

# **THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD**

**Founded in 1893**

The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present

## **Events of 1997**

**Published in 1998**

**Volume 13  
Number 102**

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**

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## EDITORIAL

Good day fellow Kewites. When did you last give Kew a thought? When did you last visit the Gardens or attend a Guild event? Do you keep in touch with staff/students with whom you worked in the past and are they paid-up members? Our fellowship and contacts in the profession are second to none. We would like to welcome you during 1998/99.

In my privileged position of Hon. Editor and incoming President – at the September A.G.M. – I would extend a special invitation to you, your partner and, yes, your families, to the Annual Dinner in 1999. I am compiling a list of "Year Representatives", a recognition of Kewites and their year of leaving Kew and will invite each 'year' to stand up to be recognised at the 1999 Dinner. So come on you oldies, make the effort and show yourselves! We are looking at the idea of a Saturday Dinner – more later.

The deadline for 'copy' for each yearly *Journal* is the 15th January at the latest, but ideally well before that date and should be sent to me, preferably typewritten to help our wonderful printers. All your news is welcome, plus photos.

Is your Standing Order up-dated? – £15 p.a., £12 for staff, £7.50 Kew Students, £20 Corporate. Half price Friends of Kew subscription for the whole family or individuals is only £17 – a huge reduction for paid-up Guild members

Lastly, as ever, I thank the stalwarts who have contributed to this your *Journal*. Thank you for keeping in touch and for your help.

Richard C. Ward  
*Hon. Editor*

Your Guild contacts are:

Secretary: Kenwyn Pearson on 01444 232973 (telephone and fax)

Honorary Editor: Richard Ward on 0181 878 6696 (telephone and fax)

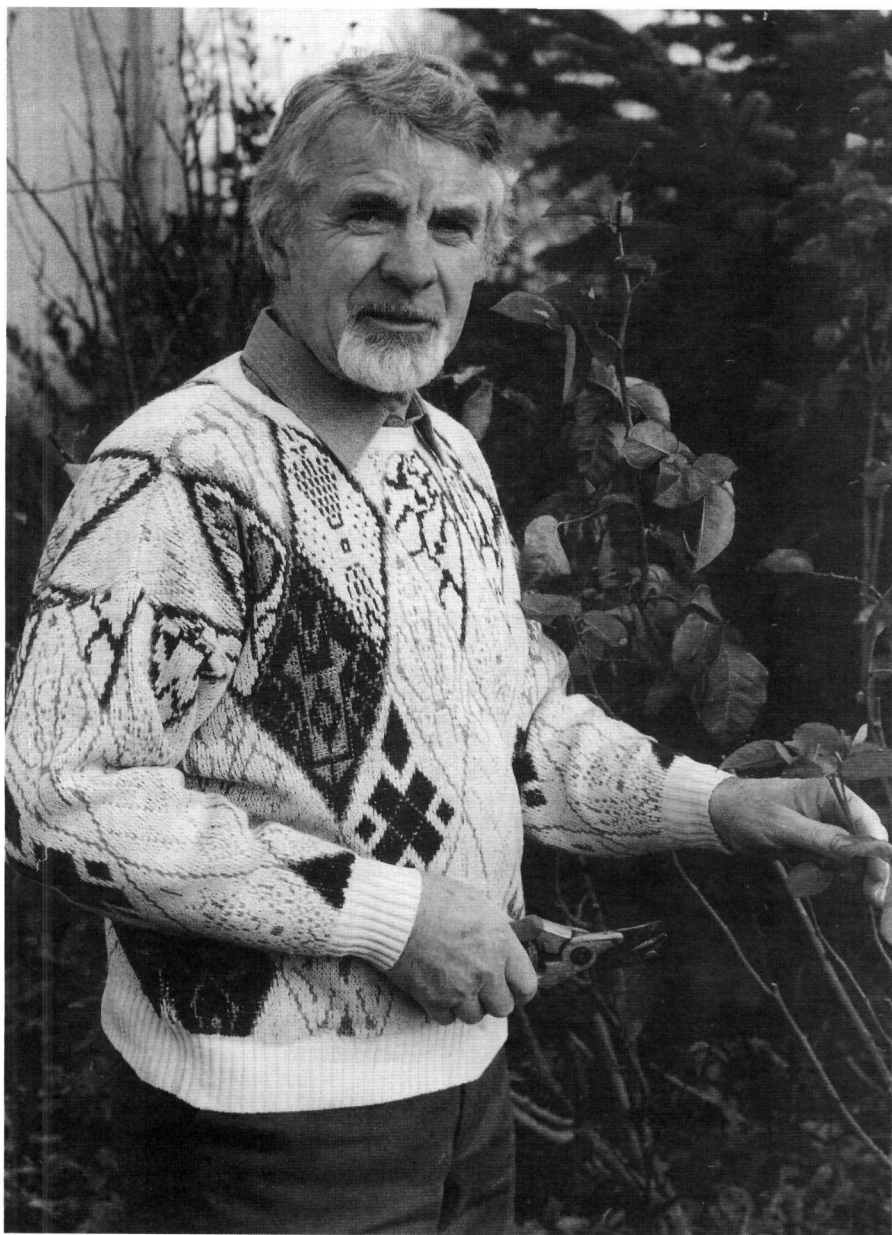
Membership/Subscriptions: Jill Cowley on 0181 332 5296 (telephone)

Addresses as per list at the back.



**THEO. W. J. DUMONT**

President 1997/98



Theo Dumont was born in Luxembourg in March 1930, into a family, both sides of which had long farming and gardening traditions. During his childhood, his father had his own cabinet-making and wood-carving business, so the gardening interest in this generation came from his mother. The family had a large garden, which was mainly tended by his mother, herself a farmer's daughter. As the eldest son, he was required to help and so discovered early in life the joy of working with the soil and growing plants. This is a passion which has never left him and he is still happiest pottering in his (or anybody else's) garden.

The thirties were not a good time to be born in central Europe and, as the Nazi march across the Continent very quickly engulfed Luxembourg, the production of fruit and vegetables soon became a dire necessity, with the need to help feed family and friends in the resistance movement. During the Nazi occupation, in common with all children of parents who openly opposed the regime, he was not permitted to advance to higher education and had to finish his schooling at the age of 14. At this age these children were asked which trade they wished to follow and, when Theo said he wanted to be a landscape gardener, he was laughed to scorn by his classmates who had never heard the term. Fortunately, at that time, he had a teacher who took the time and trouble to explain to the class that this was, in fact, a fine ambition.

After the liberation in the autumn of 1944, he belatedly entered grammar school until 1949, when he left to begin a two-year practical course with a landscaping firm, under the guidance of the government landscape architect. This was a really hard slog because machines such as we now know them did not exist in those days. There were lorries, but these had to be loaded by hand. However, this physical hardship turned out to be of great advantage as it toughened him up enough to cope well with the rigours of his 13 months compulsory national army service, which ended in 1952.

He then enrolled in a landscape course in a small private architectural school in Switzerland where, although he learned to appreciate the beauties of the Swiss landscape, the course itself turned out to be disappointingly unsatisfactory.

It was then that his uncle from Paris stepped in. Himself a very successful old Kewite (who had married another one), he decided that the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew was the place for his nephew and he shipped him to England to prepare for admission to Kew. Another two years practical work was needed and this was done at William Woods & Sons, of Taplow, a firm which had just celebrated its centenary. There, he who had never previously set foot inside a greenhouse, nor seen a pelargonium in his life, learned to grow pelargoniums of all kinds, with such zeal that the crowning glory was a gold medal, awarded at the 1955 Chelsea Flower Show.

Once he overcame the hunger pangs caused by the strict rations which still existed in the Britain of 1953, these two years became very happy ones and he completely fell in love with England and did not even miss the Moselle wine of his homeland. (It was not until his second year at Kew that he remembered the vineyards of the Moselle and thought of them as a good subject for a "Mutual".)

He was admitted to Kew in 1955. The scale and variety of Kew was a revelation to him, but although initially somewhat overwhelming, his years there proved to be a time of great enjoyment. The first term was spent in the Alpine Department where, under Mr. Preston, the reconstruction of the rockery with Sussex sandstone was initiated. Mr. Preston was a strict Curator and, under the iron rule of Foreman Alan Cook, there was no time at all to lark about.

The second term was spent in the Temperate House under Mr. Souster. This was a relaxing time and was followed by a fascinating stint in the ferneries, enlivened by the endless arguments between Theo and a rabid communist student from Pakistan. Foreman Bert Bruty used to listen with head-shaking puzzlement to these verbal encounters.

His last term, by choice, was spent again "on the rocks", building the new rockery with an extremely primitive and dangerous motorised crane. Mr. Preston was favourably impressed by this choice as, in those days students rarely, if ever, volunteered to work on the rockery. In fact, Theo only chose it as he knew the Arboretum was already over-subscribed.

He rather sadly said goodbye to Kew (and his girlfriend in Ealing) in September of 1957, to begin a three-year course in Landscape Architecture at Reading University, which he successfully completed in 1960. During the 1959 summer vacation he made a study tour (on a Lambretta) across Lorraine, Germany and Austria to the better-known botanic gardens in these areas to acquire material for his thesis entitled 'The Botanic Garden'. This was highly commended and there is a copy of it in the Kew Library.

His return to Luxembourg was followed by a rather demoralising year of waiting for the politicians to decide who was to be the next City Parks Superintendent, in spite of the fact that he was better qualified than the one other candidate. During this time he did consulting work and was introduced by one of his clients to Maureen the Geordie lass who was this man's new secretary. That year the client lost a secretary and Dumont gained a wife! He still has her, 34 years and two sons down the road!

In 1961 he finally took up the position of Parks Superintendent for the City of Luxembourg, after a legal battle with the local politicians, who then still considered that parks and green spaces were unimportant enough not to require any real horticultural knowledge in their Superintendent. He was initially deemed overqualified and was accordingly underpaid.

In the ensuing 32 years, with determination, disciplined hard work and a great deal of enjoyment, an efficient and highly mechanised service was created, for which new premises, greenhouses and a composting station were built and parks and open spaces increased sixfold. For example, in 1993 there were 130 playgrounds, whereas in 1961 there was one, which consisted of an open space in the main city park where an annual lorry-load of sand was tipped, to be subsequently spread around by the children!

From the original 22 people employed when he took over, the Parks Department staff had enlarged to 180 in 1993, the majority unqualified and including a high proportion of mentally and physically disabled people. Because of the attitude of the politicians who were his employers, he constantly lacked properly qualified staff; so much so that, for the first ten years, he had to run the Parks Department single-handedly and it was only later on that he had the aid of a technical assistant, a secretary and finally another landscape architect.

It seems the politicians finally began to ask themselves how on earth Dumont was managing in 1992, when the spectre of his future retirement began to loom two or three years ahead. At this point, they had the bright idea of engaging a management consultancy to "restructure" the Parks Department. This firm in turn charged two Swiss economists, who had barely enough horticultural knowledge to differentiate between a cabbage and an apple tree, to re-organise the Parks Department. They promised that in doing so they would "fully motivate" all personnel. Their first move was to decide that there would be no distinction between trained gardeners and labourers and "everyone would do everything". As it turned out, this meant that most people did the wrong thing. The tales now told are that the parks employees are not only not motivated, they are thoroughly disgruntled and in some cases even made ill by their changed working conditions. Such is progress!

The re-organisation was planned to begin in January 1993 and his political masters confidently expected Dumont to carry the burden of making it work with the energy and commitment he had always previously shown. Although offered incentive inducements, he declined and took early retirement in 1993. He is truly enjoying this new phase in his life, somewhat to the surprise of his wife, who had feared he would not be able to survive without the job he had loved for so many years. He is happily engaged in growing plants of all sorts, doing a little consulting work, helping run the Luxembourg Rose Society and travelling a lot – especially across the Channel and up the A1 to the glorious north. And then, of course, there is also the Kew Guild!

The two Dumont sons, Peter and Chris, in spite of showing an early interest in plants and trees, did not follow in father's footsteps. They both finished their education at English universities, one reading physics and the other industrial design and are employed and happily settled in the south-east of England.

## JOHN B. GAGGINI

Vice President (1997-98)

John Gaggin began his formative years in horticulture in 1956 at Maidstone Parks Department, in order to attend day release courses at K. F. & H. I., Swanley, Kent. Together with evening classes, such studies enabled him to attain the R.H.S. General at the tender age of 16, prior to moving on to full-time training at Swanley. Two years later and after a further interesting spell at Reuthes Tree & Shrub Nursery, he was accepted at Kew.

There, he spent the traditional two years in each of four departments namely; Palm House (No. 15); Rock Garden; Decorative Pits and Arboretum Nursery, under the foremanships of George Anderson, Ian Beyer, Fred Larkby and Tony Schilling respectively. As a keen plantsman he achieved the Plant Identification top award for the last three six-monthly sessions. With co-intake student Keith Fellows in digs at The Avenue, he studied native flora – winning the Dummer Memorial Prize for best collection. Perhaps his proudest accolade was as Athletics Secretary when Kew won the Kew/Wisley Road Race and the Civil Service Sports Day at Chiswick, supported by the athletic prowess of John Elsley, Geoff Spate and John Winter.

The National College of Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe, Bedford, enabled John to set up the College Campus and continue his spare time studying, culminating in the Master of Horticulture (formally N.D.H.), for which he obtained the highest marks. He left N.C.A.E. to pursue an R.H.S. Bowles Memorial Travel Scholarship to North America, covering 20,000 miles within 39 States. From there he returned to join A.D.A.S. (N.A.A.S.) in Guildford, Surrey, as a Horticultural Adviser in 1966. There he advised commercial nurseries and other businesses and became Nursery Stock Specialist for the S.E. Region.

In 1971 he joined the Northampton Development Corporation to create a Nursery for Extra Heavy Tree Production for planting the infrastructure of Northampton New Town – it was during this period when he qualified for the Master in Arboriculture (formally N.D.Arb.) and was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship to visit arboreta, nurseries and research stations in Scandinavia.

For the next 18 years he built up his own nursery at Mears Ashby, Northampton, where container grown woody plants were the speciality.

John played an active role within the I.P.P.S., becoming its President in 1983 and International Director in 1984 and 1985. He has three children from his first marriage, Nicholas, Justin and Adam, who have all started quite different careers – only Justin in a related occupation, working for a Landscape Company. Janette – John's second wife – also trained in horticulture and is an attribute to his lifestyle and business. Janette has two horticultural sons, Anthony, who works as Head Gardener for Lord King and Christopher, who works for the family business. For relaxation John plays duplicate Bridge at a local club and he cycles for exercise to keep the flab away.

Time, though, is at a premium – being involved in Wellingborough Chamber of Trade (President 1988/89) and Moulton College (Vice Chairman) where he chairs and attends numerous meetings to further Land Based Education. Unfortunately, the one and half acre garden is quite neglected and not a little bit like Kew!

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD

By **Kenwyn Pearson**, Hon. Secretary

On Saturday 8th November 1997, 37 members attended the Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild in the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The President, Mr. Tom Wood, was in the chair and the Secretary, Kenwyn Pearson, recorded the minutes of the meeting.

*Apologies for absence* had been received from the following: Ms L. Allen, M. Arnold-Gilliatt, C. Attwood, R. Bauman, M. Biggs, S. Bird, Lord Blakenham, Ms S. Bridgeyard, C. Brickell,

R. Brummitt, Dr. P. Cribb, E. Curtis, D. Coates, R. Davies, A. Dixon, T. Elton, I. Ferguson, L. Foster, H. Fleigner, Rev. H. Flower, C. Giles, H. Gilmour, Mrs. S. Gilmour, M. Godfrey, Rev. M. Graham, G. N. Graham, P. Green, M. Griffin, D. Hardman, S. Henchie, R. Herbert, N. Hickman, Miss P. Holt, R. Hughes, Dr. H. Keay, R. Kerr, I. Lamont-Smith, I. Leese, Lady Lennox-Boyd, Prof. G. Lucas, M. Lycett, J. Maddox, B. Mathew, D. Menzies, C. Mitchelmore, R. Mowforth, B. Mowforth, J. Oihawa, M. Park, Miss I. Otto-Knapp, A. Patterson, Ms K. Pipe-Wolferstan, Miss D. Polhill, Miss L. Ponsonby, Prof. Sir Iain Prance, T. Preston, J. Reynolds, M. Roberts, J. Sales, Miss A. Scott-Brown, Dr. M. Stant, Prof. C. Stirton, R. E. Staughan, S. Torode, P. Styles, J. Tregear, G. Vanson, A. Vernon, A. Woodward, Mrs. W. Worth.

*In opening the meeting* the President welcomed everyone to the Jodrell Laboratory and apologised to the members that it had been necessary to cancel the A.G.M. in September as it had fallen on the same date as the Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, but was pleased that there had been a good response to the new date.

A period of silence was observed while the Secretary read out the names of members whose deaths had been announced since the A.G.M. in 1996. They were: M. Axton (1972), G. B. Brown (1948), F. J. Ford (1945), F. W. Foster (1948), F. G. North (1948), I. G. Rooke (1958), S. Rawlings, Past President (1972), D. W. Sayers (1940), Hubert Taylor (1933), C. Wilmot (1947), Grace Lofthouse (1982).

*The minutes of the Annual General meeting held on 7th September 1996*, which were printed in the 1996 *Journal*, were approved as a true record. Proposed by Don MacGuffog and seconded by David Hardman, with unanimous approval.

*The Secretary's Report:* Kenwyn Pearson reported that the Committee continue to meet on a regular basis and it is a great credit to the Guild and the members that attendance at these meetings is high in what is a voluntary organisation. This says something for the way members support the Guild and help to advance the organisation.

The subject of broadening and extending the membership engages the Committee at length. To try and encourage Gardens membership is discussed but there is a poor response from the Gardens' staff. After people have left Kew, but want to keep in touch, is the perceived real benefit of the Guild membership and it is at this point that members join. There is a good response from the students.

The indexing of the *Journal* occupied the Committee and members earlier in the year and this operation will, in future, be carried out on a five year basis.

Under the terms of Edgar Milne-Redhead's will the Guild will receive £253.25 and will also receive a full set of *Journals*, from the first issue, for its own archives.

Concerns are expressed about the responsibility of Trustees and members now receive an advisory booklet when they join the Committee.

A reasonable amount of correspondence is received in connection with the Guild and support and contact is maintained with members and others throughout the year.

Kenwyn Pearson thanked the President and members of the Committee for their support during the year.

In answer to Graham Burgess it was confirmed that the Guild Room was well used by the Guild and its members, particularly at Committee meetings. Sylvia Fitzgerald felt that more should be done to publicise the Guild and its purpose.

The Secretary's Report was accepted by the meeting, having been proposed by Mike Clift and seconded by Martin Sands.

*Membership Secretary's Report:* This was presented by Jill Cowley who confirmed that there were 526 members of the Guild. There were 62 Staff members, 26 Student members, six Corporate members, 354 Standard members and 38 Life members.

Jill Cowley confirmed that Direct Debit was not available because the Guild was not large enough. She also confirmed that she received comments that there were limited benefits to

membership for persons working in the gardens. It was confirmed that special rates for membership were offered to Student Members, £2 less for staff and no others. Twenty-three members had been deleted because of lack of payment.

There had been a request for a block membership from some visitors from China and, while some could join the Friends of Kew, the criteria for membership of the Guild should not be changed, so that membership is not devalued and if people have worked in the gardens for 12 months then they were eligible for membership and this would cover several former employees from China.

The report was proposed by Martin Sands, seconded by Graham Burgess and accepted by the meeting.

*The Treasurer's Report* was presented by Rebecca Bower, who said that abbreviated accounts had been printed in the *Journal*. A full set could be obtained from her if required. The Statement of Recommended Practices had been implemented in the presentation of the accounts and also there is a clear presentation of statement of financial practices.

Sixteen Awards had been made through the Award Scheme.

There were considerable reserves in the funds amounting to £132,000 on the open market.

The adoption of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Leo Pemberton and seconded by John Woodhams and accepted by the meeting.

*The Editor's Report* was given by Richard Ward who thanked contributors who had given articles and information for the *Journal*. The large job of the index had been handled well, thanks to Sylvia Fitzgerald and her team. There was still a need to review advertising. Copy was always welcome, particularly on items of news that will be of interest to members.

The President thanked the Editor for the way that he produced the *Journal* and for what he did for the Kew Guild.

David Hardman proposed acceptance of the report which was seconded by John Gaggini and endorsed by the meeting.

In giving his report, the *Events Officer* paid particular tribute to the great contribution that had been made to Guild events in recent years by Dianne Cooper.

The Annual Dinner had been a great success with about 100 people attending. He made reference to the circular letter sent out during the year and had received 46 replies. The analysis was as follows: 23 had no strong preference on the venue for the Dinner, 14 had strong preference to keep it in Chelsea Week, others had no strong feelings. It was felt that the Committee should further consider the venue and the day of the week. There had been three letters from Past Presidents expressing concern about the venue and the poor standard of catering, particularly as there was nowhere to sit down after the meal to have a chat with colleagues.

It was felt by the meeting that the A.G.M. Day should be developed further and this should be reviewed at the next Committee meeting. Allan Hart put in a plea to keep the Dinner at the Orangery as the venue and parking were good.

It was felt that waitress service could be improved and an additional bar was needed afterwards. The Gallery pre-meet was received well. Although Imperial College was mentioned, this was not thought to be appropriate now and it was known that the charges there had been increased considerably. Some members had complained about the distance to walk to the main gate after the event and a taxi service should be considered. Professor Bell felt that the isolation of tables was not good in the Orangery. Nigel Taylor said he would investigate laying on cars to assist in transport. David Hardman felt that a subsidy should be continued to enable students to attend.

The *Events Officer's* report was accepted by the meeting, having been proposed by Leo Pemberton and seconded by Nick Boyes. Thanks were expressed to Tom Risely for his organisation of the Dinner.

*The Award Scheme Report* was presented by Nigel Hepper who recorded that the Scheme had been in existence for 22 years. The Committee met on a regular basis. Over £4,000 had been distributed this year alone.

Martin Sands reminded members that the Scheme was open to all members to apply. The report was adopted by the meeting, having been proposed by Norman Robson and seconded by Mike Clift.

*The President reported on Prize Day* and said that 15 students had received Diplomas and that 41 Cups had been awarded. He admired the significant achievements of the group. Richard Mabej had been the guest speaker and talked on the popularisation of plants and Robin Herbert, who was retiring as Chairman of the Trustees, had given the vote of thanks.

The President thanked the retiring members of the Committee for the contribution they had made. Clive Foster had resigned and Dusha Hayes would take his place. Peter Styles, Allan Hart and Mike Bentall had completed their term.

*The Officers for Election* were proposed as detailed in the A.G.M. notice and proposed by Leo Pemberton and seconded by Sylvia Fitzgerald and accepted by the meeting.

*Rebecca Bower reported the the Independent Auditor* had looked at the Accounts and found them to be in order and were fully reported in the accounts available from the Treasurer.

Martin Sands raised the subject of Trustees in *Any Other Business*, but on point of order it was felt that amendments to the rules could not be made to their status to bring the existing Trustees in as Principal Trustees without due consideration by the Committee and a formal proposal being presented to the A.G.M. in 1998. This was agreed by the meeting.

Graham Pattison offered members the current year National Plant Directory free from N.C.C.P.G. He was thanked for this.

Sylvia Fitzgerald said that she was looking into ownership of Kew Guild Papers and Archives in the Herbarium.

*Inauguration of the new President:* Theo Dumont took the Chair and received the chain of office from Tom Wood. Theo Dumont said he was honoured to be asked to be the President of the Guild and felt honoured to join other eminent people who had occupied this position. Martin Sands proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing President and wished Theo Dumont well in his term of office. This was endorsed by the meeting and the President closed the meeting at 15.40.

The Secretary confirmed that the 1998 A.G.M. would be held on Saturday 12th September at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

## **REPORT ON THE KEW GUILD ANNUAL DINNER 1997**

By Tom Risely, Events Officer

The 1997 Annual Dinner was held on Wednesday, 21st May, at the Orangery in Kew Gardens. This was the third successive such event to be held in the Gardens and the format followed that of the previous two years, with the exception of the reception.

The reception was held in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, during which President Tom Wood and his wife, Davina, welcomed members, their guests and guests of the Guild. An ample amount of sparkling wine was served and members had an opportunity to renew acquaintances and exchange and update news in exceptionally pleasant and fragrant surroundings.

After an hour the party moved to the Orangery and to a pre-arranged seating plan around nine round tables, plus a top table of V.I.P.s, including speakers. Members had indicated, via their dinner ticket applications, with whom they wished to sit and most wishes were accommodated. Following the meal and a short break, the more formal part of the evening began.

The toast to the President was proposed by John Gaggini. John gave a resumé of Tom Wood's career (detailed in the 1996 *Journal*), mentioning his down-to-earth beginnings at a local nursery, National Service, his time at Kew (a paper to the Mutual Improvement Society on 'Aspects of New Research in Horticulture'), overseas service in Uganda, the beginnings of Oakover Nursery – now a huge enterprise of over 300 acres, the size of Kew. He also mentioned Tom's service to the H.T.A. and the International Plant Propagators Society. He is a family man and his hobby is gardening. More than that, he is an outstanding professional horticulturist.



Left to right: John Gaggini (Vice President), Davina and Tom Wood, Dr. Brian Howard and Rosslyn Howard.  
(*Photograph courtesy of Patrick Garton, Student*)

The President's speech at the Dinner is a highlight of his Presidential year and an opportunity to convey his message to a wider audience. Tom said that he was honoured to follow in the footsteps of recent acclaimed Presidents: Gren Lucas, John Sales, Ghillean Prance; and now a humble nurseryman. But one of the attractions of Kew, he said, is that it is a broad church containing many different individuals drawn together by a common love of plants – dead or alive. We can do tomorrow by looking back on yesterday, but he can also look back on the experience of Kew: mediocre sporting achievements, but a

trip to Rotterdam to play cricket; the Mutual Improvement Society; the friendships and associations; the plants! It is the happiest of memories and a rich experience.

He drew attention to the contrast between his life in horticulture and that in 100 mph professions and preferred the rewards of plants. But the life of a nurseryman is not without its problems. We in the U.K., for example, have to meet a VAT rate of 17½% whilst our chief European competitors have only a rate of 6% on horticultural products. However, we are custodians of values for our successors. Whilst many are destroying aspects of our environment, Kew is contributing to reversing the trend and assisting in conservation. Kew is both looking to and providing for the future and, with its international standing, is in a unique position to do this. He applauded Kew's transition from a botanical and horticultural establishment to one of conservation, encompassing its former values. The future is with young people. The school of horticulture is more, not less, important. We are dependent upon it. As always, the staff at Kew make an invaluable contribution – a sharing of skills and experiences. He expressed concern at Kew's reducing resources and drew attention to the value of the Kew Guardian, now circulated monthly to Kew Guild members. We must all fight for this to continue. He concluded "I am amongst friends of a like mind and that makes me a happy man. A toast – The Kew Guild".

The President introduced the guests of the Guild, including the guest speaker, Dr. Brian Howard. He had known Dr. Howard for 30 years, during which time he had worked ceaselessly for the industry, especially contributing to knowledge of fruit and nursery stock. He had gained the respect of all in the commercial world through research and an ability to organise and communicate.

Dr. Howard thanked the Guild on behalf of all the guests and said he was impressed at the organisation of the evening, in the finest detail. He does not know Kew as well as in the past, but understood that Kew and scientific research establishments share a common problem of declining public funding. This must be arrested, or else all that we value will suffer. We must give more attention to P.R. The Guild has a part to play, with its diverse membership and wide range of contacts. The Guild is a valuable component in a large organisation such as Kew, and



can contribute as a pressure group. It can extend its sponsorship of students (the Award Scheme) into other areas, e.g. research. Kew is the silver salt cellar of research institutions – the others are base metal – but the salt of the earth.

Student Patrick Garton introduced the other students present and proposed the toast to absent friends.

The President made the George Brown Award to Nigel Hepper – to much acclaim. He introduced the Past Presidents present, six in number, and especially welcomed Roy Mowlem, now in his eighties, who left Kew 60 years ago. He also welcomed two overseas visitors, Olivia Saunders and Theo Dumont (President Elect), and thanked and named all who had contributed to the organisation and success of the evening.

For the record, 97 attended, including 18 students. The guests of the Guild were Dr. Brian and Mrs. Rosslyn Howard, Mrs. Margaret Adams (Friends) and Mrs. Vera McNab (Friends). The toastmaster was Mr. Richard Ward. Catering and wines were by Kew's official caterers, Town and County – Manager at Kew, Lesley Frost.

The ticket cost to members was £25 and £12.50 for students. The menu was: Melon and Portwine Cocktail; Marinated Salmon with Honey and Dill Dressing; Pepper and Cream Cheese Roulade and Green Salad; Summer Pudding with Cassis Sauce.

**Note:** The 1999 Annual Dinner date has yet to be determined. A Saturday, with families, is possible. Your preference will be sought shortly, by post.



President Tom Wood presents the George Brown Award to Nigel Hepper. (Photograph courtesy of Patrick Garton, Student)

## THE KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME REPORT FOR 1997

By F. Nigel Hepper, Chairman

Once again I am grateful to these members of the Award Scheme Committee who helped with the assessments: Jean Griffin, Don McGuffog, Mark Pitman (Kew), Rebecca Bower (Treasurer), Vanessa Wells (Student Representative) and Chris Kidd (Secretary). I must also thank Kenwyn Pearson for chairing the first meeting while I was in hospital.

A total sum of £4,620 was awarded to the following applicants: N. Abeygunawardana £300 towards M.Sc. study; R. Fisher £400 for a study visit to North America; P. Garton £500 travel scholarship to Brazil; M. Kerr £500 travel scholarship to Belize; T. Kramer £280, a travel scholarship to Arizona; K. Maguire £500 travel scholarship to Cuba; M. Pagola £500 travel scholarship to Chile; G. Mullins £340 travel scholarship to South Africa; L. Scott £400 travel scholarship to Australia; T. Woodcock £500 travel scholarship to Costa Rica; V. Wells £400 travel scholarship to Tasmania. Of these, only Roger Fischer was unable to take up the Award owing to further study.

This annual dispensation of funds is possible, may I remind Kewites, through the generosity and hard work of others over the last 21 years, so it is as well to keep building up the capital with further donations. Have you remembered the Guild in your will? A legacy is a valuable and painless way of helping the Award Scheme.

The following reports have been submitted for publication by recipients of Kew Guild Award Scheme finance.

### **FUNDING FOR M.Sc. IN HORTICULTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF READING**

By Neeth Abeygunawardana

After I completed my three year Kew Diploma course in September 1997, I was fortunate enough to continue my horticultural education by gaining a place on the M.Sc. Horticulture course at Reading University.

I have been awarded the 1997/98 R.B.G. Kew postgraduate award. Although the course fee for non E.E.C. students is high, financial support from the Lennox-Boyd Memorial Trust and from the Kew Guild did enable me to pursue the above course.

The Kew Diploma course gave me a very useful professional qualification with an extremely useful broad knowledge of almost all aspects of horticulture. But in my home country, Sri Lanka, the authorities only recognise a higher degree or professional postgraduate qualification as adequate for most of the horticultural related careers. This has left me with a desire to study horticulture up to a postgraduate level as this M.Sc. qualification will greatly enhance my professional standing within my own country, where I plan to live in future. Also, by completing the M.Sc. course I will have a more closely focused professionally structured body of knowledge, readily applicable to the local situation in Sri Lanka and the region. On a personal level I needed a horticultural postgraduate course related to the subjects I have already studied at Kew. What attracted me to Reading was both the range and the depth of subjects available on the M.Sc. course.

This course is of one year's duration and includes both teaching and project work. It is a modular course and allows students to specialise in various aspects of horticulture. I have chosen the Amenity Horticulture Option and this consists of 12 modules, of which nine will be examined during the Easter examinations. The majority of teaching (lectures) takes place during the first six months of the course and students are expected to write their thesis during the last six months.

My M.Sc. thesis will be based on the research work that I have planned to do at Kew. This project will be in the area of providing information about economically important plants in the living collection at Kew. As a part of the project I am intending to design a set of brochures interpreting and indicating the locations of the most economically important plants in the glass house collection at R.B.G. Kew. I am also looking at the possibilities of linking my project with Kew's Economic Botany Museum, which will be open this year.

After I complete my M.Sc. course at Reading and a one year placement at Kew, I very much want to use the knowledge and the qualifications gained from the Kew Diploma and from the M.Sc. course, in my own country, Sri Lanka. In particular I wish to use my experience in environmental education programmes. I intend to use horticulture and botanic gardens as a means of involving local people in a way which will raise environmental awareness and improve their economic situation.

### **BIODIVERSITY IN BELIZE**

By Michael Kerr

Belize is a comparatively small country of only 8,867 square miles, but what it lacks in scale it makes up in diversity. There is the rain-forested Cayo in the west, scrubby, marshy Orange Walk and Corozal in the north and Placencia and Toledo in the south, regions of palm-fringed beaches, banana plantations and mangrove swamps. Biological diversity is also high with an estimated 4,000 species of flowering plants and over 700 species of trees. However, it was the country's reputation of having near pristine rainforests which first aroused my interest – over

three quarters of the land is reputed to be 'untouched' and botanists are still discovering plant species previously unrecorded in Belize.

First on my list of places to visit was the Community Baboon Sanctuary at Bermudian Landing in the Belize District. The Community Baboon Sanctuary was established in 1985 to protect one of the few healthy black howler monkey populations in Central America. Unlike any other wildlife management project in the world, the sanctuary is a voluntary, grassroots conservation programme dependent upon the co-operation of private landowners within active farm communities. An education centre and museum, sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund, is located within the sanctuary with helpful staff and interpretation which is tremendously informative. During my two days spent at the sanctuary I went on several guided walks and learned a great deal about the surrounding flora and spotted two troops of howler monkeys.

From the sanctuary I travelled to caye Caulker to assess damage to mangrove swamps and to visit a private collection of **Opuntias**. After two days on the caye I set off inland and upland into the Cayo district where work on a new botanical garden is underway. During my time spent there I helped plant a number of trees. It was the start of the rainy season and so the best time for planting. I also planted a number of South-African bulbs in a 'prairie' area close to the river. These have been planted on a sharp slope to avoid bulb rot. Among those we planted were **Massonia** spp., **Clivia miniata**, and **Lachenalia** spp.

I stayed at the Belize Botanic Garden for a week and while I was there I took advantage of its close proximity to some other places I wanted to visit. The first of these was the Ix Chel Medicine Trail which was just a short paddle down the Macal. The medicine trail at Ix Chel is an educational facility where people can come to learn about plants and their healing properties. The trail winds its way through 20 acres of natural forest where 32 species of medicinal plants have been pinpointed. The interpretation is extremely informative and is accompanied by a very helpful, illustrated field guide which explains the uses of these plants.

Another trip I made from duPlooy's was to a nearby commercial palm nursery. The palm nursery is run by Louis Thomas of Teakettle Enterprises and is located close to the country's capital, Belmopan. Louis Thomas was instrumental in organising a shipment of native Belizean plants, including many of his palms, to the Chelsea Flower Show of 1996 as part of the Natural History Museum's Belizean rainforest display.

My plan was to go from the Belize Botanic Garden to the Las Cuevas Research Centre, which is located in a very isolated spot in the Chiquibul Forest Reserve, close to the Maya Mountains. However, due to the appalling weather conditions (weeks of incessant rain) the roads to this site had been closed and so it was impossible to get there. I decided to stay an extra day in the Cayo District and went on a day's tour of Mountain Pine Ridge, which took me as far as I could go on the road to Las Cuevas and back again. The guide on this tour was, once again, most informative and handed out field guides as an educational tool. The emphasis was on respect for the land and its conservation.

Next on the agenda was the Cockscomb jaguar reserve. The Cockscomb Basin Reserve is a totally protected 100,000 acres of pristine, primary and secondary rainforest, ringed on three sides by high ridges and mountains. I worked for two days while I was at Cockscomb, digging ditches and hacking my way through the forest with a machete. I had arranged to do this before leaving London, not realising that I would be working in temperatures of around 90°C with a punishing extreme of humidity. I thoroughly enjoyed the work and learnt a lot of the common names for the plants I saw and their economic uses.

I returned to Belize city for a couple of meetings with the Belize Audubon Society and Programme for Belize to get an update on their conservation strategies and ongoing work in Belize and then flew from there to New York, where I stayed for a further six days. I had arranged meetings with Mike Balick, the Head of the Institute of Economic Botany and Daniel Atha, a member of his staff at the New York Botanical Gardens. Both men have worked extensively in Belize recently and are working on the compilation of '*Flora Mesoamerica*' which will incorporate the flora of Belize.

Another place I visited while in New York was The Cloisters, a branch museum of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, devoted to religious art of the Middle Ages. The religious artefacts, icons and stained glass were all very interesting, but I was there to see gardens of the Saint-Michel-de-Cuxa and the Bonnefont Cloisters. These gardens have been recreated according to designs of those which were tended by French Cistercian monks of the Middle Ages. More than 250 species of medicinal and food plants are grown in the gardens in individual raised planting beds, including many herbs commonly grown in gardens today.

### TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP TO ARIZONA

By Tanja P. Kramer

For my travel scholarship I visited Arizona for three weeks at the end of April to mid May in 1997. My main ambition was to learn about arid lands conservation and the plants of these lands, with regard to their special adaptations. I was interested in finding out how habitats can be preserved for both wild plants as well as the many unique crops of the region. Concerning the traditional Native American crops and wild plants they had used in the past, I was curious to find out to what scale these plants were still used and grown and knowledge about them preserved. As environmental education and awareness is an important part of environment conservation, I had also arranged to meet staff from the two botanical gardens' education departments to learn more about their work and environment education programmes.

It was a great opportunity to look at all these different aspects while in Arizona and meet with many great people who are all specialists in their field. During the first week I visited the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, where I met both with members of the education department and garden staff. All showed much enthusiasm for their work. Spending time within the grounds I had the chance to get to know some of the desert plants exhibited in the collection. I especially liked the 'Plants and People of the Sonoran Desert Trail' in the garden.

Many of the cacti, desert wild flowers and small desert trees were flowering and it was a unique experience. One evening I was lucky to be invited to take part on an ethnobotany walk, which was given to a group of local college students. The walk was conducted by Ruth Greenhouse (Educational Department) and Liz Slauson (Curator of Botany). Here I learned about some of the traditional uses of native plant species and how native people would harvest plant parts and produce certain products.

In Tucson I chose to camp in the beautiful Santa Catalina Mountain State Park. This experience brought me closer to the flora and fauna of the beautiful Sonoran Desert. Wildlife and plants could be observed more closely being in such close proximity. The Saguaro National Monument, with its stands of up to 50 feet high saguaro cacti (***Carnegie gigantea***) was one of the most impressive encounters of the journey. Standing beside such a giant makes one feel incredibly small.

The Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum has the most beautiful setting. It edges onto the west side of the Saguaro National Monument. This museum (botanical garden and zoo) teaches actively about the flora, fauna and geology of the Sonoran Desert. Visitors can learn more about native plants, see the animals of the region and find out about interactions of the biotic and a-biotic environment. The Museum has excellent education programmes with opportunities for all age groups to take part. Carol Cochran (Director of Education), whom I met on my first visit to the garden, gave me an insight into the various activities and programmes.

During a second day I met garden staff and learned new aspects of desert gardening. A special event was to meet with Gary P. Nabham (Director of Science and Ethnobiologist and Botanist). He has studied Native American Ethnobotany and agriculture extensively and written numerous articles and several books about these subjects. He is also working closely with Native Americans in order to preserve and conserve traditional plants, in addition to knowledge regarding their cultivation, uses and importance. He is also one of the co-founders of an

organisation named Native Seeds/SEARCH (NS/S), which is involved in similar work to the one forementioned. I not only visited NS/S, but met with a second co-founder, Dr. Barney B. Burns. I was shown around the seedbank and learned about a project called Memory Data-Base by Suzanne Nelson (Conservation & Collections Director; Seedbank Curator of NS/S).

One cannot visit Tucson without seeing the University of Arizona. An enormous complex of buildings surrounded by palms with views onto the city itself. The campus is filled with students and a very lively place. I met with Professor Steven Smith from the College of Agriculture, who works on plant genetic resources and spoke with him about his view on Native American Agriculture. Later I made use of the excellent library, which anybody is free to use. I had the fortuitous chance to meet with Daniela Soleri who also works in the College of Agriculture, in the Arid Lands Resource Science Program. She is currently studying the criteria that Native American farmers in an area of Mexico are using to select cobs of corn from certain parent plants to be used for seed-stock.

I spent two days exploring the mighty Grand Canyon and looking at the vegetation there, which has to cope with all sorts of reverse growing conditions. It's amazing that they still do so well and exist in such an extreme environment. Other areas I went to see on my tour included the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservation, the Petrified Forest and the Painted Desert.

I learned many new aspects about plants and had a unique time in Arizona. All the people I met were so friendly and helpful and really supported me to achieve my aims. I feel the tour was of great benefit to me and truly broadened my horizons.

## A FIELD TRIP FOR ENCEPHALARTOS – THE CYCADS OF SOUTH AFRICA

By Greg Mullins

Three weeks hunting cycads in South Africa began at the beginning of September 1997 in the Transvaal region, now known as Mpumalanga, with a visit to Loskop Dam Game Reserve. Here, a nature trail winds its way along a gorge cut into the sandstone by the Little Olifants River and provides a fantastic setting for a population of **Encephalartos eugenemaraisii** subsp. **middleburghensis**. The plants grow in the company of **Erica** species, **Dombeya**, and many composites in the tall scub grass overlooking the gorge. This population has been actively conserved for many years and is managing to reproduce. Unfortunately, this cannot be said for most of the cycad species found in South Africa.

Moving further eastwards to the Lowveld Botanic Garden near Nelspruit I had the chance to visit the third largest cycad collection in the world. The garden here is dominated not just by **Encephalartos** but also **Zamia**, **Dioon**, **Ceratozamia** and **Cycas**. The garden also holds a unique cycad orchard, curated by Johan Hurter, containing genotypes for each of the most threatened **Encephalartos** species. Johan's brother, Mike Hurter, took me on a tour of remote cycad sites over the next two weeks which included Swaziland, Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape. In total we visited 20 species of the 46 found in South Africa.

The most stunning of these included **E. cupidus** high up on Swadini Mountain in Mpumalanga. It is a relatively small species with no visible stem, but more than makes up for its short stature with beautiful blue-green foliage. This is one of only two populations known and constitutes less than 500 plants. This species is also very desirable to collectors but it manages to escape up here – for the time being.

The site at Modjadji in Mpumalanga is famous for its huge colony of **E. transvenosus** which smothers the granite hillside. An estimated 15,000 plants grow here, protected within a reserve which is governed by the local Rain Queen. The local people collect seed from the plants and have a cycad nursery in the nearby village which helps to fund the upkeep of the reserve. It also reduces poaching by making plants available to the public at a realistic price, about £2.50. With over 50,000 plants in stock this act of propagation works well for the long term protection of the species.

In Swaziland, near the Mozambique border, Mike took me to see the only colony of a newly described species. **Encephalartos aplanatus** is found in a gully on the Lebombo Mountains growing in the shade of **Podocarpus** trees and **Acacia** scrub. This species, which has no stem and grows to two to three metres, has been given a rating of Endangered on the Red Data List with numbers of less than 100. For it to survive into the next millennium action must be taken urgently.

In the Eastern Cape many of the cycad colonies are already protected in reserves but this does not stop poaching altogether. At Uitenhage, near Port Elizabeth, we found a population of **Encephalartos horridus** growing on a quartzite slope among legumes, **Aloe**, **Euphorbia** and other succulents. This silver-blue species is very attractive and has a distinctive leaf shape with many spines, hence its specific name. Despite fencing and security, plants are regularly stolen from the reserve.

Moving further west we travelled to Van Stadens Wildflower Reserve to look at **Encephalartos longifolius** which is found growing on the gorge overlooking the Groot River. Unusually for this year, many of the plants are coning and several females display five olive-green cones at the top of their tall, broad stems. Getting down to the plants to photograph them proved to be quite difficult through the dense Fynbos vegetation and steep valley sides.

With so many endangered and vulnerable species, a cycad action plan has been drawn up by the National Botanical Institute, with the help of other organisations. The action plan is intended to reduce the pressure on cycad populations in Southern Africa. The major threat occurs from trade in wild collected plants, which accounts for up to 60% of losses, but habitat destruction through development and agriculture, collection for medicinal purpose and natural decline are also responsible. The group has been set up to prioritise action under new legislation and law enforcement, protected area networks and sustainable use. Conservation also takes the form of ex-situ collection for the most endangered species and scientific research into biological factors limiting population growth. It is hoped that under this new action plan these fantastic plants can be saved from extinction.

## TASMANIA – AUSTRALIA'S ISLAND STATE

By Vanessa Wells

In October 1997, the overnight ferry from Melbourne docked in Devonport early in the morning; it had been a long night, but I was determined to keep awake for the three-hour bus journey to Hobart. We passed through only a few small towns along the way. The rest of the journey was somehow disappointing and made me rather sad. The surrounding countryside was grazing fields, which had occasional groups of **Eucalyptus** in them, many of which were dead or dying. It was not until later in the trip that I heard of their plight. One rumour was that the possums ring-bark the trees, but another told of how these areas were once heavily wooded and the destruction of the habitat caused the remaining trees to suffer; I think the latter sounds more probable. In the distance I could see the mountains of Cradle Mountain National Park and couldn't wait to explore.

Unfortunately, the course that I had intended to attend in Hobart had been cancelled, so the trip was now to focus on botanising in the wilderness and to spend a few days observing and assisting with education programmes at the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens. My first day experienced the madness of 'Arbor Day' at the gardens. Well, I say madness, but in fact it was nothing of the sort, which was quite amazing considering there were 800 school children attending all at the same time! There were 10 activities including propagation, story telling, worm composting and drawing. The activities were demonstrated by garden and office staff, which seemed to be a good morale booster and bring the staff together.

My first trip out of Hobart wasn't far; a visit to Mount Wellington, which looms over the city. Mount Wellington is 1,270 metres high and it was very interesting to see the progression

of habitats and growth forms as we made our way up the mountain. The first stop, at the base of the mountain was breathtaking; temperate rainforest. These low-altitude forests take up to 300 years to become fully developed under conditions of consistent humidity and freedom from fires. This dark, damp forest was dripping with moss and lichen and it was there that I first saw the magnificent tree ferns, **Dicksonia antarctica**.

Evidence of forest fires, from 30 years ago, could be seen further up the mountain in the wet and dry sclerophyll forests. The ghostly white carcasses of the Mountain White Gum, **Eucalyptus delegatensis**, loomed over the green forest, which, even 30 years on, was only half the height of the dead remains. Wet sclerophyll forest has a high, open canopy formed chiefly by **Eucalyptus delegatensis**, **E. regnans**, **E. obliqua** and **E. globulus**. The open canopy allows for the development of a shrubby understorey and, in sheltered gullies where humidity is high, rainforest species will grow.

Higher up, the forest became drier, shorter and more open; this forest is known as dry sclerophyll. The dominant gum in this area is **E. pauciflora**, the Cabbage Gum. The open canopy allows **Acacia dealbata**, **Banksia marginata**, **Allocasaurina littoralis** and **Exocarpos cupressiformis** to occur as understorey trees. A lower shrub layer was formed of **Leucopogon**, **Epacris** and **Tetratheca** spp.

The top of the mountain was very barren, pillars of stone jolted out of the ground as if the scenery of a sci-fi movie. At high altitudes the vegetation is known as Montane; there are five different types of Montane communities: dwarf mountain forest, mountain shrubbery, swamp, grassland and mountain fell field. The poor rocky soil and exposed situation found here forms a community of mountain shrubberies, including species such as **Richea scoparia**, **R. sprengelioides**, **Olearia ledifolia** and **Epacris** sp.

My next expedition was to the Cadbury's chocolate factory, which really is another story, but armed me with pockets full of freebie's for some serious 'bush walking' in Mount Field National Park. I met with Andrew Smith of the Parks and Wildlife Service, who dropped me at the Russell Falls where I walked for two hours through rainforest and 'wet mixed forest' (which seems to be another term for wet sclerophyll), whilst he gave a lecture to the park rangers. All I could hear was the gushing of water and the strange, but wonderful bird songs. I glimpsed the occasional wallaby hopping off into the undergrowth of Climbing Heath; **Prionotes cerinthoides**, Native Laurel; **Anopterus glandulosus** and Native Plum; **Cenarrhenes nitida** (all of which are Tasmania endemic). Taller tree species found within this area include Sassafras; **Atherosperma moschatum**, Myrtle; **Nothofagus cunninghamii** and Leatherwood, **Eucryphia lucida**.

I met up with Andrew and we headed up the mountain. Again, I could see the continuous change in environments, from the wet sclerophyll to the dry and the rain to the snow. This is where I saw the first few **Richea pandanifolia**, which I thought was, at the time, an amazing sight. Further on there were two, quite different Montane habitats; mountain fell field and dwarf mountain forest. The mountain fell field was the first community encountered; another tree-less, barren landscape, but this time partially covered with snow and the plants hugging the ground as tight as possible to retain the heat. These included cushion-plants, of which Tasmania has five species. The species seen here were probably **Dracophyllum minimum** or **Abrotanella forsteroides**, but as these plants are very difficult to identify when not in flower, it is very difficult to say which they were. The dwarf mountain forest, as its name suggests, contains small trees such as the Deciduous Beech, **Nothofagus gunnii** and the prostrate conifer, or Strawberry Pine **Microcachrys tetragona**. A short walk around a lake lead me to the most amazing sight, the Pandani forest – **Richea pandanifolia** as far as the eye could see! Wow! This tall (up to 12 metres), spiky plant, along with the beech, pine and cushion plants mentioned are all Tasmanian endemics.

Another adventure took me to Bruny Island. Just as Tasmania is a unique part of Australia, Bruny Island is a unique part of Tasmania. This sparsely populated island has five state reserves and only its varied topography, climate and wildlife match its chequered history.

Just four kilometres across the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, off the south-west coast of Tasmania, Bruny island was named after the explorer Rear-Admiral Bruni D'Entrecasteaux. In the 17th and 18th centuries the island was visited by many intrepid explorers including Abel Tasman, Furneaux, Cook, Bligh and Cox. Besides the whalers and loggers of the 19th century, little on the island changed until the car ferry started in 1954. An isthmus joins the north and the south island; this strip of land is barely wider than the road along it.

Barely five minutes into the trip I had yet another surprise; masses of grass trees, kangaroo tails or 'Black Boys', *Xanthorrhoea australis*, growing on the sandy heath. The flower spikes on these amazing, black-trunked, spiky plants were in full bloom, rising up to 1.5 metres above the foliage! Well, that made my day for a start!

At the base of Mount Mangana a track leads through the lush rainforest of Stringybark, or Mountain White Gum *Eucalyptus delegatensis*, myrtle *Nothofagus cunninghamii* and the graceful tree ferns, *Dicksonia antarctica*. Amongst this forest grew the Tasmanian endemic, Celery-top Pine or *Phyllocladus asplenifolius*, which gave me fond memories of Systematic classes in the School of Horticulture, spending hours painfully drawing the quirky characteristics of the flattened stems, or 'cladodes'.

The winding of the coastline around the island ensures that it has an abundance of bays and lagoons. On this sandy soil, low in nutrients, the plants rarely reach more than 2 metres high, many of which have hard leathery leaves. The trees on the open coast are small, stunted by strong winds; they include *Eucalyptus nitida*, *Banksia marginata*, *Acacia terminalis* and *Allocasuarina monilifera*. Other species seen include; *Pimelea* sp., *Epacris* sp. and *Hakea* sp.

Returning to 'mainland' Tasmania, I travelled north to Launceston. From here I took a day trip to Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake. I did not have time to stay overnight, which was unfortunate, because the bus took most of the day to get there and I only had half an hour to investigate once I arrived. This is Tasmania's best known national park, which is 1,262 square kilometres. The view across Dove Lake was beautiful and this Montane habitat of mountain shrubbery was freshly covered in snow. Pencil Pines, *Athrotaxis cupressoides* grew sporadically amongst the shrubs of *Richea sprengeloides* and *Grevillea* sp.

The following day I took a much more relaxed trip to Coles Bay and Freycinet National Park on the east coast. The small township of Coles Bay is dominated by the spectacular 300 metre high pink granite mountains known as the Hazards. The town is the gateway to many white-sand beaches, secluded coves, rocky cliffs and coastal heath habitats in the Freycinet National Park. The park, which incorporates Freycinet Peninsula, Schouten Island and the Friendly Beaches, is noted for its coastal heaths, orchids and other wildflowers and for its wildlife. Sitting eating lunch on the cliffs overlooking Wineglass Bay, I watched the flocks of sulphur-crested cockatoos flying overhead across the vivid blue sea. Amongst the heath of *Epacris* sp., *Baekea mosissima* and *Exocarpus cupressiformis*, wallabies could be seen foraging. We went down to the 'squeaky-clean' beach, so called because the fine, white sand squeaks beneath your feet as you walk. Little rock pools housed small crabs and brightly coloured algae and reminded me of my days working in the Marine Display at Kew. On the dunes grew Sea-box, *Alyxia buxifolia*, Native Pigface, *Carpobrotus rossii* and Coast Wattle, *Acacia sophorae*.

This was my last day in Tasmania, which was very sad, but this wonderful trip was certainly a great day to finish on. It left me with fond memories of beautiful and varied countryside, special and unusual flora, weird and wacky fauna and the wonderful, friendly people. Tasmania is a very special place and, even though on the other side of the world, is high on my list for a return visit.

## QUEST FOR HELICONIAS IN COSTA RICA, FLORIDA AND BARBADOS

By Tammy Woodcock

The quest began 15th June, 1997 in Costa Rica. The mission – to see as many *Heliconias* as possible and particularly *Heliconia chartacea* 'Sexy Pink', which prior to the trip I had only



drooled over in a book. **Heliconias** are large herbaceous perennials with usually banana-like leaves, with erect or pendent inflorescences of varying size and numbers of boat-shaped bracts in an array of colours.

The aims and objectives were to record plant associations, growing conditions in cultivation and in the wild, propagation techniques, their merits – if worthy of growing in a collection, collecting literature to assist with the writing of a systematics project and for improvement of the collection at Kew. Contacts for exchange of plant material were also sought.

Despite my Spanish being poor and the appalling road conditions, I managed to visit Costa Flores, who are said to be the largest producers of **Heliconias** as cut flowers. They had native **Heliconias** as well as many from around the globe, in a display garden. I was shown around plantations and the packaging depot, where I was overwhelmed by 'Sexy Pink' and other bright tropical blooms.

I also visited Braulio Carrillo National Park in the Central Valley. This consists of 110,000 acres of dense cloud and rainforest, receiving eight metres of rain a year. However, as time was short, I only saw a few necrotic **Heliconia** inflorescences.

Lastly, was a visit to the Wilson Botanic Garden where I stayed for four days. It is close to the Panamanian border and was converted from a hillside coffee plantation by the Wilsons in 1963 and is surrounded by rolling mountains of rainforest. It was one of three Heliconia Society International (H.S.I.) sites that I visited, where they preserve **Heliconia** species.

The 27th of June came quickly – already time to hit Florida. I stayed at the Montgomery Foundation, adjacent to the Fairchild Tropical Garden and Research Centre. Fairchild is home to H.S.I and have a large collection which I spent a lot of time studying. I visited several nurseries specialising in **Heliconias**. Escaping from **Heliconias**, I made baby sausages by pollinating the night flowering Sausage Tree, **Kigelia pinnata**.

On the 4th of July the last leg of the journey was to Barbados, where I was met by Heliconiac Jeff Chandler, who took me to the University at Bridgetown where I was to stay. The first three days I attended a workshop co-ordinated by the B.G.C.I., on the Conservation of Botanic Gardens in the Caribbean. It brought together most Caribbean islands, Mexico and Colombia to formulate an action plan for conservation, sharing experiences and knowledge. I spent the remaining time studying **Heliconias** with Jeff at the University and at Andromeda Botanic Garden, another H.S.I. site. I also visited a private cut flower plantation concentrating on Caribbean species of **Heliconia** and was given a tour by the owner; it was interesting to compare with Costa Rica.

The trip was a great success as I learnt a great deal in a short time. I would like to thank all who assisted me on my trip and especially my sponsors – the Kew Guild, the Merlin Trust, Course 33, Bill and Jane Macalpine and my family.

## THE GEORGE BROWN LECTERN

The George Brown Lectern was commissioned in 1981 and paid for by Guild members' donations. It commemorates the late Assistant Curator, Arboretum, Kew 1956-77 and each year is inscribed with the name of the person who has best furthered communication and diplomacy in the true spirit of the Kew Guild. Previous recipients are listed below:

G. S. Joy  
T. R. N. Lothian  
N. J. Prockter  
W. J. C. Lawrence, O.B.E.  
T. H. Everett  
A. Titchmarsh  
L. A. Pemberton  
J. R. Sealy

Dr. R. Keay  
S. W. Rawlings  
A. D. Schilling  
M. J. S. Sands  
Professor G. T. Prance  
L. M. Ponsombly  
R. Desmond  
F. N. Hepper

## NEW KEW GUILD COMMITTEE MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

### LOUISE ALLEN

Life in horticulture began at an early age, the daughter of a gardener and granddaughter of a gardening coal miner, meant I was force fed gardening from an early age. It must have worked! At 17 I joined the staff at Blooms of Bressingham for a one year pre-college placement. Yet very quickly I realised that life was not going to be a bed of roses. Commercial plant production was not for me.



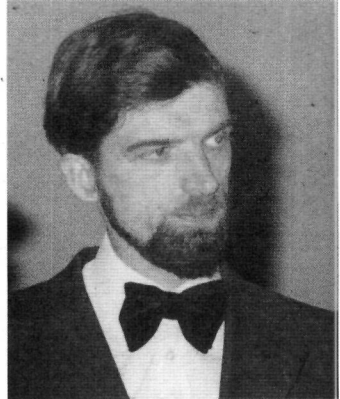
1987 saw my arrival at the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley, along with 11 other trainee gardeners and a hurricane. Two years later, armed with the Wisley Certificate and a great deal of experience in clearing up storm damage, I launched myself upon the Chelsea Physic Garden in London. As a member of garden staff at Chelsea my horticultural life was rosy, but I knew that the next step was to be a Diploma Student at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. This happened much quicker than anticipated and three years later, armed not only with the Wisley Certificate, but also the Kew Diploma I had the hard decision of what to do next.

Coming from a naturally talkative family it was rather fun to discover a job that enabled me to talk as much as I wanted as long as it was about plants. The job in question was the University of Oxford Botanic Garden's first Education Officer. Four years on I continue to talk (constantly) to people from age four to 94, although my role has expanded as I recently became the Deputy Superintendent of the Garden.

### GRAHAM BURGESS

Graham was educated at the Manchester Central Grammar School. His father was a keen gardener and Graham was involved in the local gardening society, so he started in a Cheshire nursery forcing bulbs. Then, in a pattern to be repeated for some years, interest took precedent over money and Graham joined Manchester Parks Department and ex Kewites. Arthur Oldham, then Deputy, became Director at Glasgow and invited Graham, plus expeditioners, to explore the alpine flora on Ben Lawers.

At Manchester University Professor Newton asked if he would join a team growing bedding plants, using the then new growth-room technique. Instead Graham applied to Kew. He became Secretary of the Mutual; first Treasurer of the Kew Club and Student Representative to the Guild.



The expedition dream came true when he and Don Every planned the Guyanan Expedition. The Guild helped make the project possible. On returning to the Technical Services Department he helped collate old records for the new database work (the term did not exist then). His appeal led to Supervisors being able to ride about the Gardens on bicycles to supervise the staff. As Supervisor under George Brown in Arboretum South, he was active in the Arboricultural Association on the Publicity and Education Committee. In 1972 he won a Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship, studying the Amenity Function in major botanic gardens and large zoos in Europe.

His commercial interest was tempted by the job of Director of Gardening to the John Lewis Partnership. A grilling by Sir Bernard Miller and Sir George Taylor led to a new side of his career, responsible for fine gardens all over Britain, including Longstock Park, landscaping round shops, factories and warehouses and running a hardy nursery stock nursery. He was Chairman of the Hampshire Dorset and Isle of Wight branch of the Horticultural Trades Association – Britain's biggest branch. Towards the end of his period at John Lewis he designed and landscaped a condominium complex for Schroder Wagg in the British Virgin Islands.

In 1981 he set up Artscaapes, a design company, chaired the judges for the *Sunday Times* Conservation Garden and built a garden; later he won the Premier Prize at our first International Garden Festival at Liverpool, with the Beatles Maze and for many years has built Christian Aid Feature Gardens at BBC Gardeners World Live and Hampton Court. Major designs have been done for sites in France, Spain, the Canary Islands and China. Historic works include Bramshill, Littlecote House, Wyeford Mediaeval Fish Farm and Bere Mill and Laverstoke Park. Major commercial projects have been built for the TSB and Borax. His interest in aquatics remains and he was honoured to supply *Nymphaeas* to Giverny during one of his regular exporting trips to Paris.

Symbolic design and particularly mazes, are a speciality. On TV now is the Maze of Love at Longleat, whilst others are sprinkled about Britain. The most recent is a design for Belgium. A new venture is multimedia where as a Creative Director and Director of Marketing, IMP or Integrated Media Productions Ltd. is producing CD ROMs for the mass market.

His active contact with the Guild has been continuous since he took over the job of writing the Obituaries from George Brown all those years ago.

#### NIGEL TAYLOR

Nigel started his career at Kew in July 1977, immediately following his graduation with a botany degree from Reading University, joining the Herbarium's staff as Horticultural Taxonomist. This job was closely linked to the Living Collections, where he verified plants in many different families, especially in the Arboretum and Tropical. In 1986 he transferred to a research post in the Herbarium, where he concentrated on the rose family and cacti and succulents, publishing various books and papers on the latter, covering their taxonomy, nomenclature and conservation.

In 1995 he successfully competed for the post of Curator of the Living Collections Department, which had been vacated upon the retirement of John Simmons. This has enabled Nigel to retain his life long interest in horticulture and to legitimise a belief that you should grow the plants you study in order to thoroughly understand them. This is especially important with succulent plants, which do not make good herbarium specimens, such as the cacti that remain his principal research interest, L.C.D. management duties permitting!



In addition to serving on the Kew Guild Committee, Nigel is a Trustee of the Castle Howard Arboretum, Chair of the Cactus and Succulent Specialist Group of I.U.C.N.-S.S.C., Council member for the N.C.C.P.G., Head of Department responsible for R.B.G. Kew's Conservation Programme, Chair of the T.O.B.U. Committee, member of Kew's Statutory Subcommittee and of the *Kew Bulletin* and *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* Editorial Committees.

### KEW GUILD STUDENT SUBSCRIPTIONS

**NOTE!** Half price subscriptions for students for The Kew Guild refer to Kew Diploma Course students only. **NOTE** also that Guild members should know that past sets of The Kew Guild Journal collected over the years by the late Edgar Milne-Redhead have been left to Kew in his will.

## SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE KEW DIPLOMA PRIZE DAY 1997 SPEECH

By Ian Leese, Principal, School of Horticulture

Councillor Woodriff, Dr. Mabey, Chairman, Director, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, may I also welcome you all today to the main event of the School of Horticulture's year. I wish to report some of the successes that have taken place during the past 12 months and to look forward with confidence to the future careers of those who are graduating today.

Firstly, I must thank Mr. Herbert and his Board of Trustees, especially Lady Lennox-Boyd, as well as the Director, the Director of Operations and the Curator, for their continued support for the School and for their vision outlined in the document 'Kew 2020' in recognising the importance of the Kew Diploma course and ensuring that it will continue to be an important training ground for horticulturists in the future.

Secondly, I am immensely indebted to all who contribute to the Kew Diploma course in any way. This includes lecturers, external examiners and assessors, Heads of Sections in the Gardens and their Unit Managers and other staff. Also, the staff of the School of Horticulture each add their own hard-working contribution to the organisation of the course and the welfare of our students. Our overseeing body, the Independent Panel, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Peter Grimby, give much advice from the many aspects of the industry we serve.

In an age where the gaining of qualifications does not necessarily bring certain employment, it is useful to point out that the Kew Diploma course continues to provide high-quality, flexible, multi-talented people for a broad spectrum of the horticultural and environmental industries. The Kew experience is a mixture of real, rather than simulated, practical work experience, together with a programme of demanding academic study. The vast resources of the whole organisation are available to all in terms of horticultural expertise, a range of botanical research and national and international networks. We aim to recruit the best people available and by the end of the course they are exceptional.

Last year's graduates have found a variety of employment. For example, Katie Butler is Senior Horticulturist at the Heritage Seed Library, Henry Doubleday Research Association. Sarah Higgins is Features Editor of *'The Garden'*, the Royal Horticultural Society's monthly magazine. Christopher Leach works at the Chelsea Physic Garden. Adrian Lovatt is Head Gardener for Sir Mark and Lady Lennox-Boyd. Markus Radscheit, funded by Kew, is about to complete an M.Sc. in European Horticulture course at Writtle College. He has also passed his final written and practical technical skills examinations for the Master of Horticulture (R.H.S.) qualification. Harvey Stephens was awarded a one-year Scholarship in Jerusalem by the British Friends of Jerusalem Botanic Garden, whose Chairman, Mrs. José Dent, is in the audience. At the end of this time, he has been appointed Head Gardener of the Moscow State University Botanic Garden. Darren Webster, last year's top student, is Deputy Head Gardener for the former Deputy Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Michael Heseltine M.P.

A recent survey of the career destinations of Kew graduates since 1990 showed that the largest number went into botanic garden and conservation work. Next, many are engaged in landscape development. Thirdly, several work in private gardens or large estates. Of the rest, lecturing and journalism are the main career routes. An increasing number enter higher education before proceeding onto their careers.

Dealing firstly with botanic gardens, Shelagh Kell gained a Distinction M.Sc. in the Conservation and Utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources from the University of Birmingham and is now employed in the Conservation Projects Development Unit at Kew. Janet Burnell is about to complete a one-year M.Sc. in Vegetation Survey and Assessment course at the University of Reading. She has recently been to Tunisia with Dr. Monique Simmonds, Head of the Biological Interactions Section in Kew's Jodrell Laboratory, setting up a medicinal plant garden and surveying local vegetation communities. Tim Upson has secured a Ph.D. at the University of Reading and has been appointed Superintendent of the University of Cambridge

Botanic Garden. Madeleine Groves has been appointed Conservation Officer at Atlanta Botanical Garden. Darrin Duling was appointed as Gardens Consultant for the Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden in Thailand.

In terms of the development of landscaping careers, Caroline Gohler has passed the Landscape Institute's Part IV professional examinations, and is now a fully-qualified landscape architect. Daniel Pearson, Rupert Golby and Peter Styles continued to exhibit medal winning gardens at Chelsea Flower Show. Annabel Chantler has been appointed Landscape Assistant in the London landscape practice of Lady Lennox-Boyd.

Those engaged with private estates include David Jewell, who joined the Royal Horticultural Society's Wisley Garden as Superintendent of the Floral Ornamental Department. Peter Thurman won a contract to restore the grounds of a private university in Rome to its original turn-of-the-century appearance. He has also been asked to design a second English-style garden in Japan. Debbie Goodenough has been appointed Regional Horticultural Officer for the south east region of English Heritage.

Finally, those engaged in higher education are Charlie Butterworth, who won one of two botany department Teaching Assistantships at Iowa State University, where he will study for his Ph.D. and teach undergraduate botany. Also Michael Klemperer has gained a distinction M.A. in Landscape Archaeology at the University of Sheffield. He is continuing further research into garden archaeology.

Apart from these successes in career terms, Kew-trained people have been equally outstanding in gaining national recognition for awards. The Merlin Trust, established by Valerie Finnis, who is in the audience, considers applications from all over the United Kingdom. In the last two years the Trust has given over £10,000 to Kew staff and students towards the costs of study tours.

The Royal Horticultural Society again has scholarships open to all in the United Kingdom. First year student, Tony Blanchfield, has been awarded a total of £1,500 from general funds and the Osaka Travel Bursery for a study tour to Japan.

The British Friends of Jerusalem Botanic Garden receive applications from universities and colleges throughout the United Kingdom. This year, Zoe McEachern, an intern for three months in the gardens at Kew, was chosen for a placement in Jerusalem this autumn.

Marcus Adams, who left Kew earlier this year, was runner-up in the Final of the Institute of Horticulture's Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition, which was held at Kew.

Final year student Azra Secerbegovic was chosen by the Guild of Agricultural Journalists for a week-long training course for potential horticultural journalists. She has also obtained full-funding for the cost of the M.Sc. in European Horticulture course at Writtle College from Van Heyningen Brothers Limited, large-scale producers of tomatoes and herbs. Dr. Rachel Holder, Technical Director of the company, is in the audience.

Other events of note during the past year have involved both local and international links. Regarding the former, we have now established a Gardener's Question-time panel of Kew Diploma students, following the Annual General meeting of the Kew Horticultural Society. First year students, in particular, have worked closely with the Society, and were present at their recent flower show on Kew Green.

The School of Horticulture was approached by the Chairman of Ham Polo Club, Nicholas Colquhoun-Denvers, who is in the audience, to develop the landscape of their site which is the oldest polo club in London. Annabel Chantler will do this in association with club member Marion Cairns, who is also with us today.

The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens, whose President Ann Kirch is in the audience, were inspired last year by the work done by Azra Secerbegovic for the Appeal for Sarajevo Botanic Garden. They are now seeking to fund the Curator of the garden to attend a course here at Kew next year.

Links have been made with Jill, Duchess of Hamilton, whose organisation, Flora for Fauna, has a very exciting project, sponsored by the Royal Mail, to develop a Postcode Plants Database identifying the flora and fauna around each of Britain's 26 million house addresses.

Internationally, the School of Horticulture continues to organise a three-month internship programme of work experience in the gardens. Nearly 30 trainees from Australia, Europe, Japan, South Africa, North and South America have so far participated this year.

A week ago, the second course in the Conservation of Threatened Plant Species was completed. Funded by the government's Darwin Initiative, participants from the United Kingdom Dependent Territories of Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Grand Cayman and St. Helena, as well as from the Seychelles, spent two months at Kew under the expert guidance of the course manager, Dr. Colin Clubbe and his team, for practical expertise and theoretical instruction in propagation and conservation issues.

With all this stimulation during their time at Kew, together with the examples of those before them, what hope is there for the futures of Course 32 who graduate today? They are the first cohort of a revised course with an increased emphasis on conservation studies, greater integration between subjects on the course and progression between year to year. At the end of the course there is an enlarged dissertation and a practical management project which investigates ways of improving and developing existing work situations in the gardens.

In career terms, the results have been as follows:

Two already have jobs at Kew. Two were short-listed for the post of Curator of Gardens at Down House, the former home of Charles Darwin, now owned by English Heritage. The Selection Board have recommended that one of them be offered the job. Another has been appointed to work for the North Kensington Amenity Trust, the largest trust of its kind in the country. Three are seeking posts overseas. Five are progressing onto Masters level courses at university. One, who already has an M.Sc. in Horticulture, is undertaking a Ph.D.

Thank you to all of you for the immeasurable contributions you have made to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew during the past three years. You have undertaken much practical work in the gardens, researched into projects that will aid the organisation develop, helped with the many special events which occurred and upheld an ambassadorial role for us both at home and abroad.

At the beginning of this afternoon we were reminded of our mortality. Each of you has been given talents for a purposeful life and these have been developed during your time here. What we ask of you in the future is that, in whatever you do, you promote the mission of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew which is "to enable better management of the earth's environment by increasing knowledge and understanding of the plant kingdom – the basis of life on earth".

## **PRESENTATION OF KEW DIPLOMAS AND PRIZES 1997 (COURSE 32)**

We begin with the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes to our third year students. I shall first read out the awards, followed by the name of the person who is to receive them. Thanks must go to all sponsors of our prizes, many of whom are in the audience today. In particular, I must thank the Kew Guild, an association of past and present Kew staff and students, whose President, Mr. Tom Wood, is on the platform. The Guild give several awards today, as well as a further £4,600 towards travel scholarships. I should also add that Mr. Theo Dumont, President-Elect of the Guild, has donated wine for the tea reception which will take place at the end of the afternoon.

**UPANEETHA ABEYGUNAWARDANA**

*The Board of Trustees' Postgraduate Scholarship* together with a substantial grant from the *Lennox-Boyd Memorial Trust*, newly established to help people from developing



Viscount Boyd of Merton (second from left) and other Trustees of the Lennox-Boyd Memorial Trust, pictured with the Director and members of Kew staff, after meeting Upaneetha Abeygunawardana (far right), a recipient of an award from the Trust in 1997/98. Upaneetha graduated with a Kew Diploma at honours level in September 1997 and is undertaking a one-year M.Sc. in Horticulture course at the University of Reading.

*From left to right:* Sir Kenneth Stowe, Viscount Boyd of Merton, Sir John Moreton, Nigel Taylor, Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, Ian Leese, Jeremy Bayliss, Lady Lennox-Boyd, Sir Mark Lennox-Boyd, Gail Bromley, David Lewis, Upaneetha Abeygunawardana.

Commonwealth countries, for a fully-funded position on the M.Sc. in Horticulture course at the University of Reading.

*The Matilda Smith Memorial Prize*, sponsored by the Kew Guild, in memory of a botanical artist at Kew and given to the best practical student.

*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.

*The Kew Diploma* Honours grade.

DAVID BARNES

*The Kew Diploma* Credit grade.

NICK BIDDLE

*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 Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize* given by the Company in recognition of the top student position. The Master and members of Court of the Company are in the audience today.

*The Kew Diploma Honours grade.*

STEFAN CZELADZINSKI

*Life Membership of the Students' Union* for services rendered as representative for Course 32.

*The Kew Diploma Credit grade.*

MARCUS DE LA FLEUR

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

*The Paul Temple Prize*, sponsored by the international landscape designer, who is in the audience, for the best overall performance in landscape studies throughout the course.

*The Lecturer's Prize*, donated by Dr. Nicholas Hind of Kew's Herbarium to the student attaining the highest mark for their Systematic Botany project.

*The Kew Diploma Honours grade.*

ROGER FISCHER

*The C. P. Raffill Prize*, sponsored by the Kew Guild, to the winner of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society student lecture competition.

*The Proudlock Prize*, again donated by the Kew Guild, to the runner-up in the Herbarium Weed Collection Project.

*The Kew Diploma Credit grade.*

EDINA GALLICK

*The Ernest Thornton-Smith Travelling Scholarship*, which is the major final-year travel award, presented by the Thornton-Smith and Plevins Young People's Trusts, to allow a Kew Diploma graduate to travel overseas. In this instance, the trip will be to produce a video about the inter-relationships of mangrove swamps with the coral reef in the Andaman Islands, situated in the Bay of Bengal between India and Thailand.

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

*The Dummer Memorial Prize*, sponsored by the Kew Guild, for the best Herbarium Weed Collection.

*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 final-year Dissertation.

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

*The Kew Diploma Honours grade.*

TOPHER MARTYN

*The Tony Kirkham Arbicultural Prize*, sponsored by Matthew Vincent, a Kew Diploma graduate whose business 'The Kew Gardener' you may have passed near Kew Gardens station. The prize is named after the principal lecturer of the arboriculture course.

*The Mike Bracegirdle Prize for Ecology and Conservation*, a joint award this year, for outstanding results in those subjects and sponsored by the main lecturer of the course.

*Life Membership of the Students' Union* for services rendered as President.

*The Kew Diploma Honours grade.*

JUNKO OIKAWA

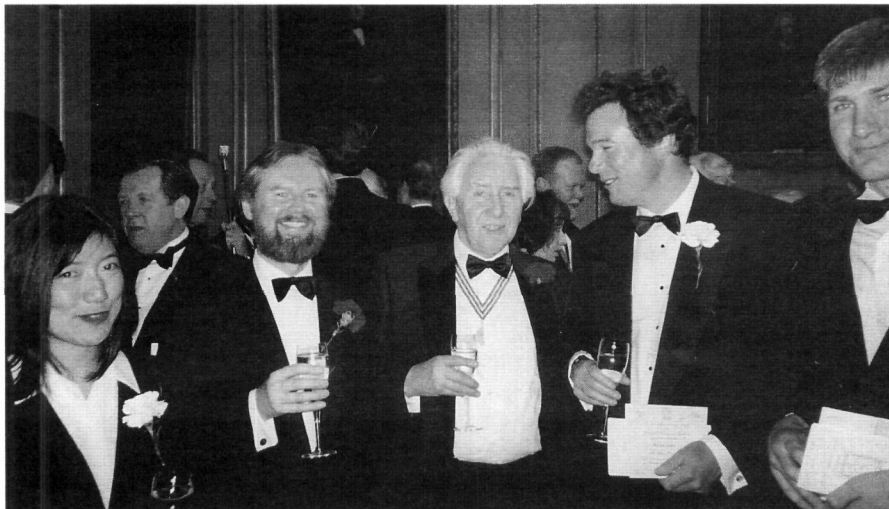
*The Prize for the best vegetable plot*, donated by the Kew Guild to the student obtaining the highest marks in this practical first year project.



*The John Gilbert Prize* for the best published horticultural work in the past year.

*The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize*, awarded by the Company to the person who has done most for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew during the course. This included mammoth involvement in the Japanese Gateway and Landscape development here, as well as helping represent Kew at a number of events in Japan.

*The Kew Diploma Honours grade.*



Junko Oikawa (left) and Darren Webster (right) received prizes from The Worshipful Company of Gardeners at the Spring Court Dinner, Drapers Hall. Junko's prize was for the person who has done most for R.B.G. Kew during the Kew Diploma course, while Darren was the top Kew graduate in 1996. Also pictured are Ian Leese (second left) and Nigel Taylor (second right) talking to Jeffrey Bernhard, a member of the Court of the Company.

#### MARK PATERSON

*The Professor Keith Jones Cup*, donated by a former Keeper of Jodrell Laboratory, who is in the audience today and presented to the person who has given most 'items of interest' talks to the Kew Mutual Improvement Society.

*The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens Prize*, awarded by the local club to the person who has done most charitable work during the course, in this case as a volunteer with the St. John Ambulance, Richmond Division.

*Life Membership of the Students' Union* for services rendered as Treasurer.

*The Kew Diploma Credit grade.*

#### AZRA SECERBEGOVIC

*The British Friends of Jerusalem Botanical Garden Scholarship*, for a placement in Jerusalem.

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

*The Kew Diploma Honours grade.*

JOHN SWARBRICK

*Certificate of Attendance.*

JOANNA WALMISLEY

*The Donald Dring Memorial Prize*, sponsored by the Bentham-Moxon Trustees in memory of a former mycologist of the Herbarium for the student attaining the highest marks in the Crop Protection project.

*The Mike Bracegirdle Prize for Ecology and Conservation*, a joint winner, for outstanding results in these subjects.

*The Kew Diploma Honours grade.*

VANESSA WELLS

*The Kew Diploma Credit grade.*

JOE ROWNTREE

We have a deferred result from Course 31 last year, pending project re-submission, which has now been confirmed as *Kew Diploma Pass grade*, but he is unable to be with us today.



Students of Kew's School of Horticulture (two back rows) at their annual Prize Day at which they received their Kew Diplomas as well as a number of other awards for outstanding achievement. Among those present were (front row, left to right) Ian Leese, Principal of the School, Nigel Taylor, Curator of Kew, Mr. Robin Herbert, Chairman of the Trustees, Dr. Jenny Tonge, M.P., Dr. Richard Mabey, author and broadcaster, who was guest of honour, Professor Sir Ghillelan Prance, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Councillor Julia Clements-Elliott, Mayor of Ealing, Mr. Michael Elliott, M.E.P. Standing to the right in the second row are Councillor Bryan Woodriff, Consort of the Mayor of Richmond and Mr. Tom Wood, President of the Kew Guild.

That concludes the presentation to third year students. We turn now to second-year student awards. We begin with:

#### TANYA KRAMER

*The Stanley Smith Travel Fund Scholarships*, administered by the Bentham-Moxon Trust. The first scholarship has already been used to fund a trip to Arizona by Tanya.

The second scholarship winner, GREG MULLINS, is away at the present time on a trip to South Africa.

#### MIKEL PAGOLA

*The David Dalziel Travel Scholarship*. These scholarships are sponsored by Mr. Dalziel who lives in Florida. It is a great pleasure to welcome him and Mrs. Dalziel to this year's Prize Day. Mikel is to use his scholarship early next year on a trip to Chile in order to study *Nothofagus* species growing in the wild.

The other recipients of these scholarships, ANDREA BENSON, PATRICK GARTON and MICHAEL KERR are currently on their study tours to Mauritius, Brazil and Belize respectively.

#### KAY MAGUIRE

*The Henry Idris Matthews Award* is donated by the Bentham-Moxon Trust. This year's winner, Kay Maguire, is away in Cuba at the present time.

#### LAURIE SCOTT

*The Hozelock Prize* is sponsored by the manufacturers of garden irrigation equipment. The winner, Laurie Scott, is in South Western Australia.

Two other awards are made to second years for their work with the Kew Mutual Improvement Society.

#### KATHRYN KIDBY

*The Sir Joseph Hooker Prize* is presented by the Director in memory of his famous predecessor to the student who has done most for the Society. The prize is augmented by a cup donated by Mrs. Hazel Hyde who retired at Administrative Officer of the School of Horticulture in 1993. The winner, Kathryn, was the Society's Chairman during the past year but she is, unfortunately, unable to be with us today.

#### TAMMY WOODCOCK

*The Kew Mutual Improvement Society's Prize* is awarded to the student who has taken the most active part in running the Society behind the scenes. The winner has served as Secretary over the past year.

#### CHRIS COLE

The achievements of two first year students are also recognised today. Due to the generosity of one of our lecturers, Mr. Tom Reynolds of Jodrell Laboratory, the *Tom Reynolds Prize for Plant Biochemistry and Physiology* is awarded to the person obtaining the highest marks in the subject in their first year examination. The winner is Chris Cole.

#### JUSTIN TURNER

*The Institute of Horticulture Prize* is sponsored by the Institute in recognition of the top first year student overall.



Ian Leese (centre) and David Barnes (far left) pictured with members of Kew Diploma Course 35 on their first day at Kew.

Gardens staff have benefited from the *John Scott-Marshall Travel Scholarships*, available from a bequest of Mr. Scott-Marshall, who was a former editor of *'Gardeners' Chronicle'*.

**IAIN PARKINSON**

*John Scott-Marshall Travel Scholarship.* Iain, who is from Kew's satellite garden at Wakehurst Place, is unable to be with us today. His award is for study and practical training in woodland and rural skills in the U.K.

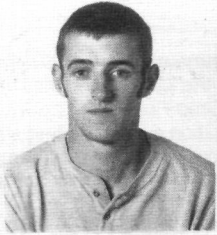
**ALISON SMITH**

*John Scott-Marshall Travel Scholarship.* A trip to gain work experience at the Morris Arboretum and Scott Arboretum in the U.S.A. was made earlier this year by Alison, who is a member of Arboretum staff.

**ROBERT WOODMAN**

*John Scott-Marshall Travel Scholarship.* A tour to study the flora of Tasmania has already been undertaken by Robert, a member of Tropical Section's staff, but he cannot be with us today.

That concludes the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes. It is now my pleasure to invite our Guest of Honour, Dr. Richard Mabey, to give his address.



GARETH BIRD



ROSMINAH BROWN



CHRIS BURNETT



IRENE FLETCHER



CLAUDIA HEIDIEKER



JENNIFER HIRSCH



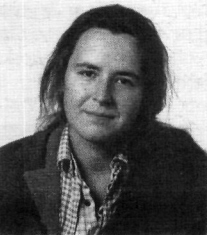
SARAH HORNE



KAREN JONES



CHRISTINE LAVELLE



ESTHER McMILLAN



BERND MENGEL



IAN MILLER



KATE PRITCHARD



CHRISTOPHER WEDDELL



ANDREW WYATT

**COURSE 35**

## NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 1997

Compiled by J. R. Woodhams

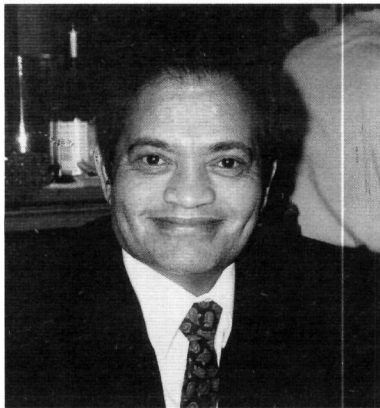
As reported in the *Kew Guardian* (June 1997), **Upaneetha Abeygunawardana** (1997) has been awarded funding from the Board Reserve Fund at Kew to take the M.Sc. in Horticulture course at the University of Reading. He will specialise in the Tropical Crop Production option of the course. His M.Sc. thesis will involve working with L.C.D. and Education and Marketing staff in considering the interpretation of economically important plants grown in the public display glasshouses at Kew. Neetha will return to Kew after completing his M.Sc. to take up a funded one year appointment.

As reported in the *Kew Guardian* (November 1997), **Sandra Bell**, Supervisor of the L.C.D. Orchid Unit, has successfully completed an M.Sc. in Environmental and Development Education. Her course was a distance-learning programme run by South Bank University. Her thesis was on 'The Relevance of Agenda 21 to the Interpretation of the Living Plant Collections at R.B.G. Kew'. Congratulations Sandra and good luck to another member of the Orchid Team **Robert Brett**, who has also been accepted to start the course himself this year.

Also reported in the November issue of the *Guardian*, **Janet Burnell** (1995) has been awarded a distinction M.Sc. in Vegetation Survey and Assessment from the University of Reading. Well done Janet.

**Nick Biddle** (1997), having successfully completed the Kew Horticultural Diploma course and gained the George C. Johnson Memorial Prize for top student, has secured the post of Garden Curator at Down House, Charles Darwin's estate in Kent. The grounds (seven hectares) are owned by English Heritage and Nick will guide the restoration work which will include replanting the rose walk, flower borders and various ornamental trees.

We hear, via **Peter Brooks** (1963), of the death of **Tuan Nisar Jayman (Jay)** (1962). Jay came to Kew from Sri-Lanka in 1960 having first trained at Kandy Botanic Garden. A very popular and lively character, Jay worked first as an Improver Gardener before joining the Student Course. He worked in sections of the Tropical and Decorative Departments, giving a Mutual Society lecture on the growing of tea – he had a reputation as being a bit of an expert, especially at making a good cuppa!



Tuan Nisar Jayman (Jay).

On successfully completing his studentship at Kew, Jay subsequently attended the course in Park Administration at The Grotto, gaining the Certificate of the College of Park Administration. Following this in 1963 Jay, his wife Audrey and one-year-old daughter Jackie, moved to Bolton where Jay took up the post of Technical Officer in the Recreation Department. After three and a half years there was a move south to the London Borough of Hillingdon, where he joined the Recreation Service as Senior Landscape Officer. Working with **Colin Roome** (1965) he was responsible for the successful design and development of parks, playing fields, playgrounds and the Hillingdon in Bloom Project annually. After 30 years with Hillingdon Jay retired

due to ill health in 1991. With failing health and knowing that he had a terminal illness Jay returned to Sri Lanka to his birthplace before dying in February of this year – 1997. We send our sincere condolences to his wife, Audrey and their two daughters Jackie and Michelle.

**Lena Ferrari** who will be remembered by some as the proprietor of the Penguin Cafe, Kew Green, wrote to the compiler with news of her and her husband's life in Italy. Cultivating a large

garden mostly for vegetables keeps them busy and Andy apparently enjoys hunting; though it seems Lena does not wholeheartedly agree with this activity! A visit to the U.K. was planned for 1997; but a family wedding took precedence so the visit was rescheduled to 1998. Lena mentioned that she always receives a Christmas card from **Keith Woolliams** (1963).

**Hans Flegner** who retired in 1995 from the post of Assistant Curator, Temperate Section at Kew, informs as follows: "Since the beginning of 1997 I have been advising management and staff of Borde Hill Garden on future developments". Borde Hill is situated one and a half miles north of Haywards Heath, with Nymans Garden and Wakehurst Place being its distant neighbours. Hans writes "Colonel Stephenson Clarke acquired 200 acres of garden, parkland and woodland in 1892 and at the beginning of this century he supported many expeditions to Burma, China, Tasmania and the Andes. This resulted in the introduction of a lot of interesting species for the development of his garden. Visitors to Borde Hill can enjoy a fine collection of well established trees and shrubs containing the largest number of champion trees in any private collection in Britain. Borde Hill is also well known for its Rhododendrons situated throughout the garden and woodland which provide a colourful display in spring.

The main house, parts of which date back to circa 1600, is surrounded by the more ornamental grounds and, whereas before the war there were 17 gardeners employed at Borde Hill, the present complement is down to four, with some additional seasonal help. It has been policy over recent years to create more interest to follow the flowering season of the rhododendrons. Thus in 1996 a rose garden, designed by Robin Williams, was created and has delighted many visitors.

This year a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund will make extensive improvements and developments possible. This will include restoration of the glasshouses in the nursery, including a new heritage centre for exhibitions and demonstrations, repairs to paths and old stone walls, wheelchair access to most parts of the garden and improved signage and labelling etc. Included in this restoration and improvements programme is a disused sandstone quarry. I am at present working on proposals to create in this area a Sino-Himalayan planting which can be viewed from three levels. The emphasis will be on species which flower in the second half of the year and any which produce colourful fruit".

With its interesting history, beautiful setting, exciting collection of trees and shrubs and planned new developments the garden is obviously set on course to offer the visitor even more pleasure and relaxation.

**Clive Foster** and **Tracey Bryant** were featured tending some of the Research Collections in a photograph accompanying an article published in the *Kew Scientist* (April 1997, Issue 11), concerning the completion of redevelopment work to provide improved facilities to house Kew's Alpine, Herbaceous and Science Support Collections in the Melon Yard (see photo). The article gave a brief resumé of the new glass and other protected cultivation arrangements now in use there.

**Gordon R. Fraser** (1986) wrote in response to a request for information from the compiler following their meeting at the Guild A.G.M. Gordon writes that following graduation from the Kew Diploma course he embarked on a career as a professional landscape manager, first with **Chris Baylis** (1956) of C. L. Bayliss and Sons in Kent and subsequently as Senior Contracts Manager with The Economic Forestry Group plc, progressing to District Landscape Manager in 1989. Between 1990 and



Science Support staff, Clive Foster and Tracey Bryant, in one zone of the new glasshouse. The **Aloe** collection (foreground) is the subject of current cytological and phytochemical research.

1993 Gordon studied with the Landscape Institute to become a Chartered Landscape Architect (Management) and having resigned his previous position he established an independent landscape practice, Landscape and Woodland Management Limited. In this role his practical experience and sensitivity towards heritage landscapes has favoured his involvement in the planning and implementation of restoration and management projects for some of Southern England's finest historic landscapes; Knole Estate and Penshurst Place in Kent and currently Stoke Park in Buckinghamshire. During the mid 1990's his business, like many others, suffered the effects of recession. Gordon states that he was "not content to let the grass grow under my feet" and has been studying part-time for a Master of Business Administration at the University of Brighton with the aim of gaining a competitive advantage in the service he is able to offer.

**Nigel Hepper**, a former President and Hon. Secretary of the Guild, was glad to be present at the official opening of the Riverside Woodland Walk on 7th May 1997 by Lady Prance, soon after his angioplasty operation. Nigel had proposed the path from Brentford Gate towards Syon Vista among the trees with 'windows' onto the Thames through the Garden Users Group, and it was agreed by L.C.D. and financed by the Friends, so he likes to think of it as "Hepper's Riverside Walk"!

Little did the compiler realise when asking **Chris Kidd** (1996) for a possible contribution for the News of Kewites slot, just how much information would be forthcoming! Chris obviously keeps in touch and has found his time working as a consultant at The Kew Gardener (based at Station Parade, Kew) for **Matthew Vincent** (1993), rewarding and a good location to meet past and present R.B.G. people.

Christ writes "Working with Matthew reunited me with **Noel Gallagher** (1992), who is now Matthew's Landscape Manager, formerly from South Arboretum. Very soon my then fiancée, **Gwenda Kitchener** (1996), joined the business as Maintenance Manager. After Kew she had worked for a landscaping company before working through the final stages of the Readers Digest Encyclopaedia with **Sarah Wilson** (1994). (Incidentally **Steve Cafferty** ex. Orchid Unit L.C.D. and **Charlie Butterworth** (1990) had also been at this job before.)

Quite a few acquaintances pass through the shop from time to time. **Phil Brewster** came by recently, he's been working in Mexico at the Vera Cruz Botanic Garden with his wife and is glad the garden is at high altitude so malaria is not a problem. Not so for **Terry Sunderland** (1991) and **Paul Blackmore** who have both been laid up with malaria following time spent in Cameroon. Terry was Technical Co-operation Officer at Limbe Botanic Garden, a post I filled temporarily last year before Paul took over. Terry's adventures have included near death through a tree falling on him (as reported in last year's *Journal*) and subsequently being carried through the forest by pygmies. The stories reaching us at Limbe ranged from Terry's death by elephant through to mild bruising. Terry is now studying for his Ph.D. and possibly has marriage lined up".

Chris mentioned that **Sunia Teo** (1993) dropped by in the spring, back briefly from Singapore and that a postcard had been received from **Wayne Page** (1993) from Mauritius. Wayne is engaged on the plant conservation project there and loathe to come back to Britain even though Matthew apparently has a job for him at The Kew Gardener! **Nickie Daubney** (1993) looked in recently. She was with Wayne on the Mauritius project for a while but returned to Britain and, according to Chris, 'jumped the broomstick' with boyfriend Rob and now lives in **Louise Allen** (1993) territory near Oxford Botanic Garden. **Darrin Duling** (1995) is back from his contract in Thailand and enthusiastic about the flora there. He is to return to Richmond Virginia for a break before applying for a new foreign posting. **Barry Phillips** called in at the shop twice during the year, the first time with some Italian students who left piles of luggage in the shop and the second time to say he was going back to Bermuda because he had so much work to do there.

Chris quite often sees **Richard Ward** and **Mike Egan** going about their respective horticultural activities locally. Chris says "I see Richard most often as I fumble toward work in the morning, he's been out and at it for hours beforehand".



Chris mentions there has been "a fair share of marriage going on" not least his own. Gwenda Kitchener became Gwenda Kidd on 23rd August in Llanbedr, Wales. He states "we had what seemed to be half of the current L.C.D. at the church and reception and lots of old friends. **Sarah Higgins** (1996), **Darren Webster** (1996), **Dave Barnes** (1997) and I shared a house together so we kept in touch. Sarah is now working as Features Editor of *The Garden* magazine, Darren is Head Gardener for Michael Heseltine, M.P., at his estate near Banbury and Dave still frequents the Flower and Firkin at Kew, but in the day is one of the highest paid gardeners in Britain at the Kensington Amenity Trust. Dave was my best man, though I can't remember asking him and he can't remember accepting. **Chris Bailey** (1995) came up from Portsmouth where he is Head Gardener at the Sir George Staunton Estate growing, among other treasures, the Giant Waterlily and trying to wrest my (Kew's) Guinness Record. **Alan Hulme** (1994), his wife Alison and baby Jack came down from Edinburgh where Alan is a landscaper. Alan says Edinburgh is a boom town for landscaping, but I should not tell anyone or they will all be up there. My good friend **Jane Reynolds** (1993) and her partner Will were not able to come due to pressure of work. The private garden at Regents Park where Jane is Head Gardener was having it's open day on the same date. Unfortunately my old Training Officer from Portsmouth Parks, **Jim Heyworth**, couldn't make it. Mr. Heyworth is now retired. He was on the same course as **Leo Pemberton** and **Peter Maunder** (1954)".

Chris mentions that Peter Maunder was, of course, at his son Mike's Greek Orthodox wedding on 8th November to Sawsan at St. Sophia's Cathedral in Bayswater. A number of old Kewites were there including **Matthew Biggs** (1997) who along with **Mike Maunder**, Chris and students going back as far as **Stewart Henchie** in 1969 lodged with the Kirkpatrick family on Cumberland Road.

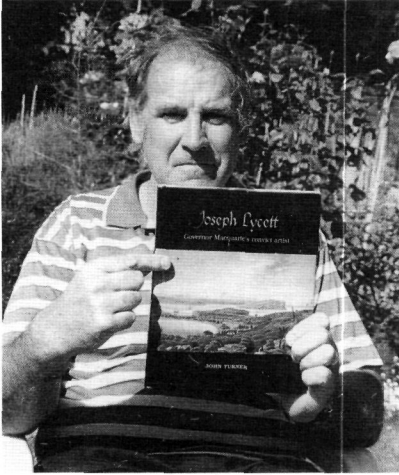
Lastly Chris states "after a great year with Matthew and Noel at The Kew Gardener I've been offered a position as Assistant Head Gardener with my old buddy Darren Webster at Thenford". He mentions that the estate now holds the finest post war private collection of hardy plants in the country and with a two acre walled garden to be developed there is much potential yet to be realised.

**George Joy** (1946) wrote to the Editor. "I feel that it is time to put the record straight regarding the only strike at Kew. In the spring of 1940 'the powers that be' decided that the second year students would attend a course on systematic botany. As you know, we were waiting to be called up. The Students' Union held a meeting and decided that it was'nt worth while and we would not attend. The Curator then told us that we had been granted a pardon for three months. Knowing the Curator we didn't believe him. 'The powers that be' then decided that anyone with certificates need not attend. Regardless of the Union ruling I am sorry to say that quite a few were able to avoid attending. Six of us were left so we did not attend. We were suspended for one day. We had a meeting with **John Gilmour** (Assistant Director), who was very sympathetic to our cause. Eventually 'the powers that be' decided to hold an examination. Nobody passed! The Students' Union paid our day's wages. I feel that this should be regarded as a strike as it was done through the Students' Union. I can't remember all the six now. There was myself, **David Hollis** and **John Morris** (both are no longer with us). The silliest part of the whole business was that I was in the army the following week (where I stayed for six years) so I never did know what went on. From that day onward, I never joined a union. *George's letter was no doubt prompted by mention of Kew's first strike in 1966 (last Journal p 49). Ed.*

**John Lanyon** (1990) is to move from his post as Senior Supervisor at the R.H.S. Rosemoor Garden in north Devon to the 15th century Cotehele Estate in Cornwall when he takes up the post as Head Gardener in December 1997. The estate was donated to the National Trust in the 1940s by the Edgcombe family. The present gardens were set-out in the 19th century when rhododendrons, azaleas and ferns etc. were planted on slopes of the Valley Garden running down to the River Tamar. John hopes during his tenure at Cotehele to realise the full potential the garden has to offer.

**Amanda Lind** (1992) writes from the University Botanic Gardens, Givat Ram, Jerusalem, Israel. Amanda informs that the title of her post at the gardens is "Horticultural Assistant to the Director" which involves co-ordinating work and plant introduction in the gardens. Amanda also

looks after the liaison side of things with the British Friends of the Gardens, helping their scholarship recipients, including those from R.B.G. Kew so that they should achieve the maximum benefit from their time in Israel.



**Mike Lycett** (1960) sent information regarding the recent launch in Australia of a book on his distant Great Uncle, Joseph Lycett, entitled 'Joseph Lycett, Governor Macquarie's Convict Artist' (see photo left). Working with Dr. John Turner of Newcastle University Mike, as Chief Researcher, uncovered considerable new information including much about the employment of Joseph as both Leichner and Maler (daughtsman and painter) on A. B. Lambert's work on the genus *Pinus*. Working alongside the Bauers and George Ehret, Lambert's work was published in 1828. Mike mentions that the recent publication on his Great Uncle was published in Australia by Hunter Publications and appeared in September after 15 years background work. A copy is now in the Herbarium Library and Mike thanks the Herbarium Archives for their help.

The *Kew Guardian* (November 1997), reported the publication of '*Genera of Araceae*' by **Simon Mayo** and **Peter Boyce**, based at the Kew Herbarium and **Joseph Bogner**, the noted German *Araceae* specialist, with illustrations by **Eleanor Catherine**. The Monograph has been in preparation for a while, with use made of the living collections of *Araceae* at Kew, Munich and elsewhere. There has been little accessible literature published about these plants and no comprehensive work since the turn of the century. The authors envisage the book encouraging more people to study and enjoy the *Arum* family.

**Jim Mitchell** (1966) wrote from New South Wales, Australia, regarding change of address etc. In his letter Jim says he is still with the local council albeit in a new position as Group Manager, Asset Management. He mentions that Australia is following the U.K. with ever changing management procedures in local government. Jim says "when I started in a parks department in 1959 I never thought for a minute that 40 years on I would be managing roads, building and services as well as parks. There are many times when I wish I was back in the potting shed at Kew".

**Cyril 'Mitch' Mitchelmore** (1947) (see photo right). We hear from Audrey, Cyril's wife, that he is one of the early recipients of the recently introduced 'Award of the Institute of Horticulture'. The Award for outstanding and distinguished contribution to horticulture and related sciences, will be restricted to 50 holders at any one time. Mitch received the award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to horticultural education as Principal of the Welsh College of Horticulture and distinguished service to various examination boards and awarding bodies and his contribution to Government Advisory Committees. Thank you for informing us Audrey and congratulations 'Mitch'.

The compiler received a number of letters and enclosures from **Patrick Nutt** (1953) during the year.



Patrick continues to be active with various aspects of horticulture and is keen to keep himself fit following his retirement from Longwood Gardens. One enclosure with his July letter concerned a five kilometre run on Mid Atlantic's U.S.A.T.F. Grand Prix Circuit in Philadelphia. The run was in aid of Schuylkill River Park and the enclosure records "Patrick Nutt completing in 23.45 – first within age group 65-69". Well done Patrick. He also enclosed a photocopy from the *Guild Journal* of the student gardeners list for 1950/51. From the listing of 40 names, five he records as having died, 25 have dropped membership of the Guild, leaving only 10 as members. Patrick laments the loss of members (go get them back into Guild membership Patrick! – *Editor*), though comments "It's great to be a survivor and see the sun come up in the direction of Philadelphia each morning". Patrick also sent enclosures relating to low rainfall conditions, especially in Chester County, Pennsylvania. He sent local paper cuttings concerning the stunting of the corn and damage to soybean and the fruit crop.

The compiler heard in September that Patrick had returned from the International Water Lily Society Symposium in Denver and had been hoping to see **David Cooke** from the Temperate Department, L.C.D., at Kew. However, he did meet **Andrew Pierce** (1960), Executive Director at Hudson Foundation Gardens at Denver. Patrick enclosed a photocopy of the leading page from a news magazine entitled *Garden Variety* published by Hudson Gardens. Andrew penned a news article in which there is mention of a Garden Sculpture Show and an Art Show in association with the Littleton Rotarians. There is mention of Victorian Elegance celebrations with Oktoberfest to follow. Fundraising is obviously an important aspect of the season's activities. Patrick mentioned that he spent an afternoon with Andrew and that he found the gardens at Hudson Foundation very impressive. Particularly noteworthy being a new, well designed red sandstone rockery which was stated as being "a great credit to Andrew and Kew training".

Lastly, Patrick said that the Victoria's were very good this year at Longwood, possibly as a result of co-operation between Longwood and the University of Georgia last year re-the provision of pollen plants. Longwood sent a staff member previously trained by Patrick to undertake pollination work.

**Leo Pemberton** (1988) writes that in retirement one can take things more leisurely, though adds "that is if one could work at the same rate of output, which is not usually the case"! Leo says that most of his professional work has ceased, apart from that involved with the R.H.S. General Examination in Horticulture, where he still acts as a marker. The number of entrants continues to rise as the examination enjoys a resurgence of interest. Leo also serves on the panel concerned with the Master of Horticulture (R.H.S.) and the newly started Diploma, the latter gaining in recognition and Leo indicates that many future Kew students will no doubt possess this qualification as well as the M.Hort. (R.H.S.).

Leo adds "As some will know, my dear wife Melda suffers with M.S. (Multiple Sclerosis is a debilitating nervous disease about which little is really known apart from the symptoms). As a carer I have become involved in carers issues and I chair the local Carer's Forum – someone has to do it".

**John Simmons** (1958-1995) writes that he has completed his busy term as National Chairman of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens, handing over to Lord Hamilton as his successor, who in turn now has the support of **Gren Lucas** as the new Vice-Chair. However, John still retains an involvement with N.C.C.P.G. as President of its Norfolk Group. John has accepted a Directorship of a new Charity, Flora for Fauna, which promotes the cultivation of native plants as a support to wildlife. He also still keeps links to the R.H.S. as a member of award and judging committees but has most involvement with Arboreta. He is Chairman of the Bedgebury Pinetum's Consultative Committee and a member of the similar committee for Westonbirt. He undertakes consultancy work for private arboreta and has also accepted the Honorary Curator's post for the Castle Howard Arboretum Trust. He finds that leading overseas tours, such as last summer to western Sichuan, whilst enjoyable, also keep him in touch with plants and collections. John also writes that he and Val have quickly adapted to the delights of life in north Norfolk.

As a result of Christmas contact the compiler has information on two former Fern Unit (L.C.D.) members from the 1970s who some readers will remember. **Charlie Trousdell** now lives in Brighton with Peta and four offspring – some still at home. Following on from his University sojourn, Charlie has started a composting venture which he hopes will prove worthwhile, though he does say that he has recently signed up for a computer programming course so that he should be able to get a half decent job by the summer!

**Tricia Fisher** (née Turner) now lives in Felixstowe, Suffolk, with Andrew; their two daughters beginning to make their way in the world. Tricia is Senior Laboratory Technician at a girls Independent School in Ipswich though continues to cast around for something better.

**Tim Upson** (1993) currently Curator of Cambridge University Botanic Garden, is to be congratulated on the award of a Ph.D. from Reading University for his research thesis 'The Genus *Lavandula* – a taxonomic history and overview'.

**Brita von Schoeniach** (1984) continues to be active and influential within the area of the ecological approach to the use of plants in gardens and landscape plantings. Brita organised a conference on this theme, held in the Jodrell at Kew on 24th June 1997, as a follow-up to the one held in 1994. The subject then was 'The German Approach to Planting Design'. The main aim is to show how plantings can be beautiful and diverse though without intensive maintenance.

**Darren Webster** (1996) was the recipient of a prize from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners at their Spring Court Dinner at Drapers Hall in the City of London. Darren was the top student on the Kew Diploma Course graduating in 1996. **Junko Oikawa**, who completed the Diploma Course this year, also received a prize at the Dinner in recognition of her having contributed most towards Kew amongst the current students. Kew's Director, **Sir Ghilleain Prance**, was admitted as an Honorary Freeman *Honoris Causa* of the Company and **Ian Leese**, Head of the School of Horticulture, installed as a Liveryman at the function.

**John Whitehead** (Log) (1972) writes "Legal problems and expenses have curtailed botanical expeditions abroad apart from half a mile from the coast of Anglesey to Puffin Island to see the marvellous elderberry forest. The largest tree that I found measured 1.6 metres in circumference at the base of a near horizontal windswept specimen".

Following correspondence with the compiler, **Ralph Wickham** (1969) writes "I continue to run my landscape design practice from my base close to The Burren in County Clare. The needs of private, commercial and corporate clients are met throughout the south of Ireland. The most prestigious and current project is a £3 million country park on 500 acres in north-west Cork, where vernacular flora, fauna is conserved alongside extensive amenity developments. I have been able to visit Kew several times during the past decade and enjoyed the sense of closer association with the gardens during our daughter Annette's five year term as S.B.H. in the Arboretum Nursery. I gave my lecture to the Mutual in 1995. My wife Pauline continues to look after me and our family, just as she did 34 years ago and we send our best wishes to all who remember us".

**Annette Wickham** (1996) wrote regarding her progress in horticulture. It seems her Dad, Ralph, relayed the news that the compiler was looking for news of Kewite's! Annette indicates that she found her time at Kew most productive and rewarding and that Kew was very supportive in allowing her to attend a number of the Diploma students lectures and providing the opportunity for her to take examinations in Arboriculture, Soils Technology and Genetics, all of which were passed successfully.

Having become particularly interested in commercial propagation, Annette left Kew in April 1996, after five years as Specialist Propagator of hardy woody species in the Temperate and Arboretum Nursery, to become Propagation Manager at Aline Fairweather Ltd., in the New Forest. Aline Fairweather is a commercial nursery specialising in the production of 1.1 million plants each year within a range of hardy shrub and perennial liners covering in the region of 750 different varieties. Annette says that it is one of the top four liner nurseries in the U.K. and a founder member of A.L.P. (Association of Liner Producers) – an organisation set up to ensure

a minimum standard for liners produced and to make certain that the customer receives a good service and quality product.

Annette enjoys the pressures and excitement of commercial business and having to meet deadlines and targets. She indicates research in commercial propagation is very advanced and communication between propagators and growers has greatly improved and is now actively encouraged between nurseries. Much of this is due to the International Plant Propagators Society for the good work it has done over the years to promote the message of the society, 'Seek and Share'. Annette says that she is an active member of the I.P.P.S. and has recently been asked to help with the organisation of area meetings in the south east region. Annette applied for and won the Mary Helliar Travel Award given by the I.P.P.S. which facilitated her to study Personnel Management in Propagation at nurseries along the West Coast of America. The three week visit was completed in September 1997, with Annette now in the throes of writing a report and preparing a paper to be presented at the annual Great Britain and Ireland conference of the I.P.P.S., to be hosted in Germany in 1998. Last year Annette presented a paper 'Hardy Woody Propagation at Kew' at the I.P.P.S. conference in Cork. This paper can be found in the 1996 combined society proceedings.

Towards the end of her lengthy letter Annette says "I am a member of and keep in touch with the Merlin Trust, an organisation set up by a lady named Valerie Finnis to help young horticulturists to travel and pursue their horticultural interests. The Trust now produces a newsletter so Merlins in the U .K. and Ireland can read about fellow Merlins. I was kindly sponsored by the Trust in 1994, to travel to the East Coast of America and later that year I won the Chris Brickell Award (in recognition of the best report produced), of which I am very proud". Annette indicates that she likes to keep in touch and visits Kew quite regularly. Once a Kewite always a Kewite she comments. Thanks to the Wickham family for providing the above news.

## **"THIS DISEASE CALLED BOATS"**

By Graham Burgess

The career paths of Kewites are usually less watery than that of Jim Protheroe (pictured below). After leaving Kew he went to Guernsey and, in his own words "caught this disease called boats".

He is now suffering the advanced stages of this affliction having, with one other, sailed 'Integrity' (pictured extreme right) from Norway to Penryn in Cornwall. 'Integrity' is the last of the Lowestoft Drifters, with an overall length of 120 feet and a displacement of 100 tons. The wooden hulled ship is built from Pitch Pine on Northern Pine and Oak.

Two thousand of these ships formed the core of the herring trade, so the restoration is a fine example of conservation spirit and we can be proud that a Kewite, without outside financial support, has achieved so much in saving the last one from a watery grave. He hopes to test the 5,000 square feet of sail in the tall ships race in Falmouth in 1998.

*Do you know anyone who left Kew and left 'the profession'? Write to the Editor with your information please.*



## THE KEW MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY REPORT 1997/98 or Pandas, Gnomes and Plants

By James Furse-Roberts, Chairman

The 1997/98 Kew Mutual Improvement Society season started, as many in the past have, in April with the previous season's A.G.M. Here this season's committee was proposed and accepted and now began the hard work. The yearly rotation of the committee means that there are only five months before the official start of the season. Not a great deal of time to organise the 28 events that will happen weekly between September and the beginning of April.

Unfortunately during this period the committee lost, for various reasons, two of its members. These were speedily replaced and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kathryn Kidby (Secretary) and Migel Pagola (Treasurer) for being press-ganged so easily.

The season commenced on the 8th September with a Cheese and Wine Party to greet the new first year students. The lectures were then got under way with 'Echium Collecting in the Canary Islands'. This was given by Donald Mackenzie, who works in the Herbaceous Department here at Kew. This season will see six lectures being given by members of staff and students of Kew, this is in addition to the eight students who will talk on their travel scholarships. Two of these six are students who have decided to find time in their busy schedules to give talks.

The first of these was Justin Turner, now a second year, who gave us a humorous guide to the different styles of gardening being implemented around the Kew area. This included the sight of one garden that contained over 2,000 gnomes. This was followed by Tammy Woodcock, who spoke on a more serious note about her studies of **Heliconias** in Barbados which, after being unsuccessful in gaining a travel scholarship, she funded herself.

It is good to see this increase in staff and students lecturing and I hope that it will continue, as I feel our audience are just as keen to know what is going on within Kew as they are to hear about travels to far flung places.

The 'Items of Interest' slot that precedes each lecture, has continued to be well supported with 'items' ranging from the serious, such as those by Bill and Graham of Pantiles Nursery, to the amusing, given by Tony Hall and David Cooke, to the stand-up comedy duo of Lavell and Weddel (Christine and Christopher respectively).

I hope that this season will have been as popular as past seasons. We have tried to offer a lecture season with a wide range of topics in an attempt to tantalise as many taste buds as possible. A glance down the schedule will give topics such as 'Plants in Medicine', 'The Eden Project', 'The History of Garden Tools from Antiquity to Nowadays', or for those more interested in more specialised subjects like 'Bamboo's - More than just Panda fodder!', or the Orchid evening given by Sandra Bell and her staff in the Orchid Unit.

The second half of the series will involve us being taken by our lecturers to such places as Western Australia, Arizona, Mauritius, South Africa, Chile, Cuba and Belize, if only for an hour.

To conclude the season we have planned a special lecture entitled 'The Glory of English Gardens in 3D'. As far as I am aware, this will be the first time that presentation has been given using 3D.

Finally I would like to give a big thank you to this season's committee. The two secretaries, Emmanuel Spicq and Kathryn Kidby and the Treasurer, Migel Pagola, have worked very hard to produce a varied and interesting lecture series in a very short time. Thank you. I wish next year's committee the best of luck in this daunting task.

## THE KEW STUDENTS' UNION ANNUAL REPORT 1997

By Greg Mullins, President

As ever, the year seemed to pass by in a flash. Course 32 were presented with their Kew Diplomas by Richard Mabey and this was followed by Stefan Czeladzinski's departing words on behalf of his year group.

Unfortunately, most of Course 33 could not be present at the awards. They were in far flung corners of the world on their travel scholarships which are supported by various groups, including the Guild. The Caribbean region proved to be a popular destination for many: Tammy Woodcock travelled to Costa Rica in search of **Heliconias**, Kay Maguire visited Cuba and Michael Kerr went to Belize. Tanja Kramer studied native crops of Arizona and Patrick Garton visited northern Brazil. Other continents visited included Australia where Laurie Scott went to look at land reclamation, Greg Mullins visited South Africa to study **cycads** in the wild and Andrea Benson travelled to Mauritius and Rodrigues. The other scholarship winner, Mikel Pagola is in Chile at the present time.

The student plant sale on Richmond Green went ahead in torrential rain. Despite this the day was a great success. Items for sale comprised of vegetables from the student vegetable plots, shrubs and perennials salvaged, scounged and acquired from L.C.D. and bedding plants donated by Squires Garden Centre, Twickenham.

Student members were also concerned about the present government's plans to eradicate grants and introduce tuition fees. Although this does not affect Kew students directly, members will be expressing support for the N.U.S.' forthcoming action.

The present Committee is:

President	Greg Mullins
Secretary	Michael Kerr
Treasurer	Christine Lavelle
Sports & Social Representatives	Anthony Blanchfield and Paul Pollard

Improvements to the Kew Course this year included lectures from the Conventions and Policy Department on C.I.T.E.S. and Agenda 21, Conservation lectures, F.E.P.A. Spraying Test and additional books purchased for the reference library.

## THE KEW STUDENTS' UNION SPORTS AND SOCIAL REPORT 1997

By Anthony Blanchfield and Paul Pollard (Course 34)

1997 has seen many sporting and social successes. The early summer saw Dave Barnes (Staff Training Manager) continuing his unbeaten run of six consecutive victories in the Bowls Competition at the annual M.A.F.F. Sports Day.

The enthusiasm within the cricket team continues to build. Unfortunately, the bad weather meant the playing of only two games this season. The under 30s versus the over 30s proved an interesting game with the 'oldies' all out for 97 off 17 overs. In reply the 'youngsters' just missed snatching victory and managed a nail biting 92 off the full 20 overs. In L.C.D. versus The Rest, L.C.D. were all out for 90 off 19 overs, with strong individual performances from Greg Mullins, out for 22 and Dave Barnes, out for 32. In reply 'The Rest' took victory with 93 for 4 off 18 overs with a fine partnership of 69 from Colin Clubbe and Phil Cribb. Thanks to everyone involved, especially to all those scratch players who came out from retirement at a moment's notice to make up the other 10 fielding positions! A great debt of thanks is owed off the field to the Directorate for the purchase of quality equipment; certain players can no longer blame their tools!

The skill and enthusiasm within the mixed football side continues to go from strength to strength. Wisely choosing to avoid taking any unnecessary risks (for instance match play) the team has been practising weekly at the East Sheen all-weather pitch. Again thanks to support being provided by the Directorate in making an extended booking at this venue possible. The Fantasy Football League is now in its second year and has increased the number of players to 25.

September saw a quality field of young hopefuls lining up for the annual student Clog and Apron race. The race included, for the first time, the Director and Curator donning clog and apron and taking their places with the other competitors in this 375 yard Broad Walk dash. The Director and Curator took an early 150 yard lead before just losing out, with first place going



Winner of the Round the Gardens Race, Nigel Rothwell (centre), pictured with (from left to right) Danielle Florens, Fastest Lady, Steve Davis, Third and Paul Smith, Second.

to Chris Burnett, followed by Gareth Bird and Ian Miller. The first lady across the line was Christine Lavelle.

The Round the Gardens Race saw Nigel Rothwell easily lifting his fifth consecutive win in a time of 15 minutes 34 seconds. Can this man be beaten? Second place went to Paul Smith followed in third place by Steve Davis. The first lady across the line was Danielle Florens. Thanks to captain David Cooke for awarding the prizes. Many thanks also to Chris Brindle and her staff at Kew Enterprises for kindly donating entry prizes to all competitors taking part.

This year sees a new culinary social extravaganza (with custard) known as the 'Pudding Club', with students regularly sharing and judging their home-made cakes in the Students' Common Room.

Looking ahead new additions in the sporting and social scene will include a squash ladder, darts and pool tournaments and, hopefully, more teams being entered at this year's M.A.F.F. Sports Day.

Thanks to all those third year student sporting greats who have now sadly moved on to other parts of the country. These boots now need to be filled, so come and join in (believe us, sporting excellence is not required).

We would like to thank all those who have given their help and support to all this year's events, and we look forward to even more interest and enthusiasm during 1998.

### **ACCOMMODATION FOR KEWITES**

We have a limited amount of free accommodation for Kewites wanting to attend Guild Functions and we can arrange cheap Bed and Breakfast nearby if anyone is interested.

If any other Kewites are interested in offering this service please advise me: Graham Burgess, Nine Springs House, The Weir, Whitchurch, Hampshire RG28 7RA, telephone/fax 0125689 2837, e-mail: graham@gyrdan.demon.co.uk.



## THE LIVING COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT DURING 1997

By Nigel Taylor, Curator

### INTRODUCTION

1997, at least in weather terms, got off to an inauspicious start, with one of the driest January months on record (only 13mm), which set the tone for yet another dry year. The extraordinarily dry winter, following on from a drier than usual 1996 and the long summer drought of 1995, ended early and became a spectacular spring due to the absence of significant frost during most of March and April. The large-flowered **magnolias** and bulbous subjects put on a memorable show, as did the herbaceous plantings in the Woodland Garden. However, the early spring was abruptly set back on the 21st April when a sudden severe frost caused many eager young leaves to turn into something resembling cooked spinach, leaving **magnolias**, **celtis**, **Juglandaceae**, **Leguminosae** etc., and especially the well-budded **wisterias**, in a sorry state. Some visitors, being aware of the drought, even complained that we had not been watering these plantings adequately, not realising that the damage was attributable to frost! Other outdoor plantings were indeed being irrigated from as early as March, a month when only 12 mm of precipitation was recorded at Kew. Some rain did fall in the first half of May and then June turned out cold and wet, seriously dampening the enthusiasm of our much needed visitors.

Under glass, however, the weather could not discourage the next phase of development in the Princess of Wales Conservatory of the **Titan Arum**, whose massive solitary leaf thrust upwards for five metres, the markings on its stout leaf-stalk mimicking lichens as if on a tree trunk.

After a slow start due to the cold June, the rest of the summer saw fine displays of annual bedding and roses, while the glasshouse collections were enriched by two seedlings of the 'living fossil conifer', **Wollemia nobilis**, presented to the Director by the Minister for the Environment of New South Wales, on 10th September. Kew is the first organisation outside Australia to acquire this curious monkey-puzzle relative, whose seedlings will be kept under lock and key until they are large enough to be planted out into the Temperate and/or Evolution House, probably within the next two years. The spring frosts followed by the overall shortage of moisture caused various problems, not least amongst which was the frequent disfigurement of woody **Maloideae (Rosaceae)** by fireblight. October saw the return of sharp frosts, but these helped prepare the deciduous woody species for a fine show of autumn colour. As the end of the year drew close, senior staff in the department evolved plans to combat drought in case 1998 proved to be the fourth dry year in succession.

### LOWER (TROPICAL) NURSERY RE-DEVELOPMENT

Perhaps the most significant activity in 1997 was the decanting of collections from and then demolition of, the Tropical Section's Lower Nursery. The new facilities took shape remarkably quickly and soon a sea of gleaming new glass rose up from the site where weeks earlier a tangled mess of crumpled greenhouses had been consumed by heavy plant of the non-chlorophyllous kind. The real plants previously accommodated in the old Lower Nursery had been moved to various temporary homes, including the recently refurbished Melon Yard complex, the so-called 'Temporary' Cycad House and the Temperate Nursery, where they will have to remain until at least April 1998, when the £4.2 million re-development should near completion. The new glass covers some 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> and represents Kew's largest greenhouse complex, including up to 16 different computer-controlled environments under a single roof and with covered corridors avoiding the need to go out into the cold when moving plants from one zone to another. Staff of the Tropical Section deserve special praise for continuing to successfully manage their collections under cramped and often less than ideal temporary growing conditions.

### STAFF CHANGES AND RESTRUCTURING

One of the major initiatives begun early in 1997 was the restructuring of the Living Collections Department (L.C.D.). The 1996 Science Visiting Group report had recommended

that consideration be given to reducing the number of management levels in the organisation and subsequent corporate discussions included the suggestion of merging of sections in some of the larger departments. Thus, a decision was taken to remove the post of Deputy Curator at Kew and on the 1st April David Hardman transferred to head up L.C.D.s operations at Wakehurst Place, following Mark Flanagan's departure as newly appointed Keeper of the Crown Estate's gardens at Windsor. This change means that heads of L.C.D. sections are now directly subordinate to the Curator, bringing their unit managers in closer contact with the Head of Department.

Later in the year L.C.D. Heads of Sections agreed to plan for the future mergers of the Tropical and Temperate Sections and of the Services (H.O.S.S.) and Arboretum Sections, besides somewhat changed roles for Herbaceous and Technical Sections. These are not the only changes the restructuring encompasses, since it is anticipated that the number of horticultural posts at the grade of Senior Botanical Horticulturist will be substantially increased, with the aim of improved career progression and better recruitment, training and subsequent retention of highly skilled staff (including graduates from the Kew Diploma course). The sectional mergers should enable a more logical arrangement and more focused curation of the collections, reflecting the need for enhanced support for Kew's core science, conservation and activities driven by modern information technology as we approach the new millennium.

While this process is ongoing, a number of changes have already occurred at Wakehurst Place, but these reflect horticultural support for the developing Millennium Seed Bank project and are not linked with the department's restructuring at present.

## NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

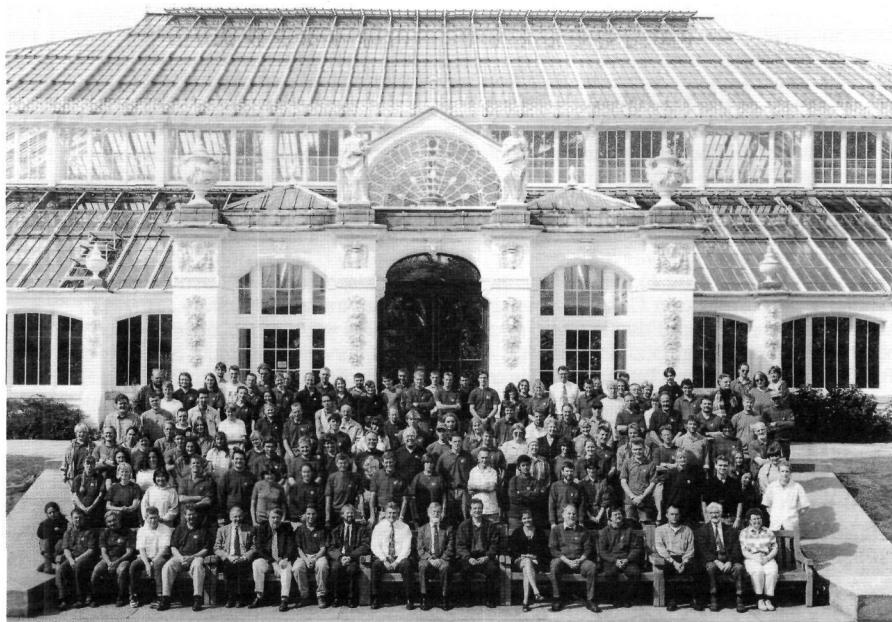
**Arboretum.** Major projects in the Arboretum focused on the completion of the new **lilac** plantings and a start on the long term renovation of the Rhododendron Dell. The **lilacs** are an exciting collection including many cultivars not previously seen at Kew, as well as a comprehensive representation of the botanical species.

In January, Head of the Arboretum, Charles Erskine, was made a well-deserved Associate of Honour by the R.H.S. and was interviewed 11 times for radio in relation to the newly refurbished Japanese Gateway and associated Landscape plantings. He has also been appointed Chair of the Borde Hill Gardens Management Committee.

In May a new riverside feature called the Woodland Walk was finally opened by Lady Prance. This had been made ready in 1996, but its opening was postponed due to safety considerations caused by large poplars on the towpath that were outside of Kew's control. These have now been dealt with and enable visitors to walk through the shelter belt of trees and shrubs while enjoying views of the River Thames. Mark Bridger, Unit Manager in charge of the Queen's Cottage Grounds conservation area, regularly gave advice and support to Richmond Borough's Local Agenda 21 Biodiversity Group.

**Herbaceous and Alpine.** As usual this section was active and successful in sending up specimens for awards at the R.H.S. (see further on) and in representing Kew on R.H.S. committees, such as Floral Comm. A, whose visit to the section during the summer was a great success. Special collections of **snowdrops**, **lavender** and **peonies** continued to be developed in support of horticultural taxonomy and visitor amenity. Re-development of the Rock Garden continued apace, the African/Mediterranean area being completed and the European area started during 1997.

In July the section, together with the Arboretum and Temperate, gave an evening tour to Kew's Founder Friends, which encompassed the summer bedding, Rose Garden and Palm House. The Grass Garden has been undergoing various improvements, notably to the display of lawn mixtures inside a brick cartwheel and of cereals, which will soon be accompanied by appropriate interpretation. Staff in the Conservation Projects Development Unit were occupied with evolving conservation initiatives in the Indian Ocean area, east Africa and in the U.K.'s Dependent Territories, in collaboration with colleagues from the Education Department. The



Living Collections Department staff photograph taken on the 11th September 1997. Professor Sir Ghilleain Prance, the Director (front row centre) is pictured with John Lavin, Director of Operations (left) and Nigel Taylor, the Curator (right).

Unit's Manager, Mike Maunder, gained a Ph.D. degree, based on his studies of endangered species in the care of botanic gardens. Another conservation project initiated and managed by Section Head, Mike Sinnott, got off to a flying start, namely the Kew Friends' Threatened Plants Appeal, which is raising at least £100,000 towards the maintenance of 10 carefully selected endangered species from amongst Kew's Living Collections. The eventual aim is to re-introduce at least some of these back into their native habitats.

**Horticultural Operations and Support (H.O.S.S.).** Section Head, Tony Kirkham, now represents Kew on the Management Committee of the Castle Howard Arboretum Trust (C.H.A.T.), set up in June 1997 to secure the long term future of the fine woody collections developed at Castle Howard by the late Jim Russell, a close friend of former Kew Curator, John Simmons (who is now C.H.A.T.'s Hon. Curator). C.H.A.T.'s collections are in part complementary to those of Kew and Wakehurst Place and, being geographically remote, the duplication of many collections between the two organisations represents welcome security against the kind of disaster that affected Kew and Wakehurst in October 1987. The cooler conditions in North Yorkshire will certainly benefit some of the outdoor collections that Kew now finds more difficult to keep.

H.O.S.S. staff, as usual, played a vital role in supporting various Kew events, such as Orange Day in April (when there were unexpectedly large numbers of visitors), the July week of jazz concerts and at Christmas. The section also organised the acquisition and re-issue of new corporate clothing to L.C.D. staff. In May the Arboricultural Unit put on a display of tree surgery for the benefit of the Mayor of Buenos Aires and have since been invited to run a training course in that city during 1998. They conducted various other courses and demonstrations during the year and seem to be in constant demand.

**Technical.** Two of the units within this section are Micropropagation and Conservation Genetics. Both are making increased contributions to the conservation of the U.K.'s flora, not least in respect of endangered orchids. The former unit, which is managed by Margaret Ramsay, supplied 500 plants of **Lady's Slipper Orchid** and helped plant out back into habitat 75 seedlings of the **Fen Orchid** in Norfolk. In March she delivered a course on *in vitro* techniques in Mexico attended by 37 Latin American students. Meanwhile Dr. Mike Fay was investigating the population genetics of both aforementioned orchid species and reports have been sent to English Nature. He also completed studies on U.K. populations of **Zostera** and **Schoenoplectus**.

Besides conservation activities Technical Section manages innumerable media visits to the Collections and also receives and cares for plants seized by H.M. Customs under the C.I.T.E.S. legislation. 1997 proved to be another busy year in this regard, with Jim Keesing and the Curator being involved in Customs inspections. Another traditional activity organised by the section was the annual Friends Plant Auction, which this year raised over £10,000 towards restoration of Kew's famous and perhaps now the last surviving example of a Barron's Tree Transplanter. Information Technology has become an important element in Technical Section's work, which has included digital mapping of the glasshouse collections to supplement that already achieved for the tree collections in the Arboretum.

**Temperate.** Staff in the section had a full year, actioning improvements in the Temperate House (South African display in the south octagon and cycad plantings at the south end) and Palm House (Marine display), while fitting in various teaching duties connected with training courses in Plant Conservation Techniques and propagation (Darwin Initiative, U.K. Dependent Territories).

In the nursery Martin Staniforth and his staff worked on many propagation requests, compiling a database and representing the department in meetings concerning the Convention on Biological Diversity, which increasingly affects Kew's freedom to acquire and pass on plant genetic resources. Section Head, Stewart Henchie, took the opportunity of a PlantNet meeting at Glasnevin Botanic Garden to deliver a van load of surplus cycads. Later in the year he gave a course in plant propagation in Mauritius.

**Tropical.** While the Lower Nursery re-development was ongoing, the remainder of the section's activities had to be kept afloat, which included running another highly successful annual Orchid Festival, ably managed by Sandra Bell, and completing extensive replantings and re-landscaping in the Princess of Wales Conservatory (PoWC), none of which is easy when your backup collections and staff are in temporary accommodation! In the PoWC changes occurred in the Canary Islands, African euphorbs, fern, insectivorous, Crassulaceae, cacti and mesemb zones, where the replacement of much of the original poor growing medium is resulting in marked improvements in plant growth.

**Wakehurst Place** [by David Hardman]. The New Year saw snow and unusually dry conditions in January followed by a very wet February. This meant some tasks being held back, but fine weather throughout March, with Easter falling over the last days of the month, ensured one of the best returns for March visitors recorded in the garden. After the late spring frosts a considerable amount of formative pruning was carried out to restore the crowns of young trees. Conifers have proved more difficult to restore with many terminal and lateral buds killed. Following the dry spring, watering became a priority in April and May, but the June rainfall followed by a hot summer promoted remarkable late season growth. In terms of visitor numbers the gardens saw in excess of 290,000, which is an increase of over 33,000 this year despite a very wet June.

Achieving this figure was helped by special themed events held throughout the year to promote seasonal interest, commencing with the Bluebell Day. This utilised vehicle tours around the estate, allowing many less mobile visitors to enjoy areas of the garden well beyond their normal walking capacity, in addition to the regular conducted tours. This was repeated for the Autumn Colour weekend. As in previous years the successful Craft Fayre was held over the

August Bank Holiday weekend. The Woodland Skills Day is in its third year. Its location was changed from the conservation area around the Field Study Centre to the environs of the Mansion. Most of the 23 demonstrators were sited within the Oaks, a location which retains the atmosphere of a woodland and yet is close to catering and other facilities including the retail outlets. Specialist tours took visitors into Pearcelands Wood, where traditional woodland management is carried out. The final event for the year was the Carol Concert with about 2,000 people attending this popular and extremely successful annual event. Many took advantage of the shop and restaurant facilities where good takings were reported, underlining yet again the benefits of special events for local people.

Plantings around the estate were completed with significant numbers of ornamental trees and large numbers of botanical collections, many from recent collecting expeditions to Sichuan, Taiwan, Pakistan and Sakhalin. Fifty plants of *Nothofagus leonii* and additional stock of the rare *N. glauca* and more common *N. nervosa* were added to the rapidly expanding national collection in Coates Wood. These were raised from seed collected by a contact in Chile. The Wakehurst Place Landscape Plan was presented in draft form and will be published next year. Work started on the re-development of the Lavender Border, the Ditch Beds and Specimen Bed D, in line with the Second Five-Year Plan and Landscape Plan. The Iris Dell is now planted up enabling visitors to appreciate the tremendous efforts of the staff who created this new feature. The Specimen Beds are being systematically replaced, including one incorporating many re-propagated *Hypericum*, which form part of the National Collection.

In the Loder Valley Nature Reserve all the scheduled Bat Walks and Badger Watching events were fully subscribed again this year, which confirms the special interest from visitors for glimpses of Wakehurst's natural history. The artificial Kingfisher nesting bank was used to raise two broods this summer. The Sussex group of Butterfly Conservation undertook the third summer census of butterflies seen on the estate during June, July and August. Numbers appear down on previous years, but 1997 has been a generally poor year across the country.

Lastly, the enabling works for the Millennium Seed Bank project were completed by Christmas and included a temporary road way to Bethlehem Woods, keeping garden visitors away from the contractor's traffic. Next year will see the construction of this major facility.

## PLANT AWARDS AND FIRST FLOWERINGS

Since the 1996 report the Royal Horticultural Society has granted an Award of Merit to *Skimmia japonica* 'Wakehurst White', *Berberis koehneana* var. *auramea*, *Leucocoryne pauciflora*, *Narcissus cantabricus* var. *cantabricus*, a First Class Certificate to *Erythronium hendersonii*, Cultural Commendation to *Oxalis hirta* 'Gothenburg', *Iris narbutii* and *I. rosenbachiana*, Certificate of Preliminary Commendation to *Iris leptorrhiza*, *I. stenophylla* subsp. *allisonii* and *Tulipa edulis* and a Botanical Certificate to *Narcissus viridiflorus* and *Tillium govianum*.

The first flowering in cultivation occurred in late February of *Cipocereus laniflorus*, a very rare Brazilian cactus described three months later, and of *Erythronium montanum*, *E. elegans*, *E. pluriflorum*, *Iris leptorrhiza* and *I. odaesanensis* (a very rare Korean species never seen in cultivation before). Later in the year other first flowerings were of *Hosta pycnonophylla*, *Disporopsis longifolia*, *Daiswa pubescens*, *Aquilegia pubigerum*, *Cardiocrinum cathayanum*, *Biarum frassianum*, *Peltoboykinia watanabel*, *Micromeria marginata*, *Lilium speciosum* subsp. *clivorum*, *L. humboldtii* var. *bloomerianum*, *Jasminum leptophyllum* (newly described from a recent L.C.D. expedition to Pakistan), *Brunsvigia litoralis*, *Hieronymiella clidanthoides*, *Meconopsis simplicifolia*, *Aerangis spiculata* and *Amorphophallus longituberosus*.

An exhibit of *Corydalis* at the R.H.S. (Vincent Square) in conjunction with the A.G.S. and R.H.S. Wisley in March was awarded a Gold Medal.

## WEATHER AT KEW IN 1997

By Dickon Bowling

Year's total rainfall	468.6 mm	
Most rain in one day	19.5 mm	on 26.6.97
Highest temperature (maximum)	32.2°C	on 10.8.97
Lowest temperature (maximum)	-2.1°C	on 1.1.97
Lowest temperature (minimum)	-6.3°C	on 2.1.97
Highest temperature (minimum)	19.8°C	on 23.8.97
Most sun in one day	15.6 hours	on 1.6.97
Year's total sunshine	1,799.5 hours	
Mean daily average	4.9 hours	

There were 48 nights when the air minimum temperature was below freezing, 105 nights for the grass minimum temperature and 83 nights for the concrete minimum temperature.

There was no sun recorded on 72 days and no rain was recorded on 167 days of the year.

The strongest wind speed was 34 knots with gusts up to 48 knots. It was a S.S.W. wind on 13.2.97.

Of 77 pH tests, ranging from 4.46 to 6.68, the average was pH 6.26.

## THE DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITIES DURING 1997

By Eleanor Bunnell

1997 has been a particularly busy year for the Director. Whilst running Kew he has also attended a lot of outside meetings and given lectures on behalf of the Gardens. In between all this he has hosted visits from V.I.P.s and, of course, he has pursued his research.

The Millennium Seed Bank project at Wakehurst Place is progressing well. Ground preparation has started and the contract on the main building is now out to tender so the building could start in mid March. The Wellcome Trust have given a large grant towards the project. U.K. seed collections are going well with 261 species collected this year. The Prince of Wales, as Patron of the Appeal, hosted a successful reception for the Millennium Seed Bank at St. James's Palace in March.



Professor Sir Ghillean Prance (left) and Ian Leese at the Spring Court Dinner of The Worshipful Company of Gardeners in Drapers Hall in the City of London. The Director was made an Honorary Freeman of the Company, while Ian Leese was admitted as a Liveryman.

The Director gave lectures in Bangladesh in January and Barbados and Antigua in February. He also travelled to America in January for the opening of the first Margaret Mee exhibition in Houston; it will later travel to other cities. In May he received an Honorary Doctorate from Florida International University, went on to New York to attend the opening of the restored Enid Haupt Conservatory at New York Botanical Garden and then on to Santa Barbara to give the first Vernon Cheadle lecture. In August he returned to the U.S.A. to attend an Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies board meeting and on to Montreal to attend an American Institute of Biological Sciences meeting. He returned to Montreal in late August to chair a DIVERSITAS workshop and attend part of the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and

Technological Advice (S.B.S.T.T.A.) of the Convention in Biological Diversity. In October he gave a paper at the National Research Council's Second Biodiversity Forum in Washington. He attended C.E.T.A.F. meetings in Frankfurt and Milan and DIVERSITAS meetings in Paris, Wageningen, Montreal and Crete, where he represented Kew. In October he and Lady Prance attended the opening of the Tobu Department Store's British Fair in Tokyo which helped promote the Kew shop at the store. He also gave a lecture at the Tokyo University of Agriculture and he and Lady Prance had the honour of having an audience with the Emperor, Empress and Princess Norinomiya. Princess Norinomiya opened the restored Japanese Gateway at Kew in 1996.

The Director and Lady Prance went on a Friends of Kew tour and visited the Plantas do Nordeste project in Fortaleza and the Pantanal in Mato Grosso in Brazil in July. He also went to Brazil in September with several others from Britain to brief the Brazilian President on his forthcoming State Visit to England.

In November he travelled to Kuwait to give a lecture about the Millennium Seed Bank during their Environmental Week and was a guest of the British Ambassador there. This is preparatory for seed collecting in the Arabian Peninsula region. Also in November he went to Jersey to give the annual Gerald Durrell lecture. He gave lectures at several other places this year, including Reading and Kingston Universities, St. Albans, Nuneaton, Cheltenham and R.B.G. Edinburgh. He also gave a lecture at Gleneagles as a guest of the Anglo-American Committee.

Apart from Florida International University the Director also received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Sheffield.

#### **Other news**

Richard Mabey gave the prizes at the annual Prize Giving of the School of Horticulture this year.

Mr. Robin Herbert retired as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Lady Renfrew also retired. The new Chairman is Lord Blakenham, who was already a Trustee of Kew. The other new Trustees are Professor Chris Payne, who is Chief Executive of Horticulture Research International and Miss Moira Black, who is Chairman of the Riverside Community Health Care N.H.S. Trust and a former partner of Price Waterhouse.

Important visitors to Kew this year included the First Lady of Brazil, the First Lady of the Philippines, the Queen of Belgium, John and Norma Major, the Mayor of Buenos Aires and Ministers from Bhutan and Madagascar. U.S. Senator Tim Wirth gave this year's Kew Environmental Lecture and other lecturers at Kew have included Richard Dawkins and Art Wolfe. The BBC recorded a 'Gardener's Question Time' programme in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre in June.

There have been two new Heads of Departments at Kew during 1997. Alyson Prior is the new Head of the Information Services Department and Louise Vardey is now Head of the People Planning and Development Department. Giles Coode-Adams, who was Chief Executive of the Foundation and Friends for many years has been succeeded by Jeremy Bayliss, who was President of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. Several Planning Workshops for the Heads of Departments have been held this year including a residential three-day workshop which worked very well.

During this year several of our senior staff have retired including Mark Coode, Roger Polhill, David Field and Peter Brandham.

## **CLIMBING AND TREKKING IN RUSSIA – SUMMER 1996**

By Pamela Holt

*(Pamela Holt (1974) writes to say that she has now worked at Cannington College in Somerset for 20 years! The long summer breaks have enabled her to travel, collect plants for Kew or climb mountains in far flung places such as Bolivia, France, Italy, Switzerland, the former Yugoslavia*

*and Czechoslovakia, Slovenia and Tajikistan. Last year was no exception when Pamela visited the Russian Federation. Here is an account of her trip.)*

At first I thought someone was out hunting chamois, but the second time I heard shots ring out, several soldiers suddenly materialised as well, barring our progress across the bouldery moraine. Misha produced our permit, the Lieutenant hunched over it using his trenchcoat to shield off the rain.

"Go home, you map is wrong!"

Our hearts sank, standing shivering and soaking wet, cold, hungry and within 10 minutes of base camp – this was the last straw. With the Georgian border only a stone's throw away, no amount of persuasion was going to change his mind. A kalashnikov was waved with menace, we got the message and reluctantly retraced our steps. As we scrambled across the slope to head off the rest of our group a second ambush materialised from the ruins of an old mountain hut and challenged our friends. Meanwhile Phil had carried on up the track only to receive a warning shot over his head and an armed escort returning him to our dejected huddle. It seemed that the hours spent that morning gaining the permit were all to no avail, as we were physically escorted off the mountain with an armed guard fore and aft, arriving in the village at 8 p.m.

The next day dawned bright and sunny much to our disgust as we kicked our heels back down in the Baksan valley. This was a good start to climbing in the Caucasus. However, we did receive an official apology later, along the lines of a breakdown in communications (or the right hand not knowing what the left hand was doing) but by then we decided to try a different valley!

I spent four weeks in Russia with 10 members of the Alpine Club flying out via Moscow and returning via St. Petersburg, a truly beautiful city spoilt only by my being sick on the plane for the entire journey home. It's the first time I've arrived at Heathrow in a wheelchair (still some folk will do anything to jump the queue!).

A couple of chaps were keen to do a four day trek so I joined them to get fit for Mount Elbrus, my objective at the end of the second week. At last the weather seemed to pick up as we set off across fields in blazing sunshine, grateful for the cool shade of the pine forest above. The alpine flowers on the first day were amazing with enormous blossoms and brilliant colours from **Campanulas**, **Polygonum**, **Centaurea** and **Daphne** to **Primulas** growing happily in the glacial streams or popping out among the rocks.

The first night's camp was by the milky green glacial Syttran Lake, nestling in splendid isolation between the snow covered rocky peaks. Our next night was a grassy spot below a glacier prior to crossing the Irik pass of 3,550 metres. Unfortunately, our early start and fine view did not materialise as we endured a night of torrential rain and deafening thunder. By 10 a.m. we finally set off, albeit in dense mist and drizzle, necessitating a compass bearing to ensure the correct line over the crevassed pass. By late afternoon we caught a tantalising glimpse of a green valley and Elbrus, only to be swallowed up in the mist as we wearily plodded along the winding track, surprising tiny weasel-like creatures known as 'souslik'. As we prepared the last evening meal and dried our sodden clothing, a dashing young horseman reined in and chatted to Misha, our camp guardian, evoking memories of Kossacks. The next morning was fine and sunny as we wound our way across grassy valley slopes or beneath eroded tottering towers of soil and pebbles to regain the Baksan valley.

That night I quickly repacked for Elbrus, departing at 6.30 a.m. the following morning. After nine and a half hours walking along a rough track, scrambling over boulders where the path disappeared beneath rock falls, passing deserted remains of refuges and negotiating unmarked glaciers, I arrived at the Priut 11 hut, perched on rocks at 4,200 metres beneath Mt. Elbrus. After the solitude of the former traditional route to the highest mountain in Europe, it jarred to find myriads of people arriving by cable car or – horror of horrors – step out of a snow cat right at the hut entrance! The hut itself is an unusual building looking more like a space ship being entirely covered with aluminium sheeting. Much to my surprise it is well insulated, has several floors and many individual rooms each equipped with beds and blankets. Many huts in the



Caucasus are now in a poor state of repair, making my two night stay in a twin bedded room with a double glazed view of the twin peaks of the highest mountain in Europe quite luxurious. A self cookers kitchen and pleasant dining room gave panoramic views over 180 degrees. The following day saw everyone getting away early. Unfortunately I was unable to hold my cup of tea down and by the time I'd managed some porridge I was then the last out of the hut. Still it was good to plod alone, up the crisp snowy slope in the cold night air, slowly gaining height. The wind was bitter, despite being well wrapped up. As the snow levelled out at the col the cloud descended and the snow started. I huddled in the remains of a hut struggling into over trousers as the wind increased. Two other mountaineers tried to shelter and one introduced himself as Martin, a Polish student. The snow continued while we talked, his mate disappeared and an Alpine Club member materialised out of the mist. Fergus was on his way down from the summit, the snow had stopped and I was not to be outdone by one who had travelled by taxi to the cable car and was taking Diamox! (a drug to reduce the effects of altitude).

As I set off Martin asked if he could accompany me as he had no map or compass, so together we puffed and panted up the steep side of the West Peak to arrive at the summit 5,633 metres. The photos we took could have been on Kinder Scout in the Peak District, the sun only appearing when I was halfway down! By this time the snow was quite soft, making a tiring return and welcome lie down. Next day I took the cable car down but walked back to our base in the valley where I shared shashliks or kebabs with other holidaying Russians.

The last two weeks were spent in the Bezingi Valley rarely visited by British climbers. We spent the first night at the Russian Alpine Camp reached by four-wheel drive via a military checkpoint. Sited between the mighty Bezingi Glacier and Mishirgi Glacier, the whole area is outstandingly beautiful and unspoiled with many peaks over 5,000 metres. The weather still seemed unsettled as we pitched tents at the Misses Kosh, a luxuriant meadow used by Sir John Hunt and Chris Brasher of the British Caucasus Expedition 1958, the second British team to climb in Russia since the Revolution. The steep eroding moraine made this a strenuous camp to access every time sorties were made to surrounding peaks, living evidence of retreating glaciers. The Gentians were stunning and Ibex curious in this idyllic setting.

Various teams attempted peaks from the Bezingi Glacier with Lyalver 4,350 metres receiving eight ascents over two days. This is a mixed route of snow and rocky crest necessitating two nights bivvying at the Kell Pass, 3,600 metres. The weather broke on the walk back to the tents. My last peak in this valley was first climbed last century by the Englishman Douglas Freshfield, a rocky peak of 4,050 metres above the primitive Austrian Bivouac hut. A storm developed that night with fresh snow, turning to rain by morning when we walked down to the Misses Kosh. From here, heavily laden, it was a thoroughly miserable and awkward trudge on shifting moraine to arrive back to the relative comfort of the Alpine camp, with its hot showers and dining room.

Only a few days remained as we dried our wet kit and hurried plans were made to climb on Ulla Auz Bashi. I opted for a solo trip along the side of Mishirgi Glacier carrying tent and food for three nights. Toiling up a steep sided valley, I was surprised to discover quite a large empty hut at 3,200 metres. As it was built in 1981 not surprisingly the guide book made no reference to it, one of several omissions or inaccuracies. The following day I set off early from my tent to make a traverse of Ukiu by a couloir to the south, descending via the south east ridge on granite not unlike the Cornish Commando ridge.

I took many photos from the 4,300 metre summit and close-ups of various alpine plants in the hot sun; at last the weather had settled. Now it was time to return!

## **CASTLE HOWARD ARBORETUM TRUST**

By John Simmons

In June 1997 representatives of Kew and Castle Howard signed an agreement to form a Trust for the care and future development of the remarkable hardy wood plant collections assembled both in Ray Wood and the Arboretum at Castle Howard by the late James Russell (1920-1996).

The initial collection derived from plants acquired by James Russell for his family's nursery at Sunningdale. This nursery itself had a notable history when in the 19th century, as Standish and Noble, it raised many original introductions, such as their new **rhododendrons** collected by Joseph Hooker in Sikkim and raised many important hybrids. In post war years Graham Thomas joined the nursery, bringing with him his extensive collection of **roses**, whilst Jim Russell (as he was more familiarly known) went on to undertake extensive garden design work, though he still continued to acquire new and interesting plants through correspondence with collectors such as Frank Kingdon-Ward.

These extensive collections of ornamental trees and shrubs were all transplanted to Castle Howard, most being planted in Ray Wood (once the site of an 18th century woodland garden) from 1968 onwards, following the demise of the Sunningdale Nursery. From this success George Howard (1926-1984) devised with Russell the further development of a 120 acre arboretum with planting starting in 1975.

Fortunately for the Arboretum, the subsequent period was one of renewed access, by Kew and other botanical gardens, to hardy plants from around the temperate world, including long inaccessible areas such as western China. Russell kept contact with Kew and the many other collectors of the period to make major acquisitions for the arboretum. As a garden designer, Russell ensured that the arboretum was well conceived and laid out; as an experienced propagator, Russell raised thousands of plants himself in a nursery attached to his residence (The Dairies) at Castle Howard and, as a plantsman, he ensured a choice collection of authentic natural source material. He collected wherever his landscape work took him, be it Japan or the Georgia in the United States and he undertook field work in Mexico and participated in the joint R.B.G. Kew/Academia Sinica expedition to Guizhou of 1985.

The great legacy from the partnership of Jim Russell's talents and George Howard's vision and support, has created a remarkable collection in the low and gently valleyed Howardian Hills. Here plants such as the large leaved **Rhododendron sinogrande** (no longer seen at Wakehurst) and **Mexican honeysuckles** and **silver firs** prosper along with more than 6,000 other taxa (many deriving from Kew expeditions) in the historically romantic setting of Castle Howard.

By forming this new Trust, Kew has at once extended its national presence, significantly increased the range of authentic living material available for science and secured the future of a nationally important collection. The appointed Trustees are the Hon. Simon Howard, the Hon. Nicholas Howard and Sir Marcus Worsley, representing Castle Howard, Lady Lennox-Boyd, Sir Richard Storey and Nigel Taylor, representing Kew, with Robin Compton (Newby) as the independent Chairman. Subsequently the Trustees appointed Giles Coode-Adams as a further Trustee, which also acknowledged his leading work in the establishment of the Trust. John Simmons, who supported Russell's work over many years and collected with him in China has taken on the duties of Hon. Curator for the Collections, whilst Tony Kirkham (Assistant Curator of Services) acts as the management liaison link between the Trust and Kew.

## EXCERPTS FROM THE 'KEW GUARDIAN'

Thanks to the Editor, Spence Gunn, for permission to reproduce a selection of items from  
1997 *Guardians*

### MILLENNIUM SEED BANK CONTRACTS SIGNED

February

#### A Millennium Project supported by funds from the National Lottery

Although the Millennium Commission announced its grant of £21.6 million for the Millennium Seed Bank to be built at Wakehurst Place in December 1995, many staff will be aware that contracts between the Trustees of R.B.G. Kew and the Millennium Commission were not finally signed until just before Christmas 1996.



"It was a protracted and increasingly urgent series of negotiations to ensure both sides were happy with the project and the terms under which the money was being made available," said Project Director, John Lavin. "The good news is that the final figure to be made available is likely to be in the region of £29 to £30 million and R.B.G. Kew has managed to negotiate substantial concessions in the claw-back arrangements – which is good news if we raise more from the Millennium Seed Bank Appeal than we expected.

"Now the whole project moves up a gear as we begin to really get moving."

Overseas seed collecting expeditions in partnership with botanical institutions in the host countries have already been stepped up – seed will be stored in expanded facilities in the existing Seed Bank until the M.S.B. is ready. This year Michiel van Slageren will be visiting Yemen, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon, South African and Burkina Faso. Michael Way will collect in Mexico.

U.K. collecting will also be stepped up. In May, Michael Way will begin training volunteer collectors from the Wildlife Trusts and the Botanical Society of the British Isles who will be helping to make collections from most of the remaining unbanked U.K. flora. The Seed Bank already holds more than 600 native species, out of an estimated total of 1,570 seed-bearing species. This year, collectors aim to store half the remainder. "then we can spend the next two years working on the more difficult and elusive species," says Michael Way.

Kew also hopes to welcome collectors from India, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco and Australia this autumn, who will be among the first to collaborate with us on the international collection programme.

Meanwhile, the Millennium Seed Bank Appeal, launched last May, has now raised more than £200,000 from Friends and members of the public. A Benefactors Scheme, for individuals who want to make a major donation to the Millennium Seed Bank, has attracted 30 new donors, bringing the total to 75, each of whom has donated £1,000. The total funds raised by the Appeal, including corporate donations and sponsorships, has risen to £5.6 million, towards an Appeal target of £7.3 million.

The Premier Sponsor, Orange, is to contribute £2.5 million over 10 years and Take & Lyle has joined British Airways, Glaxo and Shell as a corporate partner. International funding, including funds from the Global Environment Facility is expected to complete the £76.5 million project.

## ORCHID FESTIVAL READY TO ROLL

February

The Orchid Festival runs from 14th February to 31st March, to take in Valentines Day, Mothering Sunday and Easter. From 22nd February to 16th March the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies will stage magnificent displays of flower arrangements featuring orchids, in the Water-Lily House (orchids and the arts is this year's theme). Then, on the weekend of 22nd/23rd March there will be an Orchid Craft Market in the Victoria Gate Visitor Centre. Guided tours, run by the Volunteer Guides will be available to visitors every Sunday during the Festival.

Talks and demonstrations include lectures by Joyce Stewart (Orchids around the world) and Margaret Ramsay (Saving Britain's Natural Orchids), talks and demonstrations by N.A.F.A.S. and a study day on Orchids for Beginners.

In the Princess of Wales Conservatory, Sandra Bell and her colleagues have prepared massed displays of some of the orchid hybrids which have been raised over the last 140 years, while in the terrarium in the Victoria Gate Visitor Centre will be a display of hybrids specially selected for their suitability as houseplants.

In the Kew Gardens Gallery in Cambridge Cottage, an exhibition or orchid paintings entitled 'Celebrating Kew Orchids' will run during the Festival. It will feature work by artists such as Mark



Fothergill, Christabel King, Kate Nessler, Christine Hart Davies, David Pearson, Valerie Price, Alain Senez, Pandora Sellars, Jonathan Tyler, Carol Woodin, all of whom are currently working; and by Miss Drake (1803-1857) who made skillful illustrations of orchids for the botanist John Lindley.

## PROFILE

February



### Alyson Prior – Head of Information Services

Kew has a presence in public consciousness that commercial brand managers would die for. "Kew has one of the strongest images of any organisation I know," says Alyson Prior, new Head of the Information Services Department. "I have been amazed at the places where Kew's name turns up, from late night programmes on the BBC World Service radio to a throw-away line on an American TV comedy.

"That level of awareness shows how much potential there is for the Information Services Department to put Kew's message across."

Prior joins Kew this month from an eleven year spell with one of the world's largest publishing organisations supplying information Technology information: starting in the research department and progressing to a business unit manager.

"I saw the Kew job advertised at a time when I was looking for a change, to work for an organisation which was less involved with money making and more involved with making a contribution to society," she said. "From what I knew of Kew I believed it was an organisation that was working to solve some fundamental problems.

"I have already enjoyed meeting so many people at Kew who have such a passion about what they are doing."

One of the things that has already impressed Prior has been how well Kew has embraced relevant aspects of information technology, particularly the enthusiasm with which staff in all departments have been using it to promote their work. "Without being prompted, Kew has already begun to evolve its use of information technology in a very advanced way."

She added: "The Web, for example, is a powerful communication tool and is one that is important for Kew but it is just one element of publication and communication.

"Publishing books and research will continue to be an important way of reaching those parts of Kew's community that do not have and cannot afford technology or who choose the printed word; so will the innovative methods of putting out information that are being developed by people working on Plantas do Nordeste, for example. New technology alone can be self selection. It is not accessible by everyone so you must tailor the way you put the information across."

The Library and archives are a key element in I.S.D. "an amazing resource, a jewel," believes Prior. "Their collections are central to much of the rest of the work Kew does.

"I.S.D. itself touches so many aspects of Kew, from research and the collections to visitor attraction. It is a central facility and I want it to be seen as a service to enable people to get their work known, both around Kew and to the wider world outside."

## R.B.G. TIGHTENS SECURITY

March

Improved security throughout the organisation is the aim of a five-year, £500,000 project to be directed by John Lavin.

"The sites at Kew and Wakehurst, by their very nature of size and public access, are challenging for security," he said. "But we are developing a plan to make serious inroads into

improving the security of the collections, our artifacts and the machinery and equipment used to look after them and to undertake our science.”

Staff won't need reminding of some of the recent incidents such as the theft of garden artifacts including the 'Boy with Dolphin' statue (later recovered); urns from the Cambridge Cottage Garden and various items of computer equipment.

“It is becoming a tougher world out there,” said Lavin. “The local crime rate is rising and places such as Kew might be seen by some as a soft target – places like this are no longer automatically respected.”

Among the steps being taken are improved security mountings for garden artifacts and better security for machinery and equipment; access control (possibly by swipe cards) for staff-only areas such as the Jodrell Laboratory; and more secure cash handling.

“Clearly we can't guarantee full security for a botanic garden without making it look like Colditz and that is not acceptable,” said Lavin. “But there are plenty of things we can do to protect the most vulnerable and valuable elements – including those with non-economic value.”



Boy with Dolphin: stolen and recovered.

## APPEAL FOR HERBAL MEDICINE SPONSORSHIP IDEAS

*March*

Kew is actively fund-raising to establish an Authentication Centre for Chinese Medicinal Plants. The main aim of the Centre will be to authenticate and provide authentication 'tool-kits' to check the identity and quality of the 400-500 plants commonly used in Traditional Chinese Medicine (T.C.M.) in the West. The resulting resource will represent a significant step forward in efforts to establish a safe supply of Chinese herbs outside China, thereby helping to minimise health risks, while bringing with it conservation benefits for the species involved by encouraging their sustainable production.



Christine Leon: seeking sponsorship for Chinese medicine research.

In recent years, T.C.M. has become increasingly popular in the West; today it represents a multi- billion dollar market. Side effects are few compared to Western medicine and it is proving especially effective in the treatment of chronic diseases such as eczema, for which Western medicine has yet to offer a long-term solution. Other medical conditions popularly treated include arthritis, H.I.V., malaria, psoriasis and rheumatism.

Lack of regulation, however, governing the identity and quality of the herbs used has raised concerns over the safety of these remedies. Substitute, adulterated as well as fake plants are known to have penetrated the international T.C.M. market and a series of incidents, some serious, have linked adverse health effects with T.C.M. herbs.

Although this is a Centre for Economic Botany initiative, the success of the project will depend upon considerable inter-departmental collaboration. For example, the Centre will involve the creation of herbarium, anatomical, chemical, molecular and living plant reference materials.

Sponsors are being sought to launch Phase I (£50,000) of the Centre's programme; the total budget is £700,000. Any staff who have medical contacts (Western or Chinese) likely to be supportive of this exciting initiative, or know others who may be keen to back the project, are asked to contact Christine Leon (tel. x5702). Any sponsorship suggestions are warmly welcomed.

## HONOURS FOR ERSKINE

*March*



Charlie Erskine has been made an Associate of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society, in recognition of his distinguished service to horticulture.

Mr. Erskine, Assistant Curator in charge of the Arboretum section of L.C.D., joined Kew in 1968, taking charge of the Temperate Section (including the Palm House, Temperate House, Australia House and the support nursery). He was closely involved with the restoration of the Temperate House in the 1970s.

He took charge of the Arboretum section in 1977, guiding such major developments as the Crocus Carpet, Azalea Garden, Bamboo Garden and Japanese Gateway Landscape – and the Lilac Display

and Philadelphus Garden which will be completed next year.

He has been a member of several important overseas expeditions, including Brazil, South Korea and China. He is a member of the controllers panel on plant breeder's rights and has been on the council of the Institute of Horticulture.

## NEW CORPORATE PLAN PUBLISHED

*April*

The Corporate Plan that takes Kew to March 2002, has been published on the internal web and in paper form. It includes new performance measures set at the sub-programme level and presents key achievements for 1996/97.

"The new document is an even more focussed approach to planning and will play a vital role in maintaining our funding levels," said John Lavin, Director of Operations. "I am convinced that the continual improvements we have made to our planning process have contributed significantly to our ability to maintain the level of grant that is quite remarkable compared with other parts of the public sector. We have been fortunate – but it has not been luck."

According to the C.S.P., some of the major challenges currently engaging Kew's management are:

- The addition to our existing activities and infrastructure of the Millennium Seed Bank.
- The process of deciding in which areas to focus our activity and the more difficult task of deciding which to drop has been undertaken as a major prioritisation exercise. Partly driven by financial concerns in the light of ever increasing demands, there is also recognition that we will be more effective if we concentrate our efforts. A shared vision of the future (developed by the Kew 2020 mechanism) and sound management of change will be increasingly important.
- The need to continue building sustainable independent revenue streams to supplement our existing grant-in-aid.
- The introduction of better practice for managing and developing people – new evaluation and reward systems and greater emphasis on internal communications and development training to raise standards and create flexibility.
- The continued improvement in planning and resource management to help us make decisions more quickly and to co-ordinate activity more effectively. In particular we are developing a new financial management system and aiming to bring further improvement in co-ordinating the various elements of annual planning.

In addressing all these issues we must take into account the fact that Kew is a complex organisation. Much of our work is academic in nature. Scientists work as individuals or in small groups, often networking with and being influenced by a balance between care for the collections, the expectations of visitors and the protection of our heritage buildings and landscapes. To be effective, we must embrace these issues and deliver well focused, accountable and prompt responses to make sure that our excellent resources are used to greatest advantage.

#### **KAREN PIPE-WOLFERSTON TO AID PLANNING**

*April*

Karen Pipe-Wolferston (right), formerly Manager of Plantas do Nordeste, has been appointed as R. B.G. Kew's new Corporate Planning Manager, working on a part-time basis. Her role will be to help the Directorate and Heads of Departments with a range of time-consuming activities such as corporate planning, change management and communications development.

"One of my first priorities is to work with HoDs and others to try to streamline the planning process and reduce the time-frame it occupies," said Karen. "I am particularly keen to get feedback from staff on any aspects of planning which they feel could be made to work more efficiently. I am keen to consult as widely as possible and at all levels on this so I hope people will contact me with their views."

She is taking over this work from Roger Joiner, relieving him of his workload so that he has more time for his other priorities in Marketing. However, both Roger Joiner and Karen Pipe-Wolferston will be working closely over the next few months on various topics.

In addition to the planning process, she will be working to the Director of Operations, assisting with a range of what John Lavin calls "high leverage" activities, where effort put in now will save time and effort later on and bring significant benefits.

Looking outside Kew, Pipe-Wolferston will aim to track trends and Government issues likely to affect the organisation, keeping the Directorate informed and representing R.G.B. Kew's interests externally as appropriate. Although a 'new' post, the creation of the part-time Corporate Planning Manager position does not increase total salary commitment for the Directorate because of the gap created by the unexpected departure of the Director of Science, who in fact undertook a significant element of the work now being undertaken by Karen Pipe-Wolferston.



#### **MILLION DOLLAR GIFT TO SEED BANK**

*May*



Michiel van Slageren collecting on a recent expedition.

The Millennium Seed Bank Appeal has received a gift of \$1 million over the next 10 years to help fund the cost of making seed collections from the U.S. flora.

The gift was made by Mr. Ed Bass, who has funded a number of large conservation and other philanthropic projects in the U.S.A. He also made a number of donations to projects of the New York Botanic Gardens when Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance was Director there.

"The donation is particularly significant to U.S.A. collecting," said Giles Coode-Adams of the R.B.G. Kew Foundation. "Much of our collecting



in developing countries may be funded by the Global Environment Facility but this would obviously not apply in the U.S.A. Mr. Bass's donation will cover a significant proportion of the U.S.A. collecting requirements."

Professor Prance has visited Mr. Bass's ranch in Texas, where cattle grazing is being managed to replicate the effect of roaming herds of bison over the prairies and which is encouraging the return of a diversity of prairie flora which has vanished elsewhere under more intensive grazing patterns.

#### **WE HEAR**

*May*

- The national final of the Institute of Horticulture's Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition was hosted by the School of Horticulture on 26th April. Eight finalists from each of the Institute's regions in the U.K. and Ireland took part with a large audience of supporters from their colleges. Before the competition, guided tours of Kew were provided by Kew Diploma students Patrick Garton, Emmanuel Spicq and Justin Turner. Former Kew Diploma student, Marcus Adams, came second in the competition, behind the winner Graham Suddick, from Pantiles Nursery, Chertsey. Joint third was Mairi Longdon from Derbyshire and Darren Snell from Lincolnshire.
- With the amount of positive publicity being generated about all aspects of R.B.G. Kew's scientific, horticultural and conservation work it is becoming increasingly important that the Public Relations Section is kept informed about individual's contacts with people from the press, TV and other media.

#### **CHAMBER CONCERTS SUPPORT SPECIES PLANTARUM**

*May*

Some of the world's best classical musicians are playing at Kew this spring and summer in the R.B.G. Kew Foundation series of classical Chamber Concerts, sponsored by Glaxo-Wellcome. We have run these over the last four years and they have proved to be a great success.

This year's concerts, held in the Cambridge Cottage Gallery and the Temperate House, are being held in aid of the Species Plantarum Project, which will involve the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, joining forces with around 30 other institutions around the world to compile a World Flora.

The project is being co-ordinated by Herbarium botanist Dr. Richard Brummitt and will be an immense task, containing vital information about perhaps a quarter of a million species. The compiling of a World Flora will be potentially as significant to science as was Linnaeus's work of 1753, 'Species Plantarum', when he set about establishing the standard method for describing plant species that we still use today. Although it will involve the input of researchers from all around the world, the project will be co-ordinated by Dr. Brummitt at Kew.

The funds from the concerts will go towards covering the costs of Kew's central role in this highly prestigious and internationally important project.

Giles Coode-Adams, of the R.B.G. Kew Foundation, added: "The musicians, who include several world-famous names, such as the Chilingirian Quartet, seem to have been inspired either by Cambridge Cottage's excellent acoustics and the proximity of the audience – or maybe just by playing at Kew."

There will be three concerts in the Cambridge Cottage Gallery and one in the Temperate House. The audience is around 80 people in total per concert for the Cambridge Cottage Gallery. The Temperate House concert is slightly larger, with around 300 seats. The remaining concerts are:

**Thursday 29 May** – Cambridge Cottage Gallery

Elisabeth Batiashvili (violin) and Maris Gothern (piano)

Schubert: Duo for violin and piano in A major, Op. 162, Prokofiev: Sonata for violin and piano No. 1 in F minor.



**Thursday 12th June** – The Temperate House

The Raphael Ensemble

Mendelssohn: String Quintet, Op. 87, Brahms: Sextet in B flat major, Britten: Fantasy Quintet.

**Wednesday 25th June** – Cambridge Cottage Gallery

The Chilingirian Quarter

Shostakovich: Quarter No. 9, Brahms: Quartet Op. 51, No. 2 in A minor.

The arrangements are the same as in previous years: 7 p.m. Champagne reception, 7.30 p.m. Concert, 9 p.m. Dinner or picnic.

The tickets are £27.50 for all concerts, except some for the Temperate House concert (with restricted view) at £10. Contact Heather Reid on x 5910 for further information or see the Kew Web.

**LONELY CYCAD MAKES A MOVE***May*

The venerable old specimen of **Encephalartos woodii** that has lived in a container in the Palm House since 1899 has been moved to the Temperate House where it joins Kew's main collection of South African material.

**Encephalartos woodii** is a South African cycad. Kew's specimen was propagated from an offshoot of a single male specimen. Sadly the species is now extinct in the wild and although there are some 37 other male plants all grown from offshoots of the same original, in botanic gardens around the world, there are no female plants in cultivation.

So, although it is theoretically possible to continue to propagate the plant vegetatively, it has no evolutionary future.

*May***SHOWING OFF OUR ECONOMIC BOTANY**

Work in progress inside Museum No. 1.

Plans are well under way for the new Economic Botany Exhibition to be housed in the refurbished Museum No 1.

The focus of the museum will be Kew's economic botany collections, however the exhibition displays will also aim to emphasise modern, as well as historical uses of plants and to emphasise Kew research with an economic botany angle.

If you are involved with a research project involving useful plants which you think would be of interest to the public, or which is a good example of how R.B.G. Kew is fulfilling its mission, particularly with respect to encouraging sustainable use of plants, please contact Pat Griggs on x 5625, who is looking for examples of Kew stories to include in the exhibition.

**RESTORATION FOR KEW PALACE***May*

The first phase of the conservation of Kew Palace, which began in January, is due to be completed by Historic Royal Palaces by the end of this year.

Historic Royal Palaces believes the project is one of the most significant building conservation projects of recent years. The building is one of the country's least-known historic Royal residences and the current restoration programme is the most extensive in the building's 366 year history. As well as restoring the fabric of the building, the work will allow specialists from Historic Royal Palaces to be able to determine exactly how the building was put together – something which up to now has not been fully established.

Between 1631 and 1820, as Kew Palace developed from the home of an Anglo-Flemish merchant to the private Palace of the Hanoverian Royal family, the building was extensively remodelled. The interior, for example, includes re-used 16th century fittings and at least 20 different types of panelling from various periods.

Other challenges facing the restorers include the brickwork, which is 'a rare survival of 17th century artisan mannerism' and is poorly bonded and showing some history of subsidence in places.

Initial work has concentrated on repairs to the roof, external brickwork, windows and doors to ensure the building is weatherproof. An advanced fire detection system is also being installed.

Queen Charlotte's Cottage is also in the care of Historic Royal Palaces.

#### **ALL CHANGE IN TROPICAL NURSERY**

*June*

Demolition of the Lower Nursery, home of the Tropical Section, began on 9th June. All the collections have been moved to alternative accommodation – mainly split between the Cycad House, Temperate Nursery and PoWC, with some orchids in the Melon Yard – until the new complex is completed in April 1998. Staff who wish to come and see specific collections during this period, should ring the appropriate Unit Manager in advance (Mike Marsh, General Tropical – 5543; Peter Bradley, Ferns, Cacti).

#### **DEALING WITH THE MILLENNIUM TIME BOMB**

*July/August*

The Millennium Seed Bank is not the only significant project facing us at the turn of the century – we also have to prepare for the effects of the 'Millennium Bomb' – the 'Year 2000' or 'Y2K' problem.

##### **What is the problem?**

The problem is simple enough. Any computer programme that only uses the last two digits of the year will encounter problems when performing simple arithmetic once the year 2000 is passed. It is difficult to predict just what effect this will have without checking the source code of the program. Even simple calculations like: *Then – Now = Years\_Left* will give unpredictable results.

Similarly, operations that depend on sorting results by date order will put next century's results before the end of this century's if only two digits are used. However, some work has already been done – e.g. all systems developed by ISD have been audited and are compliant.

##### **What will be affected?**

It is important to realise that this will not only affect 'Computers' but also any electronic systems that store or manipulate dates in some way – this may include network and telephony equipment and alarms.

Computers usually have a 'hardware' or 'real time' clock incorporated into their circuitry. The first question is whether this clock will properly handle the transition to the new century. The second question is will this clock correctly treat the year 2000 as a leap year?

Even if the hardware clock is robust enough to handle the transition the next layer will be the operating system software which runs the computer. DOS, Windows, MacOS, Unix, Novell or whatever, all need to be able to update their 'software clocks' correctly.

At the next level comes the application software – this will include programs like Word, Excel, , or Status and Universe on Unix. Again, these have to be able to cope with the change.

Finally come the user applications – your personal databases, word-processed documents, spread-sheets etc.

### **What has to be done?**

All affected systems in use within the organisation need to be identified and tested for year 2000 compliance. A cross-departmental working party is being set up by I.S.D. to drive through this compliance program and will hold its first meeting mid-September.

The first stage of this programme will be year 2000 audit – simply identifying the full range of systems affected at Kew and Wakehurst is a significant task. The systems will fall into two broad categories: those which we can change ourselves and those which rely on an external supplier.

The second stage is a process of 'triage' – testing systems for compliance and, for those that fail, deciding which need to be repaired or replaced. This could be a significant opportunity for modernising some systems. This stage will result in Kew's 'Y2K Programme Plan' which will define how compliance will be achieved. Resources will then need to be agreed.

The third stage will be the planning and execution of the 'Y2K Compliance Schedule' which will be based on the Programme Plan. One thing is certain – there is a clear deadline for this project!

The Y2K Working Party will have representatives from each department. These will be your first points of contact and will be responsible for ensuring that you will be made aware of the procedures and documentation requirements to ensure the programme is successfully completed. The Y2K Working Party will report in later issues of *Kew Guardian* and give more information about the audit and compliance measures. In the meantime you can find out more up to date information about the issue on Kew's Internet web page '<http://lion.rbgkew.org.uk/y2k>' which include details of our Y2K.

### **PROFILE**

*July/August*

#### **Giles Cooke-Adams, Chief Executive of the R.B.G. Kew Foundation**

Despite heading a charity which has raised several million pounds for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Giles Coode-Adams, who moves on from the organisation this month, admits "It has been rather 'seat-of-the-pants'. I had no experience of fundraising when I came here so I have learned as I have gone along – a job made easier because I have been working with a wonderfully supportive team in the Friends and Foundation. The amount of support we've received from our volunteers has also been a godsend."

Quite a lot of the fundraising has been through the generosity of personal contacts but that is not very reliable for the long term. One of the challenges for Jeremy Baylis, my successor, will be to make the Foundation's fundraising more focused." Baylis, too, comes to Kew without a background in professional fundraising. "But I don't think a professional fundraiser is the ideal for Kew," says Giles. "Kew is a world leader and whatever I have been able to do it is because I have felt passionately about the importance of its work."



"In any case, in the end, it has been the scientists and horticulturalists who have done fundraising. It has been they who have sold the projects. All I have done is put them in contact with potential donors and I think it is important that the Foundation retains that sort of relationship with Kew."

Giles says there are five things he is particularly proud to have been involved with during his time at Kew.

"All the projects I have been involved with have been important so it is a bit invidious to pick out any. But there are three which will stick in my mind: firstly SEPASAL, which I think is tremendously important both to Kew and internationally, but which I do not think is fully appreciated outside of Kew; secondly our involvement with Castle Howard, which I think could make an enormous difference to our collections in the future, if not immediately, because of the unknowns associated with climate change; and then of course the Millennium Seed Bank, which is simply the most important thing I have ever been involved with.

"Apart from its importance to plant conservation, the Seed Bank has raised Kew's standing with governments and has, I think, helped the organisation recognise its important position within the botanical world. I think we have been too reluctant to remind people that Kew is the premier botanic garden in the world.

"We need to be aware of the legacy of Kew's part in a colonial past and we need to be wary of seeming arrogant. But I think the botanical community needs and wants leadership and, to me, good leadership is part of what the organisation has produced in the 2020 document."

In addition to these three projects, Giles adds the success of the Friends of Kew and of the legacy programme.

"The success of the Friends has not been down to me but it has grown remarkably quickly and its impact goes far beyond the financial rewards."

"The legacy programme will, in a few years, be the largest single source of outside income for Kew. We are already receiving pledges at the rate of one a week and have benefited from 12 legacies in the last 18 months, of which just one was previously known, so the pledges are just the tip of the iceberg. In five years or so we could be getting an average of one legacy a day."

Giles' enthusiasm for Kew's work is reflected in how he has chosen to round off his five years with the organisation – accompanying Tony Kirkham on an R.B.G. Kew collecting expedition to Hokaido, Japan. "Going on a collecting expedition has long been an ambition so it will be a great way to finish. It will also be wonderful to collect in the footsteps of E. H. Wilson, one of my plant collector heroes."

The expedition will go to five different sites and there are about 150 woody species on the collecting list. "I can recognise about 15 of them, so some homework will be needed," says Giles.

A session on techniques for preparing voucher specimens for the Herbarium has also been booked with Susyn Andrews. Material from the expedition will be planted at Kew, Wakehurst Place and Castle Howard.

Jeremy Baylis, the new Chief Executive of the R.B.G. Kew Foundation, will start at Kew in October. He is past President of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and a senior partner with Gerald Eve; and a keen and energetic gardener.

## PROFILE

*September*

### **45 Years on the Beat**

Kew's longest serving employee, Constable Denis Longley, retires next month after 45 years at Kew. He started his career on the Gardens staff in 1953, the year Queen Elizabeth was crowned, Hilary and Tenzing climbed Everest and when horses were still being used to pull carts in Kew Gardens.

"Actually you could say I have been working in the public service even longer," says Denis. "I was in the post office and did National Service in the RAF before coming to Kew. I've been in the public service 50 years in all."

Back then most of the R.B.G. Kew Constabulary started as gardeners. "But I had an uncle who was in the Constabulary – and they were better paid than Gardens staff. Gardeners got £6 per week, the constabulary got a pound more – but the hours were longer."

Denis's job on the Gardens staff was mowing: "I had a 24 inch pedestrian mower and I must have walked miles – the Order Beds, Director's Lawn, the Scree Beds where the Princess of Wales Conservatory is now, the front and back of the Palm House Lawns, the Rose Garden, around the Pond, the Tennis Courts and the Temperate House Lawns. It took a whole week and then it was time to start again."

"There were more staff in the Constabulary then, too, but then again we had more to do, taking money on the gates as well because there were no ticket officers. We worked about 51 hours a week, including overtime, there were no radios for keeping in touch and no bikes to get around the Gardens. When we did eventually get bikes, at first the Director insisted that we were not allowed to ride them across the Gardens, we could only use the perimeter paths."

Denis believes there were more crowds to deal with in the fifties. "People say it gets busy on a Bank Holiday now, but I can remember days when you literally couldn't move on the Broadwalk," he says. "And we used to get streams of people coming in off the Thames Boats."

Denis well-remembers the working horses, Suffolk punches, which lived in a paddock where the Banks Building now is. Kew also had a resident Horse-Keeper who had a cottage in the Stable Yard. "One of the horses bolted once, still pulling its cart. Ran straight through the ruined arch with only inches to spare!"

But although Denis is retiring he leaves a lasting legacy in the shape – literally – of the chimneys of the Princess of Wales Conservatory. "Everybody at the time knew it was going to be a striking looking building but at one meeting someone said the chimneys were so ugly – they looked like the Queen Mary's funnels. I happened to suggest cutting their tops at an angle to match the rest of the building and was amazed to see that's just how they ended up."



#### **FUNERAL WREATH FOR DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES**

*September*

This wreath for the Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, was made on behalf of the Trustees, Director and Staff of R.B.G. Kew by Tarja Ravenhall.

Kew and Wakehurst closed for the morning of Saturday 6th September and opened free in the afternoon for visitors to pay their respects. 3,400 people came to Kew, many signed the book of condolence placed in the Princess of Wales Conservatory and a number left floral tributes.

## PEOPLE IN FOCUS

October



**Jeremy Baylis** (left) is the new Chief Executive of the R.B.G. Kew Foundation and Friends taking over from Giles Cooke-Adams who retired last month. He is immediate past President of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and has just retired as joint senior partner with Gerald Eve, a leading chartered surveying practice. He was also chairman of the firm's financial services operation. He brings with him 37 years of business experience and many valuable contacts. He has a keen interest in gardening and lives in Berkshire.

**NEW CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES**

November

Viscount Michael Blakenham is the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees of R.B.G. Kew. He has been a member of the Board since 1991 and takes over from Sir Robin Herbert.

Viscount Blakenham, who is 59, served on the House of Lords Select Committees on Science and Technology (1984-88) and Sustainable Development (1994-95). He has been Chairman of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (1981-86); was a member of the Nature Conservancy Council (1986-90) and has

been President of the Sussex Wildlife Trust since 1983.

Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Dr. Jack Cunningham, said that Robin Herbert had "steered Kew through a very considerable period of challenge and change. Kew has emerged all the stronger through his six years as Chairman".

Also joining the Board of Trustees are Professor Chris Payne and Miss Moira Black. Professor Payne is a botanist whose scientific research has encompassed a broad range of disciplines. He has been Chief Executive of Horticultural Research International since 1990. Moira Black is a scientist by background and a Founder Friend of Kew. She is Chairman of the Riverside Community Health Care N.H.S. Trust and the Advisory Committee on Telecoms.

**TOP ROLE FOR KEW AT TOKYO AFFAIR**

November

R.B.G. Kew had a major presence as part of a British Fair at the Tobu Department store in Tokyo, Japan, last month. Kew's Director, accompanied by Lady Prance, travelled to Japan, sponsored by Tobu, from 14th October to 18th where, together with the British Ambassador to Japan, Sir David Wright, they opened the Fair.

"Kew had a stand right at the entrance, in addition to their permanent boutique in the store itself," said Sir Ghillean. "Kew was mentioned in speeches in the opening ceremonies and I had the opportunity to refer to Kew's work again in a speech at the evening reception."

R.B.G. Kew Enterprises, which operates the Tobu boutique, also has boutiques in two other Tobu department stores in Japan. Chris Brindle, Sarah Corser and Paul Wilczynski were in Japan at the same time and were involved with making improvements and expansion of the retailing and licensing programme there.

Professor Sir Ghillean Prance and Lady Prance were received by the Emperor and Empress of Japan during their visit to Tokyo. Also present was Her Imperial Highness Princess Norinomiya, who opened the restored Japanese Gateway and surrounding Japanese landscape at Kew last year. The audience was made possible by the Expo '90 Foundation which awarded the International Cosmos Prize (effectively a 'Nobel prize for conservation') to the Director in 1993. The Emperor, who is extremely interested in fish biology, is an honorary member of the Linnean Society of London, of which Sir Ghillean Prance is currently President.

The Director said the activities associated with the British Fair had helped to raise even further Kew's already high profile in Japan. For example, he gave a lecture, sponsored by the Expo '90 Foundation, at Tokyo Agricultural University, to an audience of 800 people, including students and professors from several universities and officials of the Expo '90 Foundation.

## SEED BANK UPDATE

November

Building work has at last begun on the Millennium Seed Bank adjacent to Wakehurst Place and the project is well on schedule. John Lavin, head of the project management team, said he was delighted that, after months of hard work by all the staff involved in the project, the Seed Bank was beginning to take shape on the ground.

Before building work could begin routine archeological investigations were undertaken. A significant find could have seriously disrupted the project's schedules but, fortunately, nothing significant was found.

Signage and public information panels about the Millennium Seed Bank Project have been placed on the hoardings around the site and will keep visitors updated about progress as work continues.

The first part of the construction work – the major excavations for foundations and services, was begun in mid October and is expected to be completed by mid December. "We have had exceptionally favourable weather and if this holds we should certainly be finished as expected," commented Tom Bailey.

The main building contract will start in March 1998 and will be completed by October 1999. The work has been put out to tender and the contractor will be chosen in the New Year. Meanwhile the bulk of the detail design work and landscaping issues are being finalised.

A public exhibition area is an important part of the Seed Bank's philosophy and work has begun on choosing from seven shortlisted specialist companies which will undertake the design of the public exhibition.

## MUSEUM PROGRESS

November

The new Economic Botany Museum, in the restored Museum No. 1 building, is progressing to schedule. Roof repairs have been completed and the bright autumn days towards the end of last month showed the building in its magnificent newly-restored glory once the scaffolding had been removed.

Nearing completion is work on the new wheelchair access ramp and internal stairways, plastering and installation of new boilers and heating equipment. The oak flooring in the ground floor exhibition area was 70 per cent complete by the end of October.

"We are tight up against our deadlines but it looks like we will have finished work on the building itself before Christmas," explained Tom Bailey. "Then it will be ready for starting the fitting-out contract".

He said that a few snags had been encountered, for example the poor condition of the roof had allowed dry rot to take a hold of the timberwork, while some unexpected problems were also encountered with the external plasterwork. "We had intended to have a lime-washed finish but when we tested it we found it allowed old repairs to show through. However, we found an alternative finish that actually gives a better result than the lime-wash would have."



The new heating installation is particularly neat being far more efficient and easier to maintain than the original, but still in keeping with the history of the building.

The high standard of the work completed so far was confirmed when the National Lottery Committee – which normally visits projects every month to check lottery grants are being used properly – told Kew it only wanted to check progress on the Museum every two months because things were going so well. “This was a real vote of confidence in our team,” said Tom Bailey.

## HERBARIUM PROGRESS

*November*

Staff in the Herbarium were also suffering from the cold during October when the heating had to be turned off to enable work to be carried out in connection with the upwards extension of D-Wing. Because of the nature of the building and its contents, the Herbarium is a particularly difficult building to heat on a temporary basis.

Recent work has included the completion of all the structural steel work for the extension and the removal of the existing roof (complete with a six inch layer of loose stone covering).

The new roof is now being installed and work on the extension is expected to be completed by July or August next year.

Work on rewiring the Herbarium, a separate job, is also making good progress. “Again, I want to thank staff for all the help they are giving to this work. I know that in a lot of places a lot of herbarium material, books and so on, are having to be moved around to allow the engineers access,” said Bailey. “The work is essential to ensuring the future safety of the collections.”

## RETIREMENT OF DAVID FIELD

*November*



One of Kew's longest serving and best known members of staff, David Field, retired last month. David's most recent contribution to R.B.G. Kew – and his favourite – was as Curator of Kew's collections of economic botany artefacts, some of which are soon to go back on public display in the restored Museum No. 1. However, since joining Kew in May 1960, he has worked in many departments, including the Herbarium and, later, Museums (now Education and Marketing).

His retirement 'farewell' therefore drew staff from all parts of R.B.G. Kew. The presentation was made by Professor Gren Lucas and David's colleagues had clearly put a huge effort into a tremendous diversity of sweets and savouries, including a fantastic cake in the form of one of the 'star objects' from the collections – a devil dress. David also had a small presentation to make – he donated the miniature, which he had painted, of Kew's first plant

collector, Francis Masson, to the Kew collections.

David said he had worked under five directors so had seen every style of management possible. He also reminded colleagues that it was not so long ago that Kew still held to a rigid class system and strict dress codes – men always wore jackets and collar and tie and the ladies always a skirt or dress.

He recalled expeditions with fondness but there were some traumas and 'near-death experiences' such as the nights spent on Mt. Kenya almost suffering from hypothermia even though they were on the equator; and driving up the Usambara mountains in a tropical thunderstorm



through thick mud with a sheer drop on one side of the road "you can only sustain sheer terror for a short time," he said.

His most embarrassing moment was on a trip to Botswana. "I had gone to have my all-over wash with the regulation two and a half cups of water but on my way back I discovered, to my horror, I had left my body-belt with all the expedition funds hanging on one of the thousands of bushes and had no idea which one I had used to hide my modesty."

Although David retires before the opening of the new Economic Botany Museum, he has contributed a list of his favourite objects from the collections – 'Desert Island Discs' style – for an article in the spring issue of *Kew* magazine, which previews the new Exhibition.

## WORLD'S LARGEST FUNGUS FRUITBODY CONTINUES TO GROW

November

The large bracket fungus, known as the 'Elm fomes' (***Rigidoporus ulmarius***), which appears in the *Guinness Book of Records* and is to be found in the grounds of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, at the back of the Mycology Building, has recently undergone its annual measurement. The measurements for 1997 are as follows: maximum length 171 cm; maximum width 150 cm; circumference of 490 cm and a mean height of 59.5 cm. The density of the very firm flesh is calculated at 0.81g per cu cm. This gives us a total mass of about 316 kilograms, or the equivalent of four adult males. This overall weight greatly exceeds the heaviest previously cited fungus fruitbody, the 'sulphur polypore' (***Laetiporus sulphureus***), at 45.5 kilograms. Since 1994, when measurements were first calculated, the total mass has increased by 60 kilograms.



The fruitbody is growing from the root remnants of an elm tree, one of several that existed along the River Thames towpath in the Kew area, prior to attack from 'Dutch elm disease'. As this food supply diminishes so the rate of growth will decrease. At present the fruitbody is thought to be between eight and 10 years old and in the past year it has started to change its form, with evidence of decay on one side but displaying new vigorous growth on the opposite, more exposed side.

## SPONSORING THE MILLENNIUM SEED BANK'S OAK GROVE NEWS RELEASE FROM KEW

Kew's Millennium Seed Bank, which will be completed on its site at Wakehurst Place, West Sussex, by the year 2000, is to be surrounded by a grove of English oaks which well-wishers will be able to sponsor.

By the year 2030 the building will nestle among 100 first class oaks, specially grown from acorns collected at Wakehurst Place. Sponsorship of each of the oaks, which will be the strongest specimens from a large scale planting beginning in 1999, is being offered for a minimum donation of £500.

The Millennium Seed Bank will eventually house the seeds of all the British flora and 10 per cent of the world's flora in sub-zero conditions – one of the most ambitious international conservation projects ever attempted. This millennium landmark project has been made possible by a substantial Millennium Commission award and generous donations from the medical

research charity The Wellcome Trust, Orange plc and many other organisations and individual supporters of the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

In order to complement the surrounding countryside, the architects, together with the Garden staff of both Wakehurst and Kew, have produced a highly detailed landscape plan ensuring a seamless blend with the Sussex countryside and the Wakehurst Place Estate.

For further details and plans of the planting please call Sue Boyles in the Friends Office at Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, near Haywards Heath, West Sussex. (Tel: 01444 894035)

### **EXTRACTED ITEMS FROM THE 1897 JOURNAL**

One hundred years ago the Kew Guild was five years old. The *Journal* contained 52 pages, including two pages of photos. The President was G. Nicholson, with W. Watson as Secretary and Editor. There were 54 Life members. Receipts from subscriptions were £49.18s, the annual subscription was one shilling, with Life membership 20 shillings (equivalent of £150 today – *Editor*). There were the names of approximately 650 Kewites listed at the back of the *Journal*.

Seventy members attended the A.G.M. During the 1897 A.G.M. Mr. A. Aikman (1895) hoped that the Committee would not discontinue their efforts to "bring all members into the fold".

Completion of the Temperate House was to take place in August and it would be by far the largest plant structure in the world.

The Queen had graciously presented Kew Palace to the Gardens.

H.M. First Commissioner of Public Works and Buildings had decided that the Gardens would be opened at 10 a.m. instead of 12 a.m.

Descanso Lodge was provided as offices, Library, meeting room and as accommodation for the Assistant Curator.

The total number of visitors during 1897 was 1,239,683. The maximum number on one day (Whit Monday, 7th June) was 84,431.

### **GUILD MEMBERS – MAKE YOUR MARK IN HISTORY!**

Write to the Hon. Editor today with your business/retirement/family news which could be in print in the next *Journal*. Photos also welcome.

## OBITUARIES

*Our thanks, as ever, to Graham Burgess for researching and writing most of the obituaries that follow. This is not an easy task and often the only information that we are able to find out about members is from past Journals. We will normally only publish obituaries of those who have been paid-up members of the Guild. Other past Kewites will be mentioned in the 'News of Kewites' Section – Editor.*

### **GEOFFREY BERNARD BROWN (1918-1997)**

Geoffrey entered Kew on the 19th January 1942 from Messrs. Wells and Sons, Bournemouth. He found a Kew suffering from a shortage of staff due to the war. The established lecture programme was low on lecturers so the students attended colleges of Surrey County Council as a stop gap.

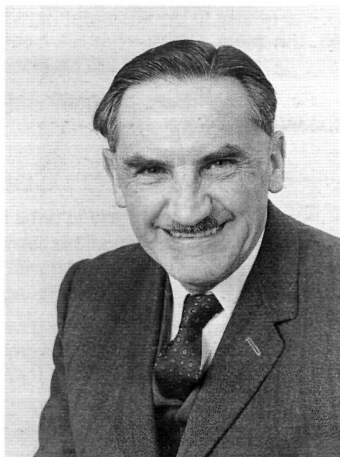
In June 1944 Kew suffered hits from flying bombs and this threat went on until September of that year. By the end of June Geoffrey had left to join the Parks Department at Blackpool where his early maritime experience in Bournemouth, combined with a Kew training, held him in good stead.

Coastal Parks were to become his forté; after Blackpool he moved south to Hove and Clacton. In 1950 he moved to Bexley and, in 1956 seawards again, to Gosport where he first became Deputy and later Superintendent of Parks. He retired from that post 27 years later.

Over the years he developed strong friendships with fellow Kewites in the parks field, men such as Bill Porter, John Studley and Peter Maunder spring to mind. Peter sent some of the information for this obituary.

Geoffrey was a lifelong enthusiast of the Guild, being a Life Member and early supporter of The Kew Guild Award Scheme. He died in March 1997 being pre-deceased by his wife.

To his daughter, Alison, who carries on the horticultural tradition as a consultant, we send our condolences.



### **MAJOR GILBERT GORDON COOK, M.B.E.**

Zeppelin raids forced Gilbert to move from London to Southampton where his grandfather was Works Manager at Grimaldi Aircraft.

Gilbert was an organisation man from early times. He joined the 2nd Itchen Scouts. After 18 years with them he became President and at all solemn occasions throughout his life he wore the Fleur de Lys lapel badge.

His horticultural career began in Southampton Parks Department where he picked up litter with a stick with a nail on it.

He was accepted as a mature student at Kew on the 5th September, 1938. He wanted to marry Elizabeth Mary Connis, but Kew frowned on married students at that time. He was a fireman whilst at Kew and attended many fires. He left Kew officially in 1948. In 1940 he joined the forces and married Elizabeth as a Private in the East Surrey Regiment (Signals). He followed in the footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia and rose to the rank of Major in five years. He grew vegetables in the desert and was offered a farm in Rhodesia but he turned it down.

He could have gone on to the rank of Colonel in Israel but he chose instead to join the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in France where he built many cemeteries, some to the design of Sir Edwin Lutyens. Some of his work was highly secret involving the construction of pretend armies where vehicles were made out of cardboard and wood.

Gilbert was respected by all he came into contact with. The Queen honoured him with an M.B.E. and his home town of Albert in France awarded him the Medal of Honour. Charles de Gaulle spoke to him at length in English, a rare honour. He was a linguist and spoke fluent French.

In his army days he would smoke 60 of his 80 cigarettes a day ration but he always had liver troubles. A French faith healer told him he had gall stones and, sure enough, 10 years later the newly invented X-ray machine installed by a local doctor revealed the offending stones. They were removed and from that point he could eat anything.

He retired to Southampton and made a fine garden. At 9 a.m. on the 27th July 1997, aged 83, the main artery from his heart split and he died instantly. His son, Philip, sent us a fascinating letter which will be placed in the archive.

To his wife Betty, daughter Frances, son Philip and all his family we send our deepest condolences.

#### **LESLIE COOK (1904-1997)**

Leslie was born in 1904 at West Newton on the Sandringham Royal Estate, where his father was in the Royal Service all his life. He was one of the few commoners who could claim to have played with princes and walked with Kings. He was apprenticed in the gardens at Sandringham and later at Windsor before entering Kew as a student on the 29th May, 1926.

In the following December he gave a lecture to The Mutual Improvement Society on vegetables, some indication of the sort of background available to those in private service. He was academically able, gaining high marks in Plant Pathology, Soils and Manures and Physics and Chemistry.

He left Kew in 1929, married Lilian and they both emigrated to Canada where he was Superintendent of Vancouver Parks in British Columbia. After a stint of seven years, he returned to England to work for Sir Alexander Korda at Denham Film Studios, where he was responsible for all floral and landscape aspects of film sets.

From there he moved to Belle Vue in Manchester, where he was the Horticultural Superintendent. Belle Vue was years ahead of its time – now it would be called a Theme Park. It comprised all the fun of the seaside fairground with the onetime most frightening Big Dipper (The Bobs) in Britain; a Zoological Garden; lakes and extensive gardens, many of which were lit at night to entertain the thousands of visitors to the several themed ballrooms. He remained at Belle Vue until his retirement.

He and Lily moved to Weston-Super-Mare where they lived until 1992, after which they moved to Leicestershire to be close to their youngest son. He and Lily moved into Willowbanks Nursing Home after suffering a number of small strokes. He passed away peacefully at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 19th November, 1997, at the grand age of 93. He leaves a widow, Lilian, four children, 11 grandchildren and at least 17 great grandchildren around Britain, Canada and Australia. To all of them the Guild sends its deepest condolences.

#### **FRANK J. FORD**

Frank entered Kew from Margate Parks Department on the 28th October, 1937. In 1941 he joined the Royal Air Force and served in Training Command and later in Bomber Command.

Like so many Kewites of seaside origin he was called back to the coast. After the end of hostilities he joined the Parks Department at Bournemouth.

In 1948 he applied for the job of Parks and Crematorium Superintendent, this time on the east coast at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. He got the job and remained in the post in this key holiday town until his retirement in 1977. He died on the 19th September, 1997.

Frank's acknowledged professional skills were added to a deep understanding of what people wanted from leisure and he practised what he preached. His footwork in the committee rooms was more than matched by his ability in the ballroom and whilst many went to Yarmouth to get away from it all he and his wife Lily enjoyed their hobby of caravanning.

His heart was always close to the Guild and he will be missed.

To Frank's wife, Lily and their family, we send our blessings.

### TUAN NISAR JAYMAN

'Jay' died in February 1997. He was not a Guild member however, further details may be found under 'News of Kewites'.

### IAN KIRBY

Now and then a Kewite passes on and we do not hear the sad news until much later. Many Kewites live active and productive lives, not wanting to have their successes recorded, but bringing to their friends and colleagues that special flavour we come to expect of Kewites.

Ian Kirby died suddenly on the 25th January, 1996. He worked in a fine garden called The Menagerie in Northampton. Some may remember it being featured in *Gardens Illustrated*.

Jonathan Allin, now in Australia, says he found him a very caring and talented gardener when he worked with him between 1989-1991.

It is important for Kewites to use the *Guild Journal*, especially the Notes and Gleanings for, added together over the years through the indexing, we can piece together the varied lives of Kewites.

To Ian's relations we send our belated sympathy and to friends who may only now hear of his passing, our condolences.

*From Madeleine Groves and David Barnes:*

Starting his horticultural career as a four-year-old planting carrot seeds in a cordyline pot at home, Ian 'progressed' on to Kew in 1988 as a member of Course 26 on the Kew Diploma.

During his work experience his obvious love of plants and garden design came to the fore as did his sensitivity and creativity. His flamboyance was demonstrated not only by the personal style that he brought to the Chairmanship of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society, but also by his mimicry of senior members of staff at the unsurpassable Course 26 leaving party, which will be remembered for many years to come by all who attended. This act summed up his whole personality; warm, witty and wicked.



### P. F. McCORMACK, F.Inst.P.A. (Dip.), M.Inst.B.C.A.

Educated at Harrogate Grammar School, Mr. McCormack later became an apprentice in the Harrogate Parks Department under the late Mr. J. G. Besant, with further training from the late Mr. M. M. Campbell at Southend-on-Sea Parks Department.

He entered Kew on the 31st December, 1934, as a Student Gardener specialising in the Tropical, Decorative and Flower Garden Departments. He gained Distinction in Plant Nomenclature, Physiology and Ecology, Agriculture and Forestry and Plant Pathology.

Mr. McCormack then held successive positions with the Parks Department at Salford, Manchester and Great Yarmouth where, after joining the Territorial Army in 1938 and serving in the Middle East and Burma, he returned on demobilisation in 1945. During his overseas service he visited the Botanic Gardens in Durban, Calcutta, Darjeeling and Lahore and also trekked to 15,000 feet in the Himalayas whilst on leave. He was appointed Deputy Chief Superintendent of Parks and Gardens in Liverpool in 1947 and was largely responsible for the re-organisation of the Parks Department, post war reinstatement of parks and open spaces and the development of new schemes, including the Riverside Promenade at Otterspool and the new Botanical Gardens and Greenhouses at Harthill.

Mr. McCormack became Director at Liverpool in May 1995 and was responsible for the introduction of extensive schemes of re-organisation and integration affecting all horticultural and recreational facilities within the city including: landscape development; arboriculture; civic decoration; playing facilities and recreation requirements; three municipal golf courses; swimming pools; six municipal cemeteries and two crematoria (the second of which is at present nearing completion); allotments; Liverpool Show and Civic Security Force.

He became President of the Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration, of which he was a member for 35 years and held the Institute's Diploma, which he was awarded in 1939. In 1973 he was awarded the Associateship of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society. In April 1976 he retired to Ruthin in North Wales with his wife Evelyn where he spent many happy years near to his family.

Sadly, Mr. McCormack passed away in hospital on the 12th November, 1997, aged 85 years.

#### **I. G. ROOKE**

Mr. I. G. Rooke entered Kew in 1956 from Southend Parks Department. After his two year course, which he completed successfully, he moved to Paignton in Devon. Between 1959 and 1962 he worked in the Parks Departments of Chingford and Basildon, but it was to Rayleigh that he finally moved in 1963.

He passed on in 1997, after a long illness with Parkinsons Disease. To his wife, Mrs. F. Rooke, we send our deepest condolences.

#### **DENNIS WARDEN SAYERS**

Dennis entered Kew from Hook Place, Burgess Hill on the 18th May, 1937. He rapidly moved to the position of Foreman in the propagating pits in 1938.

This energy was reflected in his leisure pursuits for he was a great sportsman. Two months after entering Kew, in July 1937, he took five wickets for 28 runs in a match against Sutton's Seeds 2nd eleven and in a match against the Kew Cricket Club he scored 42 not out. He appears in the 1939 *Journal* as Captain of the Cricket team. He was also on the football team and in the Running Club.

In June 1940 he left Kew to join the army, was taken prisoner in North Africa and only released at the end of the war.

In 1946 he joined Brighton Parks Department where he stayed for four years. In 1949 he joined the Sussex Playing Fields Association, drawing closer again to his love of sport.

Towards the end of his career he worked at the Clifton Nursery in Cromwell Road, London, one of London's earliest and most successful garden centres. A hip complaint finally forced him to retire to Burgess Hill, from whence he started.

He died on the 8th January, 1997, aged 82.

A tree was planted as a memorial in the Wakehurst Place Garden.

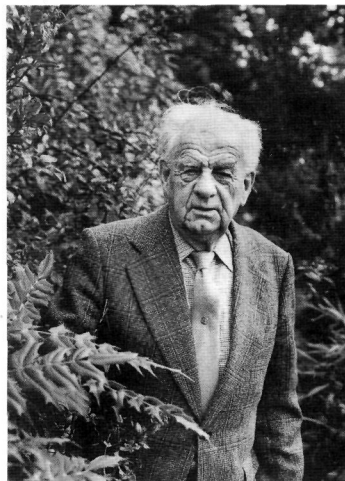
## HUBERT TAYLOR (1908-1997)

By J. K. Burras

On the 12th June, 1997, at Leatherhead Crematorium, several Kewites gathered to pay their last respects to Hubert Taylor, a notable fellow Kewite.

Hubert was born at Ambleside, Cumbria in 1908. From an early age he discovered a love for the wild plants of the district, a passion he shared with his father, a keen collector and grower of native ferns.

Following a basic education at the village school, it was natural that young Hu should seek a plant orientated career and this took the form of employment with the wellknown nurseries of T. R. Hayes of Ambleside. Between the wars Hayes enjoyed a high reputation as hardy plant nurserymen. Choice alpine plants were a speciality, but they were also builders of award winning gardens. Here Hubert acquired his basic horticultural skills which were to stand him in good stead throughout his career. Over the years, Hayes had passed on several of their most talented local lads to Kew, including George Eddison (1934), a former Curator of the Singapore Botanic Garden. Being too young for Kew, Hubert made application for the student gardener course at the John Innes Institute. Hayes tried to block this move, regarding him as potential 'Kew material', but Hubert was a young man in a hurry and, backed by the Hough family of White Craggs rock garden fame, he moved to John Innes in 1928 and from there entered Kew in 1931. A scholarship to Reading University completed his formal training and, following this, he held appointments for several years in Education and Advisory work in Oxfordshire, Norfolk and Hampshire. 1949 saw Hubert move to horticultural advisory work with the L.C.C. (later the G.L.C.), where he remained until retirement as Principal Horticultural Advisory Officer in 1973. His work for the G.L.C. included overall responsibility for the landscaping of the South Bank for the Festival of Britain, so highly regarded was his contribution to the success of the festival that it led to his award of the M.B.E. During this time he encouraged other Kewites to join him at the L.C.C. including Ted Storey (1952) and Peter Brasher (1953).



As early as 1934 the City of London had employed A.D.C. Le Sueur as a Tree Consultant and, by the outbreak of the war, his book on *'The Care and Repair of Ornamental Trees'* had become a standard work on the subject. Hubert took up his mantle and his enthusiasm for arboriculture led him to establish 'tree banks' and to encourage the training of staff in good tree management. He was to extend this interest to include the establishment of qualifications in arboriculture and he served as Senior Examiner for the Royal Forestry Society and the R.H.S. Certificate and Diploma in Arboriculture. The Royal Horticultural Society recognised his outstanding contribution by the award in 1961 of the Associate of Honour and, in 1988, the Arboricultural Association conferred upon him its award for 'services to arboriculture'.

To those fortunate to have known and worked with him, Hubert Taylor was a great plantsman and gardener, a knowledgeable and often amusing companion and, happily, he kept these attributes to the end of his days. He can truly be said to have enhanced the reputation of Kew as few others have done and to have fully justified the label bestowed upon him as 'the father of arboriculture'.

His wife Mary sadly died in 1971, but to his sons Clive, Neil and their families we offer our sincere condolences.

### C. J. WILMOT

Cyril Wilmot first started his horticultural training with the County Borough of Derby Parks Department under T. S. Wells, the wellknown Parks Superintendent and an ex Kewite. He stayed at Derby for five years (1930-1935), before moving on to join the Borough of Folkestone Parks Department under the Park Administration Staff Exchange System in order to gain wider horticultural experience.

He rejoined Derby Parks Department in 1937 and after a further year proceeded to take up training at the John Innes Horticultural Institution at Merton. After two years at the John Innes Institution in which he received glowing reports on his work from the Curator, W. J. L. Lawrence, he returned to Folkestone Parks again and then on to Kew as a student gardener.

He entered Kew on the 27th March, 1939, and left on 16th May, 1940, to join H.M. Forces, the Duke of Wellington Regiment (1940-1946).

He was drill sergeant in this regiment and I remember him once saying to me that he put the 'squaddies' to work in the kitchen garden when the Colonel said to him "Sergeant do you know what you are doing?" "Sir," said Cyril, "may I respectfully remind you that I was trained at the R.B.G. Kew". The Colonel snorted – but he never bothered him again.

After the war, Cyril returned to Kew for a further year (1946-1947), then took up a position with Plant Protection at Hazelmere. After two years at Plant Protection, where he helped in the building up of a very good collection of ornamental and decorative plants in the Gardens Department, very much depleted as a result of the war years, and successfully growing their commercial early flowering **chrysanthemums**. He left in October 1949 to join the Parks staff with the County Borough of Gateshead.

In 1972 Gateshead was made a Metropolitan Borough Council and Cyril was promoted to Training Officer and Nursery Manager – a position he held until his retirement in 1980.

*Cyril was a remarkable man, he had a fantastic memory and his love of plants was second to none. He was quite happy doing the job he liked and he did not seek to obtain greater things.*



Cyril Wilmot, the first winner of the New Bob Wolly Trophy Award given for devoted service to the community by one individual in 1978.

I think that Cyril must have had one of the largest collections of 'timbers of the world samples', in the North East. He gave many talks on types of timber and their uses in industry. Another of his pet subjects was steam trains. He would quote from memory the type, number and name of various engines as well as the lines they ran on.

Another of Cyril's pet subjects was the Lake District, where he spent most of his holidays. Not having a car he always said that he saw more of the Lake District because as he walked from A to B he did not have to return to the car. He travelled by bus and then walked to the next bus route.

Unfortunately he became very deaf after retirement and had to give up his talks and film shows to the various organisations.

On the 24th May, 1951, Cyril became an Associate of the Institute of Park Administration and was a regular attender at their meetings.

The only time I found Cyril to be speechless was the time that he was presented with the Northumberland Tourist Board Britain in Bloom Award of Merit Certificate for Devoted Service to the Community by One Individual in 1978. He did not know that he was to receive the award until he was called to the rostrum.

Cyril James Wilmot died peacefully in hospital on the 14th June 1997 aged 81 years. He leaves a son, Paul, Sue his daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. His wife Dorothy died six years ago.



## KEW GARDENS STAFF LIST

As at December 1997

*Adapted for publication in the Kew Guild Journal by the Editor. Our thanks to R.B.G. P.P.D. Department for the information and particularly David Green for proof reading.*

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(Acting Assistant Keeper)

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 (G7)

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 P. Brandham  
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**MOLECULAR SYSTEMATICS**  
 M. Chase  
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**SEED CONSERVATION WAKEHURST PLACE**  
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C. Collins (HBH)

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**Plant Records Unit**

N. Bishop (TOG1)  
 S. Wood (AO)  
 S. Stark (AA)

**TEMPERATE**

S. Henchie (SSO Head of Section) **13**

**Arboretum/Nursery Unit**

M. Staniforth (PTO – Unit Manager)  
 B. Parry (SBH)  
 K. Slack (HBH)

**Marine Display Unit**

P. Morris (PTO – Unit Manager)  
 M. Wilkinson (HBH)

**Temperate Display Unit**

M. Sparrow (PTO – Unit Manager)  
 D. Cooke (SBH)  
 R. Weekly (HBH)  
 A. Vernon (HBH)  
 S. Ketley (BH)  
 B. Rowlands (BH)  
 D. Walley (BH)

**TROPICAL**

J. Evans (SSO Head of Section) **23**

**Ferns, Cacti and Succulents**

P. Bradley (PTO – Unit Manager)  
 P. Griffiths (SBH)  
 N. Rothwell (HBH)  
 R. Helliwell (BH)  
 G. Boltwood (BH)  
 K. Gaul (BH)

**Tropical Collection and Decorative Display**

M. Marsh (PTO – Unit Manager)  
 L. Hull (HBH)  
 R. Woodman (HBH)  
 C. Bailey (BH)  
 C. Ross (BH)  
 E. Wyss (BH)  
 E. Gallick (BH)  
 A. McNeely (BH)  
 T. Ravenhall (TOG1)  
 R. Andrews (BH)  
 M. Bird (BH)

**Orchid Unit**

S. Bell (PTO – Unit Manager)  
 J. Sitch (SBH)  
 R. Brett (HBH)  
 D. Hayes (HBH)  
 R. Larizza

**TECHNICAL**

J. Lonsdale (SSO Head of Section)  
C. Bliss (PS)

**Plant Reception and Despatch**

J. Keesing (SSO)

**Gardens Development Unit**

G. Redwood (PTO)  
S. Ruddy (TOG1)  
P. Lufflum (HBH)

**Micropropagation**

M. Ramsey (HSO)  
T. Wilkinson (SO)  
D. Bowling (SO)  
G. Prendergast (SO)  
G. Gratton (SO)  
S. Czeladzinski (ASO)  
P. Whitehead (CBSCS)

**Science Support and Glass Unit**

C. Foster (TOG1)  
T. Bryant (HBH)

**Conservation Genetics**

M. Fay (SSO)

**WAKEHURST PLACE**

D. Hardman (7)

**Gardens Unit**

P. Richards (PTO – Unit Manager)  
P. A. Reader (SBH)  
A. W. Ovenden (HBH)  
J. Hooton (HBH)  
D. Ross (HBH)  
A. Chapman (BH)  
I. Ball (BH)  
A. Marsh (BH)

M. Wormal (BH)  
P. Shirley (BH)  
T. Penney (BH)

**Conservation and Woodlands Unit**

A. Jackson (PTO – Unit Manager)  
K. Boyer (SBH)  
D. Waldon (SBH)  
I. Parkinson (HBH)  
S. Robinson (HBH)  
B. Langley (BH)  
B. Plowright (BH)

**Machinery and Turf**

D. Marchant (PTO – Unit Manager)  
C. Bassett (SBH)  
R. Lewis (HBH)  
E. Shirley (HBH)  
T. Ede (HBH)  
S. Pierce (BH)  
M. Mills (BH)  
J. Pollard (BH)

**Nursery Science Support Unit**

C. Clennett (PTO – Unit Manager)  
G. Bulmer (SBH)  
A. S. Roberts (HBH)  
K. Harper (BH)  
F. Little (BH)  
M. Clennett (AA)  
M. Rogers (AA)

**STUDIES**

I. Leese (7)  
B. Hanson (AO)  
P. Black (TYP)  
D. Barnes (PTO)  
L. Pilgrim (BH)  
C. Downes (BH)

**ENTERPRISES DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE**

Managing Director: C. Brindle  
PA to Managing Director: M. Done

**THE SHOP – KEW**

P. Wilczynski  
(Retail Operations Manager)

J. Rappeport  
(Product Dev. Manager)

Plus Seasonal/  
Part-time Staff

**THE SHOP  
WAKEHURST PLACE**

L. Patrick  
(Retail Ops Manager)

Plus Seasonal/  
Part-time Staff

**COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

S. Corser  
(Commercial Dev. Manager)

M. Tu  
(Commercial Dev. Officer)

**BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE**

T. Bailey

M. Anderson (SPTO)  
 G. Oldfield (HPTO)  
 J. Dennis (HPTO)  
 M. Annetts (PTO)  
 M. Sweeney (Foreman)  
 K. Bertaud (AO)

R. Thompson (SPTO)  
 N. Williams (HPTO)  
 R. Hyde (HPTO)  
 C. Belshaw (HPTO)  
 P. Fish (PTO)  
 R. Ayliffe (PTO)  
 M. Jones (Foreman)

R. White (HPTO)  
 D. Farmer (HPTO)

J. Rainey (EO)  
 P. Gleave (AO)  
 D. Allsopp de Cortes (AO)  
 J. Kirby (AA)  
 J. Carne (PS)

21

**CORPORATE SERVICES STRUCTURE**

Head of Department: W. Webb (SEO)

**CENTRAL SERVICES**

J. Bowers  
 (HEO)

**SECURITY KEW**

R. Potter  
 (HEO)

**EVENTS**

E von Schlippe  
 (EO)

**CENTRAL SERVICES WAKEHURST**

A Honeyman  
 (EO)

**RANGERS WAKEHURST**

A Honeyman  
 (EO)

~~W. Webb (SEO)~~  
 J. Ronald (TYP)

~~EVENTS (NON COMMERCIAL)~~  
~~E von Schlippe (EO)~~

**CENTRAL SERVICES (KEW)**

~~Jr Bowers (HEO)~~  
 P. Marsden (EO)  
 S. Cotter (AO)  
 A. Hanson (SM3)  
 B. George (AA)  
 R. Herrington (SGB2)  
 J. Collins (SGB2)  
 D. Harris (SGB2)

**CENTRAL SERVICES (WAKEHURST)**

~~A Honeyman (EO)~~  
 G. Thomas (AO)  
 C. Wadsworth (AA)  
 B. Pankhurst (TYP)

**SECURITY (KEW)**

R. Potter (HEO)

**Sergeants**

R. Leaddley  
 R. Dinmore  
 S. Marsden  
 J. Jennings

**Constables**

E. Borez  
 P. Boyten  
 D. Langley  
 T. Johnson  
 R. Evans  
 P. MacNamara  
 M. Restall  
 E. M. Ryan  
 G. Smith  
 P. Terrey  
 M. O'Leary  
 R. Hooton  
 E. Foxtan  
 J. Evans

**RANGERS (WAKEHURST)**

~~A Bowers~~

**Sergeants**

A. Honeyman  
**Constables**  
 R. A. Robards  
 V. Morris  
 P. Taylor  
 R. Stalker

**Ticket Officers**

E. Thrift  
 M. Sacre  
 J. Parker



**EDUCATION AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE****EDUCATION**

(17)

R. Joiner (7)  
 C. Clubbe (SSO)  
 L. Giuffrida (HGO)  
 J. Ellison (HSO)  
 G. Walker (EO)  
 S. Oldridge (SO)  
 P. Griggs (SO)  
 B. Blewett (SO)  
 A. Jamieson (EO)  
 A. Vaillancourt-Alder (EO)  
 S. Ritchie (Rank Salt) (EO)

**MARKETING**

G. Bromley (SSO)  
 C. Brandt (SIO)  
 S. Ellison (PO)  
 P. Herrick (AA)  
 D. R. Glenn (AA)

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE**

(18)

R. Bower (7)  
 D. Bennett (HEO)  
 J. Alsop (HEO)

**FINANCE 1**

D. Bennett (HEO)  
 K. Smallbone (EO)  
 M. Roberts (AO)  
 J. Spencer (AO)  
 D. Pattwell (AO)  
 A. Bharadia (AO)  
 L. Costa (AA)

**FINANCE 2**

D. Bennett (HEO)  
 P. Halpern (EO)  
 L. Kerr (AO)  
 R. English (AO)

**FINANCE 3**

J. Alsop (HEO)  
 R. Pearson (EO)  
 E. Quinn (AO)  
 P. Bleach (AO)

**PEOPLE, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE**

(10)

L. Vardey (7)

**PAY AND GRADING**

M. Long (SEO)

**PERSONNEL**

M. Martindale (HEO)  
 S. Rough (EO)  
 C. Morgan (EO)  
 E. Hill (AO)  
 W. Muncey (AO)  
 J. Abrams (AO)  
 D. Green (AA)

**TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

M. Evans (HEO)

**ASSOCIATES, FELLOWS AND LONG TERM VISITORS**

(As at 18.12. 97)

Workers at R.B.G. Kew not on Chessington Payroll

Key – H: Herbarium J: Jodrell Laboratory

**Bentham Moxon Trust (report to Simon Owens)**

Paul Davies  
 Len Forman  
 Michael Godfrey  
 Brian Mathew (Curtis Botanical Magazine)  
 Terry Pennington

Mrs. D. Pope (Flora Zambesiaca)  
 Gerald Pope (Flora Zambesiaca)  
 Margaret Ramsey (Sainsbury Fund)  
 Paul Smith (Trapnell Fund)  
 George Schatz (Zimmerman Fund)

**Botanic Garden Conservation International**

Christine Allen  
 Barbara Bridge  
 Fiona Dennis  
 Vivian Isaac  
 Ailene Isaf

Dr. Etelka Leadlay  
 Julia Willison  
 Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson  
 Diane Wyse Jackson

**Conservation and Policy Section**

Dr. Amanda Collis (reports to Kerry ten Kate)

**Consultants**

Jeff Eden (Media Resources)  
 Tudor Harwood (Media Resources)  
 Sylvia Hughes (H)  
 Derek Lewis (Marketing)

Sylvia Phillips (H)  
 Juliet Prior – Glaxo (J)  
 J. M. Willis Fleming (Media Resources)

**23 Consultants – Kew Artists (report to Phil Cribb)**

Victoria Chesterman  
 Pauline Dean  
 Derek Erasmus  
 Ann Farrer  
 Helen Greenop  
 Linda Gurr  
 Georita Harriot  
 Frances Hibberd  
 Anne Jaski  
 Christabel King  
 Deborah Lambkin  
 J. Loken

Lura Mason  
 J. R. Press  
 Pandora Sellars  
 Sirlol Sherlock  
 Camilla Speight  
 Judi Stone  
 Margaret Stones  
 Ann Swan  
 Margaret Tebbs  
 Rosemary Wise  
 Heather Wood

**Country Liaison Officer (report to Simon Owens)**

Dr. S. K. Murti (India)  
 Dr. Ken Hill (Australia)  
 Saskia Harris (South Africa)

**Department for International Development**

Dr. Bob Alkin – PNE (reports to Hew Prendergast)  
 Mike Hopkins – Brazil (reports to the Director) – to August 1998  
 Cynthia Sothers (reports to the Director)  
 Michael Zinck – Flora of Ceylon (reports to Bob Johns) – to spring 1998

**Ex-Staff**

Tony Schilling (L.C.D.)

**Flore des Mascareignes (report to Keith Ferguson)**

Danielle Florens (Sugar Foundation of Mauritius)  
 J. Bosser – Paris

**Foundation**

Clare Austyn  
 Harry Barton  
 Jeremy Bayliss  
 Michael Godfrey (see under Bentham Moxon too)

Lucy Grubb  
 Gren Lucas  
 Alison Mitchell

**Friends**

Catherine Abley  
 Marshall Baron  
 Sarah Bennett  
 Susan Theresa Boyles (Wakehurst)  
 Anne Cooper  
 Dianne Cooper  
 Spence Gunn  
 Anna Ignatowicz

Jane James  
 Helen Lawrence  
 Nancy Lebaron  
 Debra Lewis  
 Robin Martin  
 Alison Miller  
 Joyce Southern

**Guys and St. Thomas Hospital Trust (report to Hew Prendergast)**

Liz Dauncey  
 Tim Raynor  
 Deborah Shah-Smith

**Honorary Research Associates**

Dr. Bob Allkin (see under DFID too) – (H)  
 J. Comber (H)  
 Dr. G. Hatfield (H)  
 H. Oakeley (H)  
 N. Pearce (H)

D. Philcox (H)  
 E. Punithalingam (H)  
 G. Seidenfaden (H)  
 B. Wadhwa (H)

**Honorary Research Fellows**

John Beaman (H)  
 Wally Blaney (J)  
 Humphrey Burkill (H)  
 Derek Clayton (H)  
 W. G. Dennis (H)  
 Soejatmi Dransfield (H)  
 Peter Green (H)  
 Mary Gregory (J)

Ray Harley (H)  
 Jack Hawkes (H)  
 David Hunt(H)  
 Dougie Kent (H)  
 Marie Kurmann (H)  
 Monica Shaffer-Fehre (H)  
 William Stearn (H)  
 B. Verdcourt (H)

**Interns**

Hayato Iso (L.C.D.)

**Irian Jaya Project (report to John Dransfield)**

Rudi Maturbongs – to end March 1998

**Long-Term Visitors\***

Dina Azizian (J) – to mid October 1998  
 Reed Beaman (H) – to end January 1998  
 Nico Cellinese (H) – to end January 1998  
 Helena Cotrim (J) – to end January 1998  
 Eduardo Dalcin (H)  
 Tanis dos Santos (H) – to end March 1998

Fiona Holland (J)  
 Danusa Lima (H) – to end December 1997  
 Patrick Muttoka (J – Wakehurst Place) – to end 1999  
 Graca Sajo (J) – to end March 1998  
 Jan Salick – CEB – (H) – to September 1998  
 Paul Tompsett (J)

**Madagascar Euphorbs (report to Simon Owens)**

Dr. Petra Hoffmann

**Margaret Mee Amazon Trust (report to Simon Mayo)**

Michael Daly

**Margaret Mee Fellow**

Dr. Renato Mello-Silva (H) – to end February 1998

Then:

Dr. Maria Gracas ajo (J) – January to March 1998  
 Dr. Toscano de Brito – January 1998 onwards

**M.Sc.**

Upaneetha Abeygunawardana (L.C.D.)  
 D. Ormsby (H)  
 K. Satoh (H)

**Ph.D.**

Stuart Adams (J)  
 Hishamuddin Ahmad (J)  
 Ruth Atkinson (H)  
 Pasco Avery (J)  
 Noorgiha bte Ayop (H)  
 Z. Badcock (H)  
 William Baker (H)  
 Steve Belmain (J)  
 Paul Bygrave (H/J)  
 Liz Caddick (H/J)

Jillian Marshall (J)  
 Abraham Muasya (J/J)  
 Patrick Muthoka (J)  
 Nou Ndam (H)  
 Nur Supardi Md Noor (H)  
 Mrs. Noori (J)  
 Faridah Qamuruz-Zaman (J)  
 Gayle Reid (J)  
 James Richardson (J)  
 Peter Roberts (H)

\*Long Term Visitor includes all individuals expecting to visit work at R.B.G. Kew on a regular or intermittent basis for a minimum of three months.

Anthony Canning (J)  
 Mark Carine (J)  
 Augustine Chikuni (H)  
 Marcus Nadruz Coelho (H)  
 James Cominsky (Director)  
 Helen Cotrim (J)  
 Emma Crow (J)  
 Deepthi Disanayake (Director)  
 Martin Egan (J)  
 Thomas Evans (H)  
 Penny Fraser (H)  
 Eduardo Goncalves Gomes (H)  
 Helen Ireland (J/H) – to end October 2000  
 Z. Jamzad (J)  
 Ary Keim (H)  
 Rojier de Kok (H)  
 Dania Kowalski (J)  
 Sarah Lewendon (J/H)  
 Yi-bo Luo (H)

Angela Ryan (J/H) – to end April 1998  
 Mohammad Saeed (J)  
 Cassia Monica Sakuragui (H)  
 Mark Sawkins (J)  
 M. Soto (H)  
 Julian Starr (H)  
 Samnan Suddee (H)  
 Terry Sunderland (H)  
 Nigel Taylor (H)  
 Jonathan Steele (J)  
 M. Tebbett (H)  
 Sarah Thomas (H)  
 Karen Thomsen (Director)  
 Cassio van den Berg (J)  
 J. Vermuelen (H)  
 Alison Watson (J)  
 Paul Wolferstan (J)  
 Xiangyun Yang (J)

#### **Rainforest Forum (report to Simon Owens)**

Jane Thornback

#### **Research Fellows**

Steve Belmain (J)

#### **Senior Research Fellows**

Peter Brandham (J)  
 Tom Reynolds (J)  
 Mary-Clare Sheahan (J)

#### **Volunteer Guides – E & M – Kew**

Maureen Allen  
 Jack Andrews  
 Anne Bawtree  
 Valerie Baxter  
 Rosemary Brake  
 Jean Brenan  
 Val Browne  
 Dee Collier  
 Ann Comper  
 Hazel Conway  
 Gillian Cowley  
 Angele Dixon  
 Margaret English  
 Mary Fear Hill  
 Jane Geissendorfer  
 Eileen Gregory  
 Elizabeth Hedley  
 Prim Hout  
 Janet Howd  
 Libby Insall  
 Betty Jackson

Irene Judge  
 Steve Kemsley  
 Pam Lecouteur  
 Bettie Miller  
 Janet Mothersill  
 Jackie Nayman  
 Jane Phillips  
 Barbara Purvis  
 Carole Ritchie  
 Lorraine Robertson  
 Dorothy Scott  
 Sandra Silva  
 Mary Singham  
 Bill Stanley  
 Colin Stephenson  
 Eric Taylor  
 Michael Thorncroft  
 Jane Wainwright Phillips  
 Alix Wilkinson  
 Pat Wortley  
 Georgina Zibarras

#### **Volunteer Guides – E & M – Wakehurst**

Janet Drake  
 Joan Leigh  
 Ted Ormerod  
 Jane Quincey

Derek Reynolds  
 Bob Taylor  
 John Withall

**Volunteers – Friends**

Margaret Adams  
 Betty Armstrong  
 Frank Armstrong  
 Shirley Arnett  
 Hilda Badcoe  
 Valerie Berry  
 Tessa Blackburn  
 Vivien Blackburne  
 Gay Blacksell  
 Li Borowski  
 Elizabeth Boston  
 Neil Brame  
 Jean Brenan  
 Eileen Chadwick  
 Jane Chalmers  
 Jenny Christian  
 Miriam Clark  
 Paul Claxton  
 Brenda Claxton  
 Marian Cochrane  
 Susan Coelho  
 Patricia Anne Constable  
 Brenda Cullingham  
 Juliet Daly  
 Philip Davidson  
 Philippa Dawson  
 Freda Dent  
 Ernest Dissanayake  
 Marcy Doane  
 Anne Drummond -Hay  
 Mary Du Val  
 Lucy Dynevor  
 Yvonne Edwards  
 Hazel Ellis  
 Jennifer Hudspeth  
 Caroline Jackson  
 Daphne Jarden  
 Jim Jeffes  
 Olive Jeynes  
 Christopher Jolliffe  
 Miriam Jolliffe  
 Irene Judge  
 William Judge  
 Freda Katritzky  
 Gwen Kernon

Joan King  
 Joan Lambert  
 Harold Lambert  
 Catherine Lambie  
 Diana Landsberg  
 Judith Lawson  
 Pamela le Couteur  
 Eileen Leigh  
 Charlotte Leopold  
 Joan Lisney  
 Colleen Loney  
 Jenny Long  
 Margaret Lukin  
 Jackie Manton  
 Kathy Marbaix  
 Jill Marshall  
 Ailsa Mathieson  
 Vera McNabb  
 Christina Megroz  
 Sue Metham  
 Barbara Millbourn  
 June Montgomery-Tully  
 Marian Morris  
 Olive Elsbury  
 Eveline Ernst  
 Celia Evans  
 Margaret Evans  
 Mary Fear Hill  
 Peter Foote  
 Paulette Foote  
 Linda Foster  
 John Feeman  
 Elizabeth Gadsby  
 Patience Gapper  
 Susan Goddard  
 Freda Gooding  
 Rachel Grayson  
 Joyce Greenham  
 Mr. and Mrs. Madeleine Greet  
 Mary Grierson  
 Joy Groombridge  
 Peter Grundy  
 Jennifer Grundy  
 Marta Grupe

Yvon Hakes  
 Pauline Hallinon  
 Margaret Halnan  
 Christine Hayek  
 Lawrence Heath  
 Margaret Heighton  
 Katarina Heldring-Morris  
 Helen Hepper  
 Louise Hill  
 Prim Hoult  
 Pamela Howard-Spink  
 Joan Murphy  
 Anthony Nayman  
 Tim Nodder  
 Chris Palmer  
 Beryl Palmer  
 Margaret Perkins  
 Mrs. Jane Phillips  
 Jane Phillips  
 Jean Price  
 Barbara Randall  
 Anne-Marie Regnery  
 Carole Ritchie  
 Monica Robb  
 Richard Rudd  
 M. O. Rylance  
 Valerie Scriven  
 David Shaw  
 Barbara Sheppard  
 Lynette Sherwood  
 Bill Stanley  
 Olivia Staple  
 Eileen Stewart  
 Peggy Taylor  
 Dinah Teather  
 Sheila Thompson  
 Michael Thorncroft  
 Jeffrey Thrift  
 Rosemary Trueman  
 Jill de Wardener  
 David Wedmore  
 Fiona Wemyss  
 Sheila Wilson  
 Joyce Wye

**Work Experience Students**

Rosanna Ling – Wakehurst (J) – to November 1999

**THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1997**

	AWARD SCHEME			Total 1997 £	Total 1996 £
	General Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £		
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Subscriptions .....	6,699.82			6,699.82	6,962.81
Donations and Legacies .....		10.00		10.00	477.05
Investment Income – COIF .....	1,366.76	4,531.66		5,898.42	5,728.90
– Interest .....	859.88			859.88	645.17
Annual Dinner .....	2,498.00			2,498.00	2,542.50
A.G.M. Day .....	840.00			840.00	467.50
Sale of "Kew Plantsmen" .....	390.00			390.00	634.00
Sale of Emblems .....	0.00			0.00	82.00
Journal Adverts .....	600.00			600.00	0.00
	<u>13,254.46</u>	<u>4,541.66</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>17,796.12</u>	<u>17,539.93</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
<b>Direct charitable expenditure:</b>					
Kew Guild Journal .....	6,007.23			6,007.23	4,428.00
Prizes .....	381.00			381.00	380.00
Awards .....		4,420.00		4,420.00	4,404.00
Annual Dinner .....	2,595.05			2,595.05	2,478.35
A.G.M. Day .....	1,138.43			1,138.43	565.18
Postage .....	1,064.02			1,064.02	1,789.78
<b>Other expenditure:</b>					
Cost of "Kew Plantsmen" .....	181.35			181.35	344.10
Cost of Emblems .....	0.00			0.00	79.22
Insurance .....	42.19			42.19	41.58
Honorary Officers' Expenses .....	80.00			80.00	110.00
Sundry .....	442.07			442.07	148.72
	<u>11,931.34</u>	<u>4,420.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>16,351.34</u>	<u>14,768.93</u>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b> .....	1,323.12	121.66	0.00	1,444.78	2,771.00
<b>OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS</b>					
Gains on investments:					
Unrealised .....	5,333.30	6,712.16	11,168.49	23,213.95	9,210.32
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b> .....	6,656.42	6,833.82	11,168.49	24,658.73	11,981.32
Balances brought forward at 1 January 1997 .....	46,634.07	38,261.93	63,658.57	148,554.57	136,573.25
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 1997</b> .....	<u>53,290.49</u>	<u>45,095.75</u>	<u>74,827.06</u>	<u>173,213.30</u>	<u>148,554.57</u>

## KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1997

	1997		1996	
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Investments .....		155,529.75		132,315.80
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stocks - Emblems .....	584.98		584.98	
- Past Presidents' Jewel .....	0.00		50.00	
- Centenary of Kew Plantsmen ..	3,017.85		3,199.20	
	3,602.83		3,834.18	
Debtors .....	217.27		155.50	
Charities Deposit Fund .....	14,500.00		12,500.00	
Cash at Bank .....	464.33		73.43	
		18,784.43		16,563.11
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Life Subscriptions .....	62.48		71.93	
Creditors .....	1,038.40		252.41	
		-1,100.88		-324.34
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b> .....		17,683.55		16,238.77
<b>NET ASSETS</b> .....		173,213.30		148,554.57
<b>FUNDS</b>				
General .....		53,290.49		46,634.07
Restricted .....		45,095.75		38,261.93
Endowment .....		74,827.06		63,658.57
		173,213.30		148,554.57

These are summarised accounts extracted from the Annual Report and Accounts of the Kew Guild. The Annual Accounts were approved on 27th January 1998 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the Guild's financial affairs. For further information the full Annual Report and Accounts including the Independent Examiner's Report should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from Rebecca Bower, The Kew Guild, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB.

## LIST OF R.B.G. STAFF AND HONORARY RESEARCH ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE KEW GUILD

(as at 31st December, 1997)

### Staff:

Andrews, Roselle	Done, Mary	Owens, Dr. Simon
Andrews, Miss S.	Edwards, P. J.	Parry, Belinda
Atkins, Mrs. Sandy	Evans, Jenny	Pipe-Wolferstan, Karen
Barnes, D.	Ferguson, Ian Keith	Pitman, Mark
Beentje, Henk	FitzGerald, Miss S. M.	Pope, Gerald
Bell, Miss S.	Foster, Clive	Power, Deborah
Bidgood, Sally	Gallick, Edina	† Prance, Professor Sir G. T.
Bower, Miss Rebecca M.	Gardner, David	Pritchard, Dr. H. W.
Boyce, Peter	Godfrey, Michael	Ravenhall, Mrs. T.
Brett, Robert	Green, Paul W. C.	† Sands, M. J.
Bridson, Diane M.	Griffiths, Phil	Scott-Brown, Alison
Brummitt, R. K.	Hardman, David	Simpson, David
Cooper, Mrs. Dianne	Hastings, Laura	Sparrow, Mark
Cowley, Mrs. Jill	Hayes, Mrs. D.	Staniforth, Martin
Cribb, P. J.	Henchie, Stewart J.	Stannard, Brian S.
Crow, Emma	Johns, Professor Bob	Taylor, Nigel P.
Cutler, Dr. D. F.	Johnson, Margaret	Town, Alison
Davies, Ryan Ivor	Leese, Ian	Vernon, Andy
Davis, Steve	Leon, Christine	Walley, D. A.
Dempsey, Clare	Madill, Graham	Weekly, R. J.
Dennis, Ms Fiona	Morley, James	

## LIST OF R.B.G. STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE KEW GUILD

(as at 31st December, 1997)

### Students:

Adams, Marcus	Jones, Karen	Otto-Knapp, Iris
Allison, Robert	Kerr, Michael	Pagola, Mikel
Blanchfield, Anthony	King, Kathleen	Pollard, Paul
Byrne, Eamonn	Kramer, Tanja	Scott, Laurie
Cole, C.	Lavelle, Christin	Slack, Daniel
Fox, Emma	Long, Helen	Spicq, Emmanuel
Furse-Roberts, James	Maguire, Kay	Turner, Justin
Garton, Patrick	Mengel, Bernd	Weddell, C.
Heidieker, Claudia	Mullins, Greg	Woodcock, Tammy
Hunt, Leigh G.	Onaindia, Unai	Wyatt, Andrew



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