tropical and Hans Fliegner, Assistant Curator in the Temperate Section. The new appointments are: Nigel Taylor, Curator, Tony Kirkham, Head of the Horticultural Operations and Support Section (H.O.S.S., previously known as Services) and Jenny Evans, Head of Tropical Section. Stewart Henchie has transferred to become Head of Temperate Section.

These internal appointments afforded promotion opportunities for other staff members and saw the appointment of two unit managers: Raymond Townsend for West Arboretum and Greg Redwood in Garden Development. This was the first opportunity for large scale staff promotion and development to have arisen since the new Botanical Horticultural grading scheme became established, supporting the ethos of skills transfer across the Gardens. New Senior Botanical Horticulturists include Leigh Margery (Arboretum), Richard Wilford (Herbaceous) and Phil Griffiths (Tropical).

In concluding my report for 1994, the autumn seemed to have been with us right up to Christmas, leaving me wondering what 1995 had in store. In fact weather remained the major preoccupation for the whole year as records were broken. Winter and spring were exceedingly wet, holding up much of the essential maintenance and new project works. Then the major concern throughout the gardens became the exceptionally dry summer and the associated drought with the hottest days recorded at Kew. The national records confirmed 1995 to be the hottest and driest summer in over 350 years. July broke the record for the highest maximum average temperature at 26°C which was surpassed in August at 27.3°C, which was also the driest month since records started in 1980.

This required a very active programme of supplementary irrigation throughout the Gardens, with priority being given to the most needy and valuable plants as the drought continued. The decision not to water the lawns in order to save valuable resources meant that the Gardens took on an unusual appearance and colour. The loss of water pressure was another important factor in ensuring that the available water was directed to key areas. The onset of September brought about a change in the weather and with it rain, the lawns returned to their normal colour and the mowing operations recommenced. The obsolete irrigation system for the Palm House bedding display areas has been replaced. The new automatic system has been beneficial whilst planting the spring displays. The opportunity was also taken to install a new irrigation system during the redevelopment of the Dukes Garden.

A new venture early in the year was the first Kew Orchid Festival, which brought together the whole of Kew's promotional efforts to show all the disparate aspects of orchids at Kew. This included lectures and V.I.P. tours for enthusiasts, orchid displays in the Princess of Wales Conservatory and floral arrangements in the Water Lily House, plus many other attractions of books and botanical artefacts in the Victoria Gate Visitor Centre.

His Royal Highness Prince Charles officially opened the Evolution House on Thursday 6th July. The event was witnessed by invited guests, staff and Garden visitors, who enjoyed the warm early evening sunshine as His Royal Highness congratulated everyone involved in this exciting project. The horticultural team of Temperate and Tropical Section staff included Mark Sparrow, Pete Bradley, Richard Weekly, Dave Cooke and Jane Allen, who worked well together, with the great support given by the Services Section, led by Stewart Henchie as well as Mike Lucie and Ron Bicheno. The design team of John Lonsdale and Jenny Evans was admirably supported by a management team of Assistant Curators.

The Pteridophyte Conference was hosted at Kew from 17th-21st July and followed the Flora Maleseana Conference. It was very successful, with great interest being shown towards the fern collections. Special 'behind the scenes' tours were arranged for conference delegates to

see the reserve collections, many of whom had not appreciated the great wealth and diversity they held. Acknowledgement must be made to Pete Bradley and his team in the Fern Unit for making this such a memorable event and the quality of the collections they maintain.

Mid September saw the commencement of the first phase of a three-year development programme, culminating in 1998 with a proposed Monocot Garden. The main change this year involved the central area of the Grass Garden occupied by the tropical and temperate cereals. Two new specimen beds will be constructed whilst retaining the 'Sower' vista. To accommodate this work it will be necessary to move the cereals to the back of the garden, where half of the trial lawn area will be used.

The Japanese Gateway was fully restored and once again became a delight to behold. Highly skilled craftsmen from Japan worked tirelessly during the hot summer months for it to open in October.

In the Rock Garden the areas situated at the Grass Garden end are having the plant material removed. Resoiling and some re-alignment of the rock fabric has been undertaken in readiness for replanting with material from Australia and New Zealand in spring 1996. This will then bring this section of the Rock Garden into line with the planned geographic layout plantings.

The Secluded Garden progressed well, although the variable weather conditions affected the timetable. However, the work was completed ahead of time and was opened to visitors in mid December. Chas Shine led a small team who succeeded against variable odds and external factors.

Mark Pitman's team completed the Azalea Garden project for its official opening with the donors in May, when the young plants were in flower. Both the Philadelphus and Lilac projects continue on schedule and, as autumn approached, further beds were prepared for planting.

L.C.D. staff were again in evidence at this year's very successful Jazz concerts. Their additional support allowed an extra evening (Saturday) to be played, giving the event greater capacity.



'Torso' sculpture in the gardens from an 'Indian Summer'.

Again many L.C.D. staff made presentations to the students attending the International Botanic Garden Management Course. This proved to be as successful as the 1994 course and some excellent contacts, as well as new friendships, were established.

The 14th September saw the opening of 'Indian Summer' sculptures by British artist Stephen Cox. The works, made from black granite, are quarried exclusively in India and show the influence of Indian culture on the artist. The exhibition is displayed between the Princess of Wales Conservatory and the Bakery, with one work inside the Cycad House and continues until spring 1996.

The Arboricultural support teams have been working through collections throughout the summer months and have attended to several large trees which had succumbed to disease as well as the effects of drought. One large *Quercus ilex* to the south of the Ruined Arch had to be

removed after an inspection found the trunk had split and the potential risk was very high. The teams are now embarking on the winter work programme and sadly several other large specimens will have to be removed.

Our expeditions programme has continued, with Charles Erskine and Hans Flegner extending their long-term joint venture with Academia Sinica into Tibet and Sichuan to collect seed of temperate plants. Meanwhile Mike Sinnott, Andy Jackson and Janet Burnell ventured to Northern Pakistan with the objective of collecting seed and living material of hardy woody and herbaceous species for the living collections at Kew and Wakehurst Place. Both of the expeditions were successful and high quality material was obtained. Mark Pitman and Paul Richards went to Mexico, but had to curtail their efforts until further administrative details can be obtained.

Living Collections Department had a strong presence at the annual conference of the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta, held in Montreal during July. Kew delegates included Graham Madiill, Dave Cooke, David Marchant, Ian Leese, Mark Bridger, Tarja Ravenhall, Steve Ruddy and Charles Stirton. David Hardman presented a paper on 'The Management of a Tropical Display House in a Temperate Climate', focusing on the work of the Princess of Wales Conservatory and the Evolution House.

The Botanic Gardens Conservation Congress held in Perth, Australia, also saw a strong Living Collections delegation, with staff again represented from all the sections. Attendees included Mike Sinnott, Mark Sparrow, Matt Ford, David Hardman, Robert Brett, Mike Fay, Andy Jackson and Margaret Ramsay. Markus Radscheit, a third year student, used his travel scholarship to attend, whilst Mike Maunder presented a paper at the congress on conservation work on island floras.

A constant flow of visitors has been seen in L.C.D. and included over 35 delegates from the International Plant Propagators Society pre-Conference tour. This year's Foundation Friends

evening event commenced in the Temperate House and included tours of the Evolution House, King William's Temple Garden and the Marianne North Gallery, returning then to the Temperate House. Over 150 guests were entertained on the evening of 7th June. The weather again helped ensure the success of this event and included some interesting plants and first time flowerers at Kew this year which included **Meconopsis henrici** from south west China, not seen in cultivation since the early part of this century, **Polygonatum prattii** from Yunnan and **Trichosanthes cucumeroides** from Japan,



Chris Kidd sets about measuring a record breaking Giant waterlily leaf.

which needs warmth for flowering, yet a cool root run. **Clitoria mariana**, a purple/mauve legume of mostly tropical/sub-tropical genus, flowered inside and outside the Alpine House, benefiting from the hot summer. **Monstera lechleriana** demonstrated the success for the policy of planting out selected species in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, where they can attain height, maturity and flowering condition. The giant waterlily, **Victoria amazonica** 'Longwood Hybrid' achieved recognition in the 'Guinness Book of Records' with the largest leaf

recorded reaching 8' 7½". Chris Kidd with Mike Marsh sustained this magnificent specimen with their secret formula feeding programme. **Phaenocoma prolifera** will be featured in the Bot. Mag. – it is last recorded in cultivation and flowering at Kew in 1892. The first time fruiting of the Breadfruit in the Palm House caused great interest from the media and for visitors to the Garden. Sadly, due to space limitation, these are just a few of the many first timers flowering in 1995.

In concluding this all but too brief report on what has been a very exciting and challenging year in the Living Collections, I must inform you about the next major project that is just starting. The redevelopment of the Melon Yard will require a great deal of attention as the old Alpine and Jodrell glasshouses are replaced with modern technologically advanced structures. The decanting of collections will follow the programme of demolition and rebuilding. Other major works to garden buildings are also programmed and the next few years are promised to be hectic but, in the long-term, beneficial to the future of Kew.

### CREATING A BIBLICAL GARDEN At St. George's College, Jerusalem

Reproduced with permission from 'Anglican World', No. 73 : 20 (1994)

The Bible begins with the story of the Garden of Eden and throughout religious history the beauty of God's creation is recognised in the trees, plants and flowers he has made. The Bible is full of references to plants and flowers and to understand some Biblical imagery it is helpful to have a knowledge of the flora of the Holy Land. Creating a Biblical Garden at St. George's College in Jerusalem was first conceived of in 1985. It was hoped that the garden would be a place of meeting, prayer and reflection and also a unique educational resource.

St. George's College, Jerusalem, is an Anglican centre of hospitality and learning. Throughout the year courses are offered on the Bible and Bible Lands. Recent building work and refurbishment left the garden in need of reconstruction.



St. George's 'Fruit Garden', May 1993.

(Photograph: courtesy of Nigel Hepper)

Plans were drawn up. The new garden was designed by Mr. F. Nigel Hepper, who has recently retired as one of the leading botanists at Kew's Royal Botanic Gardens in London. Mr. Hepper has specialised in the plants of the Bible and written books on the subject – *'Planting a Bible Garden'* (H.M.S.O. 1987), *'An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Bible Plants'* (I.V.P. 1992).

The College gave certain specifications. The new garden had to be easy to maintain – so the planting of shrubs and trees was given priority over labour-intensive herbaceous plants. As the College is used throughout the year the garden needed to be colourful through the different seasons. Careful consideration was therefore given to the flowering season of a wide variety of plants and to the foliage colour.

Work on the new garden began in late 1990. Adam Toft, a British horticulturist, worked with two Palestinian gardeners to realise Nigel Hepper's designs. Today, years later, the garden provides a real microcosm of the botanical environment experienced by Jesus, and the prophets and patriarchs before him.

Spacious paths wind through shady spots where there are tables and seats which allow visitors and students to reflect and pray. Here there are fragrant plants, lavender, sage and mint. Fruit trees – fig, pomegranate and olive – lead to the college entrance. A Judas Tree stands with Cypresses; a young Cedar of Lebanon will give shade as it did in King Solomon's time. The garden provides opportunities for reflection: "by planting a Christ-thorn near the date palm there is a contrast between the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with palm leaves (symbolising victory) with the crown of thorns on the Cross". Next to every plant there is a plaque. Each is identified by its name in Arabic, English and Latin together with a Biblical reference to it.

The dedication of the garden in May 1993 by the Most Revd. Samir Kafity, together with the college Dean, John Peterson, the Dean of the Cathedral, John Tidy and the Rt. Revd. Alfred Holland, the College's Chaplain, marked the completion of a major phase in the College's enlargement and renovation. Everyone at the College is delighted with the new garden and extends an invitation to all pilgrims, friends and visitors to come and refresh their minds, bodies and spirits in this veritable oasis of Biblical flora.

## SEEKING THE SPIRIT OF WAKEHURST PLACE

By Mark Flanagan

### Abstract

*The paper that follows was written as part of an attempt to identify the unique qualities of Wakehurst Place. It was originally an internal discussion document. The definition of the identity of Wakehurst Place provides all concerned with the future development of the garden with a benchmark statement against which future action can be measured. Such a yardstick will avoid inappropriate or destructive development. It should be noted that the document only addresses the garden and that outlying areas of the estate, primarily the woodlands and Loder Valley Reserve, have very different histories and purposes.*

### Introduction

When considering horticultural development at Wakehurst Place a knowledge of the history of the gardens is vital, and particularly an awareness of the ideas of the people who created the garden. These ideas determined the conscious actions of many people associated with Wakehurst Place and produced the garden that we know today, its content, layout and atmosphere. The latter includes that intangible quality that serves to make gardens individual (though they may draw on similar antecedents) – what is sometimes referred to as the 'genius of the place'. Another word frequently used to define this elusive element is 'context'. The context of a garden is the result of the preferences and prejudices of the owners, of the mood or fashions of the times, of the abilities of people who worked in the garden and their translation of the site's natural environment and landscape.

What then is the context of Wakehurst Place? Unfortunately our ability to elucidate this is hampered by an unusual lack of information. In nearly four years of detailed research we have failed to locate any historical information about the gardens beyond the immediate vicinity of the Mansion, other than what is apparent on the ground. Even the area around the Mansion is little recorded before 1903 other than through various views of the southern facade of the building which include, possibly, 'fanciful' sketches of associated vegetation. Maps help but only in determining the routes of paths and roads and not in providing any real detail about the gardens.

That said, we know enough to make some informed observations about Wakehurst Place which have helped and continue to guide us in our redevelopment work.

### **The Formal Landscape**

It is clear that there has never been a significant landscape associated with the Mansion. The redwoods, which now dominate and provide a strong vertical accent to the horizontal lines of the Mansion when viewed from the east, *have hitherto been part of the 'wooded feel' within the general tree cover here.* Whether the effect they create today was intended at the time they were planted (1890?) is unknown; their spatial relationship to the Mansion would suggest not.

The two formal elements associated with the Mansion – The Terraces (lawns) to the south and the South Drive and Carriage Ring – have had an erratic history in the sense that their significance, to the Mansion building itself, has ebbed and flowed. It is likely that the Terraces have always looked much as we see them today; the cruciform path system was established after 1848 (when the wings of the Mansion were foreshortened) and there is nothing to indicate any more sophisticated arrangement of the lawns prior to this. The Carriage Ring has undergone many changes, including being closed off in the middle part of the last century and owes its 'opening-up' to Gerald Loder from 1903. No one arrangement here greatly commends itself.

Other parts of the upper garden are all 'soft' in their execution and the only feature employing the use of hard materials is the Rock Terraces which pre-date Gerald Loder who, it is clear, had little interest in formality or the use of anything other than plant material. The 1869 sale document confirms the existence of the fruit and kitchen gardens within walled enclosures to the west of the Mansion, presumably occupying the same area as the walled gardens today. The sketch plan (still in the hands of the Peyton family) drawn before 1848 indicates another kitchen garden to the east, though this plan may be a suggestion of what might be carried out rather than a representation of actual site features as there are no other references to this in any extant papers.

### **A Plantsman's Garden**

Beyond the edge of the present service road, the course of which was perhaps a ha-ha, was indigenous woodland until Gerald Loder's arrival, though the 1869 sale document details exotic material in Westwood Valley and the redwoods, Douglas firs and other exotic conifers in Horsebridge Wood are likely to date from the same time as those close to the Mansion (i.e. 1890). The parkland to the east, bordering the B2028, is likely to have appeared much as it does today, having been used for cattle grazing, due to its level nature and proximity to the road, for a very long time. There is evidence to suggest that the fields to the north of the South Drive (the modern-day 'car park meadows') were wooded until relatively recent times.

Whilst we should not give Gerald Loder the sole credit for the development of the gardens at Wakehurst Place, his is still the primary influence. Two factors are critical. The first is Loder's inherent and consuming interest in plants, particularly hardy trees and shrubs; the second is the great volume of material (seed) that became available to gardeners during the first few decades of the 20th century from eastern Asia and the southern hemisphere, to which Gerald Loder had privileged access. This degree of access is epitomised by the collections of Forrest from western China. Five of Forrest's seven expeditions were sponsored by a consortium headed by J. C. Williams, a lifelong friend and confidant of Loder.

By reference to Alfred Coates's annotated copy of *'The Trees and Shrubs of Wakehurst Place'* and a consideration of the positioning of trees around the estate, it becomes clear that Loder was acutely aware of the tremendous range of microclimates available at Wakehurst Place (these microclimates are a consequence of the differences in topography, aspect and soils between given sites) and that he used these microclimates to find the best sites for particular groups of plants or individual species. This awareness shaped, to a large degree, the way that Loder used his plant material and consequently the way that the landscape around the Mansion and in other important areas, such as Westwood Valley, Horsebridge Wood and Bloomers Valley, developed. There are numerous examples of where the perceived cultural requirements of the plant dictated its positioning – not for Gerald Loder overt manipulation of the landscape, but rather a more harmonious synergy.

The most obvious is Loder's choice of Westwood Valley to house his rhododendron collections. There is also evidence to support the view that over a period of time he came to recognise that the area to the west of the Mansion, which became known as the Heath Garden, was the best site for southern hemisphere material. A major component of the plants he used were members of the **Proteaceae** with genera such as *Embothrium*, *Telopea* and *Lomatia* particularly featured. In the wild these plants grow on phosphorus deficient soils. Analysis of the soil in the Heath Garden has revealed that the soil is low in phosphorus. Though unaware of this information Gerald Loder was, nevertheless, likely to have been aware of the degree to which antipodean plants flourished in this area and his future planting would have been influenced by this observation.

Thus the landscape at Wakehurst Place developed as a result of the successes and failures of Loder's planting experimentation, rather than the following of a 'master plan'. Whilst this may seem to be a haphazard way to set about development, it has much more to commend it when it is realised that many of the plants that Loder was dealing with were being introduced for the first time. Though Loder and his peers could be guided by information from the field collectors (E. H. Wilson is known to have visited Wakehurst Place), they were largely using intuition. Finally, the fact that Loder was principally concerned with trees and shrubs from the wild left Wakehurst Place with a visually more subtle legacy than if he had been interested in cultivars.

By the time of Loder's death in 1936, the flood of plants from the East had dried up. Wakehurst Place was now firmly established as holding one of the most diverse and important collections of hardy trees and shrubs in private hands, including some remarkable individual specimens.

### The Role of Sir Henry Price

The purchase of the estate by Sir Henry Price brought no dramatic changes to the management of the gardens, indeed continuity seems to have been the order of the day. Coates remained as Head Gardener and few new initiatives were taken.

The received wisdom, backed up by anecdotal information, is that Price purchased Wakehurst Place primarily because of his interest in the Mansion and in the farming potential of the estate. He had, it seems, at least at the outset, neither the knowledge nor the inclination to devote time to the gardens. What is apparent is that he did not overtly neglect the garden and it seems that increasingly Lady Price became interested. She developed the first bog garden and the Japanese Garden, though they were somewhat fugacious, being much degraded by the time of Kew's arrival. Outside of this the Prices' can, objectively, be seen as custodians of Gerald Loder's great collection of temperate trees and shrubs through difficult times.

### Conclusion

In developmental terms then, what constants can we be guided by? Wakehurst Place is not a greatly contrived landscape, formal features do exist, in the environs of the Mansion, though even these have no clear historical precedents. All the available evidence points to the fact that, in horticultural terms, Wakehurst Place was quite unremarkable before the arrival of Gerald

Loder in 1903, though the site had enormous potential. From this point the emphasis of the gardens became temperate trees and shrubs, with eclecticism and informality very much the guiding principles. Development has been driven more by the demands of the plant than of the landscape. The Wakehurst Place context then, is one of the maintenance of the wooded nature of the site and its subtle enhancement by the use of exotic trees and shrubs.

As for the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the original selection of the estate as an outstation undoubtedly recognised the value of Loder's collections and the singularity of the site. Whilst the 'context' of Wakehurst Place has not been enunciated in a formal way before, the work which has been undertaken has resulted in the enhancement of the site very much on the principles outlined above, but with the added dimensions of international science and conservation, of which there is ample written information elsewhere.

*(This précis was produced during 1993 but could not be included in last year's Journal for space reasons – Editor.)*

## THE EVOLUTION HOUSE AT R.B.G. KEW

By Jenny Evans, Tropical Section

When H.R.H. Prince Charles opened the Evolution House in July 1995 he brought to an end one of the most unusual projects Kew has ever seen. It is the first glasshouse display at Kew to rely almost entirely on artificial rock for its structure; the first to use models of plants; the first to present prehistoric/paleobotanical landscapes and the first to make use of smells, sounds and textures to enhance visitor experience.



Prince Charles with the Director entering the Carboniferous zone of the Evolution House which features the reconstructions of *Lepidodendron*.

The Evolution House was conceived as a project in 1990, originally from consideration of how to make better use of Cycads, for whom the conditions of the restored Palm House were no longer suitable. With the approval of the Director and Trustees, the project was put out to sponsors by Giles Coode-Adams of the Kew Foundation, attracting serious interest from Enterprise Oil in early in 1993. In the decisive manner of successful oil men, their confirmed support for the project came only a day after our presentation in the

Director's lounge, amid specimen tree ferns, cycads and conifers. The immediacy of the subject matter, the commitment and enthusiasm of the Kew staff, combined with the sheer age of the plant groups involved, was enough to grab their imaginations and convince them of the benefits of backing Kew in this new venture.

From February 1993 to May 1995 a wide cross-section of Kew personnel were involved in planning the project. It was conceived and led by the Head of Kew's Technical Section, John

Lonsdale, who with artistic flair and pragmatism, steered the project from initial design to implementation. Most of the Living Collection Department sections at Kew were involved at some stage. Technical provided support in design and research; Temperate, who manage the house, were the source of cycads, early angiosperms and much of the horticultural labour input; all the fern material came from the Tropical collections; Services (now H.O.S.S.) provided bulk materials and the heavy or specialised equipment to complete the job safely and efficiently; Arboretum were responsible for the immediate external landscaping and several Diploma students from the School of Horticulture provided valuable assistance throughout.

The Buildings and Maintenance Department, headed by Tom Bailey, handled project management and supervised the construction by Californian rockwork company, di Giacomo. From Education and Marketing, Laura Giuffrida and Pat Griggs produced the interpretation with M.E.T. Studios of London, while Roger Joiner co-ordinated marketing activities. In the Herbarium, Marie Kurmann provided on-the-spot Paleobotanical advice. Few projects in recent years have had quite this spread of involvement across the organisation.

The one critical thing that makes the Evolution House more than just a theme park display is the attention to scientific detail. Hours of research went into finding the correct plants for each of the geological time zones. We could not be content with plants that 'looked about right', we had to use plants that were right both taxonomically and anatomically. The rock colours were developed with reference to actual rock samples loaned from Royal Holloway College. Eminent paleobotanists from the U.K. and U.S.A. advised throughout – and there is no doubt that the continued interest and assistance of Trustee Professor Chaloner was absolutely invaluable.

It has been a privilege and an education to have been involved in the Evolution project, the first I hope of many new, landscape based presentations of plants and their vital role on earth.

*(Further details were published in the Friends of Kew summer magazine. Members are encouraged to visit the Evolution House! – Editor.)*



New Head of Tropical Section, Jenny Evans.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURAL TRAINING AT R.B.G. KEW

By Clive Foster

Employees in the Living Collections Department (L.C.D.) at R.B.G. Kew have, since the early days when the garden became a state possession (and perhaps before), had a reputation for excellence in horticultural standards and plant based knowledge. Areas of expertise have developed in the large and evolving living collections, through which specialism's have been created. During this time, the value of this "unrivalled collection of living plants as a training ground for gardeners has been realised and exploited" (Official Document, 1964) by the organisation. This has led to a distinct culture of personal development and education at Kew which remains strong to this day.

How, therefore, did Kew's training culture become so strong and what were the influences and factors which caused it to develop? The beginnings of this can be traced back to the 19th century, when the development of urban parks and large private estates, due to industrialism and the accumulation of wealth, expanded the profession and provided a source of training

through the apprenticeship approach. This led to the 'journeyman' system, whereby individuals gained a breadth of experience by moving through various horticultural employment situations in the course of their training. R.B.G. Kew was a Mecca for these individuals who generally joined the organisation towards the end of their journeyman period in order to gain depth in understanding and benefit from the expertise and high standards. The advances in botanical understanding at this time had led to the provision of a library for staff and a lecturing society (the Mutual Improvement Society) which added to the attractiveness of the organisation and provided access to learning for journeymen, which in many instances had been previously unavailable in their careers. An insight into the career of a horticulturist at that time is provided by John Smith (Curator – History of Kew, 1864, unpublished) who stated:

"... regular systems of apprenticeship are served, generally of not less than three years, on the expiration of which the young gardener seeks instruction in other gardens. Some make application for admission to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew". He continued "It should be premised that no young gardeners are allowed into the service of the royal gardens who have not served their apprenticeship elsewhere; they come ostensibly for the purposes of self improvement and are expected to remain for two years in the service; they, however seldom remain for 12-18 months, the fact of having served at Kew being considered so high a recommendation for curatorships of botanic and other public gardens ..."

He further states that:

"Of these there are two classes, some only wishing to be employed for a short time, in order to obtain a certificate stating that they have served in the Royal Gardens. This class is most numerous, and have no taste for the study of plants; some however, turn out to be good cultivators. The other class is, however, very different; many of them possess a natural taste for the study of plants, being acquainted with the botanical names before coming to Kew, and in time some of them become foremen, collectors, curators or superintendents of public gardens, either home or colonial."

This statement hints at the important role Kew had nationally for grooming individuals for suitable positions in plantations and horticultural outposts in the Empire. The evening lectures provided from that time to aid this, eventually evolved into a horticultural course at Kew for students (the forerunner of today's Diploma).

Smith's comments also show that during the Victorian period (and continuing into the 20th century) very few staff were employed on a permanent basis. In addition the employees were divided into a labouring and a technical class. The technical class consisted of journeymen gardeners (temporary) and managers (permanent). This is illustrated from a statement by W. Watson (22/7/1911 – Curator):

"The permanent staff of men employed ... consist of a Curator, an Assistant Curator and five foremen. Their duties are mainly those of superintendents, the actual work of the garden being performed by sub-foremen and journeymen gardeners whose term of service is limited; the quality of the work done and the results shown depend entirely upon the skill and experience of these workmen." He further added that the workforce "... consists of a large staff of trained (temporary) gardeners assisted by labourers possessing an aptitude for garden work." It is evident therefore that these journeymen gardeners are closely identified with today's three year Diploma students whilst the labouring class were the forerunners of today's permanent staff. This will become clearer later.

The term of service for journeymen gardeners (who were provided with evening lectures) was two years, with the possibility of a fixed third year for men promoted to sub-foremen in their second year. The conditions for employment as a journeyman gardener were that an individual had to be 19-24 years, unmarried and with four years experience in good gardens or nurseries. However, during the early 1900's, there was a recognition of the beginning of an external decline in skills which, due to Kew's journeyman recruiting system, was affecting standards in the garden. W. Watson in 1911 stated:

"For some years now there has been a conspicuous absence of what I call the art of gardening in the work of our young men. There are not many gardens now in which our youths can obtain good training."

In addition to this, there was pressure from journeymen to reduce the hours of work (so they would be less tired to study), be retained at Kew (after their contracted period) and be given better weekly subsistence pay. The discontent worsened when a contractual error on some gardeners terms of service by Kew administrators caused a dispute which raised questions in the Houses of Parliament and focused national attention on the organisation's training function. Although consideration was given to withdrawing the provision of education at Kew, it was eventually decided to operate a school of botanical horticultural science. However, as W. Watson stated:

"If Kew is to be run as a school for young men who wish to be taught gardening, there must be a staff of trained gardeners to take charge of the collections", and "... it (the school) should be quite separate from the garden staff."

This gradually developed through the retention of a greater proportion of the student gardeners for a third year. Nonetheless, the Director, Lt. Col. D. Prain did not regard Kew as a place for horticultural training (1914):

"If it is to be well served by horticulture, a botanic garden must, of necessity, employ only gardeners who, though naturally glad of further experience as well as of scientific instruction, already are masters of their craft. A botanic garden is not and cannot, without detriment to the public interest, be allowed to become a place where the practice of horticulture is taught." Although "In performing its duties, a botanic garden is largely dependent on the assistance which horticulture can render and often obtains much and valuable information from horticultural practice."

However, the decline of the Empire during this period and the wealth generated from it, meant that the number of large private estates (providing horticultural training grounds for apprentices) were being drastically reduced. Although many of these redundant employees found work in the expanding local authority parks service and nursery trade (which especially in the case of the former, had training and development structures of their own), a decline in skilled labour resulted. Also, as a consequence of the reduced opportunities abroad, pressure came from journeymen recruits to have broad horticultural training relevant to national needs. This resulted in a change to Kew's education focus. In the period from 1900 up to the second world war, it was stated (J.S.L.G. 31/7/39) that 85% of gardeners leaving Kew went into municipal parks. The staff complement pre-war constituted 40 student gardeners, nine foremen (promoted student gardeners), 10 boys and 61 labourers. These labourers eventually, during the mid 1950's, were regarded to become the garden staff through placement onto the civil service industrial grades (Gardener Grade 1, Gardener Grade 2).

The post war climate, until the Industrial Training Act in 1964, was characterised by a laissez-faire approach to training at government level and generally in industry. At Kew, this period had seen some formal training for staff through courses operated by M.A.F.F. (although this was generally for managerial grades). Externally to the organisation, the rapid rate of technological change saw the emergence certificate courses in horticulture (provided by county colleges) which helped to address the skills needed. The Royal Horticultural Society was also running horticultural examinations which started before the war. Many new recruits to Kew at this time were coming from local authority parks who were operating their own craft training schemes.

The slow down in economic growth after the post war boom fuelled the need for N.V.E.T. to be addressed (Carr Repot, 1958). The failure of the Industrial Training Council, set up to make the necessary changes (1958-64) resulted in the Industrial Training Act being passed in 1964 under the Wilson government. In 1963, the student gardeners course at Kew (the Kew Certificate) was revised from its two year duration and made into the Diploma (of three year duration). This restructuring offered students (a total of 60 then) a course very similar to the

one today, with the exception of adjustments to the curricula and a reduction in student numbers to 45. It also resulted in an increased provision of educational resources available to all employees at Kew. Mirroring this at national level, and as a consequence of the Pilkington Report (1966), the Ordinary National Diplomas and Higher National Diplomas in horticulture (commercial and amenity) were set up (and run from colleges) to meet the needs of the craftsman, technician and technologist. These sandwich courses provided instruction relevant to the rapid technological changes since the second world war and enabled an alternative avenue into horticulture, thus addressing the problem of dwindling apprenticeship opportunities.

As a result of the Industrial Training Act, which established the Industrial Training Boards funded by the levy grant system, the City and Guilds Institute examinations in practical horticulture emerged. Primarily aimed at Local Authorities and commercial horticulture, these external courses were made available to young recruits on the permanent staff at Kew (Improvers) and were compulsory for those under 18. In addition, some staff took the Local Government Training Board's Certificated gardener examinations. During the 1960's, a Training Liaison Officer's role was created at Kew (one supervisor in the L.C.D. was responsible for this in addition to his other responsibilities) to guide staff development.

However, by 1968 it became increasingly apparent that the abilities of the gardening staff were no longer adequate to meet the standards required. The Curator, R. Shaw (1969) stated "Are there sufficient skilled staff at Kew . . . where a skilled gardener is obviously underpaid in an age where high wages are the order of the day?" J. Hicks (Training Liaison Officer, 13/2/68) further commented "It is an indisputable fact that the gardens staff are of a very poor calibre, but I am convinced that a large part of the remedy is in our own hands". The skills deficit had to be addressed by a more structured approach. As a result the organisation decided to take a more active role in training to raise standards. This was also due to the recognition that staff training was a "national responsibility" which Kew had to play a part and the linking of qualifications to national pay scales. However, fears from managers about loss of production time and also from the Director (G. Taylor, 15/2/68) concerning turnover prompted the comment - "I know that the standard of some of our men is rather low, but how many of them stay long enough to be promoted to Gardener Grade 1 or 2. I have a notion that there is a pretty heavy turnover at this level".

Nonetheless, a training programme was set up to operate at three levels, i.e. Departmental, Personal and Grooming for Promotion. Internal and external day release courses were organised. This was implemented by an Assistant Curator as part of that individual's overall duties. The programme was further developed three years later in 1972, as a consequence of the need for a full-time officer to manage the training provision (this post was divided between attending to staff training needs and student diploma needs). In addition, a new staff structure made promotion dependent upon practical testing of abilities and relevant training. The Director, J. Heslop-Harrison (23/8/72), commented "... my sole aim has been to create a system which would provide the best opportunity to all members of the Curator's staff to obtain training appropriate to their abilities and aspirations. The motivation is not only to meet the requirements of the new staff structure, but to benefit Kew by elevating the quality of our workforce".

The revised programme incorporated an induction course and then three further levels of courses involving one full day of training per month, per individual. It was guided by the principle that formal training was necessary for every member of staff. J. Simmons (Curator, 1970) stated that "the (new) training scheme must seek to close the gap between training and practice and must continue within departments using agreed common standards of practice". In-house training has continued at Kew since that time, although now in a more modified form. There has been increasing use of external courses (particularly City and Guilds) to meet internal needs as well as offering staff the opportunity to gain a qualification (widely recognised as a motivation and morale incentive to counterbalance low wages of the public sector). In addition the growing necessity for all individuals to obtain qualifications in order to complete in an increasingly competitive job market, has placed added stimulus on the organisation to offer this recognised training.

However, Kew is now faced with a dilemma. The recent government reforms of vocational education in the U.K. and their implications for horticulture are placing pressure on the organisation to adapt and change the nature of its educational programmes. National Vocational Qualifications (N.V.Q.'s) are the governments' answer to equip Britain with the skills it needs for the twenty first century. They are practical, work based qualifications, designed to achieve 'competencies' and throw, by their nature, a direct challenge to more traditional, theoretical styles of training. Additionally, these new qualifications are transferable, set within a national structure and allow flexible forms of study. In tandem with these developments, there is a need to develop a skilled, high tech workforce, to meet the challenges set out in the corporate strategic plan and forced by the rapid rate of technological change. Additionally there is a widely recognised skills deficit external to the organisation and less young people coming into the profession as demographics change (necessitating retraining of older people). Faced with an E.C. directive tabled that states the provision of vocational training will be the right of all employees, the question is how will Kew respond to the government reforms and the changes taking place and provide the training that will meet the needs of the future, in a profession that will be knowledge based, fast moving and international. As Professor Michael Alder recently stated in the Eric Gardener Memorial Lecture, "There is a danger that our current system is training for yesterday's technologies, and is set on measuring the ability to perform outdated skills. Underpinning knowledge, adaptability and continuous learning are the keys to the future".

*Clive Foster is Technical Officer, Scientific Support Unit in L.C.D. Kew. This article was extracted from a project dissertation for Clive Foster's Diploma in Management Studies and under the tutorship of Deputy Curator David Hardman and John Lonsdale. Due to lack of space it could not be reproduced in last year's Journal (Editor.).*

*(References and archival memoranda lists were acknowledged at the end of this dissertation, but omitted here for space-saving reasons – Editor.)*

### THREE STALWARTS RETIRE



On the 5th July 1995, a barbecue was held at Kew to mark the retirement this year of (left to right): John Woodhams, Hans Fleigner and John Simmons. The cake commemorated a combined total of 105 years of working at Kew.

*(Photograph kindly provided by Joan Woodhams)*

*(Further details of these three stalwarts appear under 'Excerpts from the 'Kew Guardian' elsewhere in this Journal – Editor.)*

## EXCERPTS FROM 'KEW GUARDIAN'

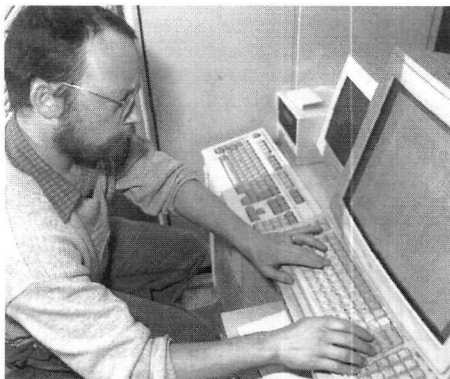
Please refer to the Editorial on the third page of this *Journal*. Thanks go to the Guardian Editor for permission to reproduce the following items reproduced from his 1995 publications and reproduced in order of appearance:

### KEW JOINS 'INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY'

*March*

By this time next month someone working in a botanic garden in South Africa, or a university in Brazil, or even a newspaper office in Australia, will be able to access a specially designated part of Kew's computer network for up to date information about the plant collections, educational material, fundraising campaigns for scientific projects or a wide range of other topics.

Access to Kew's information will be through the World Wide Web, part of the international computer network known as Internet, through which computer networks and individual PCs around the world can exchange information via standard 'telephone lines'.



Bailey: Email is a real boon especially for scientific staff.

Kew has been linked to the Internet since 1993. An annual flat fee gives us a permanent connection irrespective of the amount of use made of the Internet – so it pays to make the maximum possible use of the service. "Judging by the amount of traffic going through the system, some departments must be noticing a tremendous saving in postage or telephone bills," says Ken Bailey of Kew's Computer Department, "Or they are communicating with a huge number of people previously ignored."

The volume of electronic mail going in and out of Kew's computer network is already huge. "The science departments, in particular, are now using E-mail regularly to share the latest research results and ideas with colleagues in other institutions around the world."

Any PC terminal linked to Kew's 'wide area network', and all Data General users, can communicate via Internet. Most departments are already linked and the final connections are expected to be made in the next financial year. Any member of staff who needs one will then be able to have an 'E-mail address' which should allow them to send and receive messages direct from their PC.

As well as sending and receiving personal messages one can join a 'mailing list' to receive information on a particular subject area. One can also send information out to mailing lists. This is particularly useful for those who need to keep up to date in specific disciplines, seed science, for example.

"E-mail is a real boon for scientific staff in particular," says Ken. "Researchers will be able to communicate with their peers, both formally and informally, and will be able to keep bang up to date with even the fastest moving disciplines. Even researchers in the developing world seem to have good access to E-mail via the Internet because it is such a simple and direct service, you just need a computer and a phone line. Even when the phone network fails the Internet is capable of storing information until the person at the other end can access it.

"Another useful service for Kew computer users provided by the Internet is 'UseNetNews'. Users can post their own information into UseNetNews, which is arranged under a wide variety of subject headings. One can also scan through the subjects to find relevant information. There is a large amount of horticultural and botanical information on the service.

"Items on UseNetNews are in constant flux. For example a botanist scanning the network might find an item about a particular plant. You could not only read and make use of the information, you could append a further note containing extra data of your own. There are special Internet systems that help you locate information on specific topics, to cut down the amount of time spent searching the network.

"World Wide Web is, in a way, a more sophisticated form of the UseNetNews idea. Kew will be able to use it to provide not just text-based information but graphics, pictures and even audio-visuals. Pages of information can be designed for ease of use in much the same way as visitor leaflets or scientific or educational booklets might be designed, but with the information arranged and indexed so that it can be found easily via the computer screen. Charles Stirton, Deputy Director, Science, has said that he wants Kew to be providing official information via the World Wide Web by the end of March and various departments have already contributed pages via the Computer Department to provide a prototype system."

"There is a need for more high-quality information that we can put onto the network," said Ken Bailey. "For example, an edition of *'Kew Scientist'* has been prepared for inclusion. It will use the same text and images but with a layout that works for the computer screen.

"Although someone who accesses the information from outside will not be able to alter it, they will be able to respond to it directly. For example, the information could include a contact name at Kew – by using their mouse to 'click' on the name, the outside user could send a message back to that person at Kew to add their own comments or to request further details. It will revolutionise Kew's communications with the outside world."

Bailey said that care would be needed to ensure that sensitive information was not available on the network. "Once it is on the Internet you have no control, so we should not include information which is marketable" he said. "Neither should we include information which belongs to someone else.

"In the same way, users at Kew need to be aware that information in the form of text or pictures that they can obtain through the Web could be someone else's copyright."

Security systems on Kew's computer network will ensure, as far as possible, that hackers will not be able to get into other parts of our computer system to steal or tamper with databases or other data.

The information to be included on the Web is being overseen by the Science Marketing Group, under the chairmanship of Professor Lucas. A production team of Ken Bailey, Steve Ruddy, Tony Cox, Pete Atkinson, Colin Clubbe and Don Kirkup are setting up a 'house style' into which various sections of Kew can input their information. Media Resources is assisting with the design and information presentation and providing high quality graphics and images.

## **BUILDING A MORE SECURE FUTURE**

*April*

Bob Potter has joined the staff of R.B.G. Kew in the newly created post of Head of Security. He has specific responsibility for the constabulary, rangers, ticket officers and house stewards and a wider remit to examine the general security of the R.B.G.

He retired last year from a long career in the Metropolitan Police rising to the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent. The majority of his career was spent in counter-terrorism work with Special Branch and this has included involvement with security at Heathrow Airport, negotiating with the French and Belgians regarding the Channel Tunnel and duty in Northern Ireland and the U.S.A. "I retired from the police six months ago and I realised that I wanted to take on a job that offered a real challenge and where my experience and particular skills could make a positive contribution".

He is keen to instill a wider culture of security amongst all staff at Kew and to raise the general level of awareness "The Constabulary and Rangers have links into security but it is not their sole responsibility" he says. "One of the most important factors about Kew and Wakehurst is the relaxed and easy-going atmosphere and the feeling of safety that is shared by both staff

and visitors. I certainly don't want to suggest that there should be a 'fortress R.B.G.' mentality but there is a need for everybody to appreciate the 'value' and not the 'price' of the people and things that we have here. Unfortunately it is a fact of modern life that there are elements in society who gain pleasure in stealing and destroying other people's property and causing physical pain to their fellow human-beings".

Bob Potter believes that the current initiatives on Health & Safety, where staff are responsible for examining their own part of the work-place, could also work well when it comes to security. "Security is a logical partner with health and safety. Once you are given personal 'ownership' of

your particular work area, and you know the value of the people and things that you are working with, it becomes easier to identify the most practical and efficient means of protecting them".



Bob Potter (left) with Constable Edward Ryan on one of the new 'go faster' constabulary mountain bikes.

Bob has been touring Kew and Wakehurst talking to staff and visitors and encouraging people to voice any concerns that they may have about security. This is an integral part of the research that will contribute to the strategic review that he is preparing of the differing protection needs of Kew and Wakehurst. "The key to an efficient and credible security system is 'balance'. We need to measure the value of the people and things we are trying to protect against the cost of that protection with due regard to the actual threat. Kew and Wakehurst are perceived as very safe places and we need to ensure that this remains the case. The 'fear of crime' can be as damaging, if not more so, than the crime itself. It would only take one or

two serious incidents to completely alter people's perception of the R.B.G. and, as well as the pain it would cause to the victims, the resulting publicity would cause irreparable damage to the R.B.G.'s image. We need to be proactive and ensure that we have the systems in place to minimise the risk to everybody rather than attempt to implement a knee-jerk response after something has happened."

Staff with queries about any aspect of security, whether to do with living or working at Kew or Wakehurst, should contact the Constabulary or Rangers. In case of difficulty Bob Potter can be contacted on 0181 332 5130.

## JOHN SIMMONS, CURATOR, LIVING COLLECTIONS

*May*

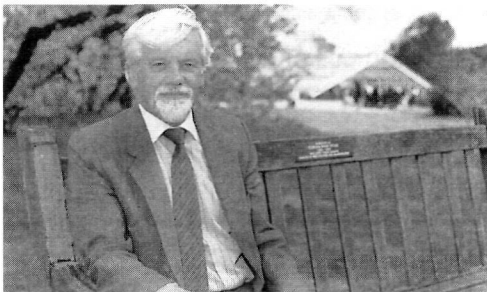
After 23 years in post and a total of 37 years service to Kew, John Simmons will be taking early retirement from his post as Curator of the Living Collections at R.B.G. Kew.

The Curator is the Garden's senior horticulturist, with responsibilities for all aspects of the Gardens at Kew and Wakehurst Place, including the School of Horticulture. It is an historic post, and John was the 11th Curator since the post was established in its present form 155 years ago. Before that the Curators were the famous Aitons, father and son.

Throughout his time as Curator, John Simmons has been involved with a greatly changing Kew. His first year in office coincided with the first United Nations Conference on the Human

Environment (1972). The proceedings of the conference were reflected by John's desire to move Kew – and by that to hopefully influence other botanic gardens around the world – into a more central conservation role. He encouraged this by initiating two international conservation conferences at Kew itself in the 1970s.

To make the Living Collections more useful to scientific research, John realised authentic, fully documented, natural source plant material should be used, and found opportunities for horticultural staff to travel – not only to gain experience of plants in the wild, but to gather new material. Through study, expeditions, and capacity building work with other botanic gardens, the Living Collections at Kew developed in scale, quality and range. This was also supported by the application of technology to cultivate notoriously difficult plants – refrigeration for alpine; marine environments for algae; micropropagation to maintain endangered species.



One of the major challenges was the programme of renewal of the major display houses. The restoration of the Palm House and Temperate Houses gave opportunities for more naturalistic, environmentally based displays. Engineering advances allowed the more economic operation of better controlled environments. While the Waterlily House, Alpine House and Marine Display attracted much attention, the Princess of Wales Conservatory stands as perhaps the most appreciated development of this period.

Within the Gardens at Kew other projects have included new elements such as the Useful Plant Garden around the Banks Building and the Grass Garden, but the main emphasis has been given to the renewal of existing features – from bamboos to rock garden.

More recently, John Simmons and his staff have turned their attention to new or enhanced visitor attracting displays – crocuses, magnolias, cherries, lilacs and azaleas. All of these have attracted sponsorship and all will ensure continuing visitor delight.

John has had management responsibility for Wakehurst since 1968 and has found its complementary development particularly rewarding. Tremendous changes were needed following the acquisition of the garden to progress from the 60,000 or so visitors per year it received then, to the 250,000 or so today – a development that has been done steadily and sensitively. The arboretum compliments Kew's collection with its radically different phytogeographical arrangement, and for John one of the greatest satisfactions was the establishment of the Loder Valley Reserve.

As a product of Kew's School of Horticulture, John has naturally been keen to see the courses improve and extend. Opportunities for students have been greatly increased while newer short courses for professionals in many botanical and horticultural disciplines have been introduced. John felt that the Kew of the 1950s, in which he was a student, had been introspective and sought to establish free collaborations with plant based institutions both in the U.K. and world wide.

Having in a sense grown up at Kew, John Simmons feels he has always been at ease with the many potentially conflicting interests in a large multidisciplinary organisation – he is a natural seeker of harmonies that bond and allow progress. He believes this is helped by his great love of nature and science as well as of gardens and his plant collecting travels in the Far East also confirm his views of the harmony that exists in nature. "I see no dividing line between the wild and the garden".

In 1987 John was awarded both the prestigious Victoria Medal of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society and the O.B.E. He has been President of the Institute of Horticulture and associated with numerous horticultural and conservation organisations. Predictably he views retirement not as an end but as a transition that "allows more time for personal interests and professional commitments".

## OWENS AND TAYLOR ARE NEW HoDs

*June*

Dr Simon Owens is to be the new Keeper of the Herbarium and Mr. Nigel Taylor the new Curator of the Living Collections Department. Both begin their new jobs on August 1st.



Professor Prance, Kew's Director, said he was delighted both jobs had gone to internal applicants. "It is very pleasing that our own staff have been able to compete so well for a job that was advertised internationally," he said.

"These are people who have always worked across departments at Kew and it is going to become increasingly important to work in this symbiotic way in the future. I am confident they will be providing dynamic leadership for Kew, carrying our mission well into the future."

Dr. Owens is currently Grade 7 Botanist in the Plant Anatomy Section of the Jodrell, and is a specialist in breeding systems. He has worked at Kew for 23 years. Mr. Taylor is a Grade 7 botanist in the Herbarium, where he has a special interest in cacti. He was previously the Herbarium's horticultural botanist.



The Directorate took the innovative step of asking each candidate to give a presentation on their views on how botanic gardens and herbaria respectively, should develop into the 21st century. The presentations were open to all staff and this proved a popular move – the Jodrell was filled almost to capacity for both presentations.

Staff had the opportunity to question each candidate, and to discuss the presentations with members of the two selection boards.

Dr. Owens said that he felt it important to strengthen links between the Herbarium and other departments while maintaining traditional Herbarium strengths. New information technology would improve the way data is handled internally and made available to others. He also wants to raise the public understanding of systematics.

Simon Owens (top) and Nigel Taylor.

Mr. Taylor also stressed co-operation, between L.C.D. and the Herbarium and suggested an increase in L.C.D.'s involvement in research. He also wanted to see greater value placed on horticultural skills and plantsmanship. He stressed the importance of public education and of fundraising.

## ATTENBOROUGH OPENS WAKEHURST STUDY CENTRE

*July*

Sir David Attenborough opened the new study centre at Wakehurst Place on June 8th. It is one of the finest facilities for environmental studies in the country and is available for school children and older students from Sussex and further afield to study conservation and related subjects. It will also run courses for teachers.

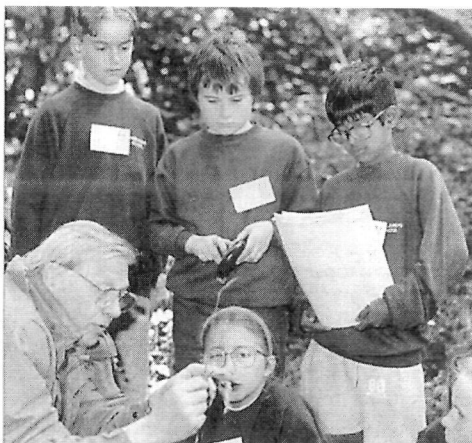
The centre, which is equipped with the most up to date educational facilities, was funded by donations and sponsorship raised through the R.B.G. Kew Foundation. Funds were given by

SEEBOARD, the Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust, the Eranda Foundation and the Notgrove Trust.

"Wakehurst is an excellent site for such a centre," said John Ellison of Education and Marketing. "On the Wakehurst estate pupils have an unrivalled opportunity to appreciate a diverse range of habitats and some increasingly rare native plants, such as the Tunbridge Wells filmy fern and the violet helleborine.

"The centre demonstrates Kew's resolution to deliver an education programme which enables teachers to provide improved environmental education in line with the demands of the National Curriculum."

At the opening, Sir David Attenborough took part in a range of typical educational activities that will be held for children at the centre. These included basket making, landscape evaluation and the microscope study of insects and other small animals collected from ponds and other habitats.



### JOHN WOODHAMS, Assistant Curator – Tropical Section

*July*

John Woodhams, Assistant Curator of the Tropical Section of L.C.D., who retires at the end of this month, has spent virtually the whole of his horticultural career at Kew.

Horticulture ran in the Woodhams family. His father was Head Gardener on an estate in Corsham, Wiltshire – working through the Second World War managing the production of food crops for the Westinghouse railway factory at Swindon.



After the war the family moved to Dorset and at 15 John joined Weymouth Parks Department, training at the Department's Nursery in Melcombe Regis.

It was at this time that John came into contact with Frank Goldsack, the County Horticulture Adviser, who had trained at Kew in 1937. He recognised John's keenness and potential and guided his early career. John spent a year on the general commercial horticulture course at Cannington College, Somerset where he gained the course practical prize and the R.H.S. General and N.C.E.H. Certificates.

The next goal was a period training at Kew, although initially his attempts to get onto the course were unsuccessful. But persistence and a

little help from Frank Goldsack, paid off and John gained a place on Kew's 'Improver Scheme', working in the North Arboretum. The scheme provided a stepping stone to a place on the Kew Diploma course which John took from 1962 to 1964.

After the course John successfully obtained a post as propagator in the Tropical Pits Unit at Kew followed by a foremanship in the same section.

In 1969 he moved from the Tropical to Decorative Section, where the Queens Garden behind Kew Palace was being planted and required supervision and preparation for the official opening.

John's work in the Fernery during his improver course gave him a lasting interest in ferns and he asked to take over the Foremanship of the Fernery after Bert Bruty retired in 1970. The decade was to see great changes in the way Kew's tropical collections, including the ferns, were displayed. Houses 2 and 3, which held the Tropical and Temperate Fern collections, were completely relandscaped inside. This was very successful, not just because it improved cultivation facilities, but because it greatly popularised these previously little-visited conservatories.

John was awarded the Kew Medal in 1980 in recognition of his work to develop the fern collections; together with work for the Kew Guild and for his plant collecting and advisory activities. He was one of the initial five recipients.

John took over the reins of the Tropical Section in 1981, initially on a temporary basis. His appointment was confirmed the following year. By now major planning work was in hand for the Princess of Wales Conservatory, a major project which was to make almost unprecedented demands on Kew's resources and on the Tropical Section in particular.

John encouraged team effort and personal identification with the project by the section staff and by those diploma students who took part in the landscaping and planting. He regards the celebrations accompanying the official opening by the Princess on July 28th 1987 as a particular milestone in his career.

## **SUMMER JAZZ AT KEW 1995 SUCCESS**

*August*

This year's concert week was the most successful to date. Total attendance this year was 17,600 people, which means almost 90 per cent of the tickets were sold, with 41 per cent of them going before the end of April to Friends, Season Ticket Holders and Staff.

The net profit figure has not been finalised yet, but looks to be in excess of £100,000.

Special thanks to Mark Sparrow and all the staff of the Temperate House, Mark Jones, Martin Sweeney and their team from B&M, Stewards, Constabulary, Ticket Officers, Media Resources, Public Relations, Friends Volunteers, TW1 cleaners and all the staff of Town and County at Kew for a huge team effort.

Also many thanks to Bob Potter and Roger Joiner who performed marvelously under pressure as Masters of Ceremony.

## **KEW MEDALS**

*September*

The first Kew Medals were awarded in 1980, to five people, one of whom was not a member of staff. Nominations have to be proposed and seconded and supported, with full details of the candidate's exceptional and meritorious service. The medal is not automatically awarded for long service, but this may be a factor.

Nominations are made to the Kew Medal Committee which meets in early August and usually chooses one person to receive the Medal. Their choice is submitted to the Director for approval.

## **TRUSTEES CHANGE**

*November*

Four members of R.B.G. Kew's Board of Trustees have reached the end of their appointment period. They are Sir Phillip Dowson, Victoria Wakefield (from December 14th), Julian Pettifer and Sir Robert May.

The new members of the Board are: Sir Jeffery Bowman (from December 15th), who has been working closely with staff on many aspects of the Seed Bank project; Hugh Dickinson, Professor of Plant Science at Oxford University; Anna Ford, BBC News journalist and presenter and Spencer de Grey, senior partner with architects Norman Foster and Partners.

### November

Kew's 1995 Round the Gardens Race attracted an enthusiastic entry of staff and students and was won – as usual – by Nigel Rothewell, in a time of 14 minutes and 51 seconds. He was followed by Steve Davis (left) and Peter Edwards (right). Kathleen King was the fastest lady and James Morley came fifth.



### HANS FLIEGNER

*December*

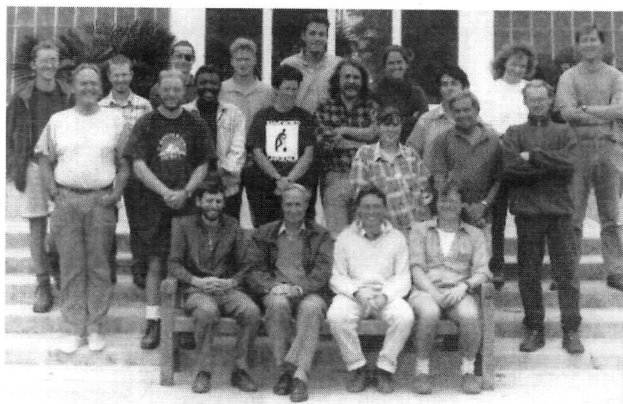
Hans Fliegner, who retired as Assistant Curator of the Temperate Section of L.C.D. in August but has been working on other projects at Kew until the end of November – nearly didn't have a career here at all.

He arrived at Kew from Munich Botanic Garden as a student on the last intake of the old style two year course, on April 1st 1963, to be greeted by Curator Stenning with the words "Oh, we weren't expecting you". There had been a delay obtaining Hans's work permit – he should never have left Munich without it.

"I had been to England before, to Cambridge Botanic Garden on an international student exchange and that is what gave me the ambition to come to Kew to learn more," said Hans. One of the other Cambridge students was Roy Lancaster, now presenter of the BBC Gardeners

World TV programme.

"He gave his landlady a hard time, covering her carpets with plants he was learning how to identify," remembers Hans.



Hans (centre, front) with the Palm House team following the restoration of the building.

Hans began his student days at Kew in the Tropical Section, under its Assistant Curator, Stan Rawlings. After the course he stayed on and became a propagator in the nurseries in the Melon Yard, where a certain John Simmons was Supervisor. Alpines had been a special interest since the Munich days

and Hans's next job was Supervisor of the Alpine Section, with responsibility for the rock, woodland and Duke's Gardens, quarantine house and producing plants for the Jodrell Laboratory. "Brian Halliwell, the Assistant Curator, unfortunately had a long illness at the time but it was an

opportunity for me because I became involved in the initial planning for the new Alpine House. Everyone was determined it should not be just another greenhouse but something a bit more inspiring – the pyramidal shape was to represent an Alpine peak."

But just as the Alpine House was taking shape the opportunity for promotion to Assistant Curator came up – Hans got the job but it meant a move to the Services Section, where he worked for just over a year. "Life at Kew seems to have been quite circular," says Hans. "At that time Stewart Henchie was the Temperate Nursery Supervisor. Then I moved to become Assistant Curator of the Temperate Section and Stewart moved to Services – now he's back at Temperate having taken over from me!"

Hans's involvement in the Alpine House project was to stand him in good stead for the rest of his time at Kew – buildings, as well as plants, were to play a major role in his working life. First came the phased restoration of the Temperate House in 1977 then, just as that was completed, came the realisation that the Palm House would need to be completely rebuilt and no sooner was that job safely out of the way, than work began on the Waterlily House.

"The architects had only just handed over the last stage of the Temperate House when I found myself reporting to John Simmons that bits of corroded metal from the Palm House roof had fallen and nearly hit someone," said Hans. "We put a wind gauge on the roof and had to close the house in high winds."

The Palm House restoration was even more of a challenge than the Temperate House had been because it could not be completed in stages. All the plants would have to be moved out and either propagated or re-housed. "The tallest palms would not fit in the temporary greenhouse we had built, so we had to dig a three metre deep trench in there to accommodate them.

"All the restoration work and the opportunities it gave us to bring in new ideas – such as the Marine Display in the Palm House basement – made this an extraordinary, exciting and challenging time to be at Kew."

Plant collecting expeditions were another key part of Hans's career at Kew. The first was to Iran in 1977 with John Simmons – an exciting introduction to field work – followed by visits to Spain in 1980 to collect Mediterranean species.

"The most exciting expedition, though, was the first to China with John Simmons in 1985. We were able to visit a number of areas not open to westerners since the 1930s." One of the reasons Hans stayed on after his official retirement was to return to China for the fifth time to collect in Sichuan and Tibet.

Hans has been consulted by a number of overseas botanic gardens and helped establish Trivandrum Botanic Garden, in the Indian State of Kerala – many of the staff from this garden have been to Kew for training. Hans has been working on proposals for similar projects and hopes they will continue to be an important part of Kew's work into the future.

Hans has not followed in John Simmons footsteps and retired to the countryside. Instead he has moved to Whitton so that he can remain close to Kew and stay in touch with the many friends he and his wife Barbara have in the area. He is keen to remain involved in horticulture and hopes to take on some horticultural consultancy work, perhaps involving links with overseas gardens, when he leaves Kew.

## **EXCERPTS FROM KEW NEWS RELEASES RECEIVED DURING 1995**

### **KEW APPOINTS FUND-RAISING DIRECTOR**

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, have appointed a new Fund-Raising Director. He is Mr. Randle Cooke, L.V.O., who was formerly Deputy Director of the Treasurers' Department at Conservative Central Office where he was extensively involved in fund-raising in both the private and corporate sectors in the U.K. and abroad.

Mr. Cooke has a background in the army and in industry and is Chairman of his own management consultancy. He is married with two adult children. He lives near Amersham and is a keen countryman and gardener.

### **"MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY" PLANT FRUITS AT KEW**

The breadfruit, which links Kew Gardens and the Mutiny on the Bounty – a Kew gardener sailed with Captain Bligh when he was carrying breadfruit trees from Tahiti to the West Indies – has produced fruit for the first time ever in Kew's Palm House.

A breadfruit plant has usually been on show at Kew ever since the days of Sir Joseph Banks who, as unofficial Director in the late 18th century, established an international reputation for the Gardens.

This year, however, an example of the fruit, which can grow to the size of a small football and which is an important source of carbohydrate, especially in the western Pacific area, has appeared on a tree which has grown so well so that it is touching the roof of the Palm House.

Kew's giant waterlily, **Victoria "Longwood Hybrid"**, has also achieved a record this year, with a leaf 8'6" across. Another success has been the flowering, for the first time for many years, of the spectacular West African species, **Baikiaea insignis**, the blooms of which, though highly scented, open and die in little more than two hours.

### **DARWIN MONEY FOR KEW TO HELP SAVE RUSSIA'S BOTANICAL TREASURES**

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, which houses the most comprehensive collection of botanical specimens in the world, is helping to rescue some of the outstanding botanical collections in Russia which are deteriorating because of lack of funds to provide adequate care.

An important factor in the identification and classification of plants is the herbarium – a collection of dry plants mounted on paper, with field data. The information held in the collections is essential to help maintain and utilise the vast plant wealth of the Russian and other former Soviet Republics and ensure the long term survival of many particularly valuable plants.

Members of the staff of Kew's Herbarium, which contains some six million specimens, are taking part in a two-week course from 2nd-13th October in the Komarov Botanical Institute, St. Petersburg, for 26 participants from Russia and the former Soviet Union, covering basic information and skills in collection care and management. It is a collaborative project between Kew, St. Petersburg and Moscow (the Botany Department of the State University).

Funding for the Kew course has been provided by the Darwin Initiative, which was announced by the British Prime Minister, Mr. John Major, at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992. The Darwin grant has also enabled Kew to sponsor and publish a Russian edition of *'The Herbarium Handbook'*, a textbook written to accompany Kew's International Diploma Course in Herbarium Techniques.

Russia and the former Soviet Union have more than 230 distinct botanical and mycological collections (including herbarium specimens, fossils and living plants) and these contain an estimated 25 million specimens. Most institutions, however, do not have funds to provide or fully maintain suitable buildings, storage facilities, and adequate protection against fire and insect pests. Money is often not adequate for materials, postage – to facilitate international specimen exchange, for instance – and, most sadly of all, staff are very poorly paid. A conference, supported by U.N.E.S.C.O., in St. Petersburg in December 1993 identified the need for a special training course for Russian botanists on international aspects of herbarium management.

### **KEW APPOINTS U.S. ORCHID EXPERT TO SAINSBURY FELLOWSHIP**

One of the best known international figures in the study of orchids, Dr. Alec M. Pridgeon, has been appointed Sainsbury Orchid Fellow at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Dr. Pridgeon, a former Editor of the *'American Orchid Society Bulletin'*, was born in Dallas, Texas, in 1950 and received his Ph.D. in biology from Florida State University. Subsequent studies took him to Florida University, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra, where he worked on an orchid treatise which is to be published by Oxford University Press.

As well as editing the '*American Orchid Society Bulletin*', he was founding editor of the scientific orchid journal, '*Lindleyana*' and author, or co-author, of a large number of scientific and popular articles and eight books, including the best-selling '*The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids*'.

Dr. Pridgeon's research has taken him to Costa Rica and Panama as well as to Colombia, Africa, Australia and New Caledonia. He is a member of the International Orchid Commission, Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, Fellow of the American Orchid Society and Associate of the Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium of Harvard University.

At Kew he will be co-ordinating and contributing to a major monograph of the world's orchid genera, '*Genera Orchidacearum*'.

The Sainsbury Orchid Fellowship, reflecting Kew's long established expertise, was created in 1986 through the generosity of Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury. The first and only previous incumbent, Joyce Stewart, is now Director of Horticulture at the Royal Horticultural Society.

### KEW SEED BANK WILL SAVE THOUSANDS OF SPECIES

Native British plant species need never again come under the threat of extinction thanks to a seed bank and research institute for which funds are being provided to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, by the Millennium Commission.

By means of seed in store, it will be possible for species which become extinct to be reintroduced and for rarities to be germinated and found habitats in which they can flourish.

Some estimates say that, worldwide, some 25 per cent of plant species could become extinct in the next 50 years.

The Millennium Seed Bank will be built near Wakehurst Place, the West Sussex estate leased by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, from the National Trust. An important feature will be access for the public to see the work of sorting, selecting and storing the seeds.

Kew's present seed bank at Wakehurst Place, although the largest and most diverse in the world devoted to wild species, still represents less than two per cent of flowering plant flora. The new institution will ensure that at least 10 per cent of the world's flora will be safe by the year 2010, giving scientists some breathing space in the race to discover properties of plants – including medicinal – before they disappear from the Earth for ever.

It will concentrate on species in the U.K. – with local botanists, under supervision, playing a part in seed collection – and on the species of the arid and semi-arid regions of the world, where the uses of wild species are greatest.

Commenting on the award by the Millennium Commission, the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, said: "The saving of rare seeds and potentially useful wild species of plants is one of the most important gifts our generation could give to the people of the third millennium. There is no doubt that species of plants will continue to become extinct in the wild. We must not lose their genetic potential and the seed bank will ensure their survival for use and reintroduction.

"The design of the new seed bank will ensure both the safety of the seeds as a world resource and will allow our visitors to learn more about the importance of seeds and their conservation.

"The installation of this vast expansion to our seed bank is one of the greatest and most important challenges ever faced by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. However, I know that my staff will respond to it and we will achieve our goal of banking the seeds of an additional 10 per cent of the world's flora by 2010 and those of the entire British Flora long before that date."

### KEW SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS HONOURED

Professor Michael Bennett, Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, was awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List. He has been in charge of the wide

range of scientific research at the Jodrell Laboratory since 1987. Previously he was in charge of a research group at Cambridge. He is a Visiting Professor at Reading University and an Honorary Professor at Cardiff University.

He is known for his research on plant D.N.A. and chromosomes. Since 1990 his team at Kew has pioneered new uses of the 'FISH' method in wild plants. Chromosomes from different ancestors are painted in different colours, revealing the origins of the species.

Professor Bennett (pictured right) was responsible for trebling the size of the Jodrell Laboratory. The extended building was opened by H.M. the Queen in March 1994.

Recently he was part of Kew's team which won a Millennium Fund award of over £21 million for a new Seed Bank. This project will construct, by the year 2000, a vault with ideal conditions for conserving living seeds and then collect, in the following nine years, 25,000 threatened wild plant species.



## KEW WEATHER FOR THE YEAR 1995

Compiled by Dickon Bowling

Year's total rainfall	564.34mm	
Most rain in one day	30.50mm	on 19.12.95
Highest temperature (maximum)	34.9°C	on 2.8.95
Lowest temperature (maximum)	.5°C	on 6.12.95
Lowest temperature (minimum)	-6.2°C	on 3.1.95 and 26.12.95
Highest temperature (minimum)	21.3°C	on 2.8.95
Most sun in one day	15.9 hours	on 29.6.95
Year's total sunshine	1,927.9 hours	
Mean daily average	5.28 hours	

There were 49 nights when the air minimum temperature was below freezing, 94 nights for the grass minimum temperature and 81 nights for the concrete minimum temperature.

There was no sun recorded on 72 days and no rain was recorded on 185 days of the year.

The strongest wind speed was 40 knots with gusts up to 54 knots. It was an WNW wind on 17.3.95 (gale).

Of 85 pH tests, ranging from 3.86 to 6.62, the average was pH 5.90.



## SOCCER TEAM 1949/1950

By D. MacGuffog

Do we, I wonder, have any enthusiastic Soccer fans amongst Kewites who might be interested in this photograph? All that can be said is that it illustrates a bunch of stalwarts from the 1949/1950 period and whose successes on the field of play could be described in a very few words! A bottle of champagne to the first person to correctly name all the 11 players. Written answers to the Editor please.  
*But champagne from Don M! (Editor).*

## NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 1995

Compiled by the Rev. Hugh Flower

**Jonathan Allin** (1991) worked briefly in Greece after leaving Kew, then to New Zealand as a Beekeeper, before starting his landscape and design business. He has worked with fellow Kewite **Russell Forbes**. He has also been to Sydney, working in several retail nurseries. Now in the eastern suburbs of the city his business offers garden design, planting and maintenance services plus, at times, work for real estate agents – tidying properties placed for sale. He does not miss our cold English weather.

'Kew Remembered' from **Margaret Benham** (née Evans – 1945).

In August 1944, I went to work at Kew Gardens straight from Studley Horticultural College. A fellow student, **Nancy Rymer**, came with me and we were employed as women gardeners, as only men were accepted as students in those days. Because of war-time conscription, most of the young men at Kew were either conscientious objectors or medically unfit for military service.

Nancy and I went into 'digs' a short walk away from the small staff entrance gate near the corner by Kew Green. Immediately inside the gate was a sort of ticket hut and seated inside was a fierce man who handed each person a brass disc with a hole at one side which we had to hang on a numbered hook on a board opposite the hut; everyone was allocated a number which one kept throughout one's employment. It was thus easy to see who was late and who was absent and one's wages were debitted accordingly. We were quickly issued with the regulation wooden soled clogs with leather uppers, which were surprisingly comfortable, and then placed with Mr. Holder, Curator of the outside gardens. We spent most of the first two months hoeing beds and borders. It wasn't boring as we were seeing trees and shrubs that we had not seen before and the visitors kept stopping to talk and ask questions. Kew Gardens were an island of beauty and restfulness within easy reach of bomb-scarred London and we met people from all over Britain, as well as service men from America, Canada and what was then still the British Empire.

After about three months, Nancy was put in charge of the small geranium house and I was sent to Plant House No. 1, near the main gate on Kew Green. This was a lovely job as I was in sole charge of a mini-jungle of large tropical plants – lots of *caladiums* and *epiphytes* and large trees whose names I long ago forgot. The only company were the cockroaches, which I had to trap in jam jars half-filled with water with a thin film of olive oil on top. Where all this olive oil came from in food rationed Britain is still a mystery to me. The cockroaches were required by some organisation and were regularly collected by Mr. Stenning, but he never told me why or where they went.

The house should have been kept at a minimum of 80°F but because of coke rationing, the boiler could only be kept at 55-60°F, so all these tropical plants were struggling to survive. I used to clear away two barrow-loads of yellowing and wilted leaves every day.

On two occasions in early 1945 I was not allowed to go to Plant House No. 1 for a whole day because it was needed by the army. I was intrigued at this, but learnt later that soldiers were taken there to show them what to expect in jungle warfare! I still wonder if this was true.

Shortly after Nancy and I arrived at Kew, the first V2 bomb dropped onto the Chrysler works in nearby Chiswick. It was about 2.00 a.m. and the tremendous noise woke everyone up. I opened my eyes as I woke up and got bits of ceiling in both as chunks of plaster had fallen onto the bed, but there was no other damage. A few days later, when we were at work, another V2 fell on the Great West Road – not far from Kew as the bomb flies.

As summer approached and it became light enough to see at 6.00 a.m., our working hours were increased and we had to clock-in. At 6.45 the gate was shut until 7.00 a.m. and late arrivals lost sixpence from their wages. The gate was again locked until 8.00 a.m. and the really late comers lost two shillings and sixpence (half a crown), which was a lot out of my three pounds a week. I was rarely late!

By now, Nancy and I had moved into an attic flat with mice and use of the landlady's bathroom! We used to prepare breakfast the night before and the next morning, loaded everything into our bike bags and sped the mile down to the staff gate and clock-in. We then worked until 8.00 a.m., when we had half an hour for breakfast, which was taken in the Iron Room – a corrugated iron structure containing a long bench with three gas rings and a few chairs. This building was allocated for the use of the women gardeners, where we could cook our breakfast and lunch too, if you wanted. Because of the short time for breakfast, Nancy and I often took a saucepan of cold cooked porridge in a bike bag, this could be heated up very quickly with a little water added and, as we ate this, our bacon and fried bread was sizzling away on the gas ring. Amazingly we didn't get indigestion. Lunch we usually took at a little cafe close to the staff gate on the corner of Kew Green. It was called 'The Nook' and was run by two motherly ladies who gave a home cooked, two course meal, for one shilling and sixpence.

The war in Europe ended I think, on May 1st and May 8th was declared a national holiday. I went with Nancy and two other Kew girls to Parliament Square quite early in the morning. It was one of those hot, sunny days that often happen in May and it drew enormous crowds out. We spent the whole day there and climbed onto the roof of a small wooden building in the middle of the square to see as much as possible. I recall hearing jazz music moving through and heard Humphrey Littleton playing his trumpet on a lorry in Parliament Square. Later in the afternoon came a tremendous cheering and the top of a black limousine could be seen making its way to the Houses of Parliament and word went round the crowd that it was Mr. Churchill.

After a hot, sticky day we all went back to base to wash and change and then back up the Mall and down to Buckingham Palace to see the King and Queen come out onto the famous balcony. It was a never-to-be-forgotten day.

I left Kew just before VJ day and became a School Gardening Adviser with the Birmingham Education Committee. Nancy stayed on a while longer and then went to Denmark to work in Pulsen's Nursery and then to Canada, where she still lives. We have kept in touch ever since and occasionally manage to meet. We both have very happy memories of our time at Kew.

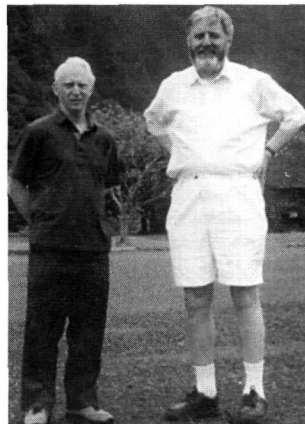
**J. Blackman**, who left Kew in 1934, has resigned this year from the Guild because of his inability to partake any longer in Kew events. As with so many of us, he wrote gratefully of "past association and happy memories".

**Peter Brooks** (1963) visited Hawaii in April 1994 and met with **Keith Woolliams** (1963) and his wife, keeping a long standing invitation from them. He enjoyed their hospitality and their escorting him to places and gardens of interest, particularly those not visited by tourists. Peter was able to make the visit having taken early retirement from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council as Landscape Officer, where he had been for 13 years.

Prior to that and on leaving Kew, he was, for a short time, employed at Windsor Castle. That was followed by work as a landscape assistant for Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield Development Corporation.

In 1968 he moved a little further to Stevenage Development Corporation in a similar capacity. At this time he studied part-time in landscape architecture at Thames Polytechnic and then onto a Diploma in the same subject. Peter left Stevenage in 1979, moving for a short time to Crawley.

Semi-retirement suits Peter, enabling him to undertake specialist projects and private works.



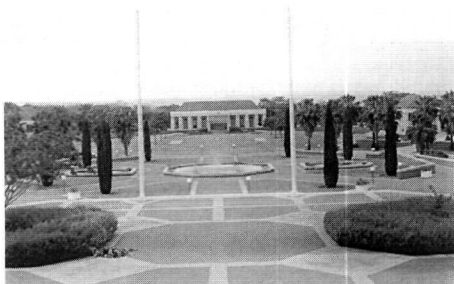
Keith Woolliams, Director of Waimea Falls Park, Hawaii (left), with Peter Brooks.

**G. B. Brown** (1944) responded to the Guild's letter to all Life Members, during 1995:

Prior to entering Kew in 1942, he trained at Seale Hayne, Sparsholt, Exbury and S. P. Wells & Son Nurseries at Bournemouth. C. P. Raffell was Head of the Temperate Department at Kew, with the Curator W. M. Campbell and Director, Professor Salisbury.

On leaving Kew he went to work under A. Blackburn in Stanley Park, Blackpool, for two years before going to Hove Parks Department as Foreman under McCready. Later he married and went to Clacton U.D.C. as Assistant Gardens Superintendent, followed by time at Danson Park, Bexley, under F. H. Eul. After his father retired to the New Forest, G. B. Brown became Deputy Parks and Cemeteries Superintendent at Gosport, and later a similar post and an agent for the County School Playing Fields within the Borough. He spent 39 years in Local Government and keeps fairly well in his retirement.

**Graham Burgess** was asked to design a major maze for Expo 2000 near Hanover in Germany. The theme of the Exposition is 'Man, Nature and Technology' and the symbolic maze reflects this. Heino Heine was full of enthusiastic help as the location is close to sites of the famous contorted Beeches. New initiatives are being made by Graham, as a Director of T. Point, a multimedia company, in gardening related products and education. These included a demonstration at Capel Manor. Fellow Kewite, **Graham Pattison**, now with N.C.C.P.G. also attended.



View of Central Pavilion, New State House, Lilongwe, Malawi.

**Robert Carrington** (1976) wrote in with his news:

"In January 1994, I accepted a position with the Malawi Government as Principal Horticulturist for State Residences. The deposed Dr. Banda had a great love for horticulture. All 17 state residences, scattered nation wide, housed a superb collection of indigenous and exotic species. The prize residence was New State House, Lilongwe – a stately home situated in the centre of a 550 hectare estate. The gardens boasted both formal and informal design, incorporating impressive water features, vistas and magnificent rolling parkland. Without a doubt the most

beautiful gardens in Africa. My labour force were all Malawian nationals. Wonderful, friendly people, who worked to an extremely high standard, trained by a succession of British horticulturists from the mid 1970s to present day. Labour was plentiful, having control of over 2,000 gardeners on an average wage of Mk450 per month + -£20 per month. Extremely difficult conditions considering food prices are at least double the U.K.

"Unfortunately, due to democratic change, the new Government's priority was to curb expenditure and the operational funds for the gardens were totally frozen. I was also asked to leave, hence my move to South Africa. Thanks to the valuable Kewites, **Eroll Scarr** and **Gilbert Briscoe**, I was able to secure a position as Technical Manager for Rentokil Tropical Plants South Africa. We are the largest Tropical Plant company in South Africa and are based in Johannesburg. I will be purchasing a home in 1996 and intend to settle with my family."

**Frank Constable** (1949) wrote in November 1995 and enclosed a copy of an article in a recent magazine, which at the beginning reflexed on the successful T.V. programmes of the Victorian and Wartime Kitchen Gardens.

Frank began work in the mid 1930s at Chatsworth, Derbyshire, as an apprentice for the sum of 12 shillings per week. J. G. Weston was the Head Gardener then and during Frank's time was made an Associate of Honour by the R.H.S. Forty years later Frank received the same award. At Chatsworth Frank received training in the greenhouses, where fruit and a wide variety of plants were grown as well as in the spacious pleasure grounds. Bert Liak was General Foreman

then, guiding Frank too, giving him charge of the extensive Camellia collection. After Chatsworth Frank attended the Midland Agricultural College (now the School of Agriculture, Nottingham University).

On completion of the course he took a journeyman's post in the gardens of Hon. Mrs. N. C. Rothschild at Ashton Wold, Northamptonshire. There he looked after three plant houses, together with a range of fruit houses. Then the variety of grape, Black Hamburg, was grown with the assistance of heat in January, to produce grapes in June. Bunches weighing up to 22lb were obtained from the variety Barbarossa. Orchids were also grown. After war service, Frank became a student at Kew, which led to 40 years of municipal gardening. Gardening on a grand scale ended after the war.

Now Frank is Chairman of the Governors of a Further Education College and, too, of East Midlands in Bloom and, of course, he has other commitments.

**Jim Dalglish** (1954), who lives in Houslow, wrote in October recapping on his career. He was a student from 1952-54, which was followed by a time as propagator at Ealing Parks Department; a Foreman with the old Sidcup Parks Department; Divisional Superintendent with the City of Birmingham; Grounds Superintendent at Hampton Court Palace, and then to Kensington as Parks Officer, followed by early retirement! Which means that now he is able to work as a consultant at Squires Garden Centre, Twickenham, advising customers on all aspects of horticulture.

**Stephen Davis** (1977), who joined Kew's S.E.P.A.S.A.L. project (the Survey of Economic Plants of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands) in 1993, undertook a highly successful visit to Kenya and Uganda in 1995. Following fieldwork in Kenyan coastal forests, he visited many conservation and development projects, demonstrating the newly developed PC version of S.E.P.A.S.A.L. database to potential collaborators. Prior to this, at the end of 1994, he presented the work of S.E.P.A.S.A.L. at the Centre for Minor Forest Products at Dehra Dun, India and at the IVth International Congress on Ethnobiology in Lucknow. The first of three volumes of '*Centres of Plant Diversity*', a major project of W.W.F. and I.U.C.N. for which Stephen was co-editor and a major contributor, was published in 1994. It covers important plant sites in Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Volume 2 (Asia and the Pacific) and Volume 3 (Americas) are due to be published in 1995.

We heard from **Molly Eady** (1945) at Middle Claydon, Buckinghamshire, living in the same flat in retirement as when she worked for the Verney's at Claydon House for 17 years until 1987, especially in the Rose Garden.

At Kew Molly was in the Tropical Department looking after the orchids in the 'T' Range, and then in the Temperate Department and Filmy Ferns. Hours worked in the summer were from 6.30 a.m.-8.00 a.m. and then 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., losing half and hour's pay if late. Molly is still in touch with **Douglas Dawson** and **Roy Ashley**, though she has never met Roy (he was at Kew years after she was), but they were put in touch via 'The Link'. Both she and Douglas are members of the Hardy Plant Society, which established a link for them. Molly has also kept in touch with **Shelagh Morrissey**, née Cooper, for many years.

During the early part of the year she used to take unpaid leave and travel to New Zealand, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mexico, and the Falklands. Now her interest has turned to birds, having joined bird watching parties and, because of her interest, has been interviewed for radio including 'Woman's Hour' on Radio 4.

**Alfred J. Fordham** wrote to our Membership Secretary after Christmas:

"I am sorry to have delayed in responding to your request for information concerning my present standing in the Kew Guild. It has been a real pleasure to receive the *Kew Journal* and also the other information which has arrived in recent years.

"My student year at Kew, with its many classes, lectures and demonstrations, was very intensive but highly satisfying. During this period an effort was also made to visit the profusion of famous museums and historic sites in the vicinity of London.



"Enclosed are two photographs (pictured left) showing fellow students in 1937. The photograph with five persons shows A. J. Fordham, N. Langham, W. Menzies, D. Hogg and propagator Charles Coates. The photograph with seven persons contains Frank Walker, Frank Goldsack, Percy Page, Denis Hogg, Alfred Fordham, John Ewart and W. Menzies in the foreground."

Alfred retired as a Research Horticulturist at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in 1977 and has continued lecturing, writing and consulting ever since.



From **Reg Harrison** (1962) we heard initially that he was to become President of I.L.A.M. in June, for the year 1995. He was appointed Founding Chairman for the year of the London Tree Forum. His Vice Chairman, Trevor Preston, will take over the chair in 1996.

**Frank Hebden** (1947) lives with his wife, Joan, in Springwood N.S.W. In the first half of the year they were presented with the Premiers' Award for service to the community, mainly for running the local section of Meals on Wheels for 10 years.

The award was presented by the Mayor of the Blue Mountains. Dorothy Noall lives in the same village too, though not a Kewite. Frank checks the monthly flowering date of the native plants growing on the property and the birds sighted. He notes that a small forest of *Eucalyptus deanii* has been placed on the States' heritage list.

During July **Norman Hickman** (1961) wrote from Nuneaton and is now in retirement after 40 years in local government service, with special emphasis on nursery management. After privatisation he became contract client manager, not a particularly enjoyable time for him as he says too much paper – not enough plants. Now he has time to look after his large garden and do some advisory work for the nurseryman providing bedding for a local authority.

**Bryan Howard** (1966) responded to the Editor's invitation to "Keep in touch" in the December of the *Kew Guardian* and gave us the following information:

"I have no claim to real fame but I can perhaps justifiably claim to have been the first student 'selected' onto the brand new October 1963 Kew Diploma intake! A peculiar circumstance arose in that, having already started on the April '63 final Certificate course along with nine other enthusiastic young 'botanists', I was the only one to accept an invitation to become a 'Diploma guinea pig', by switching six months later to the newly trumpeted KEW DIPLOMA COURSE for student gardeners. As a consequence it follows that maybe I'm also the 'odd one out' as, not wanting to leave Kew in a hurry (who did?) I became the only student to have 'done time' to the tune of three and a half years!

"A spell assisting Tony Schilling when Wakehurst Place was being shaped up prior to opening its 'Kew doors' to visitors, provided a breathing space to help me decide just where to apply my new found plant knowledge.

"Being reliably informed by Tony S. that anything above Potters Bar was the 'wild north' and that Shropshire was cold, wet and dominated by farmers who, it is said, are the 'world's worst gardeners'. This 'uncomfortable' 'foot and mouth ridden' county was to become my stamping ground (after Birmingham University Department of Education granted its first Kew Student places on a Technical Teachers Certificate Course, i.e. John O'Conner and myself) as County Horticultural Adviser/Lecturer where, for almost 30 years, I helped to fly a 'horticultural flag' with a little help from the late Percy Thrower in a magnificent county that is thankfully still by-passed by most.

"Plants and People became, and still is, my slogan, this giving me a wide ranging opportunity in schools, to the 'domestic producer', service to County Council departments and a host of other avenues.

"Opportunities arose for at least one day return visit to Kew each year to introduce student groups to the 'hub of horticulture', but future visits will be free of such responsibilities and I should have time to stop and talk to people (and plants?).

"The field of further education had until recent times privileged spells of lengthy leave, providing great opportunities for travel. Although not with the same application or mission as that undertaken by Kew staff, it has been great to discover with my family and often as guests of the Y.H.A.I., plants previously known in 'captivity' at Kew seen in their native home, be it East Africa, North America, New Zealand, Australia (including unrivalled Tasmania), the latter soon to be revisited, this time via Malaysia.

"As one who has also entered the ridiculously called state of 'early retirement', I can only hope that plants are a little more prominent in Salopians lives today as we all recognise that 'plants are our only survival kit' – a fact which even farmers will admit.

"As soon discovered by all Kewites, plants must remain a dominant interest for life and as one door closes so others open – for me it's to continue 'talking plants' on local radio (I have my own programme as Presenter of BBC Radio Shropshire's one hour gardening slot), in schools, through clubs and societies, at garden centres, in fact perhaps almost anywhere at any time!

"What sensible moves some Kew staff make – in the late eighties **Peter Thompson** 'emigrated' to Shropshire to be closely followed by **Alan Cook** – who next?"

**G. H. Jansom** (1934), now in Grimsby, started horticulture in Cornwall (Porthpean Gardens), then to near Paignton, Devon (Primley Gardens), continuing on to Torquay Borough Parks Department. Here he worked under **F. G. Cousins** and with **Stanley Ovenden** and **Charles Stock**, all Kewites. After six months he applied for a studentship at Kew and was accepted on May 26th 1930. He worked firstly in the Decorative Department, then Alpine, attended student lectures and became a Sub Foreman. His work included a collection of British Flora, which he still has. In his time he swam in the Mile Race in the Thames.

After Kew he worked for Finsbury Borough, followed by Ealing, Hammersmith and then Leyton. In 1938 he began a 35 year stint as a Superintendent of Parks and continues to live in the house built during 1939 in 100 acres of woodland, alive with bird life.

**C. A. Joy** (1937) now 83, spent three weeks alone in the 'T' Range in Coronation year, 1937, as other students were required elsewhere. The day began at 6.30 a.m., with a breakfast break for half an hour at 8.00 a.m.

Clocking in, he recalls, consisted of removing a numbered disc from a peg and dropping it into a box, supervised by the door man at the Shaft Yard Gate. Lunch and tea breaks were both half an hour each. After the evening damping down, the day finished at 8.00 p.m.

On Coronation night he was at the Palace by 9.00 p.m. and that night London Transport ran all night so that he was back at Kew Station by 3.00 a.m., so leaving time for three hours sleep before the start of the day at 6.30 a.m.

For over 60 years he has been married, and he and his wife still travel widely, spending his 80th birthday on the east coast of Malaysia. In 1995 they had two weeks in Hungary, spending 10 days at Balaton, one of the largest lakes in Europe – some 50 miles long – and enjoying the

beauty of the wild flowers, including *Cotinus coggygia*, growing wild on a hillside and *Portulacca* growing in a gutter. Then on the Budapest, spending a day in the city park developed from the 1896 exhibition. Another day was spent on the very beautiful Margarit Island in the Danube, from its good planning and particularly an outstanding scheme of *Celosia plumosa* and *Cineraria maritima*.

Still growing plants, he enjoys taking the odd cutting and is involved with the local Fuchsia Society, the Cactus Society having now closed due to lack of members.

**Sally Kelly** (1992), living in County Wicklow, is now following an M.Sc. course in Environmental Resource Management, with a view to becoming involved in conservation work.

**H. J. Kruger** wrote in, following a letter from the President to Life Members:

"It is just five years ago that the then President of the Guild wrote to the Life Members drawing their attention to the fact that, so far as the financial well being of the Guild was concerned we, the Life Members, were living on the charity of the Guild. We accepted it as such and took the appropriate action.

"I recall in my reply pointing out that it was 45 years since I took up the Life Membership and that at that time it covered the Annual Subscription to the *Journal* for the next 20 odd years! And so, your letter is a timely reminder of my duty to Kew Guild – either by accident or design – you may do the same in another five years time, when I shall have completed my 55 years membership.

"I have not visited for some 20 years, mainly because I never seem to have the time! My three years there were unique, even to Kew, the later stages of the war – they were my happiest days. We were few in number, worked hard, 'doodlebug' spotted from the top of the Pagoda, pressed a push button when we heard the alarm from the mouth of the River (you could hear it you know), ran down those blasted steps and waited for the all clear and then repeated the procedure. Similarly we fire-watched at night from the Herbarium roof. We also worked. I cannot write of those three years, I would have too much to say and you would not have the space to print it. And so – when I no longer knew any of the Establishment at the Gardens, I attended my last dinner in the year of Woodward being President – I packed my bags and stole away. But, who knows, one of these days I might even turn up again, not as a Student! but as a Friend of the Gardens.

"Happy days."

**Paul Longden** (1991). After returning from Germany, Paul set up his own landscaping and garden maintenance business in 1995 and valuable commercial experience was gained while working with Editor **Richard Ward** on various landscaping projects in and around London. Later in the year he married architect Moira Naufal (romance blossomed after he had built a garden which she had designed).

**Noel Lothian** (1940), wrote again this year with news of Kewites in Australia. **Mrs. P. Himson** has moved house, since his letter was returned, but at present we are not sure where she has gone.

Noel still does some consultancy work and attempts to grow difficult bulbs, but mainly researches early horticultural societies in Southern Australia, their practices and dates when plants were first grown in Australia and their cultivation requirements.

**Patrick Nutt** (1953) as always, wrote from Longwood as Assistant Department Head of Horticulture and has given several lectures and participated in seminars. He also tells us that Longwood is in the middle of major reconstruction.

He has retired now (April 1st 1995), after 38 years at Longwood and received a complete set of British gardening tools, a framed print of four acres of glasshouses and the Lily Pools. He tells us too, of **Michael Dodge** (a photographer of white flower forms), and **Brian Ward**, retired now from Missouri Botanic Gardens, but still lectures and gives demonstrations. **Andrew Pierce**, now at the Hudson Foundation, leads tours in the Canadian and American Rockies, as he is an expert on the Alpine flora of North America.

**C. R. Parsons** (1949) who lives at Shipney, near Bognor Regis, has now retired. After Kew, he took a degree at London's University College and then went on to write a Ph.D that was refused and he gained an M.Sc.(Hort.) instead.

He worked for a short time as a specialist officer for the Nigerian Federal Government as a Soil Chemist, then returned home and built a glasshouse nursery, which he ran for 10 years. Then, drawn back to teaching, he was Head of Horticulture for 20 years at a local secondary school and taught at evening adult education (to 'O' Level standard mainly). At the same time he was on the Oxford University Committee designing the new G.C.S.E. in Horticulture. He is also a member of H.E.A., later the Institute of Horticulture. Now he is an honorary member of two local horticultural societies, having been Chairman and Vice President of one; also a Parish Councillor, Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee, a qualified swimming and diving instructor and life saver.

**Leo Pemberton** (1988) still serves on the R.H.S. Examination Board, where he says he is most encouraged by the number of Kewites gaining the prestigious M.Hort.(R.H.S.). The R.H.S. uses his skills in their list of speakers, which in September took him to a lively audience at Ross on Wye. He too works as a consultant for the Royal Parks, advising on their Apprenticeship Training Scheme, now housed in a modest building in Regents Park Nursery. The contract was awarded to Capel Manor and David Francis is the main lecturer.

**Lorraine Perrins** (1990) has returned to Australia, after Kew, and began work at R.B.G. Sydney as Senior Horticulturist in the Nursery Section for two months. In 1994 Lorraine was selected to represent R.B.G. Sydney with the Association for Research and Environmental Aid (A.R.E.A.). Their project is to protect the genetic diversity of medicinal plants in and around North Vietnam's Ba Vi National Park. There were also opportunities for delivering a training programme there.

**Ian Robbie** (1932) died in November 1995. He was not a Kew Guild member. Further information was provided to the Guild Secretary by **Philip McCormack** (1936).

**Roy Rumsey** (1932) is well at 85, except "for a few aches and pains". He has now sold his nursery and lives in a retirement village; his wife is in a nursing home. Roy tells us that **Frank Hazlewood** has died.

**John Sandham** (1978) is still at Adelaide Botanics and has responsibility for the Bicentennial Conservatory for endangered and tropical plants; re-establishing plantings in the refurbished Palm House and other activities.

**Dick Shaw** (1972) wrote in June appreciating, as with many, the receipt of the Kew Guardian. In 1994 he had a slight stroke which has, he says, affected his writing and memory.

**Iris Stonebridge** wrote of her husband, **Gerald** (1932), who was 90 in March. At the time of writing he was not in the best of health, being a Parkinson's victim. They live near the New Forest and Solent, which provides some consolation now that he is deprived of gardening time.

**Philip Wood** (1950) was recently appointed Technical Officer and is busy setting up Accreditation Standards. He has also been active in varying ways, including tuition at T.A.F.E. College and writing and consultancy work.

**DO IT DURING 1996!** The *Journal* you are reading is the Events of 1995 Journal, printed in time to circulate hot off the Presses at the Annual Dinner in May to current members of the Guild. Those not attending the Dinner are likely to receive their Journals somewhat later, sometime in June.

Send your news to the Editor, but by early December as it may need editing. I thank Hugh Flower for his production of 'News of Kewites' over the past five years. John Woodhams, recently retired Assistant Curator, has agreed to take over the job for next year's Journal. We will seek to expand this section and include more photographs etc.

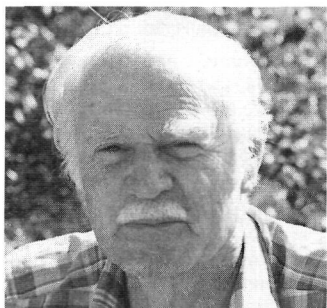
**NOTE:** Are your subscriptions up to date? Currently £15, reduced to £12 for staff and £6 students. If your full subscription is not paid by the 1st January each year we cannot send you the Journal in May/June! Ex Kewites who are not fully paid-up members of The Kew Guild will not be given space in our Journal (Editor).

## OBITUARIES

Kindly prepared by Graham Burgess, unless otherwise stated

### JIM AVES – 25.10.1917-6.9.1995

Jim Aves was born on the farm, Faerie Glen, on October 25th. 1917, and was later educated at Pretoria Boys' High School, South Africa. His early interest in things botanical was fostered and developed and, in 1933, he became the first pupil horticulturalist in the Governor General's garden, a position created by Lady Clarendon, the Governor General's wife.



He moved on to the Public Works Department and whilst there was selected as an exchange student to Kew in 1937. On February 28th. 1938, drawing on intimate knowledge, he gave a Mutual on 'Gardening in Pretoria'. He graduated in 1939 and returned home.

With the outbreak of war Jim Aves joined the South African Army Quartermaster Corps. in Abyssinia (Now Ethiopia), afterwards returning to the Public Works Department in charge of Bryntirion Gardens and subsequently the gardens at Libertas.

In 1945 he joined the Pretoria City Council's Department of Parks and Recreation as a horticulturalist. He was promoted to Superintendent Horticulturalist in 1947, Assistant Director in 1968 and was finally made

Director in 1972, the post in which he remained until his retirement in 1977. Jim Aves was the man generally credited with introducing all-weather tennis courts to Pretoria (The Jacaranda City).

He was an active member of the South African Institute of Horticulture and served on its board for 30 years. As a mark of his life's work in Pretoria, a park, in Serene Street in Gasfontein, is to be named the 'Jim Aves Park' in his honour.

Jim passed away on 6th September 1995 after suffering a stroke.

Jim Aves is survived by his sisters, Mary and Dorothy and two brothers, Robert and Albert. To them we offer our deepest sympathy.

### L. P. BARKER

L. P. Barker entered Kew in October 1956 from William Wood and Sons, Taplow. He left in 1958 and went to Richmond Parks and then to The Grotto, Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration.

In 1960 he was appointed Landscape Foreman at Burnley Parks Department.

L. P. Barker finished his career at Staffordshire County Council.

### P. S. L. BENTON – 1947

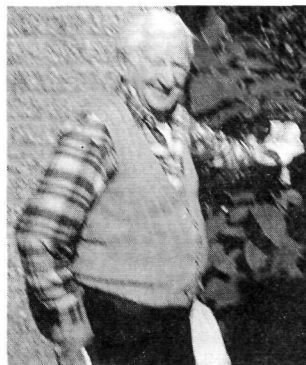
Peter Stewart Louvain Benton received his early training on the Royal Estate, Balmoral Castle. He entered the University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, in 1933 before going on to Kew in 1937. He was a skilled plantsman and was soon promoted to Foreman in the Alpine Yard under the Assistant Curator, George Preston. He joined the artillery in 1941, serving in the Middle East, and returned to Kew in 1946.

He left Kew in 1947 to take up a post in Aburi Botanic Garden, Accra, Ghana, where he remained until Independence. This information about Peter's early career was supplied by Frank Hebden (1947), who was a close friend of Peter and Joan.

Peter was working at Richmond, Surrey Parks Department, under Guild Past President Arthur Woodward in 1965/66 (together with your Editor too!). Then we glean from the Events of 1969 *Journal* that Peter had finished a G.M.O.Tec.I. with the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works in Germany and was now working in the Lincolnshire, Rutland and Northampton area. I met him next, coincidentally, at Durban, South Africa Parks Department during my extended tour in 1975. In May 1976 he wrote to the Guild that he had moved from Lusaka, Zambia to take up a post with Salop Area Health Authority, and later in Devon during 1978.

Peter was a communicator! He wrote in October and November 1979 from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he was undertaking several projects for H.R.H. Prince Talel bin Masour. Prior to this he had been in Oman for nine months as a Landscape Manager testing windbreaks. He was also writing a book, to be printed in Arabic, on Horticulture in the Middle East.

In 1986 Joan and Peter had retired in Wadhurst. At the time of his death, from a stroke in December 1994, they were in South Devon. A large amount of Kew history had been concluded.



*Obituary by Richard Ward, Editor*

### JOAN CHERRY

During December Harry G. Butcher (1921) wrote to the Guild to tell us that Joan Cherry, widow of the late Edwin Cherry (1938), had died.

Following Edwin's passing during 1990 Joan made a generous bequest to the Guild towards the Kew Guild Room in the Herbarium.

*Obituary by Richard Ward, Editor*

### HENRY ROBERT COCKER, A.H.R.H.S. – 1906 - 1995.

Henry Cocker was born in 1906 in London, the son of a doctor and descendant of Edward Cocker, author of the first *Arithmetic Book*, 1666, which went through 600 editions.

Cocker loved gardening from early boyhood and in 1923 he started work with Carter Page Nursery, London Wall, where he gained experience in general and commercial horticultural and exhibition work. After four years he moved to Perry's of Enfield where, thanks to the friendship and help of the late Amos Perry, V.M.H., he obtained valuable experience in the cultivation of alpine, ferns and aquatic plants.

He was a student at Kew, December 1928 until 1933, where he excelled, being awarded the Kew Certificate with distinction in Systematic Botany, Ecology and Genetics. He gave a lantern lecture on Aquatics for his Mutual. Whilst at Kew he was sent on a 15 month exchange to the Hanbury Garden, La Mortola, to gain experience in sub-tropical horticulture. He was inspired by Italy, its weather and its exotic plants and hoped one day to return. Back at Kew he worked in the Tropical, Decorative and Flower Gardens, the Temperate House and the Arboretum Department. In 1929 'Out in the Fields' was erected. (His years at Kew and La Mortola are described in his *'Life of a Gardener'*).

It was after leaving Kew that the destiny of Henry Cocker was entwined with another's, with fortuitous timing. Captain Neil McEacharn, a Scottish multi-millionaire had decided, after three years of clearance work on his estate at Pallanza on the north shore of Lake Maggiore, that the time had come to solicit expert help towards fulfilling his dream of a beautiful garden at the Villa Taranto. He was looking for a young, intelligent, Head Gardener, Kew trained and English and able to speak Italian. He found Cocker who fitted all his requirements like a glove.

Together McEacharn and Cocker did create a beautiful garden which, now a National Property, has been visited by over two million garden lovers from all over the world. The story of the garden is chronicled by Henry Cocker in Volume 6 of the *Kew Guild Journal*; 'The Villa Taranto. A Scotsman's Garden in Italy' ghosted by Lanning Roper and 'A Garden in Italy', about the Villa Taranto during the war years.

When Italy entered the war in 1940, McEacharn returned to Australia and Cocker to England (just managing to catch the last boat to leave France). Cocker was engaged to be married but his Italian fiancée had to remain behind. He was called up and served in the R.A.F. in Africa, India and Ceylon, where he was able to observe tropical plants at first hand and even visit some botanic gardens. His health suffered in the tropics and he contracted sprue, a tropical deficiency disease and malaria. He endured great anxiety about his fiancée, with whom he had little contact, and there was the disturbing obstacle to his marriage in Mussolini's decree that Italians could not marry non-Italians. Cocker spent much time petitioning the Pope, the Prime Minister and others, but to no avail.

In 1945 the war was over, Mussolini was dead, and Cocker was able to return to Italy at last, to marry his bride and to continue the great works at the Villa Taranto.

He remained there until 1960 having been awarded the A.H.R.H.S. (Associate of Honour, Royal Horticultural Society) in 1950. He left to write and to act as a Garden Consultant, being commissioned by leading industrialists and members of European nobility to assist in the creation of many famous gardens which included his collaboration with the Count Sigurta on the Garden Park – Sigurta near Verona – and with the Borromeo family on the Borromeo Islands.

He was the author and co-author of many books published throughout the world and a contributor to horticultural publications all over Europe, U.S.A. and Japan. He was also a frequent Judge at flower shows at Chelsea and elsewhere and the Technical Advisor to the Lombardy Horticultural Society, Milan.

Henry Cocker died on the 3rd January 1995 after spending his last years in a rest home in the Province of Venezia. His wife died in 1988 and his only surviving sister lives in England. To her and to her son, P. R. White, we offer our sincere condolences.

#### H. F. W. DAVIES

H. F. W. Davies was born in India in 1909 and educated in Britain. He entered Kew on 1st October 1933, having had previous experience at the John Innes Institute, Merton, The Garden Supplies Association, London E.C.1. and a year at La Mortola Gardens in Italy during 1928.

Whilst at Kew in 1934, he gave a Mutual Lantern Lecture on sub-tropical gardening and he gained distinctions in Systematic Botany, Plant Physiology and Ecology.

Davies was a keen sportsman and was an umpire for many of the cricket matches which were then so much a part of the Kew way of life.

Leaving Kew in 1938, he went to South Africa and until 1949 worked at Cape Town Parks Department at Kirstenbosch.

In 1967 he was made the Curator of the Ewanrigg National Park, Salisbury in South Rhodesia. This garden was started by Harold Basit Christian, who went to Rhodesia in 1914 as a farmer, then his interest turned to horticulture and Davies helped him transform the initial four acre site into 60 acres of public gardens. There were water gardens and a hillside draped with Bougainvilleas. Davies had a particular interest in Aloes.

In 1980 he retired to Harare, where he died in August 1995. He was Life Member of the Guild.

### **RICHARD SIDNEY DAVIES: – 1.12.1926-25.2.1995**

Richard Davies started work in October 1943, as an Apprentice Gardener at Eaton Hall, Chester. His career was interrupted in 1945 when he was called up and joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The Head Gardener wrote "To my regret he had to join up when he had become useful . . . but I could recommend him with every confidence for any branch of Horticulture he may follow on discharge . . .". On discharge in 1946, he returned to Eaton Hall and was there until October 1949 when he entered Kew as a Student Gardener.

Richard enjoyed his time at Kew "regarding his quarter of the Palm House as his own". When he and his wife, Anne, visited Kew in 1994, he was delighted to find that a shed, where he used to work, was still there.

In September, 1951, he left Kew to go to Beckenham Parks and was there until 1952 before he left for Oldham Parks, where he stayed until 1953. In 1954 he and his partner set up their own Nursery in a delightful spot in Shropshire, facing the South Shropshire Hills. They started the Nursery from nothing, adding glass when they could afford to. They grew mainly pot plants as well as bedding plants and tomatoes to a very high standard, and their customers were very upset when they retired. They used to marvel at the straight lines in the greenhouses and always said it was the tidiest nursery they had ever seen. Anne said that was probably the influence of Mr. Barnes, the Head Gardener at Eaton Hall.



Richard retired from Hawthorn Nursery in 1994 and even though he had two hip replacements, he did not stop working. He died quite suddenly in his garden shed leaving his wife with two acres to look after. "Richard's idea of retiring!"

Richard had an interest in map reading, music and the natural world. He kept in touch with new practices in horticulture even if he didn't always approve. He was always proud to be a member of the Kew Guild and would have taken part more if he had lived nearer.

"Richard counted himself very fortunate that he had spent his life doing what he always wanted to do. He was a truly happy man and always enjoyed his work".

We send our condolences to Mrs Davies who very kindly sent us this information about Richard and the photograph of him about the time he was at Kew.

### **RALPH EVAN DEAN – 6th August 1910-27th January 1995**

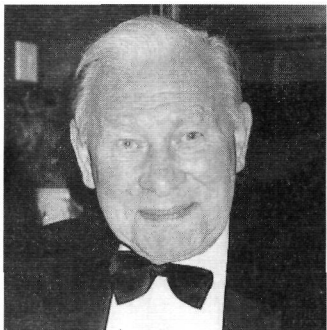
Ralph Dean was a Londoner, born in Deptford in 1910. At the age of 16, shortly after leaving secondary school, he was accepted as a student gardener at the R.H.S Gardens at Wisley. Because of his youth he found himself at something of a disadvantage with his fellow students, all of whom were considerably older and more experienced than him. He used to say that despite this, he was not always bottom of the exam lists, and he completed the course successfully

On leaving Wisley, he worked in commercial horticulture for a few years, all the while nurturing an ambition to become a tea planter. He set his heart on getting a studentship at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, the focal point for all those who sought horticultural careers overseas, in those days when Britain had an Empire.

His attempts at first met with little success, and he had almost lost heart when suddenly, out of the blue, in August 1934 he was there. His fellow students came from many parts of the world, he recalled, France, Germany and Italy, U.S.A., South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, and New Zealand. At Kew, he worked mainly in the greenhouses, the great Palm House, and later

the Cactus House, including the Sherman Hoyt Collection. He said that he had scars on his hands and legs to prove it!

His ambition changed as a result of his experience at Kew, and he decided to seek a job in the Colonies. Almost as soon as he had completed the course, he found himself in charge of the Botanic Gardens on the island of Trinidad. He described it as "a dream of a place", with trees and shrubs which he had only read about, including *Amherstia nobilis* which, with its sprays of brilliant vermilion flowers spotted with yellow, must be one of the most spectacularly beautiful trees in the world, *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*, the scarlet 'Pride of Barbados', and *Delonix regia*, the 'Flamboyante', to name but three.



Whilst in Trinidad, he succeeded in obtaining material of the, until then mythical, white flowered form of *Bougainvillea* from Brazil, and arranged for it to be propagated and widely distributed. Virtually all the white flowered *Bougainvilleas* in gardens today come from this source.

He also collected and identified many of the island's wild orchids.

In 1948, after 11 happy and fulfilling years in the West Indies, Ralph took up the post of Superintendent of Gardens in Hong Kong. The Colony had been under Japanese occupation during the war, and the Botanic

Gardens and parks were a wilderness of neglect, choked with weeds and debris. With characteristic determination, skill and care, he set about a transformation of these areas, and his responsibilities eventually came to include all parks, playgrounds, swimming pools and the grounds of government buildings, hospitals and schools. Not the least of his abilities was to gather round him, train and guide a competent and devoted staff. It was said of him that there must be few men in post war years who have left such a mark on the colony, and none, perhaps who had done so much for its beauty and amenities.

Camellia enthusiasts throughout the world also owe Ralph Dean a considerable debt, for it was he who, after several abortive attempts by others, succeeded, in September 1949, in arranging the procurement of 19 cultivars of the legendary 'Kunming' *Camellia reticulata* hybrids from Western Communist China, flying out 62 plants before the bamboo curtain descended. These were distributed to four sponsors, Hazlewood in Australia, Huntington Gardens, California, Ralph Peer, then President of the American Camellia Society, and The Royal Horticultural Society. The writer, when a student gardener in the early 1950s, recalls having charge of them and seeing them in bloom. Huge double or semi double flowers, rose pink and soft purple, with evocative names such as Chang's Temple, Noble Pearl, Purple Gown, Butterfly Wing, and Lion Head. Francis Hanger, the Curator, related the story of how they were obtained. The plants were subsequently passed on into the care of Sir Eric Savill at Windsor Great Park.

In addition to his part in the '*Kunming reticulata*', story, Ralph Dean was also responsible for the introduction into cultivation of a species of *Camellia* found only in Hong Kong, discovered growing in a protected area not four miles from the centre of busy Kowloon, and which he had named after the then Governor of the Colony, Sir Alexander Grantham. *Camellia granthamiana*, with its large white flowers suffused with pale pink and with a solid mass of yellow stamens in the centre, is now widely distributed in five continents.

In 1965, after 17 years of service to the Colony, he left to join the Commonwealth War Graves Commission of Southern Asia, based in Singapore. After a time, he returned to the U.K. and joined the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works as Regional Grounds Maintenance Officer for the North East Region, with responsibility for all central government owned sites, including military bases and airfields east of the Pennines and from the Scottish border to the

Wash. The writer knew him personally, and as a colleague in this period of his career can testify to his strength of character and self discipline, and to the breadth and depth of his knowledge of his profession. He was held in the highest respect and esteem by all his colleagues.

He married his wife, Moni, in 1936 in Trinidad.

He retired in 1975, and lived quietly at his home in Horton, near Northampton, until his death in January 1995, at the age of 84. Our sympathy at his passing goes to his daughter Gillian, son Michael, and the grandchildren.

*This obituary is by Allen Hodgson*

*(The photograph was kindly provided by Ralph's daughter, Gillian Eady, in Northamptonshire – Editor.)*

### FRANK. R LAVENDER

Frank Lavender entered Kew from Cookham Nursery on 14th October 1947. He gave a lantern slide Mutual on Annuals.

He left Kew in September 1949 and went to Portsmouth Parks under E.W. Studley. He was in Portsmouth for three and a half years and then became Deputy of Parks in Yarmouth where he remained until retirement.

### GRACE LOFTHOUSE

We sadly report the death of Grace Lofthouse.

Grace was born in Manchester and set the path for her future career by completing a two year Foreign Correspondents Course at Manchester High School, later to become The Manchester Institute of Technology. After the course she worked for a firm of textile manufacturers and shippers who traded with South America, hence she became fluent in working Spanish.

In 1967 she moved to London and in 1969 moved into her new home in Gloucester Court, just over the road from the Jodrell Gate.

I was in the Technical Services Department when she arrived in 1970. She remained there for two and a half years and then progressed to the Alpine and Herbaceous Department until her retirement in 1982. Whilst in the Technical Services Department she was one of the first people to bring commercial methods to Kew. These were the early days of what we now call Data Capture. Records from card systems in ancient wooden drawers were combined with those from *The Garden Number Book*, which itself referred to circular numbered lead tags on the trees. More clues could be found in old lead labels, i.e. where the squirrels had not devoured them.

She was a refined Northern lady whose kindly ways reminded me of so many of the aunts I had left behind. She enjoyed the social side of Kew and, of course, this inevitably led to her getting involved with the Kew Guild. The Committee benefited from her calm, understanding ways.

After her retirement she remained active and worked at the Museum of Garden History in Lambeth for two years, carrying out the labelling and cataloguing of the 17th century garden plants there. She also did voluntary work for the Environment Trust for Richmond upon Thames.

A member of our Kew family has passed on, leaving the family better for her presence.

*(Page 363 of last year's Journal provides further details about Grace – Editor.)*

### F. H. MACKINNON

He entered Kew on 15th May 1939 from Lord Wandsworth Agricultural College in Basingstoke. He left Kew in August 1942 and went to work at Heston and Isleworth Parks. In 1958 he went to work at the Durand Garden, where he stayed until his retirement.

Kew was always very close to his heart and he was one of the early contributors to the Kew Guild Award Scheme.

To his friends and relatives we send our deepest condolences.

### ROY RUMSEY

Roy Rumsey was born in New South Wales in Australia. He entered Kew from Hilliers on 20.7.1930 and completed his course in 1932. He was a contemporary of Henry Cocker.

Whilst at Kew in 1931, his Father sent him a letter which came by the first Air Mail service from Australia. Roy sent a photocopy of the appropriately stamped envelope to the Guild and it was reproduced in the 1989 Journal.

More news of Roy from W. Howell after his journey around New Zealand and Australia in 1965. Mr Howell surprised him in his potting shed, propagating roses at his well-known Nursery in Glenories, N.S.W.

Roy came to Britain and visited Kew for a week at the end of June, 1976.

In 1987 he was appointed to propagate and distribute a bi-Centennial rose raised to commemorate Australia's historical event.

Roy spent a lifetime with his roses and in 1989, at the grand age of 80, he was still working 40-50 hours a week in a Rose Nursery in New South Wales, specialising in species and old cultivars.

To his family we offer our sincere condolences.

*(Frank Hebden also wrote to the Guild in August 1995 with information about Roy – Editor.)*

### W. G. RUTTER

W. G. Rutter came to Kew on 22nd November, 1926, from the John Innes Institute at Merton. In 1927 he gained high marks in Geology and Soils.

He left Kew in 1928 when he went to University Gardens in Edgbaston, Birmingham.

### GERALD WILLOWS STONEBRIDGE – 1905-1995

Gerald Willows Stonebridge was born in 1905 in Madingley, near Cambridge. He initially worked at the Cambridge Botanical Gardens, being there at the same time as Graham Thomas and became a student at Kew in 1932. Whilst at Kew he was very involved with the cricket club, both as a player (he was a good bowler) and as a member of the Committee.

After his time at Kew, Gerald spent two years in Gateshead as Foreman of the Propagation Department, but as a Southerner he felt he had to tread carefully because of all the unemployment in the North. One remark he overheard was "Don' ee tak funny". After two years or so he returned to Cambridge Botanical Gardens and remained there until 1946 when the Cory Bequest was given to the gardens, bringing many changes.

At this point Gerald and Iris, who also had horticultural training and worked at Cambridge B.G. for three years during the war, bought a Nursery Market Garden, were married and moved to Chipping Norton, north of Oxford. Their first winter there was the 1947 one when the roads were blocked with snow and they could get only half a pint of milk every other day. It was a testing time. They grew anything they could sell locally so were not really involved with wholesalers.

In 1975 they retired and in 1979 bought and moved to a bungalow in Blackfield near Southampton, Hampshire. Being relatively close to Mottisfont Gardens, they were able to meet up with Graham Thomas quite regularly. They were also able to make three very enjoyable trips abroad (1976/78/80) to visit relations in British Columbia, Canada.

In the last years of his life Gerald's health deteriorated and it was a difficult time for him, not even being able to potter in his garden, but his wife, Iris said "In spite of it all he kept his sense of humour and dry wit". He died on August 16th 1995.

To Iris we send our condolences and blessings.

### TRUMAN FOSSUM

Truman Fossum was born in Minot, North Dakota. He was the first graduate of the Greenhouse and Nursery Practice Course at North Dakota State University, Bottineau Branch.

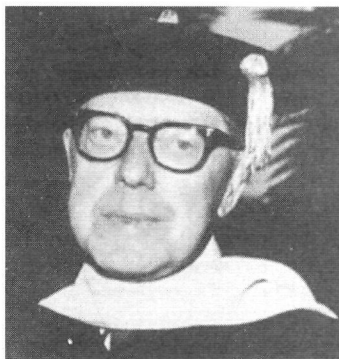
He entered Kew in 1935 as an unpaid volunteer student, from the State Sanatorium of North Dakota, U.S.A. He left Kew in May 1936, gaining distinction in Arboriculture and Forestry, Plant Pathology and Fungi.

He returned to the U.S.A. and attended Cornell University, where he gained a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1940 and subsequently a Masters in 1941 at Maryland and Purdue University in Ohio State.

Throughout his career, in statistical marketing and related economic research for florists and nurserymen, Truman Fossum received many awards. In 1953 the Foundation for Horticulture gave him an Award for Outstanding Research. In 1954 the American Association of Nurserymen presented him with the Joy Colman Award and, in 1956, The Florists Telegraph Delivery Association gave him an award. In 1979, when he was President of Marketing Facts for Floriculture in Washington D.C., he was awarded the Florists' Transworld Delivery Golden Rose Award; previous recipients were Pierre Trudeau, Betty Ford and Senator Hubert Humphrey.

In 1981 he was given an Honorary Doctorate of Science Degree from North Dakota State University.

Truman Fossum was the President of the Kew Gardeners in America.



### PHILIP TURLEY – 1924-1995

It is with great sadness I report the death of my twin brother in November 1995.

Born in industrial Birmingham, gardens were a luxury in the 1920s. The skill of growing plants became a lasting fascination. After school, Philip and I tended our allotment which whetted our appetite to grow vegetables and soft fruit for the kitchen.

Our first employment was W. H. Simpson & Sons, who specialised in herbaceous and annuals. In 1939 Canon Hill Park gave us more experience until called up into the army. On leaving, Philip and I were accepted to Kew.

He was a keen supporter of the Mutual Improvement Society lectures in the 'Iron Room' and Guild activities and a lifelong interest in propagation started in the Arboretum Nursery at Kew.

In those days Parks Departments had excellent facilities. Ealing, then Kingston upon Thames, where Philip became Nursery Manager. We provided plants for decoration at Guildhall functions, often attended by Princess Alexandra. He also took a keen interest in judging at local flower shows.

At the decline of the Parks Department Nursery, Philip decided to move into the nursery business. In 1973 he managed Vicarage Farm Nurseries, which included showing at local flower shows.



Easter 1995, All Saints Church, Heston. Granville and Philip Turley (right).

When I retired from Norwood Hall in 1984, Philip did likewise. This gave us 11 years of retirement together to enjoy Friends of Kew lectures and visit R.H.S. Shows, National Trust gardens etc.

Right up until last year we had great satisfaction in producing plants to raise money for our Church and local charities.

*This obituary is by Granville Turley*

### **EDITH WAKEFIELD (Née Moss-Holland) – 14.5.1910-3.4.1995**

Edith was born in 1910 in the Three Horseshoes Inn, Witney, Oxfordshire. She began work in domestic service at 14 years old, working her way up from scullery maid to cook/housekeeper in 1940.



During the war years, June 1940 to May 1945, she went into the Women's Land Army and during this period worked at Ditchling Park Gardens, Oxfordshire. Her love of the land would underpin the rest of her life and, as soon as she left the Army, proudly receiving a message of thanks from the Queen, she joined Kew. She left one year later to take up a private gardening position at the Wellington Hotel, Crowthorne, Berkshire. Her daughter says "All of her references . . . speak of her good general knowledge of horticulture, her cropping was planned with wisdom and forethought to get the utmost from the land . . ."

She married in 1950 and continued gardening work in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and finally Scotland, where she moved in 1965. "Edith Wakefield was still working an allotment in 1988, aged 78 and could produce wonderful marrows".

Edith died peacefully in her sleep, 3rd April 1995, in a loving, caring Nursing Home, overlooking Loch Leven.

Edith's only child, Mrs. Janet Sandilands, who has provided the information for this obituary, is currently researching her family tree and would like to know if anyone recognises the other two people (especially the little girl) in this photograph (taken 1947/48) or perhaps the house, which she thinks

may be in Kew. Edith is standing with the dog in her arms.

We thank Mrs. Sandilands for the story of her Mother's life and offer her, and her family, the Guild's deepest condolences.

### **EDWARD (TED) VERDUN WRAY – 1916-1995**

Edward Wray, one of four children, was born in Humberston, son of the village joiner and carpenter. His second name, Verdun, which he was known by for most of his life, commemorated the First World War battle fought in the year of his birth. He was a born naturalist and at 16 years old left Clee Grammar School to find work at Bradley Nurseries before going on to Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire, where he lodged with the Head Gardener and studied garden landscape and trees.

In 1934 Edward came to Kew, graduating in 1938 with distinction in Systematic Botany and Plant Physiology and Ecology. His lecture to the Mutual Improvement Society was on 'School

Gardening' and, according to a letter from Frank Senogles (1939), "His enthusiasm for the subject left no doubt in our minds about his future".

He served six years as an N.C.O. in the R.A.F. Medical Corps. and after the War took a crash course in teaching and worked in schools in different parts of the country, setting up Rural Study Departments. He completed his career by spending 20 years at Kirton Lindsay. Frank Senogles spent two days with him at his first school in Wroughton in Wiltshire and wrote "... one could not fail to admire the way he gained the intense interest of the pupils for the subject. His planning and delivery of Rural Studies was an object lesson for all teachers. I learned a lot from those two days".

Ted, a bachelor, retired to the family home in Humberston, where he remained a doughty fighter on environmental matters; he formerly served on the Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation. He was also a leading figure in the Methodist Church and a long serving member of the Guild and the Linnaean Society.

Sadly, his latter years were dogged with ill-health and the painful decision to leave the family home and his precious garden and greenhouse loomed over him.

Mrs. G. Kelly sent us information about her Uncle for this obituary. To her, his family and friends, we send out deepest condolences at the loss of such a gentleman.

#### Editor's Notes

John Souster wrote in June 1995 to point out two errors on page 413 of the *Events of 1994 Journal*, concerning Jock Slater. Either Editor or Printer error, and we apologise John! He asked me to note the incorrect spelling of Fushia is Fuchsia. Also that we had substituted 'Worse' for 'More' at the beginning of his paragraph referring to the 'Scholar Gypsy'. (Will John ever know about this abject apology by the Editor I wonder, as he has resigned from the Kew Guild this year!).

We have to thank Graham Burgess for collating information for the Obituaries. Much of the information is obtained via the indexes of past *Journals*, or as provided by surviving relatives. It is often quite difficult to obtain photographs too. For posterity we encourage members to write in their 'history' for 'News of Kewites' for now and the future. It is appreciated if notification of the passing of members can be made to the Secretary in the first instance.

The Guild will not normally publish obituaries of non members, although the passing of ex-Kewites may be mentioned in the 'News of Kewites' section of our Journal.

# **KEW GUILD INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1995**

## **INCOME**

	31.12.95		31.12.94	
	£	£	£	£
Annual Subscriptions .....	7,450.61		5,133.57	
Donations – General .....	78.00		421.68	
– Award Scheme .....	<u>75.00</u>		<u>65.00</u>	
		7,603.61		5,620.25
Charities Investment Fund Dividends				
– General .....	1,252.86		1,197.85	
– Award Scheme .....	<u>4,154.08</u>		<u>3,674.23</u>	
		5,406.94		4,872.08
Bank Interest				
– General .....	—		30.86	
– Charities Deposit Fund .....	<u>468.96</u>		<u>144.20</u>	
		468.96		175.06
Sale of Kew Plantsmen .....	739.00		1,622.00	
Less: value of stock .....	<u>– 358.05</u>		<u>– 897.45</u>	
		380.95		724.55
Sale of Emblems .....	56.00		4.50	
Less: value of stock .....	<u>– 27.50</u>		<u>– 2.88</u>	
		28.50		1.62
Annual Dinner Receipts .....	2,575.07		2,327.50	
Less: costs .....	<u>– 2,683.93</u>		<u>– 2,257.12</u>	
		– 108.86		70.38
Award Scheme Soiree .....		142.45		231.50
Journal Adverts .....		430.00		610.00
Centenary Photographs .....		—		44.81
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> .....		<u>14,352.55</u>		<u>12,350.25</u>

## **EXPENDITURE**

Kew Guild Journal .....	3,810.00	5,454.00
Prizes awarded by the Guild .....	380.00	380.00
Printing, Postage, Stationery .....	1,142.06	1,547.71
Award Scheme Awards .....	4,216.00	4,120.00
Insurance .....	40.57	40.57
Honorary Officers' expenses .....	108.00	60.00
Centenary expenses .....	—	52.50
Aiton Memorial .....	—	763.75
Sundry .....	<u>217.31</u>	<u>110.51</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b> .....	<u>9,913.94</u>	<u>12,529.04</u>
<b>EXCESS/SHORTFALL OF INCOME</b> .....	<u>4,438.61</u>	<u>– 178.79</u>

# KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1995

	31.12.95		31.12.94	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INVESTED ASSETS</b>				
Charities Official Investment Fund				
- General .....	4,200.00		4,200.00	
- Award Scheme .....	69,910.82		69,910.82	
Charities Deposit Fund .....	<u>9,500.00</u>		<u>2,400.00</u>	
		83,610.82		76,510.82
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stock    - Emblems .....	664.20		691.70	
- Past Presidents' Jewel .....	150.00		250.00	
- Centenary of Kew Plantsmen ..	<u>3,543.30</u>		<u>3,901.35</u>	
	4,357.50		4,843.05	
Bank    - Current Account .....	48.26		2,137.11	
Debtors .....	<u>112.51</u>		<u>30.89</u>	
	4,518.27		7,011.05	
<b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Life Subscriptions .....	- 94.50		- 107.10	
Creditors .....	<u>- 456.00</u>		<u>- 274.79</u>	
		3,967.77		6,629.16
<b>NET ASSETS</b> .....		<u>87,578.59</u>		<u>83,139.98</u>
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>				
Capital Fund .....	83,139.98		83,318.77	
Excess/(Shortfall) of Income .....	<u>4,438.61</u>		<u>- 178.79</u>	
		<u>87,578.59</u>		<u>83,139.98</u>



Rebecca M. Bower  
Hon. Treasurer

Audited and found correct



C. Hindmarch



D. V. Field  
23.1.96