

# **THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD**

**Founded in 1893**

The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present

## **Events of 1999**

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**Royal Botanic Gardens  
Kew**

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# ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

## THE KEW GUILD

**Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra**

### THE KEW GUILD COMMITTEE 1999-2000

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 Events Officer: T. F. Risely

#### Committee Members:

##### *Retire 2000*

P. Nutt	U.S.A.
J. Woodhams	Kingston

##### *Retire 2001*

Ms L. Allen	Oxford
A. G. Burgess	Whitchurch
C. Hindmarch	Romsey
N. Taylor	Kew

##### *Retire 2002*

D. Hardman	Wakehurst Place
T. Martyn	Brentford
D. Taber	Cheam
K. Woolliams	U.S.A.

##### *Retire 2003*

Dr. D. F. Cutler	Kew
G. Pattison	Kingston
P. L. D. Wood	Australia

Ex Officio Member: I. Leese  
 Award Scheme Chair: F. N. Hepper  
 Trustee Representative: M. J. Sands  
 Students' Union Representatives: Ms J. Hirsch and Ms S. Crawford

## EDITORIAL

When I co-edited the 'Events of 1975' *Journal* with Michael Dawes I had no inkling that I would be doing the job for the next 25 years! But this is my last one.

In 1975 Bob Sealy was 69 and an Honorary Member after many years of Committee service and still lives in Richmond at the ripe old age of 94. G. Pattison was on the Committee and is on it again now and the evergreen Nigel Hepper was Honorary Secretary and is currently Award Scheme Chair. And so Kewites continue to flourish side by side over the years

And is the Kew Guild flourishing? I believe so. Today our membership is made up of predominantly supportive and interested ex and present Kewites. Twenty-five years ago the address list was of all known Kewites, many who were not Guild members and whose addresses were not updated.

An enormous amount of Guild Committee time has been spent upgrading and updating Guild matters over the 28 years I have been on the Committee and I believe we are communicating as effectively as possible, given the varied and widespread membership and limited budget and subscription. But we need your help with support of events and news and enrolment of new members. I am often surprised that many ex-Kew staff do not join the Guild when they leave, despite the fact that they owe their careers to Kew training and experience.

Recently a few overseas members have queried the 'value' of Kew Guild membership. I can inform them that, as it happens, overseas members actually cost the Guild more since we airmail all *Journals* and *Kew Guardians* to them for expediency. For me the invaluable asset is the updated address list and news of fellow members.

I thank all the many Kewites and others who have produced our last 25 years of Guild history in the *Journals*. I also thank our printers, Rowling Printers Limited, with whom I have worked in harmony during my time as Editor. And I wish Jennifer Hirsch, currently a third year Diploma Course student, good luck as your new Editor, as she will produce the 'Events of 2000' *Journal* for you. No doubt her IT experience and ability will see a different type of *Journal* which will herald the start of the new Millennium for Guild history.

Thanks for the memories. Floreat Kew.

Richard C. Ward  
Hon. Editor

Your Guild contacts are:

Secretary: Mike Clift on 01276 20743 (telephone and fax)

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

Membership/Subscriptions: David Barnes on 0181 332 5567 (telephone), 0181 332 5580 (fax)

Addresses at the back of this *Journal*.

## STOP PRESS – 13th April 2000

**Members please note that correspondence will be mailed to you direct from The Guild in future as the *Kew Guardian* has ceased and no definite alternative has been finalised at the moment.**

**E. A. BELL, C.B., Ph.D., F.R.S.C., F.I.Biol., F.L.S.**  
President 1999/2000



Arthur Bell was born in Northumberland where family holidays at Bamburgh, including trips to the Farne Islands and influential natural history expeditions with an enthusiastic schoolmaster, introduced him to the wealth of plant and animal life with which that county abounds.

War brought the evacuation of his school from Newcastle and for four years he lived in billets that ranged from a farm near the Solway Firth to a large mansion on a private estate between Windermere and the Kirkstone Pass. Here the Head Gardener controlled the activities of the lower orders who tended the ornamental plantings, greenhouses, kitchen garden and ultimately the potato patch, which came to replace the lawn in front of the house. As a member of the lowest order of all, one of the evacuees, he provided the Head Gardener with occasional unskilled labour in exchange for occasional critical advice. No irreparable damage was caused and the last time that he visited the gardens at Holehird they were in the safe hands of the Lakeland Horticultural Society.

At this stage another enthusiastic schoolmaster, this time the chemistry master at Windermere Grammar School, awakened his interest in the chemistry of plants and animals and an ambition to follow a career in agricultural research. A first degree in chemistry at King's College Newcastle (now The University of Newcastle), an institution for which he also played rugby football and cricket, was followed by a period as a research chemist with Imperial Chemical Industries endeavouring to turn agricultural waste such as sugarcane bagasse and oat husks into something more valuable.

A research award then took him to Trinity College Dublin. This led to a Ph.D. and an assistant lectureship in biochemistry. It was here, making use of the seed collections in the botanic garden at Trinity College, that he first recognised the possible systematic significance of non-protein amino acids. Distribution studies showed that the ability of plants to synthesise certain of these compounds was frequently restricted to particular taxa providing chemical evidence of phylogenetic relationships that were not always clear on the basis of morphology. He well remembers the reactions of certain taxonomists to his early data. If these data did not agree with accepted ideas on classification they were dismissed as ridiculous, if they did agree they were dismissed as superfluous. Others, notably in the Herbarium at Kew, recognised that chemical data should be seen as complementing rather than conflicting with data from other sources.

Leaving Dublin he was appointed Lecturer and then Reader in Biochemistry in King's College London. Research on the systematic importance of non-protein amino acids and other secondary compounds was extended to studies of their roles as toxins to man and domestic animals and their ecological significance.

From King's College London he moved west to become Professor of Botany in the University of Texas at Austin. After four years in Texas, where cycads and their toxins competed in his affections with the legumes, he returned to King's College London as Professor of Biology, Head of the Department of Plant Sciences and ultimately Dean of Science. During this period visiting appointments in Sierra Leone and Queensland, Australia, introduced him to the flora of the tropics. It was from the seeds of *Castanospermum australe* collected while in Queensland that castanospermine, the polyhydroxyalkaloid with activity against the AIDS virus, was first isolated. The same period saw the development of the close collaboration between King's College London and Kew that continues today.

In 1981, on the retirement of Professor Brennan, he was appointed Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, a post which he held until his own retirement in 1988. His membership of the Kew Guild also dates from 1981.

In retirement he enjoys honorary appointments in King's College London and the University of Texas at Austin and continues his work on physiologically active compounds in plants. He is involved with the development of botanic gardens at Austin and Galveston in Texas and of an arboretum at Marks Hall in Essex.

## A. GRANVILLE TURLEY

Vice President (1999-2001)

Granville Turley was born in Handsworth, Birmingham, in 1924 where the majority of gardeners were allotment holders producing fruit and vegetables for the family.

On leaving school, evening class was necessary in order to gain a certificate whilst working as a nursery apprentice gardener, followed by a year under glass with Birmingham Parks before being called up for active service in the Royal Signals.

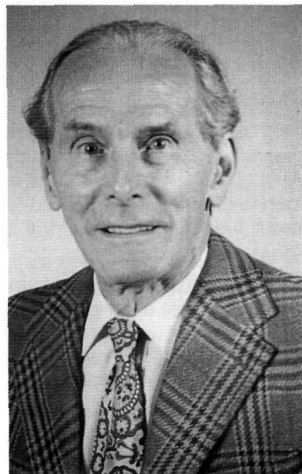
October 1947 was a great opportunity, being accepted as a student gardener at Kew which expanded the love of plants enormously, despite the less favourable conditions of the Iron Room.

After leaving Kew, further valuable experience was gained with Ealing and Kingston-upon-Thames Parks in nursery management and civic floral decorating.

1958 was a different challenge at Norwood Hall Horticultural College as Garden Manager. After gaining a Teachers Certificate at Chiswick Polytechnic, lecturing at adult classes and gardening clubs widened his horizons.

For 30 years Granville has been an active member of the Middlesex Schools Environmental Studies Association, founded by the late Frances Perry in 1948.

Having been a member of the Kew Guild for 50 years he remembers that in 1949 the Annual Dinner was held at the Clarendon Restaurant, Hammersmith, and Dr. Turrill was President. He will always be remembered with affection.



Now in the fifteenth year of his retirement his interest in plants never wanes. Visits to R.H.S. Shows and outings to National Trust gardens inspires enthusiasm for his own garden. Judging flower shows and giving occasional talks to local groups, as well as the Mutual Improvement Society, keeps him in contact with the ever changing horticulture of today.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD

by **M. Clift** Secretary 1998-99

On Saturday 11th September 1999, 34 members attended the Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The President, Richard Ward declared the meeting open.

*Apologies for absence:* These had been received from Louise Allen, Mrs. Sandy Atkins, Matthew Biggs, Eric Curtis, Rev. Hugh Flower, John Gaggini, Neil and Sheila Gilmour, Mike Griffin, Dusha Hayes, Harold Heywood, Dr. Colin Hindmarch, Mike Lycett, Topher Martyn, Peter Maunder, Allen Paterson, Mrs. Diane Polhill, Max Roberts, John Sales, John Tregear, Tom Wood and Winifred Worth.

The President then asked members to stand as he listed the Guild Members who had died since the last AGM. These were, H. G. Butcher (1921), G. R. Groves, O.B.E. (1937), J. D. Helm (1948), W. Porter (1930) and O. J. Ward (1948). A period of silence was kept in their memory.

*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting which was held on 12th September 1998*, were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

*Matter arising:* No matters were raised.

*President's Report:* Richard Ward commented that while this was not on the agenda, he thought it important enough to initiate this review. The President began by welcoming the new Director, Professor Peter Crane who was with us. He also paid tribute to Professor Sir Ghilleain and Lady Prance for their interest in Guild matters in their ten years at Kew. He then mentioned Sandy Atkins and wanted to put on record the Guild's thanks to her for her seven and a half years as both Secretary and Assistant Secretary. He noted that we lose four Committee members today, Dusha Hayes of Kew, John Winter of Kirstenbosch, Mike Cliff and David Barnes. The last two are now both Officers of the Guild. He thanked them for their input.

He then outlined what had been achieved during the last year. The revised Membership Application Form was circulated, hoping that it would prompt lapsed members to rejoin. The Committee guidance notes have also been revised to remind Committee Members of the various tasks to be resolved and when. We also have closer ties with the Friends of Kew, who help us in many ways. He complimented both Emma Fox and Jennifer Hirsch, Guild Student Representatives, for their efforts with the students. This resulted in all of them being at the Annual Dinner. The Guild has increased the value of prizes available to students. The President commented that he attended the Prize giving and noted that the Director was well briefed and mentioned the benefits of the Guild to the students who were then leaving.

We have implemented steps to re-organise the Guild's Archives, after David Hardman and Nigel Hepper had reported to the Committee. He thanked them for their report. Investments and finance has not been ignored. The idea of a Guild data base is progressing. At last year's AGM it was noted that we ought to commemorate the Millennium. This, the President noted, has kept the following President well occupied. We also now have insurance cover for Guild events at Kew, following Joan Woodham's fall last year.

The President concluded his notes commenting that the Committee have done all they could in upholding the spirit and traditions of the Guild and for this he thanked them and asked all members present to do likewise.

*Secretary's Report:* Mike Cliff commented that Richard had already noted some areas that he intended to cover. He reported that the summer visit had been reinstated. This year Longstock Gardens and Whitchurch were the areas visited. He was pleased to note that members had journeyed from as far afield as Kenilworth and Northampton to join the more local members. A fine day was enjoyed, despite a heavy deluge. Graham Burgess and Gillian were thanked for organising this event.

The Sub Committee looking at the Committee Structure had also met and he would be commenting on this later in the meeting. There would need to be a rule revision next year should these proposals be accepted.

He also commented on the help, advice and assistance given him by Sandy Atkins. He considered that Richard Ward as President had proved to be a great benefit to the Guild and he had always made time to deal with any queries.

*Membership Secretary's Report:* David Barnes outline current membership

	1999	1998
Staff	49	57
Students	27	30
Corporate	5	6
Life Members	32	33
Trustee	2	4
Standard	335	356
This gave a total of	450	486

There was one resignation as well as the five deaths already reported. He added that currently 59 members have failed to pay their subscriptions despite being contacted twice. This gave a net loss of 36. He commented that this reduction is not greatly different to previous

years. John Woodhams enquired whether the Trustees had been approached to join the Guild. David Barnes commented that he would send them the appropriate forms.

The President thanked David Barnes for his attention and noted that we were getting more efficient.

*Treasurer's Report:* Rebecca Bower remarked that the 1998 accounts were printed in the *Journal*. This year the *Journals* were less expensive and 20 awards had been made, a cost of £5,500. The Badges for ex Presidents had also been replenished. The total expenditure was little different to the previous year. There was £192,000 in reserves as investments. Rebecca concluded that we have a secure position. Should a member require a copy of the full account they should contact her direct.

The President thanked Rebecca for her resumé and for keeping our books so well in order. Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Kenwyn Pearson, seconded by Graham Burgess and agreed by all members.

*Editor's Report:* Richard Ward began by thanking all contributors, as well as the Secretary, Mike Clift, and Graham Burgess for his work dealing with Obituaries as well as John Woodhams for dealing with News of Kewites. He went on to announce that after producing 25 *Journals*, he would be stepping down as Editor at the 2000 AGM. He commented that we need someone conversant with modern technology to be able to deal with this publication, but standards would need to be maintained and that there is no substitute for personal contact and proof-reading!

*Events Officer's Report:* Tom Risely began by commenting that the AGM events last year included a visit to the lower nursery, then a lecture by Dr. Cutler on Tree Roots and the Soirée supper was in No. 1 Museum. We hosted the incoming students who were introduced by President Richard Ward.

At the request of Richard Ward the Annual Dinner was a family event and was held on a Saturday. The attendance for this was 119 with Alan Titchmarsh as Master of Ceremonies. The speaker was Dr. David Shannon, Chief Scientist at the Ministry of Agriculture. We used the Pavilion Restaurant, as this venue would enable the anticipated numbers to be accommodated. He also commented on the enquiry undertaken a year or so ago with Guild members to ascertain if a particular day was preferable for the dinner. Most who replied did not mind but those who stipulated a day mentioned Wednesday. He commented that while the students were unable to arrange a raffle today, the raffle at the Dinner resulted in £693 for their study trip to Spain. He warned that next year there would need to be a revision of prices, the Dinner possibly rising to £30 and the Soirée supper to £17.50. It was agreed that events should be self funding. He noted that the *Journal's* Printer had donated cards and menus for the Dinner. This was a fine gesture.

He thanked Mike Clift for arranging events for today, because of his absence on holiday. Pamela Holt wondered whether hiring a marquee for multiple use would be an alternative option. Nigel Taylor (Curator) said that Kew was looking at the possibility of purchasing a marquee and this could well be an option.

The President thanked Tom for his work with the events and commented that an Event's Assistant from the Kew area would be helpful in future.

*Award Scheme Report:* Nigel Hepper began by saying that the Award Scheme was begun only 20 years ago with the objective of raising some £3,000. Today that figure is now £70,000 enabling around £5,000 to be allocated annually for Awards. He continued by reminding members that the Scheme is available to all members. After the March meeting this year not all the funds had been allocated. More awards were then made at a July meeting.

He commented that Jean Griffin has now left this Committee and they would be looking for a replacement.

Bob Adams asked how many applications from Guild members there had been. He was told one or two. He then proposed that an entry be made in the *Journal* to remind members that

they were also eligible. Martin Sands commented that awards for books were also an option as well as travel.

The President thanked Nigel Hepper for his work and also commented that he had attended one of their meetings as President, which was itself a rare event. The President also commented that he had attended the Student Prize Giving.

*Sub Committee Review on Committee Structure:* In the absence of Dr. Colin Hindmarch, Mike Clift introduced this report. This was originally presented at the 1998 AGM and was referred back to the Committee to further review the proposal regarding both a President and a Committee Chairman. The Sub Committee had met and had put their later recommendations to the March Committee meeting. It was apparent that the consensus at that meeting would not accept the rôle of a Chairman. The Sub Committee met again and, considering this view, revised their proposals which were then accepted at the July Committee meeting. These were then circulated to members with the documents concerning this meeting.

Martin Sands raised the rôle of Trustee representative. Arthur Bell commented that due to new Government legislation the rôle of Trustee was in fact redundant. However, the Guild's Trustees had a very long association with the Guild and he thought that their views in certain situations would be worth considering. It was agreed that the rôle of Trustee Representative be further reviewed.

Sylvia FitzGerald referred to the Archives. She considered that the Archivist need not attend the meetings. This could be a rôle decided by the Committee. David Hardman said there was a lot of paper to collect together and the Guild Officers have the Guidelines to refer to.

Jean Griffin suggested that we go ahead with the report and proposed its acceptance. This was seconded by Tom Risely. The President asked if the meeting was in favour of the new Structure. There was a unanimous vote in favour, no votes against nor abstentions. The President then thanked Colin Hindmarch, Mike Clift and Graham Burgess for their efforts with this matter.

*Election of Officers:* The President, Richard Ward, asked if we could make a block proposal of the Committee nominations. These were: President, Professor Arthur Bell; President Elect, Allen Paterson; Vice President, Granville Turley; Committee members, Graham Patisson, Dr. David Cutler and Phillip Wood. All members were in favour, with no votes against



The outgoing President Richard Ward (left), hands over the Guild Chain of Office to Professor Arthur Bell, 11th September 1999.

*Accounts, Independent Assessor's Report:* Rebecca Bower commented that the Assessors Report noted that there were no matters to draw the Treasurer's attention to.

*Any Other Business:* Pamela Holt enquired about the absence of the lectern. David Barnes replied that he was unable to retrieve it in time for the meeting.

The President reported that Jill Cowley and Dr. David Cutler were awarded the Kew Medal on the previous day. He congratulated them.

*Inauguration of the new President:* Richard Ward asked Professor Bell to come forward and duly passed the Chain of Office to the new President to much applause.

Arthur Bell thanked Richard Ward for all his hard work as President. He



added that Richard had also continued with the rôle of Editor at the same time. He would be pleased to see Richard again as Master of Ceremonies at next year's Dinner.

Arthur Bell took the opportunity to mention that we would be planting trees next year both at Kew and also at Wakehurst Place as a Millennium feature. He commented, for the new Director's benefit, that these ideas were in the pipeline.

There would be a visit to Oxford Botanic Gardens in the spring and later in the year, another visit, to Marks Hall in Essex. He hoped these visits would bring more of our members together.

He then asked Tom Risely to detail the rest of the day.

*Date of the next AGM:* The President noted that this was scheduled for Saturday 9th September 2000.

In conclusion the President, Arthur Bell closed the meeting at 3.45 p.m.

## MILLENNIUM TREE PLANTING

by Graham Burgess

Our Coat of Arms displays the greenery encircling the world, representing the scope of our influence. Can we prove it by organising a world-wide tree planting exercise?

1. The aim is to choose a time frame and for there to be a tree planted throughout our sphere of worldly influence at pre-planned intervals in time.
2. To involve the media to promote this unique endeavour.
3. To involve names and personalities.

Factors which might affect the choice of tree in your location: it may be a National emblem; it may be a threatened species.

It is hoped that costs could be supported locally BUT if we are able to measure and estimate these costs we may be able to get overall sponsorship towards Guild funds.

If you want to be part of this great event drop me a line with the following details:

1. Your contact details.
2. Name of tree to be planted.
3. Why you chose this tree.
4. Location of tree to be planted.
5. Preferred time frame.

Send the above information to Graham Burgess, Ninesprings House, The Weir, Whitchurch, Hampshire, England RG28 7RA. Tel./Fax 0125689 2837. Email: graham@gyrdan.demon.co.uk.

## THE KEW GUILD ANNUAL DINNER

by Richard Ward

The Annual Dinner was celebrated in style on Saturday 22nd May 1999, in the Pavilion Restaurant at Kew. In past years Dinners have been held on Wednesdays but a change to a Saturday gave members from further afield an opportunity to "make a weekend" of it – as they did – and some brought friends and families. For the first time children were also invited.

President Richard Ward provided the reception drinks in the Temperate House prior to Dinner for 119 people.

Events Officer Tom Risely had planned a lavish Dinner with the help of Laura Smith, the Catering Manager from Gardner Merchant, Kew's caterers, and by the time Cyril (Mitch) Mitchelmore stood up to propose the toast to the President, everyone was in a mellow mood.

We need not elaborate on Mitch's eloquent speech, made without a single note, but suffice it to say that the President (and also current Editor) had fed him all the good bits to say and left out the bad!

Alan Titchmarsh had graciously accepted the President's invitation to act as MC for the evening and the order of events flowed along smoothly.



Left to right: Alison and Alan Titchmarsh and Richard Ward.

President Richard, responding to Mitch's toast, welcomed members, friends and families to the Dinner. He reminded them that everyone connected to Kew could feel proud of their contribution to the world. He asked guests to applaud Patrick Nutt of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., who, whilst not able to attend this evening, had been nominated for the George Brown Award as the person who has "furthered communication and diplomacy in the true spirit of The Kew Guild". Richard had some thanks to be made: firstly to his wife Wiena for her support during the year; to 'Mitch' for originally putting him forward for Presidency some three years previously; to Tom Risely for his work in organising

the evening's Dinner and other Guild events; and to Jennifer Hirsch, Guild Committee Student Representative, who had rallied round the students for their support this evening. (But maybe the President's personal invitation had a bearing on the high number!) Thanks were also recorded to Guild Committee members for their voluntary work and they were asked to stand and be recognised; and to Paul Nash, who was attending the Dinner with his wife Lynn who, as printer of our *Journal* for the past 42 years, had sponsored the evening's menus and tickets.



Left side: Mike and Kitty Griffin, Graham Pattison, John and Joan Woodhams and Lee Bridgeman. Right side from far end: Peter Bridgeman, John and Janette Gaggini, Derek and Barbara Breach and Margaret and Haydn Bell.

President Richard asked members to recognise Past Presidents of the Guild present and he asked members to also recognise the presence of Lady Anne and Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, who had given outstanding support to the Guild over the ten years Sir Ghilleen had been Director. Richard also thanked Alan Titchmarsh for coming along with Alison and standing in as our MC during the evening – the first time Alan had ever had to pay to compère a show! Richard also thanked those ex-students from the 1961-63 years whom he had written to for attending this evening – Haydn Bell, Don Higham, Mike Griffin, John Gaggini, Peter Bridgeman, Brian Dodds and Derek Breach and partners.

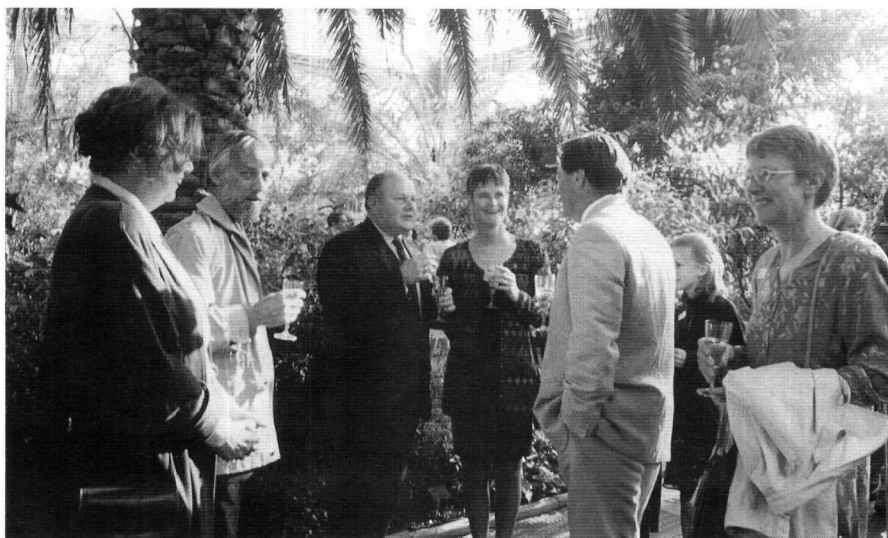
Sir Ghilleen Prance introduced the main speaker, Dr. David Shannon, the Chief Scientist, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Dr. Shannon gave an interesting account of Government policy as it affects Kew and the financial implications and constraints of today.

Jennifer Hirsch proposed the toast "To Absent Friends", after a boisterous introduction to her fellow students. The students raised over £600 for their travel funds through the raffle and opportunistic auctioning of several valuable plants by Alan Titchmarsh.

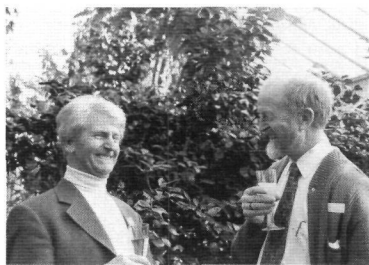
Another social event in the Guild calendar concluded as guests strolled through the arclit path to their limousines. Floreat Kew!



Left to right: Lee Bridgeman, Mike and Kitty Griffin, Richard Ward and Peter Bridgeman.



Left to right: John Woodhams, Kenwyn Pearson, Alison and Alan Titchmarsh and Rebecca Bower.



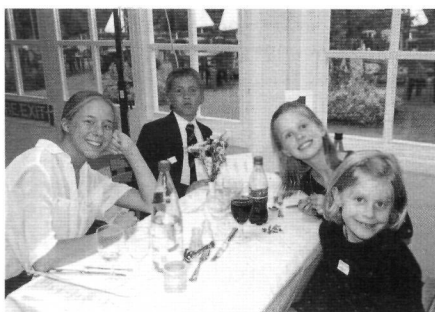
Left to right: Allan Hart and Brian Dodds



Left to right: Barbara and Derek Breach, John Gaggini and David Taber.



Left to right: Professor Arthur Bell, Jill and Martin Sands and Jean Bell.



Left to right: Emily Taber, Tom Risely (Jnr.), Alexandra and Sparkle Ward.

See also top table dinner guests' photo page 405.

All photographs are courtesy of Wiena Ward and Tom Risely.

## NEW KEW GUILD COMMITTEE MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

### DR. DAVID F. CUTLER

David Cutler first worked at Kew as a vacation student in the summer of 1961. Following this, he was appointed as a Scientific Officer and started his career in the original building of the Jodrell Laboratory on January 1st, 1962, when Dr. C. R. Metcalfe was Keeper. He obtained his Ph.D. from Imperial College, London University (1965), whilst a member of the Kew staff. On retirement in August 1999, he was Deputy Keeper of the Jodrell and Head of the Plant Anatomy Section. He was awarded the Kew Medal in 1999, and is now an Honorary Research Fellow at Kew.

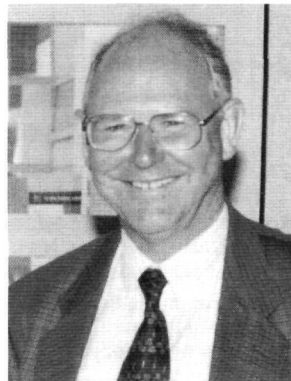
From the early days he has given lectures to Kew Horticulture Students in various buildings. Many generations of students had to suffer his Black Country jokes in the process of learning about plant anatomy and soils and fertilisers. Some remember the jokes . . . His text book '*Applied Plant Anatomy*' was written for the Kew Course. He has given courses in plant anatomy in universities in many parts of the world and lectures regularly at Reading University and Imperial College.

His main research is on systematic plant anatomy, in particular monocotyledons, and he has published in and is an Editor of the series of volumes '*Anatomy of the Monocotyledons*' and '*Anatomy of the Dicotyledons*'.

A keen interest in seeing plant anatomy applied to everyday problems has taken him into research on identification of tree roots and the morphology of tree root systems. A wealth of information was gathered by the Jodrell plant anatomists while identifying tree roots under the microscope and in the Kew Tree Root Survey that he organised following the storms of 1987 and 1990. This has led to the publication of jointly written books and papers that between them help in root identification and give a comprehensive account of a range of tree root types and behaviour of tree roots in the urban environment.

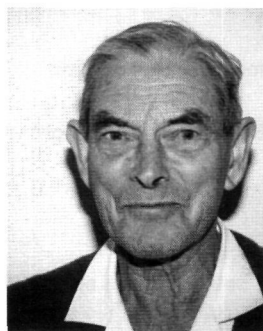
He also works on sustainable supply of firewood in dry areas of Zimbabwe and hopes to extend similar studies to north east Brazil, as a member of the Kew element of the P.N.E. team. Interest in the identification of plant remains in archaeology will result in publication later in 2000 of a book, *'Plants in Archaeology'* written with former Jodrell Plant Anatomist Rowena Gale.

In 1999 in recognition of over 30 years service to the Linnean Society of London, he was awarded a Linnean Gold Medal. In 'retirement', whilst continuing his research but not administrative work at Kew, he finds more time to spend at the Society, where he is the Editorial Secretary. His garden also gets more attention.



#### P. L. D. WOOD

Philip Wood's father was an ex-Kew man, sent out to Malaya in the early years of the 20th century to establish rubber plantations. Philip was born in 1925 in Malaya and arrived in England in 1931 when his father retired from rubber and management of the royal gardens and Jahore Bahru public gardens, and started nursery work.



From then on horticulture was Philip's most important hobby and on leaving school he was accepted on 13th January, 1940, at Cambridge University Botanic Garden as a student gardener. The training and experience here was exceptionally sound and enjoyable – second only to Kew. Mr. F. G. Preston, the Superintendent, was an ex-Kewite; three of the fellow students already had B.Sc. Hort. degrees and they, together with the foremen, the Director and some of the permanent staff all helped in training the students.

His additional and main-training was provided by R.B.G. Kew and once he had achieved the Kew Diploma and the N.D.H. he attended the Institute of Park Administration Course, then took a job as nursery manager in Kenya. This was later followed by a government post – laying out school grounds.

In 1955 he moved to S. Rhodesia and established a very successful landscaping and nursery business. He also gave a weekly radio programme on gardening and shared in a TV programme. His contribution also included a very popular book on *'Gardening in Rhodesia'* (now called Zimbabwe).

In 1978, Philip, his wife and family moved to Western Australia and he was given the post of General Manager for Wildflower Nurseries. Five years later at the request of the Nursery Industry Council, he established a Nursery Co-operative, including training courses for retail staff. At the same time on his four-acre home site he grew roses for the cut flower trade in unheated plastic tunnel houses.

After an operation for cancer, he gave up roses and the Nursery Industry appointed him Accreditation Officer for Western Australia. This is a voluntary scheme for the improvement of nursery product, procedure, hygiene, design and respect for environment. This went well until he was floored by arthritis; once this problem was cured, he returned to his four-acre home site and is now growing 38 different types of foliage for the wholesale flower industry, and is currently enjoying good health in this one-man, full-time job.

## THE KEW GUILD AWARDS SCHEME REPORT FOR 1999

by F. Nigel Hepper, Chairman

The Awards Scheme Sub-Committee comprised: Annabel Chantler, who continued as Honorary Secretary and Rebecca Bower as Honorary Treasurer; Colin Hindmarch; Jean Griffin was replaced by Allan Hart; Mark Bridger (L.C.D.) replaced Mark Sparrow; the Student Representative was Jennifer Hirsch.

We met on the 3rd March, 1999, to review the applications received. We were surprised that comparatively few had been submitted by the dead-line of the end of February – seven compared with a dozen the previous year and 20 by the time of the second meeting in July 1998.

One of the seven applications was returned, while the others were supported up to a total of £3,400. This meant that £1,300 was carried over until the 5th July, when four more applications were considered following a new notice.

The other matter we dealt with was the revision of the Rules governing the Award Scheme. A draft of proposed changes to bring them up to date was circulated by Rebecca Bower to the full Committee in 1998, but since no comments had been received the Sub-Committee approved the draft which was later ratified by the full Committee.

Grants were made to the following:

**Helen E. Brent.** Study of South African bulbs in their natural habitats £485.

**Robert Brett.** International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens, India £450 (not taken up).

**Rosminah Brown.** (Arnold plus general funds). To Brunei £500.

**James Furse-Roberts.** Books on environmental management for M.Sc. course £125.

**Edina Gallick.** (Redman plus general funds). To Belize £700.

**Claudia Heideker.** (Redman plus general funds). To Lake Baikal and Irkutsk Botanic Garden, Russia £500.

**Michael Kerr.** (Redman). To Australia £500.

**Bernard Mengel.** (Redman). To Turkey £500.

**Toby Subiotto.** (Dallimore). South-east U.S.A. to study native woodland £485.

**Christopher Weddell.** To British Virgin Islands to up-grade the botanic garden computer system £500.

## KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME RULES AS AMENDED 1999

### 1. OBJECTS

To help members of the Kew Guild to further their education or widen their interest in plants and fungi.

### 2. THE AWARD SCHEME

The Award Scheme will provide funds for award to approved applicants on a once yearly basis, or at other times as from time to time determined by the Award Scheme Sub-Committee

or Kew Guild Committee. Applications for support will be considered by the Award Scheme Sub-Committee and a report given to the Kew Guild Committee of awards granted.

The Award Scheme Sub-Committee is also responsible for the administration and award of the following:

- (i) William Dallimore Memorial Trust Bursary
- (ii) Tom Arnold Bursary
- (iii) Edna Redman Memorial Fund.

### 3. ADMINISTRATION

- (i) The Award Scheme will be administered by the Sub-Committee with responsibility to the Kew Guild Committee.
- (ii)
  - a. The Award Scheme Sub-Committee will be composed of six members elected by the Kew Guild Committee and in addition the President and Treasurer of the Kew Guild are ex-officio members of the Sub-Committee. At least one member of the Sub-Committee will be a student at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Each member will serve for up to four years. The Sub-Committee can appoint members as they see fit, subject to ratification at the next Kew Guild Committee meeting.
  - b. Election of Sub-Committee members is to be conducted at meetings of the Kew Guild Committee when vacancies arise.
  - c. Sub-Committee members shall be members of the Kew Guild but not necessarily Kew Guild Committee members.
  - d. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee will be a full member of the Kew Guild Committee. At least one other member of the Sub-Committee shall be a full member of the Kew Guild Committee.
- (iii) The Sub-Committee shall be responsible for fulfilling the Kew Guild Committee's requirements with regard to:
  - a. Publicity for the Scheme.
  - b. Fund raising activities for the Scheme.
  - c. Maintaining whatever records are required.
  - d. A report on the activities of the Scheme to be included in the report to the Kew Guild at the AGM indicating which projects had been supported, who had benefited and grants made.
- (iv) The Sub-Committee should be empowered to:
  - a. Seek advice from any appropriate quarter to assist its deliberations.
  - b. Co-opt specialists to serve as temporary non-voting members.

### 4. CAPITAL

- (i) All Award Scheme Capital will be managed by the Kew Guild through the Kew Guild Committee.
- (ii) The Capital will be separate from the Kew Guild's main funds.
- (iii) The Sub-Committee will be responsible for raising funds for the Capital. From time to time the Kew Guild itself may contribute to the Award Scheme as its financial position allows.
- (iv) All monies received as a result of specific appeals or donations will be recorded by the Kew Guild Treasurer who will be responsible for keeping up-to-date records.
- (v) It is assumed that normally the Award Scheme Capital will not be spent, but will remain invested to provide revenue.

## 5. INVESTMENT INCOME

This is the income resulting from the investment of the Award Scheme's Capital by the Kew Guild.

- (i) There will be one source of investment income being the return of the Scheme's invested Capital managed by the Kew Guild.
- (ii) To ensure that gifts or the proceeds of fundraising are only used for the purpose intended by the donors, investment income will be used only for the purpose of making awards. That is to say, not used in any way to meet the expenses of running the Award Scheme.
- (iii) The investment funds for the year will be estimated by the Kew Guild Treasurer at the beginning of year and awards made on the basis of this. Any resulting under or overspend will be adjusted for the following year.

## 6. AWARD FUNDS

Funds used for making awards may come from several possible sources:

- (i) Investment income; this is expected to provide the main source of award funds.
- (ii) Any surplus money from previous year's award funds.
- (iii) Any money donated by the Kew Guild from time to time in support of the Scheme for the purpose of making awards.
- (iv) Any donation expressly given for direct use rather than investment.

## 7. APPLICATION FOR GRANTS

- (i) Applications must be received by 1st March or at any other times as determined from time to time by the Sub-Committee or Kew Guild Committee.
- (ii) Applications should be made to the Chairman of the Sub-Committee in writing setting out the following:
  - a. A detailed statement on the nature and objectives of the project and its suitability for support by the Scheme.
  - b. An analysis of the likely cost of the project, what other assistance is being sought and what is being sought from the Scheme.

## 3. AWARDS

- (i) The Sub-Committee should consider all qualifying applications and make awards as they think fit.
- (ii) Awards may be made subject to certain conditions, e.g. relating to publication of information, depositing of notes, acknowledgements etc.
- (iii) More than one award may be made to assist any one project of an individual.
- (iv) Awards may be retrospective in special cases where funds had been insufficient to meet a previous application.
- (v) Applications may be accepted well in advance of projects and sums of money currently available may be held aside for award to a project subsequently.
- (vi) Awards are normally made following the March meeting.
- (vii) A report of awards given shall be made to the Kew Guild Committee at the first meeting after awards have been granted.
- (viii) A precis report on the outcome of the project of no more than 500 words shall be provided by the recipient of the award to be included in the *Journal of the Kew Guild*.



## 9. PROJECTS FOR WHICH APPLICATION FOR AWARD MIGHT BE SUBMITTED

- (i) To assist purposeful travel (fares subsistence).
- (ii) To finance specialist lectures for Kew Guild members anywhere.
- (iii) To assist members' further education (e.g. Open University courses).
- (iv) To assist in the purchase of books and equipment.
- (v) To pay tuition or examination fees.
- (vi) To provide grants to aid publications of specialist books or papers.
- (vii) To assist pensioner members to attend the Chelsea Show/Dinner.
- (viii) Any other project which the Sub-Committee may find acceptable.

REVISED RULES – March 1999

## STUDY TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICAN BULBS

By Helen Brent

In September 1999 I arrived at Cape Town, South Africa, to begin a 12 day study tour relating to the study of South African (S.A.) bulbs. There are so few of them within the S.A. bulb collection held at Kew, that they fail to represent fully the diversity in this group. Many are either of unknown origin or have been in the collection for many years and are declining in vigour. Therefore the purpose of my visit was:

- 1) to study S.A. bulbs in their natural habitat and so aid my understanding of how they should be grown in cultivation;
- 2) to gather information regarding the aspects involved in propagation and maintenance of S.A. bulbs, which will be beneficial in aiding successful cultivation of S.A. bulbs and help improve my own propagation skills;
- 3) to increase the S.A. bulb collection held at Kew by the purchase of selective material cultivated from stocks of known wild origin.

My trip enabled me to study the S.A. bulbs in their natural habitat. Invaluable information was gained by seeing the exact growing conditions in the wild of a particular species. To be able to determine whether a drier or wetter compost might be needed, a more acid or alkaline soil, or just simply more winter sunshine, I am sure will help in producing a full pot of flowering bulbs for the future display in the Alpine House.

Through my experience of viewing different species in the wild I was able to help determine the potting mix to use at Kew. I observed different species regularly growing in soil of a specific texture and noted how this could influence the potting mix, albeit that the primary factor must be suitability for pot culture.

Within the period of a week I had two soil samples to examine. From high in the mountains of the Piketberg the sample was a soft grey sand with practically no loose vegetable matter in it. My second sample from high in the Amatola Mountains, the soil was scratched out of a crack in the rock. By volume it was 5% soft black dust and 95% pieces of dead, dry black vegetable matter. By weight the proportions were exactly reversed. The pH readings were respectively, 3.9 and 4.0. Therefore, I was able to determine that soils of essentially different texture had virtually the same acidity and so plants found in these areas could be potted into the same mixture with a high softish sand proportion. This and other invaluable information will hopefully contribute to a better cultivation regime for the S.A. bulb collection at Kew.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to study a wide variety of habitats. From Cape Town I travelled approximately 200 miles north along the West Coast to Nieuwoudtville, then approximately 90 miles east to Caledon and, finally, an internal flight to Port Elizabeth to the Eastern Cape region, some 500 miles east of Cape Town.

Among the memorable places I visited was Waylands Nature Reserve, a small private reserve. This is one of several small reserves in the Darling area along the West Coast. The vegetation is largely transitional between West Coast Renosterveld and Sand Plain Fynbos. The seasonally waterlogged soils support a diverse array of geophytes and annuals. At the time of my visit hundreds of species were flowering altogether in their thousands, in a riot of colour and harmony. This lasts only briefly, passing within a few weeks, but while it lasts it is breathtaking. Thousands upon thousands of flowers: **Babiana**, **Onixotis**, **Wachendorfia**, **Romulea**, **Spiloxene**, **Lachenalia**, **Watsonia**, **Hesperantha**, **Geissshoriza**, **Galaxia**, **Moraea**, **Gladiolus**; all flowering at once covering the ground in an uninterrupted carpet of colour far beyond the skill of any human gardener.

In contrast to Waylands, further north along the West Coast I visited the Glenlyon Estate in Nieuwoudtville. Glenlyon is famous for its unique flora, emphasised by the fact that the area supports a rich concentration of geophytes. The families **Iridaceae**, **Liliaceae** and **Asteraceae** are particularly well represented. The property is 6,500 ha. in size. At Glenlyon they have integrated the natural flora into the farming system in such a way for it to become an asset. In very sensitive areas, where farming practices might endanger survival, the area in question is fenced off until they understand the management well enough to allow fence removal. Management of the natural flora is achieved by simulating the role played by the vast game herds of yesteryear; the major difference is the fact that they are limited in having to perform the simulation with sheep. Animals prune plants, remove dry residue and are nature's way of compressing seeds into the soil. It was interesting to note that those species growing undisturbed by the sheep on small fertile hillocks did not appear to thrive as much as those integrated as part of the farming regime. Perhaps sometimes we are too kind to the plants in our care.

In order to study the cultivation of S.A. bulbs I was able to visit Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden and speak with Graham Duncan, a well-known authority on the subject of S.A. bulbs. Additionally I visited Capeflora Nursery and the Croft Nursery in the eastern Cape, being specialist bulb nurseries who have developed the expertise necessary for successful cultivation of S.A. bulbs. Visiting these nurseries and seeing the techniques and protocol employed in propagation and cultivation provided valuable knowledge, enabling me to build upon my existing propagation skills.

Much of the seed collected by Graham Duncan and the other nurseries I visited, originated from quite high altitudes. Additionally the areas in question are on more or less the same latitude to many of our northern hemisphere bulbs, for instance: Cyprus, Crete and Morocco. Therefore, logically I should be able to grow many S.A. bulbs under the same conditions, either planted outdoors or in cold frames. As our stocks of S.A. bulbs build up, I intend to check their hardiness in the British climate and am hopeful that some will succeed and can join **Nerine bowdenii**, **Hesperantha coccinea**, **Zantedeschia aethiopica** as established garden plants. The opportunity to meet with and discuss these methodologies with experts in the field of S.A. bulbs afforded me with the opportunity to gain first hand knowledge of management techniques.

Since the cultivation of bulbs is my specialist area of work at Kew, I found this trip to be immensely absorbing and of great benefit to aid my understanding of S.A. bulbs in cultivation. This trip was enormously profitable in as much as my own personal knowledge of S.A. bulbs was augmented. In addition it has made me realise how much more there is to be learnt. Finally I wish to express my gratitude to the following organisations for the support shown towards my study tour: Kew Guild, Bentham-Moxon Trust, International Plant Propagators Society and Royal Horticultural Society.

#### TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP TO LAKE BAIKAL, SIBERIA 26th June to 24th July, 1999

By Claudia Heideker

It was always going to be an adventure. And an adventure it was, from staying with Russian students under field conditions ("Running water? Of course we have it, it's just 50m to the stream!")

to staying in a Soviet style tower house where somebody had just pinched wire from the phone line and 5,000 people were without telephones for more than a week.

Arriving in Irkutsk Botanic Garden, I found that what I had expected to be a garden somewhat akin to European ones was in fact a full-blown commercial enterprise. The staff were producing large quantities of currants, apricots and cherries for sale, the university being unable to afford them a sufficient salary. We could probably all learn from the fruit growing skills of those people in Siberia as the varieties of fruit that they have bred over the years is just amazing! This is especially so given the climatic conditions of the area (temperatures drop to  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$  in winter and the growing period averages only 108 days per year). Botanical and educational collections were maintained in two large glasshouses.

But above all, I had come to see native plants. To see plants that we all know and value as garden ornamentals, growing in their native habitat on the shores of Lake Baikal and in the taiga forest surrounding it. And to see interesting plants in Siberia, you do not have to go far. The ground within the forest is often covered with herbaceous plants such as **Trollius asiaticus**, **Lilium martagon** and **Aconitum septentrionale**. **Hemerocallis minor** and **Lilium pumilum** grow all over the lake shores. And blue dots in the wet meadows along the Angara River are nothing less than **Gentiana barbata**. I even got to see a large population of **Paeonia anomala** and a small population of **Cypripedium guttatum** (there are three species of **Cypripedium** in the area).

My botanical excursions included a trip to a site in the taiga that was just recovering from a forest fire two years ago, a trip to a nearby steppe area and two trips to different sites within the Pribaikalsky National Park, which spans most of the lake's south eastern shores.

Lake Baikal itself, the oldest and deepest lake on earth and a World Heritage Site since 1996, is nothing short of a magical place to see. There are about 3,500 species of plant and animal living in the lake, 85% of which are endemic. The Nerpa, the world's only species of freshwater seal, is just one example (I would go seal watching on the rocks in the evenings, but I haven't managed to see a single one).

I was lucky to spend five full days in the biological research station of Bolshoye Koty within the Pribaikalsky National Park, where Russian biology students spend a month during every summer. In their practicals I learned about the unique marine life in Lake Baikal, as well as joining in their botanical excursions.

My trip has definitely been a very interesting and memorable experience. It is not just by chance that Baikal saw the beginning of the Russian conservation movement. Russians themselves will say: "If we cannot save Baikal, we cannot save the world".

## LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING – A Study Expedition to South Africa

By Junko Oikawa

My three-weeks' expedition to South Africa in September 1998 was spent significantly and the tour was completed on schedule without any problems encountered. A wide variety of activities were integrated into the itinerary and all the aims and the objectives I planned originally were successfully achieved.

I especially wanted to participate in the International Botanic Gardens Conservation Congress, joining the five hundred delegates from around the world. I was also to participate in the debates regarding the role of botanic gardens for sustainable living. My additional contribution to the Congress included a poster presentation which has developed and now become a published paper for these proceedings in the future.

During several botanical field studies that I carried out, I observed the rich diversity of the Cape Flora and the variety of the surrounding natural landscapes were fascinating. Experiencing the ecological complexity of this area, which has resulted in the beauty of the vegetation, has extended my knowledge and understanding of the floral of the world.

I had an opportunity of learning about the social and political components when I visited the greening projects within the townships in Cape Town. Several organisations carrying out environmental education and promoting the conservation of indigenous plants and their natural habitats for sustainability were visited and interviewed.

The Botanic Garden of the National Botanical Institute situated in Kirstenbosch is famous for its living collections. I also studied the techniques of interpretation and the plant displays seen in the garden. The most effective displays were found when communities of associated plants from their natural habitats were planted together.

Since the Earth Summit of 1992, the achievement of sustainable development has become a key issue for all nations, societies and individuals. By meeting and communicating with various people at both the professional and local level, together with experiencing the rich diversity of the habitats and the species found in another part of the world, this study trip was a great opportunity for me to reconsider what the real meaning of "sustainability" is. It was an unforgettable experience and I intend to share the knowledge and experience gained during this expedition throughout my future professional career.

## AN ACCOUNT OF A TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP TO THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

By Christopher Weddell

In June 1999 I arrived in Road Town, Tortola, to begin a five week study tour. I proposed to spend most of my time working with the J. R. O'Neal Botanic Garden in setting up a plant records system, though I had arranged visits to other islands and National Parks.

The J. R. O'Neal Botanic Garden is important not only as a main tourist attraction but also as a focus for environmental and horticultural education for the local population. It holds important Caribbean flora and so also plays a part in *ex situ* conservation. With five permanent members of staff looking after four acres, the garden contains a wide array of local and imported tropical plants. Features include a small Fern House, Orchid House and a Herb and Medicinal Garden in landscaped grounds with a small pond and waterfall.

It has the regular plants you would expect for a tropical botanic garden, but it also contains several specimens of native and endangered plants, including: *Opuntia dillenii*, a native of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, as well as the endangered *Acacia anegadensis*, which is endemic to Anegada. It also has a specimen of the endangered *Sabal casuarium*, endemic to Puerto Rico.

The upgrade of the plant record system involved the customisation of BG-Recorder 2, developed by Botanic Gardens Conservation International to be used by members, free of charge, to manage plant collections. Customisation included the addition of sublocations within the Plants/Clone File data input screen and associated reports and tables. The main switchboard and data input forms were simplified to allow easier navigation and data input. Reports were also customised to allow for better reporting and the use of existing hardware to produce plant labels. Data from the previous plant records system was inputted into the new records system as a starting point for the gardens staff.

During my stay I was able to learn a great deal about the British Virgin Islands, the people, the flora and the effects of development and agriculture on the islands. They form an archipelago of more than 40 islands, with a population of under 20,000 people, forming the northern extremity of the Leeward Islands in the eastern Caribbean. They are generally mountainous and volcanic in origin, with the exception of the low-lying Anegada, which is formed of coral and limestone.

The climate is tropical and tempered by the trade winds. There is little variation between summer and winter. Rainfall is low, varying slightly from island to island. The islands are subject to hurricane conditions from July to November, which can cause extensive damage.

The islands are neither big enough nor tall enough to receive enough rainfall for true tropical rainforests. The result is high-elevation, semi-rainforest areas, some (probably the last remnants) of which remain in the National Parks of Sage Mountain, Tortola and Gorda Peak,

Virgin Gorda. The first one, Sage Mountain National Park, was set up in 1964. Now in 1999 The National Parks Trust manages 17 National Parks scattered about the different islands. They are used not only to protect the flora and fauna but to help provide areas for recreation for both locals and tourists.

Sage Mountain National Park, Tortola, covers 92 acres on the summit of Sage Mountain. In the centre of the park, where it is wettest, **Piper amalago**, **Tillandsia** sp., **Aechmea** sp., **Anthurium** sp., **Heliconia caribea** and **Xanthosoma** sp. and **Syzygium jambos** can be found.

Gorda Peak National Park is significantly lower than Sage Mountain and the south eastern slopes have a fine example of Caribbean Dry Forest. Here **Hymenocallis caribaea**, **Bromelia pinguin**, **Clusia rosea**, **Ardisia obovata** and **Catopsis** sp. occur.

Most of the vegetation on all of the islands has been greatly affected by the activities of man, especially in the 17th century, when a large population of slaves were used to farm the land. Many crops of economic importance were grown, including Cotton **Gossypium barbadense**, Suga Cane **Saccharum officinarum**, Mango **Mangifera indica**, Banana **Musa**, Papaya **Carica papaya** and the Breadfruit Tree **Artocarpus altilis**.

Today the dominant natural vegetation at lower levels is dry cactus scrub, most of which has been modified by human activities and is secondary regeneration, having filled the spaces previously cleared for sugar and cotton plantations. At sea level the islands feature some swampland. This is especially so on Anegada, where there are several large salt ponds which have been recognised as important sites for biodiversity.

The one island totally different to all the other islands is Anegada, being little more than an uplifted reef surrounded by more reef with the highest point just over 20 feet above sea level. This is a harsh environment, but **Tabebuia heterophylla** manages to grow out of gaps in the limestone, along with **Melocactus intortus**. The island is important for two reasons: the West Indian Roseate Flamingo, **Phoenicopterus ruber**, and the endemic Anegada Rock Iguana, **Cyclura pinguis**. Both of these are the subject of recovery programmes.

There is much to explore and study in the Virgin Islands group. While much of the BVI look unremarkable, real gems exist within the different National Parks. I learned a great amount throughout my trip and I would like to thank the Kew Guild for their generous support that enabled me to undertake it.

## SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE KEW DIPLOMA PRIZE DAY 1999 SPEECH

By Ian Leese, Director of Studies

Your Worship, Professor Bellamy, Director, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, may I add my welcome to you all on this day which is the main event in the calendar of the School of Horticulture. It is a great privilege to be able to share the platform with such an eminent botanist as yourself, Professor Bellamy. You are an inspiration to us all. Also, this is the first Prize Day presided over by our new Director, Professor Peter Crane and we look forward to your leadership of this great institution over the coming years.

It is my pleasure to give a report on the activities of the School of Horticulture, highlighting the successes of our students and graduates over the past year. I must thank all those who contribute in any way to the course for ensuring that our students have such a good start here that develops so well in later years. Let me firstly review the career progress of some Kew Diploma graduates to see how they have flourished, the vast majority of whom remain within botanic gardens or private estates in their careers.

At Kew, Dina Gallick was successful in gaining a post in the Temperate Section after completing a fixed-term contract in Tropical. Outside of Kew, Joe Rowntree was appointed Curator

of Sheffield Botanical Gardens with £5 million from the Heritage Lottery Urban Parks Fund to spend on their restoration. Overseas, Markus Radschelt became Technical Manager of Bonn University Botanic Gardens and Parks Department.

Lance Ingram was appointed Senior Gardener at Fort Belvedere near Virginia Water. Adrian Lovatt became Head Gardener at Godington Park, near Ashford, Kent. Katie Butler was promoted within the Henry Doubleday Research Association to the post of Head Gardener at their Yalding Garden, after previously being in charge of the Heritage Seed Collection at Ryton. Kathryn Kidby obtained the Deputy Head Gardener position at Hampton Court Estate, Herefordshire. Anna Bailey married another Kew graduate, Richard Ottoway, during the past year, and was promoted to take charge of the Wild Garden area at the Royal Horticultural Society's Wisley Garden. The R.H.S. also appointed Vanessa Wells as Education Officer at their Hyde Hall Garden in Essex. Two of last year's graduates, Andrea Benson and Tammy Woodcock, joined the gardening staff of Sir Anthony and Lady Bamford whose Kew graduate garden consultant, Rupert Golby, was involved in the recruitment.

Besides botanic gardens and private estates, a number of Kew graduates pursue careers in conservation which will interest you, Professor Bellamy. Janet Burnell, having obtained an M.Sc. in Vegetation Mapping from the University of Reading two years ago, this year was working as a field botanist for the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. She was involved in the Countryside Survey 2000 for the Ministry of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, the latest in a series of ten year surveys monitoring countryside changes. Colin Porter, who is undertaking a M.Phil. at Plymouth University, presented a paper entitled 'The Impact of Sustainability and Local Distinctness on the Local Estate' at a conference on sustainability held at Leeds University.

I myself had the privilege of presenting a paper at this year's annual conference of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, held in Vancouver. This gave me the opportunity of promoting the work of the School of Horticulture to an American and Canadian audience, but also of describing the conservation work of two Kew graduates. Darren Duling is Gardens Co-ordinator/Educator at Pan's Garden, Florida, a site owned by the Preservation Society of Palm Beach. He is doing work of the highest quality in preserving Florida endemic plant species. He also promotes a schools education programme, 'Florida's Plants and the Native Americans'.

The other person featured was last year's top graduate, Greg Mullins, who is now Horticultural Officer at a nursery outside Perth, Western Australia, owned by Alcoa Limited, the world's largest producer of bauxite. Greg takes part in extensive and highly successful landscape restoration projects after the company's open-cast mining operations.

With celebrities like Alan Titchmarsh and Anne Swithinbank, but sadly not Charlie Dimmock, amongst the ranks of Kew graduates, it is not surprising that the media continued to be a career option. After a number of years working in Kew's Herbarium, David Gardner has joined BBC *Gardeners' World* magazine as Garden Writer. Michael Kerr, a graduate from last year, is working as a Research Consultant for Flashback Television on a series called 'Lost Gardens' to be screened in October and November.

Some Kew graduates pursue careers in commercial horticulture. Azra Secerbegovic has been promoted to the post of Departmental Manager dealing with pot plants, bulbs and dried flowers for the Israeli import/export company, Carmel. Matthew Vincent has been joined by another Kew graduate, Wayne Page, in his business enterprise, 'The Kew Gardener'. They have opened a second retail shop in Kew village, while the landscaping side of their operations has continued to prosper. They were awarded a gold medal at the Regents Park Show for a garden exhibit that they designed and constructed for the Environmental Agency. Isabelle van Groeningen won a competition organised by English Heritage for landscape plans for the restoration of the grounds of Eltham Palace. Together with her Kew graduate business partner, Gabriella Pape, they designed 'The Geoff Hamilton Memorial Garden' which has been opened at the Henry Doubleday Research Association garden at Ryton.

A number of Kew graduates use their diploma as a degree-equivalent qualification for entry onto M.Sc. degrees and beyond. At the beginning of this academic year, Upaneetha Abeygunawardana and Roger Fisher successfully completed their M.Sc. in Horticulture degrees at the University of Reading. Neeth is now working in the Education Department at Kew, while Roger has returned to his native Switzerland where he has a lecturing post. Joanna Walmisley also obtained an M.Sc. in Landscape Design Ecology and Management from Wye College, and is now working for Crawley Borough Council Parks Department. Currently, three graduates are in the process of completing M.Sc. courses. Stefan Czeladzinsky is at Imperial College, London University, studying the M.Sc. in Advanced Methods in Taxonomy and Biodiversity. Mikel Pagola is doing an M.Sc. in Horticulture at the University of Reading. Marcus de la Fleur has been awarded a Diploma in Landscape Architecture and is proceeding with his M.A. at the University of Sheffield. He has already been appointed by the Morton Arboretum, near Chicago, to develop a landscape masterplan for their botanical collections and will start work there on the 1st November.

Just as our graduates progress in their careers, so the School of Horticulture constantly seeks to improve the learning experience of our current students. Three main innovations were introduced this year. First year students were invited by Count Bjorn Bernadotte, who had spent a year as a visitor at Kew, for a study tour of his family's estate, the island of Mainau in Lake Constance. The garden attracts 1.7 million visitors on average each year. We were able to view display horticulture of the highest standard, learn how this major commercial tourist attraction is so successful and see the environmental approaches to their work. We are indebted to Kew's Foundation as well as the Mainau Trust for part-funding this trip which is planned to be held annually.

Second years experienced a total immersion landscape design programme at the end of their trimester rather than throughout the lecture block. This helped limit the number of sleepless nights but still produced plans of high quality.

Following a re-allocation of travel scholarship funds, third years were able to join the Spanish field course of Reading University's Department of Botany. This two-week trip proved very successful, studying the Mediterranean flora and related issues of ecology and conservation. I am indebted to Kew staff, Dr. Mike Maunder and Don McKenzie, as well as Drs. Jim Ross and Stephen Jury and their colleagues from Reading, for making this such a valuable part of the course.

Kew as an institution has a prominent and international reputation which has reflected well on the School of Horticulture over the past year. Nationally, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has been appointed as an employer representative on the Landscaping Industry Group of Lantra, the government-recognised National Training Organisation for land-based industries in the United Kingdom. Lantra's industry groups bring together influential business people who can take a strategic view on education and training issues, and champion industry-focused learning and business development strategies.

Staff training for the Living Collections Department is a prime responsibility of my Deputy, David Barnes. During the past year, in addition to the wide range of training activities which he oversees, he has successfully obtained recognition from the City and Guilds of London Institute for Kew as an Assessment Centre for National Vocational Qualifications. A small N.V.Q. pilot scheme is being conducted in the Orchid Unit which, if successful, could be extended to other staff and students as part of their practical training.

Another achievement this week for David and his staff, Chris Downes and Linda Pilgrim, has been the award of a gold medal at the Institute of Groundsmanship's Saltex Show for the outstanding design and layout of the School of Horticulture's exhibit.

Internationally, the American Friends of Kew sponsored a first-year student for a year. Natalie Anderson, Associate Vice-President for Continuing Education at New York Botanical Garden, visited the School with a view of improving the programme and status of the course

offered at New York. The School of Horticulture was approached to help with the recruitment of a lecturer in English garden design by the Awaji Landscape Planning and Horticulture Academy, Japan, and a Kew graduate, Peter Thurman, has been appointed. Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore, paid a consultancy fee for advice in establishing a new three-year Diploma in Horticulture and Landscape Management course in collaboration with the School of Horticulture, Singapore Botanic Gardens.

All of these, and other international contacts, ensure that the School remains a focal-point for the recruitment of interns who come for three month's practical work experience in the gardens here. This year, around 30 people from all five continents have been accepted.

I pay tribute to all of the School of Horticulture staff, three of whom I have already named, but also to Barbara Hanson, the Administrative Officer, and Pam Black, the Departmental Typist, for their help in dealing with the variety of different situations that I have outlined.

With all these developments, what have been the achievements of those who are graduating today? We shall hear about their Kew Diplomas and prizes a little later. It is worth noting now, however, that most have already found employment. Anthony Blanchfield, Emma Fox, Kath King, Helen Long and Iris Ott-Knapp will all be staying at Kew, with Emma perhaps having the most high-profile job in charge of the Palm House. Rob Allison and Eamonn Byrne will be developing gardens for private owners in Oxfordshire and Brittany respectively. Chris Cole has been appointed Gardens Supervisor at Hampton Court Palace. James Furse-Roberts has a place on the M.Sc. in Habitat Creation and Management course at Staffordshire University. Leigh Hunt joins David Gardner, whom I mentioned earlier, as Garden Writer for BBC *Gardeners' World* magazine. Paul Pollard has set up his own landscaping company PimaFlora. Daniel Slack will return to Mauritius for a year before undertaking an M.Sc. course. Emmanuel Spicq has two forthcoming interviews, both for botanic garden appointments. Justin Turner is joining Rupert Golby, whom I mentioned previously, in his garden consultancy business.

Thanks to each of you for the immense amount of work that you have done for Kew during your time here. You have contributed to the maintenance of the plants in the gardens. You have researched projects for the managers of the Living Collections Department to improve operations. You have guided visitors and shown V.I.P.s behind the scenes. Outside Kew, whether at home or abroad, you have been fine ambassadors for the organisation.

The success of a course is gauged by the achievements of its students and graduates. I believe that I have demonstrated today that you and those that have gone before you are second to none in the world. What we ask of you, in whatever you do in the future, is to uphold the mission of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, which is "to enable better management of the Earth's environment by increasing knowledge and understanding of the plant and fungal kingdoms – the basis of life on earth".

## **PRESENTATION OF KEW DIPLOMAS AND PRIZES 1999 (COURSE 34)**

We begin with the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes to third year students. 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, whose President, Mr. Richard Ward, is on the platform. The Guild give several awards today, as well as in excess of £4,000 towards travel scholarships. Thanks should also go to the Friends of Kew, whose gift of a year's free membership to each of our graduates, will help them keep in touch. Valerie Finnis and her Merlin Trust, as well as the Royal Horticultural Society, both give significant funds to our students and Kew staff.

Professor William Stearn has presented as special prizes this year, four copies of the book on John Lindley to commemorate Lindley's birth in 1799. Lindley is highly significant on this occasion because he produced a report in 1839 fully supporting Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew at a time when the government wanted to close down the institution. Lindley was administrator



of the garden of the Horticultural Society of London (now the Royal Horticultural Society). He had an interest in horticultural education and first instituted examinations for gardeners.

I thank him for saving Kew and for allowing me to make a living out of horticultural examinations. I also thank Professor Stearn for his gift.

#### ROBERT ALLISON

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

*Life Membership of the Students' Union* for services rendered as President over the past year and for being the Course Representative on the Independent Panel.

*Kew Diploma* Honours grade.

#### ANTHONY BLANCHFIELD

*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.

*Kew Diploma* Credit grade.

#### EAMONN BYRNE

*The British Friends of Jerusalem Botanical Gardens Scholarship* for a third-year placement at the garden in Jerusalem.

*Kew Diploma* Credit grade.

#### CHRISTOPHER COLE

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

*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.

*Kew Diploma* Honours grade.

#### EMMA FOX

*The Squire's Garden Centre Prize*, donated for the first time this year by the local garden centre and we have Ms. Sarah Squire in the audience today, for the most appropriate and imaginative use of plants in the final year landscape design project.

*The Landsman's Bookshop Prize* for the best landscape design project.

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

*The Tony Kirkham Arboricultural Prize*, sponsored by Matthew Vincent of 'The Kew Gardener'. The prize is named after the principal lecturer of the arboriculture course. On this occasion it is a joint award for coming top in the subject.

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

*The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize*, awarded by the City of London Livery Company and we have Members of Court with us today, to the person who has done most for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew during the course.

*Kew Diploma* Honours grade.

#### JAMES FURSE-ROBERTS

*The Professor William T. Stearn Prize* for being highly commended in a dissertation on hedges on the British Isles.

*Kew Diploma* Credit grade.



His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales handing over The Prince of Wales Trophy to third-year Kew Diploma student, Leigh Hunt. Leigh received the award from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners for being the top organic student from the horticultural institutions supported by The Company.

#### LEIGH HUNT

*The Prince of Wales Trophy*, donated by The Worshipful Company of Gardeners to an outstanding student of organic gardening. The award of this trophy, by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales himself, has already taken place in London at the end of June.

*The Kingdon-Ward Prize*, given by Winifred Kingdon-Ward in memory of her brother, Frank, a noted plant collector, to the student attaining the highest marks in their final-year dissertation, which again is a joint award this year.

*Kew Diploma* Honours grade.

#### KATHLEEN KING

*Life Membership of the Students' Union* for services rendered as Course Representative throughout the three years. This involved many hours in meetings with the Curator and myself, as well as much time consulting the rest of the members of the group.

*Kew Diploma* Credit grade.

#### HELEN LONG

*Life Membership of the Students' Union* for services rendered as Course Representative throughout the three years. This involved the same process as for Kath and was carried out in an equally fine manner.

*Kew Diploma* Honours grade.

#### IRIS OTTO-KNAPP

*The Ernest Thornton-Smith Travelling Scholarship* which is the major final-year travel award, presented by the Trustees of the Thornton-Smith and Plevins Young People's Trust to allow a Kew Diploma graduate to travel overseas. In this case, the trip will be to Colombia and Ecuador to look at **Guzmanias** growing in the wild.

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

*Kew Diploma* Honours grade.

PAUL POLLARD

*The Mike Bracegirdle Prize for Ecology and Conservation*, for outstanding results in these subjects and donated by the main lecturer of the courses who is with us today.

*The Tony Kirkham Arboricultural Prize* awarded for coming joint top in that subject.

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

*The F. Nigel Hepper Cup* presented by a Kew botanist who is in the audience with a long association with the Kew Diploma course and who is currently Chairman of the Kew Guild Awards Sub-Committee. Mr. Hepper has asked that the cup be given in recognition of the highest achievement in plant identification assessments.

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

*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 overall.

*Kew Diploma* Honours grade.

DANIEL SLACK

*The Professor William T. Stearn Prize* for outstanding contribution to Kew's overseas conservation work after spending a year with the Mauritian Wildlife Appeal Fund on Ile aux Aigrettes, Mauritius.

*Kew Diploma* Honours grade.

EMMANUEL SPICQ

*The Professor William T. Stearn Prize* for outstanding contribution to overseas conservation work on the island of Réunion at the Conservatoire Botanique National de Mascarin.

*Kew Diploma* Credit grade.

JUSTIN TURNER

*The Kingdon-Ward Prize* for attaining the joint highest marks in the final-year dissertation.

*The Paul Temple O.B.E. Prize* sponsored by the international landscape designer who is in the audience today, for the best overall performance in landscape studies.

*The Prize for the Best Vegetable Plot* for obtaining the joint highest marks in that project.

*The Professor William T. Stearn Prize* for outstanding contribution to promoting the School of Horticulture and the Kew Diploma course both within and outside Kew.

*The George Conrad 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.

Alongside all of these Kew achievements, the *Master of Horticulture (R.H.S.)* qualification was gained this summer after three years of study.

*Kew Diploma* Honours grade.

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

CHRISTOPHER WEDDELL

*The Hozelock Prize*, sponsored by the manufacturers of garden irrigation equipment. A trip

to the Joseph Ryan O'Neal Botanic Gardens, Tortola, British Virgin Islands was made earlier this summer by the winner.

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

#### ROSMINAH BROWN

*The David Dalziel Travel Scholarships* are donated by Mr. Dalziel who lives in Florida. He is unfortunately unable to be with us today, although both he and his wife were here earlier this year.

In July, a trip to help establish a co-operative nursery in Merimbun Heritage Park in Brunei was made by Rosminah who was also awarded the Mary Helier Travel Scholarship by the International Plant Propagators' Society.

#### CLAUDIA HEIDIEKER

Claudia made a trip to study the Central Siberian flora and ecology on the shores of Lake Baikal, the world's deepest and most ancient lake.

#### BERND MENGEL

Bernd was fortunate to have timed his trip to Turkey before the recent earthquake when he went to study endemic bulbous and herbaceous plants.

#### KATE PRITCHARD

Kate is unable to be with us today because she is on the final stages of a trip to Chile and Easter Island looking at plant conservation schemes there. She is also the winner of *The Margolas Study Tour Award*, whose Trustees Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Biddle are in the audience, which was used by Kate for the same journey.

#### CHRISTINE LAVELLE

*The Royal Caledonian Schools Trust* made a £2,000 award, as well as an additional grant for books, to cover the total costs of a study trip to the Galapagos Islands which was made by the winner earlier this summer. Mr. John Horsfield, Chief Executive of the Trust is in the audience.

Christine is also the recipient of the *Sir Joseph Hooker Prize* as joint-Chair of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society over the past year.

#### DAVID COOKE

A further Kew Mutual prize, the *Professor Keith Jones Cup*, donated by a former Keeper of Jodrell Laboratory, is presented to the person who has given most 'items of interest' talks to the Society. This year, it is awarded to a staff member of the Committee.

The achievements of two first year students are recognised today:

#### JANE PEARSON

Due to the generosity of one of our lecturers, Mr. Tom Reynolds of Jodrell Laboratory who is with us today, the *Tom Reynolds Prize for Plant Biochemistry and Physiology* is awarded to the person obtaining the highest marks in this subject in the first year.

#### SILVIA CRAWFORD

*The Institute of Horticulture Prize* is sponsored by the Institute whose General Secretary, Mrs. Angela Clarke, is in the audience. This is awarded to the person with the best overall performance in the first year.

Gardens staff of the Living Collections Department, of which the School of Horticulture is a part, have benefitted in recent years from the *John Scott-Marshall Travel Scholarships*. These are available from a bequest of Mr. Scott-Marshall who was a former Editor of 'Gardeners' Chronicle'. Captain John Hope, executor of the estate, is with us today.

#### KATHERINE GAUL

Earlier this year a study trip to South Western U.S.A. to see cacti and succulent collections and habitats, as well as attending the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's International Conference in Las Vegas, was undertaken by the first winner of the above scholarship from the Tropical Section at Kew.

#### STEVEN ROBINSON

Steven is a member of staff from Kew's satellite garden, Wakehurst Place, and he visited the National Zoological Parks Conservation and Research Centre in Virginia, U.S.A., to work with an Earthwatch team in recording small mammal populations and vegetation analysis in relation to dormice studies at Wakehurst Place.

#### KATE SLACK

The final winner from Kew's Temperate and Arboretum nursery travelled to Australia to study propagation methods at Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, Melbourne Botanic Garden and Kings Park Botanic Garden, Perth. She visited Mount Annan National Park and discussed the cultivation of the recently discovered **Wollemia** Pine, four plants of which have already been donated to Kew.



Kew Diploma graduates and prize winners pictured with (left to right front row) Emma Fox, Ian Leese (Principal, School of Horticulture), His Worship the Mayor of Richmond, Dr. Jenny Tonge M.P., Professor David Bellamy (Guest of Honour), Professor Peter R. Crane (Director), Nigel Taylor (Curator) and Helen Long.

*(From Hon. Editor's notes)*

Introduced inadvertently as Dr. David Botany, Dr. David Bellamy, Botanist, made his address to the students. He stated that the students were an inspiration to us all and helped build up public interest in horticulture.

He had first visited Kew when he was five years old. His father was a pharmacist and they preferred visits in the springtime.

He felt that at the present time the plant world was in a terrible mess, but was pleased that such places as Kew and others around the world were helping to keep threatened plants alive. He also felt that a green renaissance has started but that the landscape has to be managed and animals have to be 'controlled' to prevent overgrazing, i.e. estate management.

Dr. Bellamy had originally applied to Kew but had been refused. He had done a few unusual things in his time such as becoming Patron of the West Midlands Ballet Company as he had previously wanted to be a ballet dancer and, indeed, had written a ballet. He had also been involved in introducing nettles into Buckingham Palace Gardens to improve the butterfly population there.

He had just returned from three weeks in Australia to see a recolonisation project for animals.



First-year Kew Diploma student, Silvia Crawford (centre), pictured with her husband, Philip (right) and Ian Leese and Barbara Hanson at the Spring Court Dinner of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. Silvia received the Top Student Award for her time at Capel Manor College before she joined Kew's School of Horticulture.

## COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

One of the busiest Guild Committee years on record saw members discussing, amongst other things, Guild archives; database and website; insurance; closer ties with the Friends of Kew; investment of Guild funds; updating 'guidance notes' for Guild Committees; Journal costs and size; social events; students and the Guild; Guild Committee structure; Millennium events; Annual Dinner ideas; commemoration of deceased Kewites; the Kew Guild Room.

Any member wishing to bring any matter to the Committees' attention should write to the Secretary in the first instance. Committee meetings are held at Kew about four times per year.



JESSICA BEAGHEN



RUTH BONE



DAVID BURNS



BARRY COETZEE



FRANK EMMERICH



HANNAH GARDNER



BECCY HOLMES



SARAH MORGAN



HARRIET PARSONS



NICKY SHARP



KATIE STEEL



MIMA TAYLOR



JANET THOMPSON



NATHAN WATSON

## COURSE 37



Course 37 students pictures with Ian Leese (centre standing) and David Barnes (tallest, back row) on their first day at Kew.

## NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 1999

Compiled by J. R. Woodhams

Our Membership Secretary forwarded a letter from **William Bessler** (1967) requesting to rejoin the Guild. Bill states that he was a Guild Member until he left England for the middle east where he lived and worked for almost 20 years. He states "I now live on my farm in southern Spain



amongst 2,500 ancient olive trees (some of which are said to be over 1,000 years old) and I am working toward building a nursery to grow rare plants – palms and cycads being my passion!"

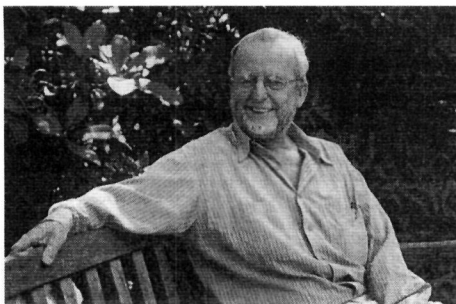
**Ken Burras** (1954) wrote to the compiler in November. Ken mentioned that he thought Patrick Nutt a very worthy recipient of the George Brown Memorial Award and added that he had not seen Patrick (a contemporary of his on the Kew Course) since their time at Kew – over 45 years ago now!

Regarding his own activities Ken writes, "Though I remain a Floral B Committee member for the R.H.S., I stepped down from membership of the AGM Sub-Committee and the Wisley Trials Committee (all too time consuming) and I am just about to retire as Gardens Secretary and Adviser to Wolfson College (Oxford), though I remain Adviser to Lady Margaret Hall and St. Catherines Colleges". Ken says that he teaches quite a bit for the English Gardening School which operates out of the Chelsea Physic Garden. The courses he is involved with are both of one year duration, one is 'Plant and Plantsmanship' the other 'One Year Course in Practical Horticulture'. He teaches the plant content of the latter and has the students for one day each month. Ken's letter continues "One interesting project at the present time is my involvement with a massive tree survey at Tortworth Court in south Gloucestershire. The tree collection amounts to over 360 specimens and many are contemporary with the original plantings at Westonbirt down the road. I have never seen a better *Zelkova carpinifolia* and that goes for several other species. The great house and grounds are to be developed as an hotel by the Four Pillars Group, hence the Local Authority insistence on a proper tree survey – which is where I come in".

The February 18th 1999 edition of *'The Grower'* magazine featured, under their News heading on page seven, an article relating to **Sean Clifford** and his work at H. R. I. Efford with Poinsettia. Sean worked in the Jodrell Laboratory at Kew during the late eighties on aspects of post pollination responses within the *Orchidaceae* especially in relation to the genera *Oncidium* and *Odontoglossum*. Sean was pictured with a Poinsettia at Efford and summed up his H. D. C. experiments on controlling plant height by confirming that at present quality Poinsettia plants cannot be grown without using chemical plant regulators. He mentioned that spectral filters offered the best alternative for the future.

A Guild member until recently, **James (Jim) Dalglish** (1954) died at the end of April 1999. A letter from Neil Bryson was printed in the *'Richmond and Twickenham Times'*, (Friday April 30th 1999). The writer speaks of Jim's connections with Squires Garden Centre in Twickenham mentioning that Jim was Father Christmas at the Centre and operated their Plant Clinic answering all the questions about shrubs and plants. The writer states "Many local kids who worked in Squires part time, including my son, will have experienced Jim's beaming smile and wonderful sense of humour and it was good to see so many of them at his funeral". The writer goes on to say that he was lucky to have worked with Jim for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea some years ago, after he left his post as Superintendent at Hampton Court. They worked together at Cremorne Gardens in Lots Road, Chelsea, making a new garden on the site of the old Victorian riverside pleasure gardens. The writer concludes "So one day, take a little time out from your busy lives and visit Cremorne, just one of the gardens Jim planted and spare a thought for a lovely man who made our world a nicer place to live in and who we lost too soon".

Under 'News of Kewites' published in 1997 (*Kew Guild Journal* Vol. 12, No. 101:53) it was reported that **Roy Forster** (1957) had retired from the Curatorship of the VanDusen Botanic Garden in Vancouver, Canada. Roy wrote to the Editor this year mentioning his retirement and saying that 1999 had been a good year for him. Roy stated that he has been made a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of his service to the garden and his many other contributions to horticulture and botanic garden development. He also mentioned that he had finally got his book *'The Woodland Garden'* published – with colleague Alex Downie. Roy adds a personal summary as follows: "I have been fortunate in having had two careers in the public service in Canada. First, 14 years at the H.R.I.O. Vineland, where I was privileged to work on ornamental plant breeding, inheriting the mantle of pioneer horticulturist Dr. Frank Palmer. I



Roy Forster

was happy to have had some success in making new hybrids of *Rhododendron* capable of withstanding colder conditions. Secondly, to have had the good fortune to have been chosen as the first Curator of the VanDusen Botanical Garden where I was able to bring together my background in applied science, teaching and the art of gardening to make a garden for all seasons and several purposes of service to the public. Through all stages of my career, I have enjoyed the support, the tolerance and the regard of my colleagues, my co-workers and the volunteers on whom so much depends".

The *VanDusen Garden Bulletin*, March 1999, leads with Roy's award and states "To put it mildly, VanDusen staff and Roy's many friends were delighted with the news of this honour. Apart from his duties at VanDusen we remember his ability to attract and energise volunteers to the garden and the stimulating leadership that he has provided on many botanical study tours for garden members to many countries. His appointment to the Order of Canada is justly deserved". Congratulations Roy, from the Kew Guild.

**Rupert Golby** (1983) and **Isabelle Van Groenigen** (1988) featured in an article in *The Times*, (Thursday July 15th 1999) by Robin Young headed "Designers will revive glory of gardens past". The article accompanied by a photograph of Rupert and Isabelle followed English Heritage announcing the first two winning designs in a £1.5 million programme to create fitting contemporary gardens at some of its historic showpieces. Rupert submitted the winning design for the walled gardens at Queen Victoria's seaside home, Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, while Isabelle created the winning design for replanning the south moat at Eltham Palace in southeast London, the former home of the textile millionaire Stephen Courtauld. Isabelle was quoted as saying "The new design and planting have been conceived to enhance some stunning features such as the moat walls, yet add a flair of today".



Rupert Golby and Isabelle Van Groenigen, the first two winning designers announced by English Heritage. (Photograph by Findlay Kember)

Students and staff who worked in Services Section L.C.D. through the early seventies will remember **Edward (Ted) Kelly** (1975). Ted was a member of the tractor and mower operating team, though on entering Kew in 1965 he had worked in the Alpine and Temperate Sections before moving to Services. The compiler met Ted on a visit to Saville Garden near Windsor in September and learned that he had suffered heart problems earlier in the year and had needed surgery at Brompton Hospital in London. However, all had gone well thanks to the hospital team and Margaret looking after him and Ted was again back at work at Saville. **Margaret Kelly, née Hutchins** also worked at Kew, first in Registry in the Director's Office Building and then transferring to the Herbarium Library, working for five years under the then Librarian, **Ray Desmond**. Margaret left Kew in 1976 and now works as Activities Officer at a retirement home near Maidenhead.

**Jeff Kempster** (1985) wrote in January 1999 to congratulate **Richard Ward** (1963) on his Presidency of the Guild. Jeff stated that it was as a result of Richard's membership publicity drive that he now wished to revive his membership of the Guild, mentioning that his wife Sylvia had been busy behind the scenes ensuring some of his contemporaries would do the same. Jeff states that he has moved many times over the past ten plus years and that he is currently the Parks Manager at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

**Chris Kidd** (1996) sent the compiler a marvellous letter packed with news about Kew people and life at Thenford. Chris comments "Life here at Thenford House near Banbury continues at a frantic pace and as usual there are not enough hours in the day. The walled garden restoration has entered a new phase, the glasshouse (Mr. Heseltine's 'Crystal Palace') is finished and full to the brim with exotics. George Carter has been appointed Landscape Designer and his plans are starting to come together so we are looking at a two to three year implementation. My wife **Gwenda**, *née* **Kitchener**, has a new part-time job restoring a vicarage garden in a nearby village for a lovely family and has her work cut out there. She will be taking a break next June, however, while she has our new addition to the family, (I'm hoping for a son and brother for Rebecca). Rebecca is now walking and beginning to talk. She has turned our world upside down and inside out and is the most extraordinary thing to happen to either of us".

Chris mentions that it is two years since he and Gwenda left London and regrets that they have not been more in touch with Guild activities. He mentions that a number of friends and colleagues have left the London area recently citing the extra expense of living around the Capital. **Robert Brett**, who left the Orchid Unit, Tropical Section at Kew at the end of the summer phoned Chris recently to say that he and wife Monica were in Cambridge. Monica is working for the World Conservation Monitoring Centre there and Robert has the post of Glasshouse Supervisor at the Cambridge Botanic Garden.

**Kay Maguire** (1998) and **Jo Scrivener** (1996) have both visited Chris at Thenford. Jo's parents live in a nearby village and he visited shortly after his Ernest Thornton Smith Travel Scholarship which he used to go and study botanic gardens in Sri Lanka and India. He was hoping to take a job at Syon Park. Kay apparently has a number of wonderful sounding jobs running concurrently and according to Chris "Has more energy than I ever had or am ever likely to have".

**John Swarbrick** (1997) paid a brief visit last year arriving in a van provided by the company he worked for, planting trays and tools rattling around in the back. Chris indicates they would have liked John to join them at Thenford as Propagator and indeed John, if you do read this Chris would like you to "get in touch".

**Sarah Higgins** (1996) dropped by to see Chris quite recently. Sarah seems very happy with her work as Features Editor for *The Garden* (R.H.S. Magazine) though not so enamoured with having to live in Peterborough.

Back in the London area **Matthew Vincent** (1993) continues to expand his business, The Kew Gardener Limited and has recently moved to different shop premises at Kew Gardens station giving improved accommodation. Matthew is now father to George, born last year. **Wayne Page** (1990) is working for Matthew replacing Chris and with a colleague heads up the landscaping side of the business. Wayne informed the compiler that The Kew Gardener Limited staged a display at the Regents Park Flower Show in July 1999 for which they were awarded a Gold Medal.

**Jane Reynolds** (1993) is Head Gardener at a private garden, The Holt, at Regents Park. Jane regularly sends posters to Thenford advertising their open day – Chris promises to attend one as soon as time permits! Gwenda has been in touch with **Alan Hulme** (1994) by phone. Alan is still working in Edinburgh and when last contacted was organising a promotion relating to Arboriculture.

Chris seems to have much enjoyed a visit by **Chris Bailey** (1995) fresh from a round the world holiday with **Lance Ingram** (1995). The holiday exploits included, among other things, being held at gunpoint by the U.S. Police for a motoring offence, to hallucinations on a cliff top following imbibing some frightening alcoholic concoction in New Zealand. *Chris Kidd writes* "Chris and I reminisced until early in the morning, at times both of us splitting our sides with

laughter. Chris told me that he has nearly finished his course on teaching and will by now have a Cert. Ed. after his name as well as Dip. Hort. Kew."

Gwenda's family hail from Chester and on a recent break there she visited Chester Zoo and saw **Mark Sparrow** (1999). Mark has a number of plant conservation plans in the offing linked to trips abroad. Nantwich is close to Chester and is the home of **Dan Slack**, who is about to return to Mauritius where he successfully completed his year out on the Kew Diploma.

(Great 'News of Kewites' Chris. But interestingly only two of 13 ex Kewites mentioned in your news has bothered to join the Kew Guild. Could we get application forms to them?! Ed.)

**David Barnes** (1997) apparently left the London area and returned to his native Midlands, to Dudley Council where he initially trained. However, Chris added a sentence at the foot of his "news of Kewites" letter to say "Stop Press, Dave has just telephoned to say he has got the Head Gardeners job at Warwick College. This is just 20 minutes away from us at Thenford so I expect to be seeing a lot more of Dave in the near future". Thank you Chris for so much news of younger Kewites. It would be so good to have them all as Guild Members!!!

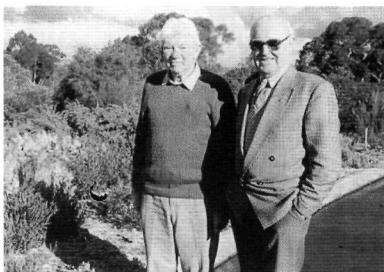
A little bit of history came by the Editor in late 1999. The *Leela Magazine* is published quarterly on behalf of Hotel Leelaventure Ltd., Mumbai, India. The January 1999 edition mentioned one **Gustav Krumbiegel** who joined the Mysore State Service in 1908 and retired in 1932. "Whatever he touched he adorned" the magazine quoted from the 1937 *Kew Guild Journal* 62 years ago! Krumbiegel worked at Kew in 1888. Mr. Krumbiegel's daughter currently lives in Fulham, London, to whom Richard returned the magazine. Wow!



**Debra Lewis**, Manager, Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, wrote to our Editor in September enclosing a photograph and obituary for **Charlotte Emily Ashley** (*née* Sharp and pictured left) sent in by her daughter. Readers of the *Guild Journal* may recall (Vol. 12, No. 101:52-53) seeing an article by **Nigel Hepper** about Charlotte. This stemmed from Nigel meeting her and her daughter, Iris Clack, who is a Friend, whilst they were attending a Friends of Kew coffee morning on 4th September 1996. Charlotte was then 103. The obituary

states that Charlotte Emily Ashley was born in Brentford on August 31st. 1893. She died shortly before her 106th birthday on 14th June 1999. Charlotte was employed probably from 1911-1914/15 (before the First World War) as a housemaid to **Dr. Otto Stapf** who was then Keeper of the Kew Herbarium. The photograph here shows her reading her second telegram from the Queen on her 105th birthday. Interesting to note that the Kew Guild came into being the year that Charlotte was born. Thank you Iris for informing us and condolences from The Guild on the loss of your mother.

**Noel Lothian** (1940) who is a Past President of the Guild wrote to **Richard Ward** from his home in Crafers, South Australia in March 1999 congratulating him on the honour of being elected President of The Guild. Noel stated that the Presidency was a suitable reward for the support given over many years to Guild activities and he states "I recall with heartfelt thanks the assistance you gave me when I was in that position and your many kindnesses that have been extended to other Presidents". Noel concludes "Unfortunately my days of extensive and distant travel are over but I will be with you in spirit when you preside over the Annual Guild Dinner in May. Please convey my best wishes to all who attend".



Noel (left) and John Taylor, Christchurch, New Zealand, August 1996 – from the Editor's Archives!

**Dr. Chris Marchant** (formerly a member of the Cytology team in the Jodrell Laboratory) sent news of his activities at Lumby, British Columbia, Canada. Chris says that the weather up to early December had been unseasonably mild, no lying snow and only morning frosts which had allowed him to continue planting out trees from his nursery. He says "We need to get on with planting as everything is starting to get large and there are thousands of spruce, fir, cedar, pine, larch, walnut, oak, maple, mountain ash etc. I have at last developed a system of deterrents to reduce rodent and deer damage but it's labour intensive. Managed to sell a batch of trees and shrubs last spring to the government, Department of Fisheries!"

Chris is married to Alison and they have a son Ross, for whom they acquired a horse this year. However, it proved a bit too misbehaved for Ross so Alison is using the horse to go riding with a friend and apparently the discipline is making the horse behave better. Chris continues "I recently did some advisory work at Vancouver on the erosion problem of the Point Grey Cliffs – the very same problem I worked on some 20 years ago! A solution is still being discussed while all the time buildings get nearer to the edge".

The letter states that Chris had been in touch by phone with John Hubbard, son of **Dr. Charles Hubbard**, C.B.E. (Dr. Hubbard was Deputy Director and Keeper of the Herbarium and Library retiring in 1965). He also mentions that he keeps in contact with **Christine** and **Vernon Heywood**.

**Cyril 'Mitch' Mitchelmore** (1947) featured in *The Horticulturist* – the Journal of the Institute of Horticulture (Volume 9, No. 1, Winter 2000:21) recording the occasion of his receiving the 1999 Institute of Horticulture President's Medal. The citation outlined Cyril's career, the opening sentence of which I quote, "The recognition of the sobriquet 'Mitch' throughout U.K. horticultural education circles speaks volumes for the affection and honour in which he is held".

After training at Kew and Manchester University he was appointed in 1948 to the staff of the Lancashire College of Agriculture, where he commenced his teaching career, teaching horticultural science. Ten years later he moved to Northop, Flintshire as Principal of the Welsh College of Horticulture and Principal Agricultural Officer for the county of Flintshire. The citation mentions 'Mitch's' dedicated work to serving horticultural education in a wider field, devoting much of his limited spare time to this end.

Listed are other honours awarded to him, including the Presidency of the Kew Guild (1984), the Veitch Memorial Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society in 1986 and election to Fellowships of both the Institutes of Horticulture and Biology. 'Mitch' was President of the H.E.A. (forerunner of the Institute of Horticulture) in 1982. The citation continues "Even in retirement and despite suffering from deteriorating eyesight, 'Mitch' continues to further horticultural education. He accepted the invitation of the National Examination Board of Agriculture, Horticulture and Allied Industries to be Chief Assessor for all examinations in Horticulture and allied subjects from 1987 to 1992 and then, in 1993 was appointed external examiner for the National Examination Board in Singapore".

The text mentions that 'Mitch' is a long serving member of Horticultural Affairs Standing Committee and a loyal supporter of I.O.H. events and concludes "He is eminently worthy of this award for Outstanding Service to Horticulture from the Institute that he helped to found". I am sure members of The Guild would wish to add their congratulations.

A number of Kewites had mention in the above cited volume of *The Horticulturist*. **Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance**, President of The Linnean Society of London and Kew's immediate past Director (President of the Kew Guild 1992/3) delivered the 25th Eric Gardener Memorial Lecture in September 1999 at the Linnean Society in London. The volume gave the outline text of his talk 'Exploring and exploiting biodiversity'.

**John Sales** (1958), Guild President 1994/5, provided a feature article entitled 'The future of the visited garden' in which he discusses garden visiting which expanded rapidly last century and seems set to continue in the 21st. century. John highlights the need for clear conservation objectives.

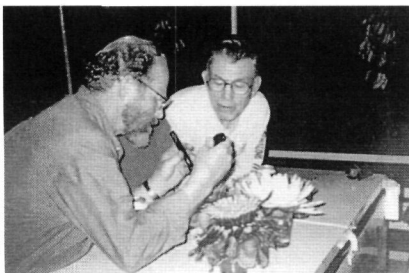
**Alan Barber** (1965) has become an Amenity Sector Representative for the I.O.H. and **Kenwyn Pearson** (1975), Guild Vice President (1998/2000), is Vice Chairman of the Institute's Professional Affairs Committee.

Also mentioned in the same volume under 'People and Places' on page 25 **Mark Flanagan** who left Kew, (Wakehurst) in 1997 to take up the post of Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor Great Park, is to take part with **Tony Kirkham**, Head of Horticultural Services at Kew, in a plant collecting expedition to the Sichuan Province in central China. Tony will lead the expedition and, as Kew is extending the number of organisations involved in such projects, this consortium will include the Howick Arboretum in Northumberland and Quarryhill Botanic Gardens in California. The expedition will be assisted in China by the Chengdu Institute of Biology.

Last but not least **Susyn Andrews**, S.S.O. Horticultural Taxonomy, working in the Herbarium at Kew, is mentioned among the consultants and contributors to *The Royal Horticultural Society New Encyclopaedia of Plants and Flowers*, a new edition which has been published by Dorling Kindersley.

**Patrick Nutt** (1953) communicated with the compiler on a number of occasions throughout the year. He wrote in February to say that he was accompanying a party of Longwood Gardens students on a field trip to Costa Rica and was one of the chaperones for the group. Patrick says "It is good to be able to keep up the with students even though I am approaching 70".

He also mentioned that he was returning to Brazil in two weeks and that the Captain of the Amazon River craft that he had used before on plant hunting trips had engaged Patrick as a



Patrick Nutt (right) and colleague examining *Victoria amazonica* flowers. Note the bananas hanging outside the window.



Patrick Nutt (right) and colleague searching for *Victoria amazonica* seed pods – the Amazon.

guide this time (see photos above). He hoped it would again be possible to collect seed of *Victoria amazonica*. Indeed a further communication confirmed that seeds were collected and that the expedition had been a great success; the expedition explored the Solimoes and Rio Negro rivers. Patrick indicated seeds of *Victoria amazonica* and *V. amazonica* var. *randii* were found and he included a copy of a letter of thanks from **Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance** (1999) for seed samples from this expedition which were being germinated both at Kew and at the Eden Project in Cornwall. He mentioned that he had heard from **Andrew Pierce** at Denver and had sent him Guild membership renewal forms. He had written to **John Eisle** (1964) to encourage him to rejoin the Guild, but had not received a reply.

Patrick included a photocopied news sheet from Fairchild Botanic Garden in Florida which stated that **Dr. Brinsley Burbidge** had resigned his Directorship at Fairchild and was due to take over as Director of the Denver Botanic Gardens in February 1999. The article mentioned that Dr. Burbidge would be remembered for accomplishments at Fairchild including the building of the new Conservatory and the establishment of the Gate House Museum.

Patrick obviously enjoys keeping busy and enclosed information in one letter about the restoration of Bartrams Pond in the historic Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia. John Bartram

purchased a 100 acre plantation in 1728 on which to create a garden. Part of the site had a natural wetland area which he developed for growing water plants. The area now needs restoration and Patrick is assisting in this project. Patrick was also in touch with **Emma Fox** who graduated from the Diploma Course this year and is now Supervisor of the Palm House at Kew. Emma has become interested in water plants and reintroduced *Victoria cruziana* to the House 15 display during the summer. I am sure Emma and Patrick will keep in touch on matters aquatic.

Patrick was also able to show **Beth Rothschild** (1989) and her party round Longwood back in the summer and from her letter to Patrick the visit was much enjoyed by all. Patrick also hosted a visit by **Sarah** and **Jim Buckland** (1982) in late summer. Patrick says in a communication in November that he has tried to live up to the George Brown Award which he received this year from the Guild. I am sure all would agree that you have indeed achieved that and more. Thank you Patrick for all the information and help you provide.

**Soo** and **Keith Parker** (1987) responded to a note from the compiler in December. Soo says they are well settled in Cumbria, living in Cockermouth with their son Michael and Chloe the Bull Terrier. Apparently the Lurchers that Soo had with her when she was at Kew passed away a couple of years back. Keith is working as Head of Amenity and Leisure Services for Copeland Borough Council, which stretches from Whitehaven to Millom (including such wonderful places as Wasdale, Ennerdale and Eskdale). Soo states "Keith's job is enormously varied for a Horticulturist and involves not only parks and open spaces but also arts and museums, refuse collection, car parking, public toilets and Christmas lights! Keith also tutors for the Institute of Waste Management and is working on Best Value and Performance Management Networks with A.D.L.O. He has recently completed an M.B.A. degree in his spare time". Congratulations Keith.

Of her own endeavours Soo said "On a more down to earth note, I am still working as Head Gardener for the Lake District National Park at Brockhole, though due to back problems I only work three days each week (almost as good as being retired!) Brockhole is an Edwardian garden on the shores of Lake Windermere, consisting of ten acres of formal terraced garden, ten acres of woodland and ten acres of pasture (mostly unimproved wildflower meadow). On my days off I write a weekly column for our local newspaper and do a modest amount of design and consultancy work". Good to hear that all goes well for you both and I am sure many feel as you when you say "Sometimes it seems like only a few months since we were all in the Lower Nursery together, and sometimes it feels like a different lifetime".

**Leo Pemberton** (1988) provided the compiler with news relating to the opening on May 1st. 1999 of the Hextable Gardens and Heritage Centre. Leo mentions that, at first sight this may appear to have little or no connection with Kew, but goes on to mention that the Hextable Gardens were formerly part of the Swanley College estate, later the Kent Horticultural Institute. This horticultural centre has had several close connections with Kew writes Leo "starting with the three famous lady gardeners of 1896-8 who had to dress like young men (mesdames **Cope**, **Gulvin** and **Hutchings**). Mysteriously (!) they were the only women gardeners until the First World War when, because of manpower shortages, many more women gardeners were employed – another seven came from Swanley". *The Guild Journal* printed an appreciation but they were not kept on at Kew. There were no more lady gardeners until the Second World War and they, like their earlier counterparts, had to go – but there was no mention of appreciation in the postwar Journal! Leo writes "at the end of the war the Kent County Council took over the estate and the Kent Horticultural Institute was established under the Principal, Winifred Corbett. Early staff members were the late **George Brown** and **Charles Joy** (1937). Between them they encouraged a succession of Kew students – myself, **John Sales** (1958), **John Hale** (who retired from Kew in 1993), **Helen Raven** and **Geoff Collins**. They were followed by **Tom Wood** (1960), Guild President 1996/7 and **John Gaggini** (1963). More recently, at Hadlow College (which superseded the Swanley site), **John Leeson** (1989) and **Carlos Sombrero** (1984) have reversed the progression and are on the staff". Leo concludes by saying the Hextable Gardens and Heritage Centre will provide the local population with an historic garden and maintain part of our horticultural heritage.



**Udai C. Pradhan** (1972) wrote in September saying "*The Kew Guild Magazine* arrived some time ago and it was wonderful going through it and reliving the past while learning of recent events". He indicates that there is much to catch up on following rejoining the Guild after more than two decades. Udai sends condolences regarding the death of **Professor Jack Heslop-Harrison**, who was the Director during his Voluntary Studentship at Kew. Congratulations are sent to **Dickon Bowling**, **Dr. Peter Brandham**, **Dr. H. Burkill** and **Mr. Tudor Harwood** for being honoured with the Kew Medal.

He says that it was Dickon who taught him the techniques of the laboratory culture of orchids and transplanting them in the greenhouse and indicates that he has successfully applied the techniques in the Himalayas for the propagation of Himalayan native orchid species and for commercial Cymbidium production. He says "I particularly remember Dickon with the huge black Tarantula that he brought back from an African trip and carried around with him. I wonder if he still nurses it?!"

Udai mentions **Dr. Peter Thompson**, who at that time was working on his book *Growing Orchids from Seed*, which is now well known. He continues "At the Orchid Herbarium I worked with **Dr. Phillip Cribb** (I now help him as a Member of the Orchid Specialist Group) who had just joined the staff, **Jeff Wood** and **Peter Hunt** (I still correspond with him while registering my Orchid Hybrids) and the late **Dr. R. E. Holttum** was my mentor there. In the evenings Dr. Holttum and the late **Dr. N. L. Bor** used to take turns to take me to the Herbarium where I used to make notes on Indian Orchidaceae. These notes later formed the base for my book, *Indian Orchids: Guide to Identification and Culture* in 2 volumes. Dr. N. L. Bor was well known to my Grandfather, Raisaheb Bhim Bahadur Pradhan, who was the Manager of Sikkim Forests under the then Chogyal (King) of Sikkim and had accompanied Dr. Bor on his field trip researching the grasses of Sikkim."

"I married Tej, my school girlfriend, on return home and we celebrated our Silver Wedding Anniversary last January. We have three children, Hemlata, Satyam and Sanjivini. Hemlata graduated last year in Fine Arts from Poet Tagore's University, Viswabharati and received a second grant from the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation of Canada to travel to Kew and do her Diploma in Botanical Illustration which she completed with distinction. Her hosts at Kew were none other than Richard Ward (our Guild President) Wiena and their family. She has been accepted for her Masters Degree in Natural History Illustration and Ecological Studies at The Royal College of Arts in London and is looking for sponsors/grants/scholarships for her tuition fees. Satyam completed his Diploma in Horticulture from the Singapore Botanic Gardens and has joined our small plant business becoming the fourth generation in this trade. He intends to carry on the breeding of Orchids, Anthurium and a few bulbous plants that we export regularly to Holland and Japan. He is also raising many Orchid species from the Himalayas for the trade. Sanjivini has joined college and will be studying economics which she feels has so much to do with conservation".

Udai states that with his wife, Tej, he founded and was publishing the *Himalayan Plant Journal*, though this had to be discontinued because of political instability (Gorkhaland Movement) in their area. They also lost many valuable orchids, though since this time have been busy catching up with their lives. He says "We left home for months on end and went to Sikkim during the period of agitation, where we had the opportunity to complete *Sikkim Himalayan Rhododendrons* and *Himalayan Cobra-lilies (Arisaema) – Their Botany and Culture* (now in its second edition). We are contemplating once again reviving the *Himalayan Plant Journal* and look for support from Guild Members. Later on we hope to set up the Himalayan Plant Trust that can take over the publication of the journal and serve as a catalyst in activities related to conservation and economic exploration of Himalayan plants for the benefit of people here. Any Guild Member wishing to share thoughts, experiences and intending to participate please write to: [himalaya@dte.vsnl.net.in](mailto:himalaya@dte.vsnl.net.in) or fax: 0091-3552-55673. The mailing address will be in the listing of Guild Members in the *Journal*.

Udai concludes "If you plan to visit this side of the Himalayas do let us know. We do not have the facilities of great comfort here, but Tej, I and my family will be very happy to take you



around and partake our meals and experiences with you. As we welcome the next century let us all join together to share the concern we feel for our natural world and the next generation more intensely. Through the medium of plants let us help bring about happiness, goodwill and prosperity that may assist in healing the world and making it possible for young people to face the challenges of the forthcoming Millennium. May immense happiness and good fortune be yours in the New Millennium."

Whilst scanning through a back number of *Horticulture Week* (November 5th 1998:6) the compiler noted an article headed '£5m Jersey botanic garden bid'. **Rebecca Ransom** (1988) and **Bruce Labey** (1987) were listed as two members of Jersey Botanic Garden Trust which was hoping to obtain the funding to buy Steephill Gardens, a six hectare property near St. Helier, then in private hands. The property's features include a Victorian-style fernery, Mediterranean garden, Grade II listed manor house and many mature trees. Kew was asked to provide a feasibility study, **Greg Redwood** from Kew's Technical Support Unit visiting the site to assess the estate. Offering much potential; the property is close to St. Helier and would be ideal as an educational facility to serve the schools of the area and indeed the whole Island. However, the compiler has recently learned that funding was apparently difficult to obtain. Jersey is exempt from British government backing or lottery funding.



Joe Rowntree. (Photograph courtesy of *Horticulture Week*)

**Joe Rowntree** (1996) was featured in 'Move of the Week', *Horticulture Week* (March 18th 1999:48) on his appointment as Curator at Sheffield Botanic Gardens. Joe will oversee the transformation of the gardens using a 5 million pound grant from the Heritage Lottery Urban Parks Fund. The work will be carried out in consultation with the Friend Group and as part of his remit Joe will set up a plant database, give demonstrations and lead walks round the gardens. Joe was Head Gardener at Wyeford Estate in Hampshire before moving to Sheffield Botanic Garden. (Not currently a Guild member though! *Ed.*)

**Mrs. Stella Ross-Craig** was presented with the Kew Award "for outstanding service to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew". The medal was presented to her on the 24th November 1999.

This was only the ninth Kew Award given to date.



Left to right: The Director, Professor Peter Crane, Professor Gren Lucas, Dr. Bernard Verdcourt, Dr. Peter Green, Marilyn Ward, Stella Ross-Craig, and Dr. Simon Owens.

A letter from **John Simmons** (1958-1995) arrived at the end of March. John indicated that he was well into another busy year, "We are scheduled to lead tours to the west coast of America in May/June and round the Mediterranean (on a cruise) in October and Castle Howard has a Royal Visit, public opening *et al.* There is another summer book deadline for Jill Hamilton and plenty of consultancy work". John mentions that the April edition of *Country Life* was to run a feature on Castle Howard covering its tercentenary etc.

The compiler received a return phone call from **Alan Stuttard** (1973) and gleaned a little about Alan's work for the City of Worcester. Alan took a job there some ten years ago as Assistant Director of Leisure Services and now holds the post of Head of Cultural Services. In common with other local authorities, parks activity has widened and Alan mentioned that they have recently received a £1/3m Lottery Grant to go toward a £1/2m project to build an exhibition in one of the City's Museums to be entitled 'The Worcestershire Soldier'. Over the past

year and more he has been engaged on the development of a new golf course which will be finished and open in spring 2000.

**Alan Titchmarsh** (1974) was voted Television Gardening Broadcaster of the year for the third successive year at the Garden Writers Guild awards held at the Savoy in September. He also supported the Guild in a much appreciated way when he acted as M.C. at the Annual Dinner in May. Recently he has been awarded the M.B.E. in the New Years Honours. Congratulations Alan.

*Horticulture Week* magazine's 'Move of the Week', (July 15th 1999:40) featured **Andy Vernon** who has taken the post of Sales and Display Manager at The Palm Centre based at Ham near Richmond in Surrey. Andy spent almost four years at Kew working in the Palm, Waterlily, Temperate and Evolution planthouses following his gaining a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Horticulture and European Studies from the University of Nottingham in 1994 and training at the Royal Horticultural Society in 1995.

Work on aspects of commercial top fruit production undertaken by **Dr. Tony Webster** (1968) and colleagues at Horticulture Research International, East Malling, featured on a number of occasions in *The Grower* through 1999. The week 24 edition (June 17th 1999:28-29) pictured Tony within an article based on information given at an East Kent Fruit Society thinning event at Hadlow Place Farm. Though Tony is often featured in relation to trial work regarding fruiting cherry production, this particular article discussed the impending demise of Carbaryl as a fruit thinning agent for desert apple orchards. Tony presented information on alternative products and discussed their use and especially the timing of spray applications.

Hon. Editor **Richard Ward**, together with his wife Wiena and daughters Alexandra (ten) and Sparkle (eight), flew to Calcutta in late March for a three week holiday. They travelled by train and road into Sikkim and on to stay with Guild member **Udai Pradhan** and his family. Richard said that he was relieved to hand over the Presidency of the Guild in September to Professor Arthur Bell after the busiest and most tiring year of his life! (or maybe it's something to do with his age!)

**John (Log) Whitehead** (1972) wrote to say that he was lucky back in 1988 to see the mass flowering of *Puya raimondii* which happens about every ten years. During conversation with **Pamela Holt** (1974) at the 1998 Guild A.G.M., John found that Pamela had recently returned from Peru and mentioned that the Puya's were in flower again. John made arrangements to travel to Peru in October that year and was rewarded with seeing around 1,000 of the giant ten metre tall inflorescences.

John also mentioned that a cheap air ticket for himself and his partner Brenda (Bren) to Gambia in February 1999 provided onward journeys into sand storms in Mauritania and Baobab hunting in Senegal. He says they went to see the big 23 metre girth tree at Fissel but it had blown down in 1997, though they found another of 25 metre girth elsewhere. John wrote "We saw substantial groves and young trees in more or less elephantless areas of west Africa". **Sandra Leche** (1977) had written to John from Chile to say that she had been botanising with Roy Lancaster in the Andes. A communication (March 1999) from Log was to say "Great season for Wordsworth and daff hunting at Ullswater and Dora's Field".

## THE KEW STUDENTS' UNION ANNUAL REPORT 1999

By Christopher Weddell, President

Time as ever has flashed by: Course 34 have departed after three hard years and were presented with their Kew Diplomas by David Bellamy. This was followed as ever by the student vote of thanks, which this year was given by Dan Slack in his own inimitable way. Five members of Course 34, however, found it difficult to leave the cosy world of Kew Gardens. Anthony Blanchfield took up a short term contract to work in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, and Iris Otto-Knapp, Emma Fox, Helen Long and Kathy King all took up permanent

posts in the North Arboretum, the Palm House, the Lower Nursery and the Technical Section respectively.

Course 35 students found it much easier to leave Kew, if only for a short period. Six students completed travel scholarships in 1999. These included Rosminah Brown (Brunei), Claudia Heideker (Russia), Christine Lavelle (Galapagos Islands), Bernd Mengel (Turkey), Kate Pritchard (Easter Island) and Christopher Weddell (British Virgin Islands). Claudia Heideker is also travelling to Jerusalem in 2000, after gaining a travel scholarship for five weeks to work in the Jerusalem Botanic Garden.

Course 36, accompanied by Ian Leese and David Hardman, were able to travel to Mainau in 1999 as the guests of Count Björn Bernadotte. This trip enabled them to gain experience of the practicalities of running a large garden as a commercial enterprise. It is hoped that this trip will be run annually for first-year students.

As yet, Course 37's only chance to travel was the 375 yards of the Broad Walk, in the traditional Clog and Apron Race. If they continue in the way that they ran the race this year they are sure to do well in the three years that they have ahead of them at Kew.

While much is made of the chances to travel while at Kew, it is the regular lecture blocks, practical placements and projects that keep students busy and off the streets. The lecture blocks are continuing to evolve and significant changes occurred in 1999. These include the consolidation of the Landscape Design lectures into desecrate weeks within the lecture block, which has proved popular with both the lecturers and the students.

Course 35 were able to submit plans for the Chaumont Garden Festival in France as part of the Third Year Landscape Design Course. Three plans were submitted to the annual competition, open to all, for one of the ten show gardens at Chaumont. Our congratulations go to Kate Pritchard who, beyond even her wildest expectations, was selected as one of the ten competition winners and will have her design built at the festival held in 2000.

The most significant change to the Diploma Course, due to the effects of the rewards and regrading project, was the loss of the botanising hour. This means that students no longer receive an hour during the week to botanise their idents or complete project work. While it may have been necessary for Kew to stop the botanising hour, the students thought it regrettable and a great loss to the Diploma Course.

A change for the better, however, is the continuation of the Spanish field trip which first took place for Course 34 in spring 1999. The trip, in conjunction with Reading University, is a two week field-based trip to complete ecology-based projects in Almeria on the coast of South East Spain. Course 35 are looking toward to the trip despite slight trepidation in having to meet the high standards set by members of Course 34 last year.

The present Committee is:

President	Christopher Weddell
Secretary	Rosminah Brown
Treasurer	Christine Lavelle
Sports and Social Representative	Mirco Berenbrinker

## STUDENTS' UNION SPORTS AND SOCIAL REPORT

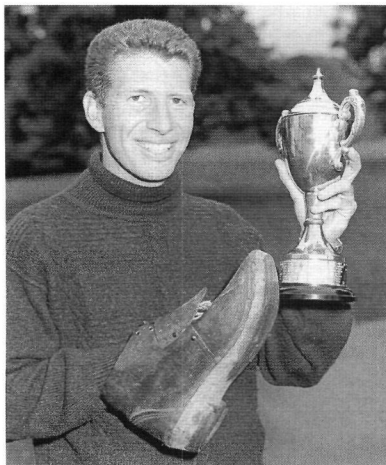
By Mirco Berenbrinker

This year's sports activities and events were organised mainly by members of the "Second Year's" or, in other words, by Kew Diploma Course No. 36. The season was traditionally started with the Clog and Apron Race, run from the roundabout by the Palm House down the 350 metres long Broad Walk. The finishing tape was, as every year, set up next to the Orangery. The Clog and Apron Race was first run in the 1920s by members of Kew staff who had only



Course 37 students, pictured with Professor Peter R. Crane, Director, and Ian Leese, Principal, School of Horticulture at the start of the Clog and Apron Race.

just commenced their work in the Gardens. A common effort of the new Diploma Students of Course 37 has successfully carried on this tradition on Wednesday the 15th September 1999. Another new member of staff made a great contribution to this team effort, the Director Professor Peter Crane had even brought his family along for his support.



Barry Coetzee, winner of the Clog and Apron Race.

The Men's Gold Medal was awarded to Barry Coetzee, who came all the way from South Africa and Women's Gold was presented as a joint first prize to Katie Steel and Nicki Sharp. We hope that the event is going to be organised by the winners and other Course 37 members in the year 2000, so that the Clog and Apron Race "ritual" will get carried over into the new Millennium.

Carrying on another tradition, the Round The Gardens Race was run by several members of staff and students on Thursday the 28th October 1999. This year it was decided to make an alteration to the traditional route of the race, originally starting and finishing at the Orangery. Instead, the finishing tape was put up next to the School of Horticulture, which gave the appreciated opportunity of a decent prize giving and some refreshments afterwards. For an unidentified reason we had a rather low number of runners this season, only 12 members of staff and students took the challenge of running the extremely hard route with topographical extremes and wild beasts attacking the sportsmen and sportswomen out there in the Gardens. On the other hand we would like to thank our 15 marshals who always led the participants in the right direction. The female winners were Claire Morgan (Gold), Margaret Newman (Silver) and Jemima Taylor (Bronze). The best of the gentlemen were Joseph Gittings as first runner to cross the finish line, Adam Harrower was second and Robert Turner made Bronze.

The plans for the year 2000 part of the season certainly include the newly invented Pancake Race on Shrove Tuesday. Further events are still fantasy in the minds of the organisers and

will be announced well in advance. Any football or cricket tournaments on Kew Green or on the sports grounds in Sheen may be organised in liaison with members of staff or students.

Any new ideas for sports or other events are always welcome, please contact the Sports and Events Representative in the School of Horticulture by internal mail or via Barbara Hanson on 332 5545.

## THE KEW MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY REPORT 1999/2000

by Ian Hudson and Antony O'Rourke

The Committee of the 1999-2000 Kew Mutual Improvement Society consists of Co-Chairmen Ian Hudson and Antony O'Rourke; Honorary Secretaries Mirco Berenbrinker and James Stevenson; and Honorary Treasurer Matthew Reese. Quite a mixed group from various backgrounds as well as countries.

The Committee was elected in April 1999 and decided to make a joint effort of contacting speakers after talking to fellow students in Year 36. With a student body as diverse as it is, a very varied number of speakers were suggested. With a long list in hand, the task of finding addresses as well as speakers was undertaken. Though some addresses proved to be elusive, many letters were sent out. After this the Committee waited . . . and waited . . . and waited. With the date of the first talk on the 20th of September getting closer by the week and with very few replies it began to become a bit of a concern. After what seemed like a lifetime, replies began to arrive but not always with the desired answer. With luck and arm twisting the dates were filled with a wide selection of topics which will hopefully please most people.

Before the K.M.I.S. season began, however, we had the task of welcoming in the new Course 37 students with the annual barbecue. This was the Society's first social event of the year and was held in the grounds of Cambridge Cottage. However, even as we drank beer, danced and ate sausages in the early autumn evening we were painfully aware that we hadn't yet secured the first speaker!

Following a tense nail-biting period, we managed to beg and cajole Dr. Bob Johns, who gave a presentation on the flora of Irian Jaya, Indonesia. In the K.M.I.S. tradition six students were press-ganged into giving speeches about their travel scholarships, starting with Christopher Weddell on the 11th of October with his talk entitled, 'Botanising the Beaches and Bars: A Travel Scholarship to the British Virgin Islands'. Christopher was followed in December by Kate Pritchard and her talk on her travel scholarship to Chile and the Easter Islands. This was a particularly interesting presentation discussing the evaluation of conservation efforts being made for *Sophora toromiro*, which itself has been the focus of the Kew Endangered plants appeal.

At the time of this article being written, we are still awaiting the pleasure of talks by Claudia Heideker and her experiences in the Blue Eye of Siberia (which we are told will include some hair-raising accounts of Russian air travel!). Christine Lavelle and her scholarship to the Galapagos Islands (will they ever recover?!), Rosminah Brown and her trip to Brunei and finally, Bernd Mengel's talk on the bulbous treasures of Turkey.

Peter Bareham gave a seasonal Halloween speech entitled 'Grave Matters – an Alternative Look at Graveyards'. This talk was concerned with the recycling of graveyard plots and in spirit of such ghoulish matters, conversations on the topic continued to be recycled for weeks on end. Peter is a freelance speaker who has a particular passion in this subject. It was certainly fascinating to see the comparison between the monotonous graveyards of the U.K. and the high standards of graveyard maintenance on the continent. In fact it was encouraging to learn of how some countries actually have competitions to find 'The Best Kept Graves of the Region'!

It was lovely to see Rachel Martin at Kew again. Rachel graduated from the Kew Diploma six years ago and has since taken up position as Head Gardener at the prestigious Trebah Garden in Cornwall. Trebah is a remnant of the Fox dynasty and boasts some choice tender

and rare plants which are rarely seen outside Cornwall. It was a fascinating talk and we look forward to an up-date at some time in the near future.

The new Director of Kew, Professor Peter Crane, gave the final talk of the Millennium (in spite of the fact that it was his wife Elinor's birthday – sounds like work above and beyond the call of duty!) and proved to be a popular guest speaker. His talk on the early evolution of plants was heard by the Society's largest turnout of the year! It was the Christmas meeting and free mulled wine and mince pies were the order of the evening, but we're sure these had nothing to do with the huge turnout!

The second social event was the annual Christmas party which saw a Kew Mutual first! Entertainment was provided by a live band, 'Never the Bride'. Keep an eye out for this up and coming 'new' band who are currently working on their third CD with Atlantic records. Even the most senior members of the Kew community were seen boogying the night away (including Kew's new Director). It was a night so spectacular that we were even honoured with a visit by honorary Course 36 member Björn Bernadotte, who flew in all the way from Germany to join us for this special event. Hell of a hangover the next day.

The new Millennium kicked off with Jim Buckland's talk on the restoration of the walled garden at West Dean Gardens in West Sussex. This was a talk which was jiggled in at short notice following the unfortunate cancellation of Michael Avishai's talk on Jerusalem Botanical Gardens. However, Jim's talk was excellent and provided an informative insight into the restoration of this fascinating and well loved garden. Jim continues an ongoing tradition of past students returning to Kew to speak this season, following in the footsteps of Rachel Martin and Wayne Page.

On the 17th January the K.M.I.S. has the pleasure of landscape designer and writer John Brookes. John has previously been involved with lecturing at Kew so it's great to welcome him back. His presence this year is an indication of the ever increasing calibre of Kew Mutual speakers (which, we are told by our members "seem to get better every year!")

Also during January, Adrian Bloom, as in Blooms of Bressingham, will be coming to talk on the value of ornamental grasses in the landscape. Adrian is an exceptional plantsman with an extensive experience in hardy plants. His talk has already created a stir amongst our members.

Yet another seasonal topic to look forward to will be on Valentine's Day when Peter Beales gives his talk on the history and evolution of the rose. It will also be a somewhat historic occasion as this will be the first time this thorny issues has been the subject of discussion at the K.M.I.S. Peter is the foremost authority on classic roses for which his nursery is world famous.

Tony Hall is giving a talk entitled 'A House for All Seasons – the Alpine House' during March. This is a talk which all are looking forward to as Tony's expertise on all things 'Alpine' is very well recognised. The Alpine House truly is a 'House for All Seasons' and can be seen in flower at all times of the year. This is certainly a credit to Tony's cultivation skills.

Also in March, Deirdre Hall (no relation to the aforementioned!) will be giving a lecture on French and Portuguese gardens. This will be the first time Deirdre has lectured to the K.M.I.S. On the 17th, Catherine Olver will be giving a talk entitled 'Arboreta Around Us'. This will be an introduction to the use of trees in the landscape.

April kicks off with Fergus Garrett, Head Gardener at Christopher Lloyd's garden at Great Dixter. This will be a fund raising event for the victims of the Turkish earthquake with all proceeds going to this cause.

Peter Cunningham, of Ness Gardens, will be giving an insight into this garden and will tell us of the developments taking place there.

Last, but by no means least, is Chris Chadwell. This will be a talk about the flowers of the Dalai Lama, which we hope will be a 'chilled out' way to end the season. Man!

This year has seen a tremendous rise in the amount of people giving items of interest. These are three minute slots at the beginning of each lecture where people are invited to share their experience in Horticulture with the rest of us. It is refreshing to see these items are no longer dominated by Kew staff and students – members of the public are now quite happily

sharing in the chance to have their two to five minutes of fame (Andy Warhol hadn't been to a K.M.I.S. meeting when he talked about 15 minutes of fame – there simply isn't enough time to fit any more into an already tightly packed schedule!). Examples this year include Hazel Sabey on the redevelopment of her front garden with **Cyatheas**, **Dicksonias** and all things exotic. And who could forget Peter and Jenny Grudy, who have shared with us their news of the Endangered Plants Appeal. The money raised so far through the sale of their cards has topped £3,800!! These cards can be purchased in the lobby before each lecture. This has been used for sponsoring seven trees at Kew and Wakehurst Place (£2,000) and £1,000 went to the Chilean crocus appeal and an endangered tree in Taiwan (don't ask us which one!). They are now well on target to raising £1,000 for the conservation of a rare Malayan orchid.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and assistance. In particular special thanks are extended to Bill McAlpine and Chris Downes, who are new committee members this year. Thank you for a very successful year and we look forward in earnest to next years committee.

## THE KEW GUILD SUMMER OUTING – 5TH JUNE 1999

By Richard Ward.

Twenty-four Guild members and friends attended this splendid social event and thanks go to Events Officer Tom Risely and Gillian and Graham Burgess for organising the day.

They met at Longstock at 10.30 a.m. for an introduction with the Head Gardener, Mike Stone and enjoyed a tour round before moving on to Ninesprings Nursery for a reception and lunch at the local Harvest Home Public House. Later they were free to look around the nursery – an extrovert's dream! Finally they visited the nearby Whitchurch silk mill for a tour and a cream tea.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

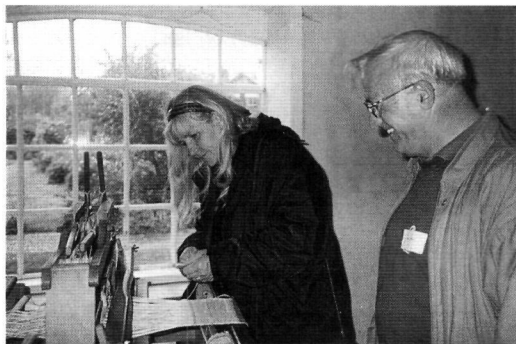
Graham Burgess was tempted away from a Botany career and Kew by the job of Director of Gardening to The John Lewis Partnership Ltd. The post included the Curatorship of several gardens throughout Britain, all with different habitats and functions, but the jewel in the crown has always been Longstock.

When the Founder, John Spedan Lewis, bought the Longstock side of the valley from the Easts in 1946, there was already an established water garden. He set about enlarging and enriching it and from that day to this it has had continuous investment towards satisfying the gardening interests of Partners in the firm, all of whom may visit at almost any time. It is a unique example of Company Leisure. The archipelago of small islands bursting with choice plants is fed by the waters of the River Test, the world's finest trout fishing river.

Graham moved from Longstock to Whitchurch in 1981 and in 1984 set up the aquatic nursery at Ninesprings. The name derives from the nine springs that emerge from the valley bottom and which eventually feed into the Test. Space was needed to grow large aquatics for The Beatles Maze designed and built by Graham and others at The International Garden Festival



Guild members and friends on the decking outside Gillian and Graham's house.



Janette and John Gaggini at the Silk Mill, Whitchurch.

at Liverpool. On arrival at Liverpool with the aquatics the other landscape architects asked where the plants came from. This led to Artsapes supplying aquatics to almost all of the garden festivals.

This old fashioned nursery, set amongst wildish gardens, is on the site of old watercress beds and, whilst it is very much a sideline to the main design business, it is a fascinating place to work. Graham and Gillian do most of the work themselves and in 1998 they built a house on the site.

The springs provide clear drinking water and it is used for washing. A heat exchanger draws heat from the

water and composting toilets remove the need for mains sewage. The unique design of the house allows maximum sunlight in during the winter and the verandahs and balcony provide a clue to Gillian's Kiwi origins.

Until 1998 Graham and Gillian lived in the Silk Mill Manager's House, beside the River Test in Whitchurch town. Graham was Chairman and Gillian was Secretary of the Friends and for several years Graham was a Director of the mill, which still weaves marvellous silks on 100 year old looms. The Mill is very picturesque and the teas are served in a wonderful setting inside the mill.

Lisa Green and her husband Mark run the Harvest Home, our venue for lunch. Lisa's dad, now sadly deceased, was an ex Thames Lighterman and she has inherited his ability to serve up some of the finest fish around. All in all it was a wet collection of venues so Guild members were asked to bring their wellies.

## THE LIVING COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT AT KEW AND WAKEHURST PLACE DURING 1999

By Nigel Taylor, Curator and David Hardman, Head of Collections (Wakehurst)

### KEW

Despite more records having been broken, 1999 proved to be a year when the weather was relatively kind overall. A mild spring was interrupted by sharp frosts just before the middle of April and a July, when almost no rain fell, was followed by a deluge in August, then a very warm September. Nevertheless, growing conditions were generally good, the year delivering slightly above average precipitation. It is unusual that good summer weather could be said to have had a negative effect on a visitor attraction, but that appears to have been the case with the centenary celebration for the Temperate House, held on the oppressively hot weekend of 31st July/1st August. A large cake in the form of the great conservatory was ceremonially cut by a centenarian resident of Richmond's Star and Garter Home.

Amongst the Gardens' staff two retirements merit special mention. In April John Holmes of the Arboretum completed a remarkable career spanning 40 years at Kew – yes, he could remember when horses were still in regular use in the Gardens in 1959! At the close of May another Arboretum stalwart completed his career, none other than Head of Section, Charles Erskine, whose 40 plus years of public service in horticulture included a long spell at R.G.B. Edinburgh, prior to his arrival at Kew in 1968 (as Head of the Temperate Section).

Of the many events and innovations in the Living Collections during 1999, a number deserve highlighting. The long Bank Holiday weekend, starting on Saturday 1st May, was marked by an event focusing on Kew's spectacular bluebell wood in the Queen's Cottage



Grounds. The weather was glorious and over 30,000 visitors enjoyed three spring days that will be long remembered. One member of staff on duty commented that there were so many visitors walking the paths that it was useless to try to get around on one's official bicycle!

On 10th May the new Peony Garden was officially opened, followed on 2nd June by the refurbished Lilac Collection, both improvements supported by generous donations to the Kew Foundation.

Later in the summer it was a pleasure to see the giant water lily, **Victoria**, restored to and thriving in the conservatory built specially for it in 1852.

The last innovation in 1999 was inaugurated in late October and introduced a visitor attraction that caught the attention of the national press – compost heaps. It has long been known that the visiting public has been curious to see Kew's giant composting operation inside the Stable Yard, but safety considerations have prevented access. Therefore, a viewing platform, elevating the visitor above the Stable Yard's boundary fence, was erected during the late summer and duly opened by Richmond's mayor, prior to the autumn halfterm holiday. Visitors were further encouraged by the offer of a small bag of Kew mulch to the first 2,000 to visit the platform, whose construction utilises oak salvaged from the Arboretum and tropical hardwood confiscated to Kew by H.M. Customs and Excise. Interpretation boards on the platform explain the processes involved and emphasise the benefits of this sustainable 'green' activity.

### **Arboretum and Horticultural Services and Support Sections**

Infrastructural developments marked 1999 in the 'big outdoors' sections of the Arboretum and Horticultural Services (H.O.S.S.). A system of hoggin paths was installed around King William's Temple, greatly increasing access for the public and interest for our younger visitors, who can now explore the Mediterranean vegetation (and hide from their parents!).

On 15th June, the Arboretum played host to R.H.S. Committee B, whose **Philadelphus** Study Day, centred on Kew's newly refurbished collection, was deemed a considerable success, even if it gave the more botanically-minded present some identification headaches.

Those who regularly visit the Gardens cannot have failed to notice our new, very smart rubbish bins and futuristic 21st century road sweeper, both supported by Kew's Friends. The Friends have also been providing volunteers, one of whose roles has been the maintenance of our interpretive signage in clean condition. The more observant amongst our visitors may also have detected the introduction of a new labelling system, employing embossed aluminium. This uses some technology from the motor industry and is much more cost-effective than our traditional white-on-black plastic engraved labels. The latter type, while still preferable from an aesthetic point of view, are being supplemented by the aluminium labels, whose rapid production rate of up to 1,500 per day has enabled labelling backlogs to become a thing of the past.

Tree work by the Living Collections' team of arborists is an ever more prominent activity, the team being in demand both on and off site. On site, the relatively new practice of mulching mature trees in combination with decompaction and the injection of mycorrhizae into the rooting zone is now seen to be bearing fruit, with a number of sickly specimens already showing clear signs of renewed vitality. This practice also greatly improves the appearance of parts of the Arboretum and gives the public a keen sense of the importance of proper tree care. Off site, two members of the team enjoyed unexpected interest shown by H.M. The Queen, while they worked on some historic trees at Frogmore during April. Her Majesty was provided with literature on the subject and returned to meet arborists Jon Hammerton and Simon Cole for informal discussions.

On the heritage front, Barron's 19th century horse-drawn Tree Transplanter, the last of its kind in the world, was taken off to Suffolk for comprehensive renovation, this funded by the 1998 Kew Friends' Plant Auction. It will be displayed to the public and seen in action during the latter part of 2000 in connection with the restoration of William Nesfield's Broad Walk.

While maintenance of the Collections is a major part of our horticultural activity, their diversity and scientific quality can always benefit from improvements. Thus, two expeditions encompassing Sichuan, China and central Japan were sent out and returned with valuable additions of natural source seed and plant material.

## Temperate and Tropical Sections

The Princess of Wales Conservatory (P.o.W.C.) was as ever a focus for public interest. Staff have been encouraged to mount special displays, whose rapid installation and impact greatly assist repeat visitation, especially when this is supported by correctly targeted publicity. In April, following the conclusion of the now regular Orchid Festival, the north end of the P.o.W.C. saw an eye-catching show of modern **Hippeastrum** (amaryllis) cultivars, this being backed up by sales of the same varieties as dormant bulbs in the Victoria Gate Shop. This new departure was supported by the local branch of Marks & Spencer and received valuable advice from N.C.C.P.G. Collection Holder, Veronica Read. The sight of thousands of giant bulbs being forced behind the scenes in the Tropical Nursery was one that will take some time to forget, not to mention the uncertainties as to whether they were going to be in flower by the date specified in Kew's publicity!

Meanwhile, at the south end of the P.o.W.C. another experiment was unfolding – Desert Ephemerals. Elsewhere in the Tropical Nursery hundreds of desert wildflowers were being grown from seed and potted up prior to being planted amongst perennial succulents, both inside and outside the conservatory. The concept was that of linking the exterior with the interior and the show of annuals from South Africa and the southwest deserts of the U.S.A. was a blaze of colour that attracted much favourable comment.

Further within the house, in its moist tropical environment, the public were regularly seen to be marvelling at the stupendous flowers of giant **Aristolochia** spp., which made up for the lack of the other famous outsize denizen of the P.o.W.C., the **Amorphophallus titanum**, which decided it was time to rest following the production of a four metre tall leaf the previous winter.

As Christmas approached, the north end saw another 'make over', as artificial snow was sprinkled around an attractive woodland scene. The impression of winter was quite convincing and certainly brought a feel that the real outdoor weather seems to have lost the ability to provide.

In the Palm House, staff proved that it takes much less than a year to produce a dense jungle of bananas. The bed was replanted at the start of the year, but the leaves were already touching the glass by the autumn and inflorescences and young bananas were on show by the time winter arrived.

In the Temperate Nursery seeds from the recently rediscovered St. Helena Boxwood, **Melissia begoniifolia**, thought extinct for 124 years, germinated and bring hope that this species can be re-established in its native habitat one day.

## Herbaceous and Technical Sections

In March an endorsement agreement with Q-lawns resulted in the whole of the Grass Garden being returfed at no cost to Kew, adding value to this much praised visitor amenity. The same month the Alpine Unit played host to the R.H.S. Joint Rock Committee, who spent an enjoyable afternoon in the Collections.

Two hives of New Zealand bees, resistant to the varroa parasite, which killed off previous hives, were established in the Bee Garden by the Kew Palace, with the assistance of the Pinner and Ruislip Bee Keeper's Association. The abundance of forage for these resulted in a bumper crop of honey, which has been decanted into attractively labelled jars intended as gifts for our many official visitors and V.I.P.s

In September our new Director, Professor Peter Crane, presided over his first official opening ceremony, that of a newly interpreted lavender collection and trail, sponsored by Norfolk Lavender. Around this time it was announced that the Alpine Unit's Manager, Tony Hall, had been chosen to receive the Clarence Elliott Memorial Award for an article on Juno **Iris** published in the Alpine Garden Society's journal.

Both Herbaceous and Technical Sections are variously involved in conservation activities. The former has been spearheading work in connection with the Kew Friends' Threatened Plants Appeal, which added a further ten species in 1999, making 20 in all. Annual behind-the-scenes events are offered to sponsors, when there are plenty of opportunities to talk to staff about the threatened species and our plans to save or reintroduce them. As part of this project Kew has been

named as the U.K.'s Lead Agency for the extinct-in-the-wild U.K. native, **Bromus interruptus**, a one time weed of arable fields, which can be seen in the Grass Garden during summer.

The Technical Section designed a wildlife database to digitally archive the thousands of records made at our two estates, the Kew site having data going back more than 100 years. This is intended as a resource for environmental monitoring, since it is known, for example, that lichen diversity has varied significantly over the last century, as pollution levels have increased and then decreased. Talking of lichens, a survey conducted at Kew raised unexpected interest from the media when it revealed a rare species growing on one of our public benches.

Another resource established in 1999 was a D.N.A. Bank for the U.K. flora, managed by the Conservation Genetics Unit and supported by English Nature. This will enable genetic fingerprinting studies of wild populations to be carried out, an activity the Unit is frequently asked to perform in the interests of better informed conservation planning. Further afield the Conservation Projects Development Unit completed a two-year overseas training programme in East Africa. The Unit also contributed to similar training in the British Virgin Islands and began a project in Lebanon, both of these supported by the U.K. Government's Darwin Initiative.

Databasing is an ever-increasing activity in the Living Collections and in 1999 Grassland Management and Machinery databases were established, while a Geographical Information System (G.I.S.) was further developed for the Living Collections and Kew estate. It is hoped that this initiative will one day allow visitors to self-guide themselves around our extensive site, many of whose points of interest are hard to locate or enjoy, if you do not know what is there. We have also been experimenting with the 'virtual tour of the conservatory', but that is something which will undoubtedly come to fruition in the 21st century!

### WAKEHURST PLACE, 1999

By David Hardman, Head of Section

Mild, wet weather allowed for excellent displays of winter and early spring flowers and brought on early many specimens of **Camellia** and **Rhododendron**. The **Magnolia stellata** and **M. campbelli** were spectacular until overnight frosts of  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$  on 13th, 14th and 15th April decimated them. In general the summer weather was good with some incredible temperatures scattered throughout. We experienced the driest July, the wettest August in recent years then nationally September turned out to be the warmest for over 50 years.

Wakehurst Place maintained its premier position for attracting visitors within the National Trust.

Again cuttings were raised as maidens to supply agreed replanting schemes selected by the Sussex Black Poplar working group. A total of 80 plants of the Arundel, Isfield and Midhurst trees were supplied, with 300 cuttings sent to the Forestry Commission Research Station at Alice Holt to be raised for the Millennium Dome site.

The new Nursery and Plant Records Unit Manager, Clive Foster, commenced on the 17th May, transferring from the Science Support Unit at Kew.

The research collection of conifers (**Callitris**, **Actinostrobus**, **Cupressus**) grown for Aljos Farjon was transferred from Kew to the nursery. Aljos completed his verification of our conifer collections.

The Ditch Beds ('*Lady Price's Bog Garden*') area established well in its first summer, and despite some losses to the **Primula** plantings through extended drought, the overall scheme has been successful. A new group of **Meconopsis betonicifolia** planted with **Cardiocrinum giganteum** moved from below the Primula Dell are included in the scheme, the area having more shade providing better cultural conditions. The remainder of the area has been planted with bold groups of **Iris** and a substantial collection of **Hemerocallis** cultivars brought together from the bog garden and nursery. Following removal of the **Cardiocrinum**, the bed adjacent to Pergola Walk has been replanted using species and hybrid rhododendrons propagated and held since the storm of 1987. These provide a better foil for the substantial **Magnolia** planted centrally in this bed.

Clearance and cultivation of Specimen Bed F (mixed theme) was done ready for replanting in spring. The existing themed beds have continued to develop well, with refinements to the planting schemes in the red and white beds (Beds A and E) undertaken during the spring and summer.

### Botanical Collections

With the mild wet conditions of the winter months, concerns over the soft growth made by the botanical plantings last year failing to withstand frosts were not borne out. Little frost damage occurred, even on species prone to damage in previous seasons.

Further plantings were carried out to augment the geographic scheme throughout the estate adding substantially from the R.B.G. Kew expedition material from Asia grown on in the Wakehurst Nursery, including accessions from the Hokkaido, Russian Far East and Sichuan trips. The latter included large groups of the uncommon **Toona sinensis** and attractive **Broussonetia papyrifera**.

A seed collecting trip to private estates in the southern Appalachians, U.S.A., led by Andy Jackson, yielded 55 collections including two new introductions to R.B.G. Kew – **Pyrularia pubera** and **Mitchella repens**. In addition six species of oak, three hickories, three rhododendrons and the first natural source material for R.B.G. Kew of **Maclura pomifera** and **Acer leucoderme** were collected. Direct sowings of **Carya glabra** and **C. tomentosa** from this expedition were made.

Seeds of the parasitic shrub **Pyrularia pubera** were planted at the base of ten-year old **Quercus rubra** and **Q. velutina** in the hope that they will form an immediate relationship with species that they are known to parasitise. This has proven to be difficult, one seed germinated in a pot with young **Q. robur** and although the root is clearly visible no shoot has developed yet. This may be related to its parasitism of roots in the first year and to be preceded by the development of a shoot in the second or subsequent years. In addition to the material from Kew, expeditions to Turkey, China and Pakistan yielded notable collections including two oaks from Mexico donated by the Hillier Arboretum (**Quercus lanceifolia** and **Q. polymorpha**) and a large group of **Pilgerodendron uviferum** donated by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Bracken removal in Westwood Valley was undertaken earlier in the season than in recent years. However, the protection afforded by the bracken up to cutting reduced water loss and aided establishment.

To make the Loder Valley Reserve more accessible to visitors, tours were offered at 2.15 p.m. every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday from April to September by the Conservation and Woodland Unit team. These have been extremely successful with over 350 participants.

All our events benefited from good weather and moving the Woodland Skills day forward was beneficial in attracting more young families and captured the enthusiasm of youngsters and linked into the educational work carried out at Wakehurst Place. To advertise the event a willow sculptress, Clare Wilkes, was commissioned to make two "living" seats. The theme focused on coppice products for use in the garden, with 32 craftsmen participating and representing 23 woodland and rural skills.

The Bluebell and Autumn Colour Weekends followed the successful format used in 1998, and included guided tours by vehicles, which were greatly welcomed by many older visitors.

The theme of Robin Hood was apparent at this year's Craft Fayre with the three days enjoying spectacularly warm weather.

Our magnificent Christmas tree was festooned in a spiral of white lights and again the Carol Concert was much appreciated with our new Director, Professor Peter Crane, attending.

A revised map ticket was introduced in July. It includes information on the Millennium Seed Bank Project, a visitor survey, and references linking the map to the new oak signs now installed and sponsored by Friends.

## THE DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITIES DURING 1999

By Eleanor Bunnell, the Director's Secretary

In August 1999 Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance retired from the Directorship of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Professor Peter R. Crane became the new Director. Peter, who is British, received his B.Sc. and Ph.D. from the University of Reading and also taught in the Department of Botany from 1978 to 1981. For the last 18 years he had been based in the U.S. mainly at the Field Museum in Chicago where he had most recently been Director and Vice-President of Academic Affairs.

During the months leading up to his retirement, Iain Prance was as busy as ever and whilst running Kew he managed to attend external meetings on behalf of Kew, give lectures, welcome visitors and pursue his research.

He travelled to Atlanta, U.S.A. for R.B.G. Kew Enterprises and in May lectured at the Ottawa Botanic Garden and the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C. Both Iain and Peter attended the International Botanical Congress in St. Louis in late July. Peter was the Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee for the Congress. The day after Iain retired he and his wife, Anne, accompanied a Friends of Kew tour to the Pantanal in Brazil in August.

Iain gave numerous lectures during his last few months at Kew including York, Manchester and Kingston Universities, the Sir Hans Sloane Lecture, the Royal College of Physicians and Institute of Biology. He was one of the board members for the recruitment of a new Regius Keeper for the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. In July he received another honorary doctorate – this time from the University of Glasgow, making an impressive total of 11.

In April, Iain and other Kew staff met Prince Charles, who is patron of the Castle Howard Arboretum Trust, at Castle Howard in Yorkshire. This was part of a fund raising event for the Trust and Prince Charles saw the work that Kew were doing there.

Several leaving parties were held for the Prances during July and it was a very hectic time for them. Amongst their presents was a portrait of Iain by Tom Hallifax which had been commissioned by the Foundation and Friends.

The Prances have settled into their home at Lyme Regis and are extremely active – Iain is very involved with the Eden Project in Cornwall and is still doing a lot of lecturing and comes back to the Herbarium frequently for his research.

Peter's main focus in his first few weeks had been to look at Kew from the broadest possible perspective with a view to understanding how it was currently operating. He visited all the Departments and spent some time with each of the senior managers. He also made time to meet all of the Trustees individually. At the Director's first general talk to staff he spoke about his experiences at the Field Museum and how he might approach some issues and key challenges at Kew.

The Kew Environmental Lecture took place soon after Peter arrived and Yolanda Kakabadse, the Environmental Minister of Ecuador, gave the lecture. That was followed a few days later by the School of Horticulture Prizegiving with David Bellamy giving the prizes and an entertaining speech. Peter was on the selection board for the Head of Botany at the Natural History Museum.

In October he attended and gave a paper at the Geological Society of America conference in Denver. He also chaired several meetings of the Paleontological Society of which he is President. Peter visited Stockholm briefly at the end of November for his research and gave



Professor Peter Crane.

lectures in November and December at the Oxford Botanic Garden and the School of Plant Sciences in the University of Reading.

In November the Kew Award was presented to the remarkable Stella Ross-Craig in recognition of her long association with Kew and her outstanding contribution to botanical art.

One of the major fund raising events for the Millennium Seed Bank this year was an auction held at Sotheby's organised by the magazine *House & Garden* of flower paintings by several well known artists. The Millennium Seed Bank building is progressing well and is due to open in the summer of 2000; the seed collecting is also going well with seed of virtually all of the U.K. having already been collected.

Professors John Parker and Mick Crawley have been re-appointed to the Board of Trustees for a further three-year term. During the year Sylvia FitzGerald, the Chief Librarian and Dr. David Cutler, Deputy Keeper of the Jodrell retired.

## THE KEW GUILD ROOM AND ITS HISTORIC LEGACY

By Martin Sands and Sylvia FitzGerald

The Kew Guild, as many older members will recall, began as an association of just Kew horticultural staff and students. Even when, later, other Kewites were allowed to become members, the business of the Guild for many decades continued to be run exclusively by 'gardens' staff, with people from other departments only gradually becoming involved. It was natural therefore, for the Committee to meet somewhere in the Gardens and, certainly from the 1950s onwards, meetings were invariably held in Descanso House – in the students library, gardens' herbarium or what came to be known as the 'Bean Suite'. Increasingly however, these rooms were needed for other purposes and, by the late 1980s, the Guild was seeking a new and more permanent venue for its meetings. It also needed a permanent home for its archives, which had been scattered in various places, often quite unsuitable for their long-term storage. As the centenary of the Guild approached, several options were considered but the large first floor room in Hunter house (the Old Library), part of the Herbarium complex, was favoured. Since 1969, when the library was re-housed in the new Wing D, this room had been used for meetings and seminars and needed redecoration. Professor Gren Lucas, then Keeper of the Herbarium and later President of the Guild from 1995 to 1996, approved its refurbishment and thus it was that, in the Guild's centenary year, 1993, a room which had once been the nerve centre of the Kew library for over 100 years, became the first to be formally designated as the 'Kew Guild Room' (see *Kew Guild Journal*, Vol.11, 1993, pp.254-260).

Now, while still available for Herbarium affairs, the Guild Room is used particularly for Kew Guild Committee meetings and for the storage in elegant cabinets of archival and other materials of the Guild. On the walls are the original Kew Guild Grant of Arms and five commemorative boards commissioned to mark the Centenary, showing the Guild Coat of Arms and the names of all the Guild Presidents; two other boards list benefactors of the Guild and of the Bentham Moxon Trust. On either side of the window bay, stand busts of Sir William and Sir Joseph Hooker made by leading sculptors of their day.

Hunter House, including the Kew Guild Room, has an interesting history. It was built before 1771, probably on the site of an older house, and is the oldest part of a very extensive complex which forms the present day Herbarium and Library. It is named after a wealthy City merchant, who bought it in 1800; he is said to have come from the same part of Scotland as William Aiton and to have come to London with him. Robert Hunter died in 1812, and his son, another Robert, sold it to King George IV in 1820.

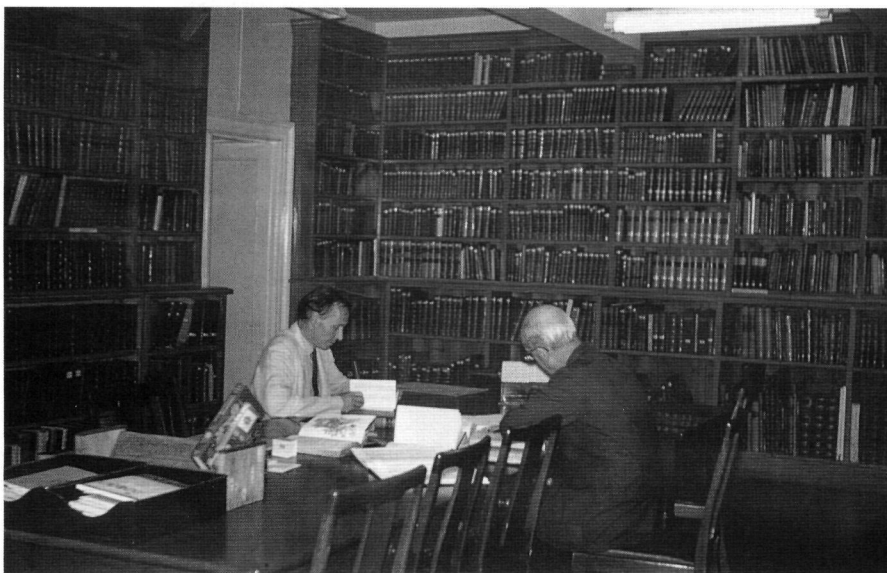
In the 18th century, the Royal Gardens at Kew had no official herbarium or library; the King and Queen and the superintendants had their own small private collections but the main source of reference was Sir Joseph Banks' own excellent library and herbarium at Soho Square in London. Banks, and his Librarian Jonas Dryander, used to visit Kew regularly to identify new plants and of course they could readily compare them with specimens, drawings and descriptions

at Soho Square. In 1818, Sir Joseph suggested to the Prince Regent that Mr. Hunter's house be acquired so that a herbarium and a library could be established for the Gardens. The house was indeed acquired but, with the death of King George III on 20th January, 1820 and of Banks on 19th June that same year, the project was forgotten. King George IV sold the house to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests in July 1823. However, the documentation for this sale was mislaid and, in 1830, his brother, King William IV, gave the house and its six acres to another brother, the Duke of Cumberland. This Duke became King of Hanover in 1837 and, although he went to live in Hanover, he retained Hunter House with its six acres until his death in 1851.

Meanwhile, in 1841, Kew had been transformed into a public research establishment under the supervision of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests and Sir William Hooker was Director. The quantity of botanical and horticultural publications appearing every year was increasing dramatically as a result of more exploration and research world-wide. Hooker's own personal library and herbarium needed space for future expansion and, in 1852, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew was given the Library of Mr. W. A. Blomfield. It was then that the Commissioners of Woods and Forests finally agreed to allow Sir William Hooker to use Hunter House to accommodate them and, in 1854, George Bentham gave his fine library and herbarium. Thus was Sir Joseph Banks' wish finally fulfilled.

By the 1890s the Library had become known outside the botanical world and, on 11th July, 1898, it was visited by members of the Library Association which received its Royal Charter that year. The report in the periodical, *The Library* (Vol.10, p. 264), says:

"Mr. Thiselton Dyer, the Director of the Gardens at Kew, received the visitors, and in conjunction with the Director of the Herbarium (Mr. Baker) and the Librarian (Mr. Botting Hemsley), gave every facility for the examination of exquisitely illustrated works on botany and kindred subjects. These volumes the members handled with great pleasure, and they were particularly interested in the very rare old herbals, dating back to the 15th century, and the Chinese books on botany."



Photograph 1. The Old Central Library in 1968, with Desmond Meikle and Kenneth Airy-Shaw busy at work.  
(All photographs courtesy of Martin Sands)



Nowadays, very many botanists and other researchers come to study in the Library and consult the archives. Visiting librarians still enjoy seeing some of the rare works, and are often surprised to find that these old volumes are such an important source of information for modern scientific research.



Photograph 2. Fireplace in the library room above the Old Central Library in 1963, with a picture above the mantelpiece showing Sir Joseph Hooker collecting *Rhododendrons* in the Himalayas.

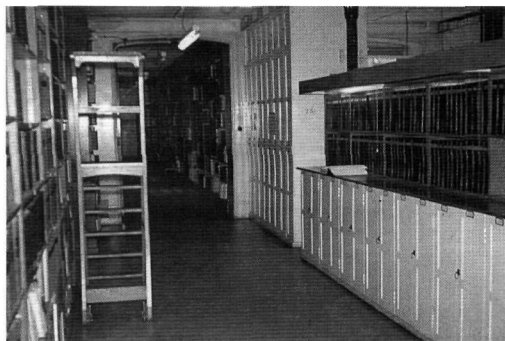
quiet study and research (Photograph 1 on previous page), but it was not always so tranquil, for in the early part of the morning, the table and the latest publications were the focal point of very lively debate, the exchange of news – and sometimes gossip! John Hutchinson (1884-1972), at first a Kew gardener and later a very well known botanist, remembered that there used to be an oil lamp in the Central Library, brought in by the Keeper at 4 p.m. during the winter. Electricity was installed in the building in 1904. Although no actual evidence of a fireplace in the Kew Guild Room has been found, it seems reasonable to assume that there must have been one, perhaps not dissimilar to the Adam fireplace in the room above (Photograph 2 above), which has a very interesting swivel guard that retracts into a space behind the grate.

Over the years many eminent botanists worked in the Central Library room and often at the big table. George Bentham worked at a table nearby and J. Britten compiled the printed catalogue of the Library, published in 1899. B. D. Jackson and his helpers compiled the *Index Kewensis* in the Library, the first volume of which appeared in 1892, – the same year in

The Kew Guild Room was Kew's Central Library for 117 years, until the new Library in Wing D was opened in 1969. Even today, this room is remembered as the 'Old Central Library' by its former staff and users. They recall the numbered stacks of polished wooden wall-shelves and the way in which the lowest two shelves protruded further than those above them to provide a narrow, but helpful, reading shelf round much of the room at about waist height. The constantly-used reference books and journals were kept in this room, including *Kew Bulletin*, *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, the Pre-Linnean herbals and Linnaeus' own works, plant family monographs, books on economic plants and so on. When the shelving was dismantled after the move, fragments of old handmade wallpaper were found behind it, made before 1850 and patterned in various shades of blue.

In the middle of the Central Library was a very large and heavy table, on which, at one end, the latest periodicals were on show and new books were displayed on cabinets near the windows. A large, black-bound manuscript catalogue of most of the works in the library was centrally placed on a lectern.

For much of each day the central table was a place for quiet study and research (Photograph 1 on previous page), but it was not always so tranquil, for in the early part of the morning, the table and the latest publications were the focal point of very lively debate, the exchange of news – and sometimes gossip! John Hutchinson (1884-1972), at first a Kew gardener and later a very well known botanist, remembered that there used to be an oil lamp in the Central Library, brought in by the Keeper at 4 p.m. during the winter. Electricity was installed in the building in 1904. Although no actual evidence of a fireplace

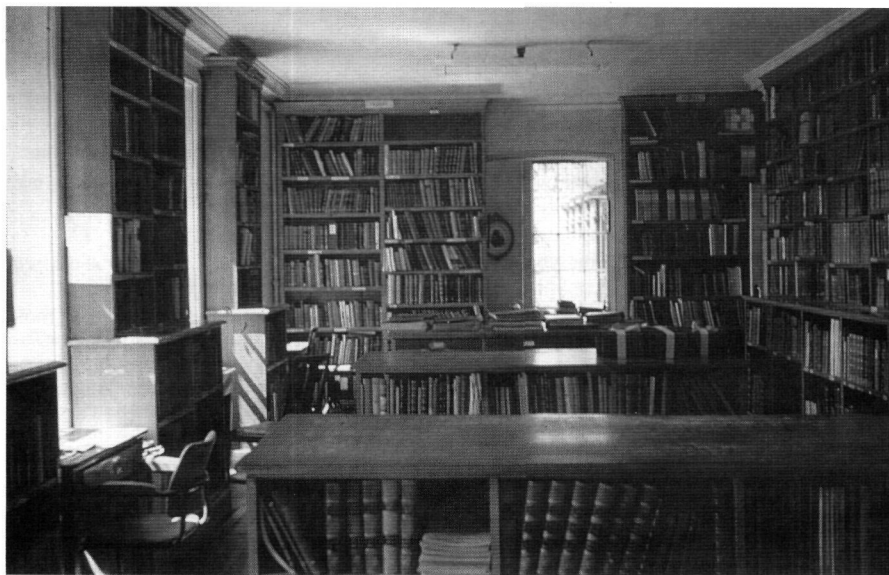


Photograph 3. Volumes of the *Index Kewensis* in Wing C, just outside the Old Central Library, in 1968, with the corridor to Wing B beyond.



which the fledgling Kew Guild was born! For a long time, on special shelves at the end of Wing C (just outside the Central Library (Photograph 3 on the page opposite), was kept the unique set of intercalated supplements to *Index Kewensis*, painstakingly updated over the years with scissors and paste. Despite being largely superseded by its modern databased version, these many revered and well-thumbed dark red volumes still have pride of place in the Kew Library today and remain a vital work of reference.

As the years went by, the Library expanded into other rooms on the first and second floors of Hunter House (Photograph 4 below) as well as into corridors connecting Wings B and C on three levels. Every inch of wall space was lined with books. The corridors are nowadays home to thousands of specimens in steel cabinets – part of the ever expanding Herbarium – but then they were devoted to housing the many runs of botanical journals from all over the world, with the window sills almost the only working surfaces available. Then, as now, the regular use of the older literature meant that it could not be discarded and more space had to be found for the new publications. By the early 1960s, the weight of the books, on the floor above the Central Library, caused it to sag and so supporting beams had to be installed, which are still visible in the Kew Guild Room today.



Photograph 4. First floor library room in the front of Hunter House in 1968, which housed most of the floras of the world.

During the Second World War, most of the Library and Archives were transferred to safer locations; they returned to Kew in 1945/46. Then, during the next 20 years or so, the old Library gradually became full to overflowing and, in 1969, it was moved to its present location where it occupies the whole of the first floor and part of the ground floor of the Herbarium's Wing D – which, 30 years on, is full up again!

Fortunately, Hunter House and Kew's Central Library were undamaged in the Second World War, and the windows still include much of their original 18th century glass which is very slightly curved to follow the sweep of the bay. Furthermore, during refurbishment, the folding wooden shutters, which were thickly painted into the sides of the window recesses, were found still to

work perfectly despite many decades of disuse. They are most useful now when using projectors in the room.

The Kew Guild Room carries with it a fine historic legacy and there is no doubt its lath and plaster walls could tell many a fascinating tale if only they could speak!

(Martin Sands was a member of the Herbarium staff from 1959 to 1998 and knew the Kew Guild Room, when it was the central room of the Library, for more than ten years. He later served for several years as Herbarium Co-ordinator and is now an Honorary Research Associate. Sylvia FitzGerald was Head of Library and Archives from 1979 to 1999 and her interest has resulted partly from her work on the archives and partly from the need to understand the storage history of the Library and Archives for conservation purposes. The authors are indebted to Nigel Hepper, Molly Kierens, Kathleen Rattue, the late Leonard Forman and others for their recollections of the Old Central Library, and to Ray Desmond for the wealth of information in his book, *Kew: a History of the Royal Gardens* (1995)).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR (Received March 1999)

From Malcolm Leppard

Dear Richard,

Below please find an article for the *Journal*.

I hope you are keeping well. Sincerely, Malcolm Leppard.

### High Subs Stifle Membership

Is the Kew Guild's endeavours to increase membership being hampered by membership fees?

Living in the Third World, I have over the years raised this issue – even before it personally affected me – being branded as a whinger and nuisance in the process.

My response to this question, based on experience, has to be an emphatic yes!

Though membership rates may be considered cheap in the U.K. and similarly well-off First World countries, in many like Zimbabwe, they are considered high, too high!

Why is this so? Well, we need to look at a few factors. Earning power, for starters, in most developing countries, is considerably less and the cost of living is very much higher. Foreign currency values and government controls increasingly place an ever larger burden on exporters of forex. For example, looking at Zimbabwe, 20 odd years ago our dollar was on par with the pound. The rate is now \$65 to one pound. What it will be next year is anyone's guess. No further explanation should be necessary!

The purchasing of forex is government controlled. Although much easier to acquire these days, it still requires a proper invoice from the beneficiary before being granted by the government and even then the money has to be in the interest of the country. No formal invoice, no forex! Though individuals are entitled to limited amounts for foreign holiday use, to use as they like, it's far too little to spare on subs!

Fifteen pounds may be peanuts to Brits, but this amount means a month's pension to a Zimbabwean like me. Devaluation has seen life-time savings wiped out. With our economy in tatters and the standard of living dropping by the day, one has to make sacrifices. For me, reluctantly, it was membership to the Kew Guild and all other professional memberships that one sees very little in return for the large annual outlay.

Is there an answer? I cannot say, but I feel it should be considered seriously by the Guild. It is most unfortunate that many ex Kewites are deprived of the only form of important contact with Kew, through no fault of their own!

Malcolm Leppard, Box CY53, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe.

(Don't tempt me Malcolm, I could get political. But don't forget that The Guild also sends you regular *Kew Guardians* as well as *The Journal*, including postage costs. What do other members around the world think? Ed.)

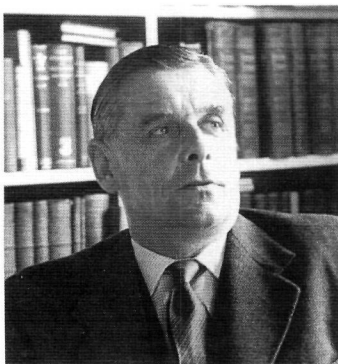
# **YEARLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR R.B.G. KEW 1999** kindly provided by Robin Graham

1999	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year (Totals)
Month's Total rainfall (mm)	72.6	25.4	28.1	34.2	28.9	95.1	2.5	93.5	84.6	32.8	30.0	79.6	607.3
Most rain in one day	14.9	7.6	7.1	7.1	7.3	32.4	1.5	18.9	18.9	7.5	6.3	15.6	Aug/Sep 18.9
Highest temp. Max.	15.2	14.1	19.8	21.3	25.5	27.2	31.0	32.6	29.4	18.9	17.2	13.1	Aug 32.6
Lowest temp. Max.	4.0	3.5	5.5	8.8	15.1	16.9	14.8	17.1	13.4	11.0	6.2	2.2	Aug 17.1
Lowest temp. Min.	-4.0	-5.7	-2.0	-3.0	2.9	4.9	7.2	7.8	7.9	0.5	-0.8	-7.2	Dec -7.2
Highest temp. Min.	11.0	6.7	11.0	11.9	15.8	14.4	17.5	18.1	17.2	14.1	12.4	8.5	Aug 18.1
Max Average	9.7	9.1	12.5	15.4	19.6	20.8	25.2	23.5	22.1	16.2	11.3	9.1	16.2
Min Average	2.7	1.7	3.8	5.3	9.1	8.5	12.2	12.9	12.0	6.6	4.7	1.1	6.7
10cm Average	5.0	4.3	6.9	10.4	14.9	17.1	19.8	18.1	16.3	10.3	7.3	4.5	11.2
20cm Average	5.5	4.8	7.8	10.1	14.1	16.2	19.2	17.9	16.3	10.7	7.7	5.2	11.3
30cm Average	5.8	5.3	8.0	10.8	14.2	16.8	19.5	18.5	16.8	11.7	8.2	5.9	11.8
100cm Average	7.2	6.8	8.0	10.2	12.7	14.7	16.6	17.1	16.4	13.5	10.3	8.2	11.8
Snow days	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Hail days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Thunder days	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4
Gale days	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Lowest grass temp.	-8.6	-10.6	-6.0	-8.1	-0.1	0.5	3.2	3.4	2.1	-4.6	-5.3	-12.0	Dec -12.0
Lowest concrete temp.	-5.5	-7.2	-4.0	-5.1	2.6	2.5	5.1	4.8	4.4	-2.8	-3.2	-9.6	Dec -9.6
No. days air min < 0°C.	5	9	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	37
No. days grass min < 0°C.	16	13	11	9	1	0	0	0	0	11	13	22	96
No. days concrete min < 0°C.	17	13	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	6	8	20	77
Rain hours A	122	73	52	59	?	81	6	73	110	77	47	94	794
Rain hours B	90.7	47.6	34.3	9.4+def	No readings	51.8	2.2	41.1	54.4	37.8	16.9+def	60.3	547.9+def
Hours sunshine	53.6	87.7	116.8	157.1	184.2	184.2	273.8	197.4	157.6	158.4	78.4	62.6	Jul 273.8
Av. Mean sun per day	1.73	3.13	3.77	5.24	6.14	6.58	8.83	6.37	5.25	5.12	2.60	2.24	July 8.83
Most sun in one day	5.8	8.6	10.2	12.8	13.2	15.3	14.2	14.5	11.6	10.3	7.0	6.3	Jun 15.3
Fastest wind speed (knots)	38	30	29	31	27	21	21	18	14	24	18	26	Jan 38
And Gusts	42	38	33	40	31	32	31	23	24	30	28	45	Dec 45
And Direction	WSW	NW	W	W	ENE	WSW	WSW	NW	NW	SSW	SW	SW	Dec SW
No. of days with no sun	8	8	6	2	2	1	0	0	2	1	3	8	41
No. of days with no rain	5	10	15	9	14	14	26	12	10	17	11	4	147
Deepest snow depth (cm)	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Feb 1.0
Fog days	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
pH Range	5.26-6.60	3.16-7.05	4.28-6.38	4.62-7.49	4.67-6.80	5.45-7.61	6.75	6.24-7.08	6.30-6.87	6.48-8.12	4.65-6.81	5.37-6.90	3.16-8.12
pH Average	6.19	5.43	5.48	6.67	5.99	6.55	6.75	6.71	6.63	6.92	6.31	6.55	6.35
pH No. Tests	11	7	8	8	5	10	1	10	12	6	7	10	95

## FIFTY YEARS AGO IN KEW HERBARIUM

By F. Nigel Hepper; based on his Diary and Letters of 1950s

During the last 50 years the Kew Herbarium has changed vastly, so it may be of historical interest to look back to my first days in 1950 at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. I was keen on systematic botany and wanted to be a plant taxonomist, especially after working for six weeks in the British Herbarium at the Natural History Museum, then the B.M.(N.H.), in 1949. There were Colonial Office 'temporary' posts for taxonomists based at Kew to work on the *'Flora of Tropical East Africa'*, but when I heard that a Kew staff taxonomist post was advertised by the Civil Service I applied for it. I was advised to have a second option for the B.M.(N.H.), but my strong personal preference was towards Kew because of its garden with living plants, as well as the dried specimens on which I should be working. On 30th March I was interviewed by Civil Service Commissioners at Trinidad House in central London and that evening I wrote the following in my diary:



Dr. George Taylor (later Sir George).

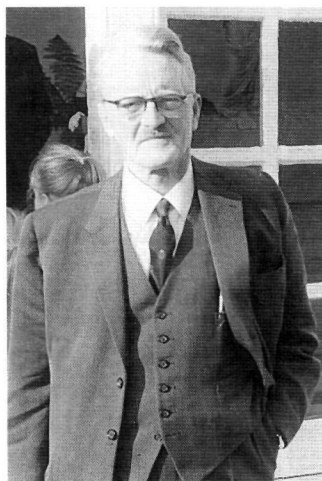
**Thursday 30th March 1950:** "Filled in a form (on the 7th floor) and before I had finished at 3.02 – appointment at 3.05 – bell rang, attendant shoved me off, hadn't time to take coat off! But [the call] was for Miss [Somebody] who'd gone to the wrong room. Chairman saw me as I entered, 'Who are you?' he demanded, so I returned in disorder. Left coat and returned to interview room and apologised for my premature entry – of course it would happen to me. A very pleasant Chairman (I think I've met before) and six others. To his right was youngish red-headed chap who asked me two useless queries I've now forgotten; an older chap I've seen before but I don't think it was Mr. Alston [B.M.(N.H.)] [who] questioned me on palaeobotany: 'if [you] find fossil A becomes B and B becomes C at same time X becomes Y could you assume C was derived from A?' – that sort of question

. . . Dr. Taylor

[George Taylor of the B.M.(N.H.), later Director of Kew] asked me about books, where I bought them, what botany books I should recommend to a beginner etc., also on the work I had done at the B.M. [in 1949] and what I had found. He was critical here, but not as bad as last year when I saw him. To left of Chairman was a large red-faced chappie with a Scottish accent and two others I think not botanists [actually one was Francis Ballard, pteridologist at Kew Herbarium]. [They] asked me about spare-time activities and I told them of coins, books, seeds and plant collections. One asked me what form our [King's College] Natural History Society [of which I was Chairman and former Honorary Secretary] took – they all seemed generally interested in that.

"At 3.30 left them and five minutes later was recalled to hear the good news . . . The Chairman said 'We have decided to give you a job, Hepper. Will you give this to the attendant?' and he handed me an official note . . . exam results permitting I am in CHEERS."

I was accepted on condition that I gained a First or Second Class degree. I still did not know whether I had



Francis Ballard.

been selected for Kew or the B.M.(N.H.), but it so happened that weekend I attended the conference organised by the Botanical Society of the British Isles (B.S.B.I.) at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall in Vincent Square. During the tea-break I got into conversation with the small, dapper man beside me. He turned out to be Victor Summerhayes, the great Kew orchidologist. To our mutual surprise we found that Dr. Turill of Kew Herbarium expected us to work together on the Australian flora. So from that I knew that I had been assigned to Kew, but as it worked out not on Australian plants.

Sure enough, my appointment was confirmed by a letter on 1st May from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries by whom Kew was administered. Having met their conditions with a Durham University B.Sc.2(1) Special Honours Botany, although based at King's College (now the University of Newcastle), my starting date was agreed as Monday 21st August. (This was after a cycling holiday in Northern Ireland with my student friend Robert Savage, who later became Professor of Geology at Bristol University and Director of the Museum; he died in 1998).

I left my home in Leeds for London on Sunday 20th August and found temporary accommodation at the Central YMCA, hoping to find permanent lodging in the Kew area. London in 1950 was still pretty grim, recovering from the 'blitz' with numerous weedy bomb-damage sites everywhere. Food was still rationed – even bread that had not been rationed during the war. Everything, such as paper, was in short supply.

For many years I had kept a personal diary but I seem to have written up only 20th and 21st August and a few later entries. However, the letters I wrote to my parents at Leeds were kept by my Mother and these contain much additional information about Kew. To these extracts I add in square brackets some explanatory notes.

**Monday 21st August 1950**, my first day at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew: "One might well ask, 'What does a professional botanist do on his first day at Kew Herbarium?'. This, at least, I can answer from my own experience. It was not without wonder – and a certain amount of timidity – that I boarded the number 73 bus (subsequently found it went to Richmond via Sheen and not to Kew, so changed at Hammersmith) in Oxford Street at 8.10. Although I had not to report until 9.30 I determined not to leave anything to chance. Indeed, I left so much time that when I alighted at Kew Bridge it was but 9 o'clock.

"My instructions from Mr. Sweete, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, were certainly vague as they told me to report to 'Mr. F. G. Solomon at the Gardens, Kew, Richmond at 9.30 a.m. on Monday 21st August', for the 'gardens' are large and the offices are several. However, on trying the Director's Office ('Private: except on business') I was informed that Mr. Solomon would arrive at 9.30, in ten minutes.

"I waited in Sir Geoffrey Evans' [the Economic Botanist] room (he did not arrive though) until Mr. Solomon had finished seeing another young fellow, the Director and whatnot, then he told me the Director, Sir Edward Salisbury, wished to see me. Upstairs, first on the left I was ushered into his room. He is a small rather thick-set fellow with a jolly face – but several teeth are missing – and grey, rather close-cropped hair and small moustache. He seemed very pleased to welcome me and said that I came from a pleasant county [Yorkshire]. We discussed the district and Teesdale and he spoke of his visit to Mr. Cooke [whom I also knew] at Corbridge in Northumberland. I had an anxious moment when he started talking about the tolerances of species and saying that he was surprised *Triarbusculata* [obscure] and several other species were hardy with him for I could not think what the genus was and feared that he might continue on this line. I said I didn't remember it, but he was a truly remarkable horticulturalist. Finally, Sir Edward gave me some advice which in effect amounted to the fact that I should not become too limited in my botanical work and knowledge and keep a passing knowledge of other branches.

"Downstairs again I went into Mr. Solomon's room. He is the Principal Clerk and is the general go-between and a very pleasant fellow (in sports coat and slacks like so many of the Herbarium staff). He is not a scientist. He gave me the general information on the working of the place – and also that he is a professional tennis coach and that there are four courts behind the Herbarium for our use [he told me he did not charge staff for his coaching at the Club].

"We waited for Dr. Turrill [W. B. Turrill, Keeper of the Herbarium, whom I had met the previous year while a student on a research project, variations of ***Silene nutans***, based at the National History Museum under A. J. Willmott who took me to meet Turrill and consult the Kew Herbarium collections] to finish his chat with Dr. Bor [N. L. Bor, Assistant Director] – when I saw him coming down stairs earlier he welcomed me with his unforgettable, bone-crushing handshake like a lost relation ! At 10.40 we went via the tennis courts to the Herbarium.



Robert Sealy and Stella Ross-Craig.

B and C and their spiral, clock-wise arrangement of genera [families] in the Bentham and Hooker system. The books are grouped similarly but also in geographical arrangement. During the course of my tour he introduced me to everybody he could and also to the main group who were gathered in the coffee room in mid-morning. This is a converted [air-raid] shelter and here we meet between 11.00 and 11.30. One meets Dr. Turrill, the Keeper, on equal terms and the general flow of conversation is pleasant, although of course my introduction damped things a bit at first. [This room was reached from the grassy quadrangle via 'The Marquand Window' – French doors made at the instigation of the botanist C. V. B. Marquand (1897-1943) in Wing C. The Kew carthorse grazed this quad and had to be restrained from putting its head into a window in Wing A by a steel bracket fastened outside. Before the A.R.P. shelter was used, I heard that staff tea was served on the stairs inside Hunter House. There was no control on the front door or

"After finding Mr. [Robert] Sealy, Mr. Solomon left us. It appears that I am to work on the Tropical Flora of Asia and not the flora of Australasia as there has been a reshuffle of people due to Dr. [Ronald] Melville returning to the Herbarium from the Museums . . .

"Actually I shall be Airy-Shaw's [H. Kenneth Airy-Shaw] Assistant, but he is on leave [at the International Botanical Congress in Stockholm] and Sealy is taking me on as he deals with Chinese and temperate Asia flora. He is about 35, dark eyes, swept back hair . . . a very good botanist and he showed me around very well [Robert Sealy and his wife, Stella Ross-Craig the famous Kew botanical artist, in their 90s still live in Richmond]. It is impossible to write everything he said, but the general idea was to show me the arrangement of the three wings A,



North end of Wing C with Marquand Window steps leading to a brick-built surface air-raid shelter used as the Staff-room; Experimental Grounds with greenhouse; Imperial Mycological Institute; and cedars of Lebanon later replaced by Wing D; taken in 1956.

passes, so visitors simply rang the bell to attract the attention of the Constables/Messengers in the basement. The room on the left was occupied by a Miss King who saw to the Herbarium staff attendance, post and the telephone calls. There was only one phone in each Wing and probably not more than half a dozen in the whole Herbarium, connected by her at the exchange by manual jacks.]

"The Herbarium is being re-decorated so some things are in chaos – the Library, for instance, is virtually out of use for two days.

"We went to lunch at the Nook Cafe on Kew Green [next to Gumley Cottage] with Mr. Burt [B. L. Burt] – a cultivated looking fellow with an appearance of being 25 but he must be much more. His hair has gone from the top except around the sides. The Cafe is a tiny place kept going by the Kew staff but the food is good [staff discount on a three course lunch at 2s3d, instead of 2s6d (c12p) and a scone tea for 1s6d (7p)].

"In the afternoon Sealy showed me the plot [known as the 'Experimental Ground'] at the east end of the Herbarium which we can use for trials – it seems ludicrous to have to use this place when the whole of Kew Gardens is at our finger-tips! I can see this is where my *Silenes* will go [*S. nutans* from various sources were grown there for me about 1953-56].

"After this we got going with some **Araceae** of Kerr's collections from Siam. We started them together to get the hang of things and also to show me where the labels etc. were when we wanted them. In the course of this we had to go to the basement where I saw the stacks of unmounted, mostly unnamed, plants of generations ago – and a vast number were from Tropical Asia! There were 6 x 25 yards about five feet solid with them altogether.

"My hours are 9.00-4.00 which is good, but it is usually to 4.30 in fact. Had to leave at 4.00 today to get accommodation. Even so YMCA full and [they] put me on to hostel of 18 students at Hammersmith, not bad but not too good, booked for a week, by which time I hope to get digs [lodgings]. (Wrote this sitting on very wobbly Hammersmith Bridge, is now 9.10 p.m.)"

Here my diary entries end, but letters to my parents in Leeds and the following extracts provide additional information:

## 26th August 1950

"I am really delighted with Kew (by which I mean the Herbarium each time) and the folk there. As you will realise I automatically compare it with the B.M.(N.H.), not so much from the point of view as whether we have the best material of plants or whether they have, but from the general atmosphere and pleasure of working in such a place which is, after all, a tremendous thing . . . I have been allocated the flora of Tropical Asia, which includes Burma, Siam, Malaya and all the islands such as Borneo and Java. A fascinating flora and there are more species per unit area than anywhere else in the world. The whole staff, apart from clerical and library and mounters of specimens, have to deal with the flora of a particular area. Usually there is a Senior or Principal Scientific Officer with an assistant like me of Scientific Officer (S.O.) rank and perhaps one or two Experimental Officers (E.O.) to do the less academic work. There are about 60 people altogether of which 23 are S.O. rank or above and we are all on equal footing socially which is very pleasant. Thus I have lunch etc. with Principal S.O.s about whom I had only read in books up to last week!

"All this sounds horribly red-tape but I can assure you there is so little officialdom that one would hardly credit that Kew was manned by Civil Service staff. I am drawing up a list of people and their occupations but it is not yet completed as I do not know everybody yet; when it is finished I will send it on and you can refer to it when I mention somebody . . .



Herbarium Basement 1950.

"[Robert Sealy] gave me the history of the place and the general layout of the plants and likewise the books, fruits, seeds and illustrations in a similar arrangement; that is according to Bentham and Hooker and at Kew on a spiral basis in cupboards. To explain what I mean, imagine a large rectangular room with three railed galleries around it one above the other leaving a large central well. Blocks of cupboards radiate from the outside wall with a work-table between each block. Spiral staircases connect the floors. In arrangements of plants you start at one corner and follow round in a clockwise direction until you come to your starting point again and so move up the stairs and continue clockwise round the next gallery. There are three such blocks which look almost exactly similar so at first it is difficult to decide which block you are in . . . [here follows a plan of Kew Herbarium with Wings A, B, C; Hunter House; detached Mounters' Hut and the Experimental Garden] . . . from the dates you will see how rapidly the Herbarium expanded. The cabinets themselves are not as nice as the B.M.(N.H.) ones which are of beautiful grained walnut; these are painted softwood and the latest (1930) are of steel to cut down fire risk.

"I work on the top floor [of Wing C] and overlook the river [Thames, later obscured by Wing D]. this is the best position as there is less disturbance from people coming in. Which reminds me, only those who are botanists come into Kew [Herbarium] so the screaming youngsters who charge around the B.M.(N.H.) are eliminated.

" . . . The series of jobs that must be done in a National Herbarium are as follows . . . :

1. Collection and drying – in the field.
2. Identification – usually done by people like me when the material is at the Herbarium in original sheets, such as drying paper or newspaper – yes, that is even used at Kew!
3. 'Laying out' – the material is then transferred onto proper, stiff paper sheets and neatly arranged, labels affixed and surplus material put aside as duplicates in separate folders to be given to other herbaria.
4. 'Mounting' – the loosely laid plants are glued onto the paper by an army of girls in the Mounters' Hut. (In national herbaria they are glued; private ones must never be glued as they cannot be removed should they eventually go to a national herbarium.)
5. 'Laying-in' – the firmly stuck specimens are returned to the herbarium and sorted into their genera and species (as there are frequently more than one sheet of each specimen). They are then 'laid in' when they are placed into their folders for use and reference by anyone who wishes to study them. This is what I will be doing as it is good practice to get to know the situation of the families, genera etc.

" . . . There are other young chaps, particularly the three [John Lewis, Jim Hemsley from Leeds, Bob Drummond also from Leeds] who are doing the flora of Kenya job [Flora of Tropical East Africa]. Two of those appointed have spent some time in East Africa during their forces career and that seems to be the policy of the Commission, to pick people who have been there. I am greeted here by being treated as 'a pupil of Professor Heslop-Harrison' [Emeritus Professor at Newcastle, father of Jack who later became Director of Kew] who is considerably admired here. This is the opposite of the B.M. [A. J. Willmott disliked him because of the Rhum affair]. I didn't realise before what a help his name could be, rather than a hindrance. There is no doubt whatsoever that being in a department with good staff, as King's has, helps me greatly, not only academically but personally when they know that so-and-so tutored you . . ."

### 3rd September 1950

"My new address in Richmond is 43 Montague Road [my present address is 25A!] – I put the Herbarium address at the head of the page as I think it looks much nicer: the novelty has not yet worn off, and I hope it never will! . . . Most of the places round here are in the £3 neighbourhood [for bed and breakfast and evening meal]. Shocking price when you consider Mrs. Jordan's [on Tyneside] was 45 shillings [£2.25] for the same services, but then in London money is screwed out of one right and left. Take transport for instance. 1½d takes you a few



hundred yards, so 2½d is the usual fare for but a short distance. After this the fare jumps to 4d and then up by a penny . . . they are shortly to be increased by 20%.

"Whilst on money arrangements I may as well tell you what happens to my [annual] pay [£380 plus £20 London weighting]. Out of the £400 goes £46 in Income Tax, £13 on National Insurance, £20 superannuation (for which a little tax relief is allowed, I believe). This comes to £80 a year which is off before we start, giving £6-2-6 net a week, with keep and midday meals off and odd essentials, I have 20 shillings left for other things; so there we have it. Anyway it's good to be at Kew.

"This week I have been laying in the mounted material into the cabinets . . . Much of the material is new stuff or type material i.e. plants from which an original description was made. Thus, if I go out and find a plant that has never been described before I preserve it, write my description (in Latin) and publish it and put a label on the sheet 'TYPE SPECIMEN HERB. KEW.' to show that was the plant I used and if anybody cannot understand my description, then he can see the very plant and verify it for himself, then there can be no dispute as to what I meant. If I found a little community of this plant growing and collected several, then I should select one for type specimen and the rest would be type numbers . . .

"You would have thought that this sort of thing would have been taught at universities, but no, I don't suppose a half per cent of the students who pass through university courses, never mind honours, have the vaguest about the organisation of a national herbarium. It is not just 'for the good of their soul', as Mr. Sealy would say, but because at any time they may need to refer to Kew or B.M.(N.H.) even if they are physiologists who have no interest in taxonomy . . . I was fortunate having the B.M.(N.H.) experiences, but others in my year had no idea of it . . . I forgot to say that the type specimens are placed in a special folder with red edges so that you can tell at a glance which they are. This was thought of at the beginning of, or shortly before the war, so that if evacuation came these valuable sheets could be extracted and stored safely and now they are very useful for ordinary purposes . . .

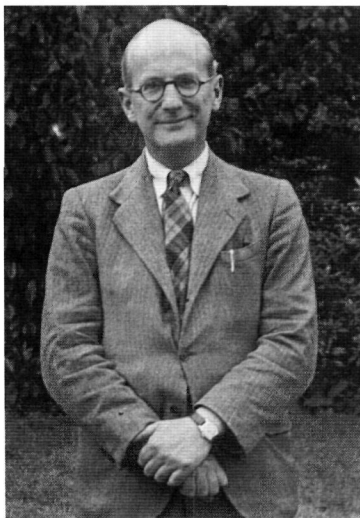
"I find that I have more leave than I expected i.e. 36 days instead of 30, so that if I took these by the week it would be six weeks – not bad . . .

"During my time here I have been putting out feelers re this Rotary Fellowship [to Australia, supported by Leeds Rotary]. The first big snag was that I was put on Tropical Asia and not Australia, this means only Singapore University is possible, which in any case is not as congenial as Australia would be. The second blow is that Sir Edward Salisbury puts his foot down at giving people leave for other activities; thus if I want to go to a conference the time must come from my annual leave, which seems a bit hard in an educational institute like Kew. Because of this there is a very strong feeling amongst the staff against the Director. With this in view it seems hardly likely that he would consent to my being away for another year. Tomorrow I will state my position to Mr. Solomons in the office, who is very 'getatable', and ask him what he thinks re the proposal. Obviously I must have permission in writing before I even apply, but that is not to say by any means that I will be awarded the Fellowship."

### 23rd September 1950

"Yesterday Mr. [Kenneth Airy-] Shaw invited me to go with him to Cambridge. We drove there in his car (about 60 miles) in the morning [Saturday] which we took off from work to make it worthwhile. I was surprised to find the Colleges clustered in the centre of the town, but I thought they were very pleasant.

We spent several hours looking through a grand selection of bookshops. I was very rash and bought three volumes of the work entitled '*Hortus Kewensis*' [by William Aiton] which is an annotated catalogue of all the plants grown at Kew up to 1789, which is most interesting. As they were the first edition and bound in leather I reckon I got quite a bargain for 25 shillings [£1.25]. these I found at Heffer's where there are stacks of delightful books, things that I have never seen before outside library shelves.



Kenneth Airy-Shaw.

"Mr. S[haw] went to Cambridge for his degree and was taught by Gilbert Carter, who is now retiring from the Botanic Garden where he has been Director, so the leaving presentation was held yesterday. While that was on, I amused myself in town and met Mr. S. later. The ceremony was over, so he invited me into the Garden when the gathering had dispersed. As we wandered round I was introduced to various people such as John Gilmour, Director of Wisley, who is a delightful fellow and quite young in appearance; also other famous botanists such as Warburg, Walters, Tutin and many others. I had met Gilbert Carter by chance in the [Kew] Herbarium last week, so he remembered me vaguely. So there we all were strolling around the gardens together! . . .

"P.S. like black-out days, now without street lamps [owing to coal shortage the gas supply was inadequate to meet demand]."

### 30th September 1950

"This week I have been on my own a great deal now that I have settled in and am identifying the plants – to be checked by Mr. Shaw later. It is not at all easy. The method is apparently simple for it is, in

the main, a process of comparison of the unknown with the known material in the herbarium. However, there are so many species and so alike in the tropics that it is very difficult to decide which is which. Then in many cases the plant may be new [to science] as the jungle is not frequented by botanists. One might think that my job is a sedentary one in the extreme, but that is certainly not so, for I stand a great deal and am always having to go from one end of the herbarium to the other to look up a reference in the Library. We use books a great deal in many languages; Latin, German and French in that order in particular. This week I started a German course at the Technical Institute in Richmond which should be very useful. Unfortunately, they haven't one in Latin, which I must take up again, so at the moment I must do it by myself.

"Getting back to work, you may wonder why we do not run down the species in the Flora. Except for a few isolated floras of countries there is no equivalent of Bentham and Hooker for the British Flora. However, in the last few years the Dutch have launched a grand scheme to cover the *whole* of Malaysian Flora in a series of publications taking many years to complete. It is '*Flora Malaysiana [Malesiana]*' and if one wants conclusive evidence to show that English is rapidly becoming the international language one has only to look at this Flora which is being written in English. This is surely surprising when the Editors are Dutch and the subject is the Far East. Another good point about this flora is that it is printed with 'Times' type giving a dignity and quality which is rarely found.

"... at Westminster it was so strange to see the whole of Parliament Square and elsewhere in total darkness, for the lighting here is wholly by gas and there are no shops to cast light upon the darkened streets. How out of date we are! One fellow at the Herbarium, Brennan [J. Patrick M. Brennan], is going to Somerset this weekend 'to get a bath'; for those of us who are in digs with gas-heated water it is rather difficult . . . at Christmas I want to go thro' Rev. W[illiam] Wood's herbarium at the City Museum as I have been following him up in various books here. [In 1949 Mr. Savage, Secretary of the Linnean Society, had given me this herbarium to donate to Leeds.] You have no idea how fascinating it is for one reference leads to another. Eventually I will write a paper on him for publication [it appeared in 1988! '*William Wood: an 18th Century Leeds Botanist*', *The Linnean* 4(2): 17-23]. Mr. Shaw has again been very helpful here in suggesting places to look for mentions of his name."

### 8th October 1950

"I know you will be rather anxious to know what exactly is happening re this call-up . . . the letter sent by the Ministry of Labour (Scientific Branch) said that as they had received no application for deferment from any Government department I had been 'allocated to the RAF'.

### 14th October 1950

"No further work on call-up . . .

"On Thursday I went to my first lecture at the Linnean Society at Burlington House. After a snack-tea the meeting began at 5.00 in the Council Room, with the stuffed-leather benches for us and the intricately carved President's Chair in front; at either side of him sat the Secretaries at a lower level. Above them and all round the room were darkening portraits of past Presidents and marble busts of Dr. Smith, the Founder, and of Linnaeus himself. The audience was composed of the quaintest collection of individuals imaginable. There were wizened Professors who still attend 60 years after their election, spinster lecturers with Eton crops, as well as the physically odd-looking genius here and there. There were quite a number of younger people like myself as well. The lecturer on this occasion was an Oxford graduate who had been to Kenya with an expedition. In spite of his fetching appearance and long waved moustache, his delivery was very poor, speaking far too fast and trying to be too clever. Anyway, the colour film was excellent."

### 22nd October 1950

"I have been very busy this week; time is so limited [before call-up] and now I have **Silene [nutans]** and Caldý [Caldý Island] to work at I have stacks to be done before I go [into the RAF] . . . I have German on Tuesday, Linnean on Thursday and Bible Study with Mr. Shaw at Croydon on Friday before anything else crops up. I have labelled all my Caldý plants (nearly 300). I am going to publish the results in two papers for the Nats [*The Naturalist*, actually published in the Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles 1:12-34, 1954].

"I am having a whole lot of *Silenes* sent over from the Paris Museum for comparative purposes (I asked the Director to lend them to me). [I recall that Turrill rebuked me for writing personally to Paris instead of through him – Shaw just told to 'write to Paris'! The study was eventually published as '*The Variations of **Silene nutans** L. in Great Britain*', *Watsonia* 2:80-90 1951].

"I don't like the [international] situation at the moment at all, even though the papers say the clouds are clearing, I take a dim view of the Cominform meeting in Prague at present . . . You know, even though I have been here only two months people in the Herbarium, when they get to know I am going [into the Forces], are most sympathetic and kind and really sorry, which I consider very decent of them."

### 29th October 1950

"By the way, I have now had official sanction by the British Ecological Society to do **Silene nutans** for their flora [published in *Journ. Ecol.* 44:693-700, 1956] . . . I spent yesterday afternoon (Saturday) at the Herbarium working through unnamed Caldý plants and checking others . . . It may interest you to know that Shaw and I have made a decision for a magnum opus, for a joint book! He suggests that eventually – this is probing into the remote future, long after I return from the Forces – we should write a 'Forest Flora of British North Borneo', sounds interesting doesn't it? We have a great deal of material to work on and sort out and it will take years and years, but it is something to aim for, particularly as a flora has never been written for that area – only a few lists of species have been published."

### 11th November 1950

"Last week we had the most astonishing discussion at a staff meeting. The Keeper suddenly told us the plans that were ready for evacuating the Herbarium if war came again. What was

the most amazing part was the discussion which ensued when people were talking about the atomic bombs as if they were fireworks. The latest plan is that *Kew Herbarium be shifted to the country* permanently. Whether anything will be done about it remains to be seen. The idea is that within range of a single atomic bomb we have the world's two greatest herbaria (Kew and B.M.), so let's move Kew well away, for London is a sure target. Then the discussion went on that if this [bombing] happened nobody would want herbaria or taxonomists for those remaining would be tilling the ground for very survival of the race. It was all too horrifying for words. Even now everyone [in the Herbarium] is going half-time getting the type sheets (the most valuable) into special covers so that they can be evacuated at a moments' notice . . . I rather feel that my call-up will be here next week . . ."



Patrick Brenan (left) and Bernard De Winter. (1982)

#### 19th November 1950

"We have a South African [Bernard De Winter] now working in the Herbarium. Decent sort of chap, only about 26, so I'll ask him out sometime next week as I don't suppose he knows anybody around here. He is working on African grasses in particular. The Siamese chap, Mr. Kazzin Subatabandu, who has been here for a number of weeks now is well settled and seems to be doing very well. He is over here for six months or more to gain experience of working in a big herbarium and also outside as well. Being Siamese he helps us with the Far Eastern area and is being a great help. As he is 34 he has been at the game for some years and knows quite a lot."

#### National Service in the Royal Air Force

After only about three months in the Herbarium I had to report for military training. At that time it was for two years, with a further three in the reserves which entailed only a fortnight's annual duty. However, as I had started at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, I was assured of my post and moreover the two years counted for seniority, and even as pensionable service – not that at the age of 21 I was very concerned about retirement or a pension! I became a Pilot Officer Fighter Controller and was demobilised on 12th December 1952.

#### Extracts from diary Christmas 1952 before rejoining Kew:

"Mr. Shaw has left Kew [for full-time editing of a Christian journal] this leaves a void at Kew where I had a friend and colleague . . . What awaits me there? Forman, who has been doing Malaya alone since K. S[haw] went is now permanent. My position will be difficult; will he go to another area or I? Will we work together – a good idea, but one of us must be in charge.

"Soon we shall see but I commit these thoughts to paper for my own curiosity so that perhaps in years to come (if we are spared) I may re-consider my thoughts in the light of what has happened since . . ."

On 31st December 1952 I returned to Richmond at 45 Montague Road, two doors from previous lodgings, and the following day, 1st January 1953 [not then a Bank Holiday], I resumed work at the Herbarium.

**21st January 1953** "Last Saturday I decided that it would be better for me to move to the West African region and leave Leonard Forman alone on Malaya. Mr. Shaw [at Honor Oak] agrees with me wholeheartedly and his note gave me the stimulus to move. I did not want to rush into things as I had the say and the time to decide, but of course if I were to move the sooner the better. However, a slight doubt came in when I told Sandwith of the move and he was very

surprised and laughed it off in his usual self-conscious way saying 'I don't think you'll regret it much', as if to say 'what a thing to do'. Forman has had so much more experience and, though he is good saying he doesn't mind, I know he does, and of course this weighted me considerably.

"I can see that if things continue as at present in the Malayan Department, the one there will be swamped with dull routine work and fail to get down to generic revisions etc., but that may alter if Kew realises the importance the the *Flora Malesiana*.

What troubled me was that, with my lack of experience, I could not talk to visitors, van Steenis etc. with any kind of authority and the tropical rain forest trees do look so alike, rather uninteresting and extremely difficult to sort out. At least, Africa has large areas of savanna and herbs rather than all rain forest types.

The tropics are of course the place to botanise, and to remain on temperate plants would give one a very biased idea [of the world's flora].

"Another thing that biased me to move is that I shall be largely working with [Ronald] Keay as long as he is in England [seconded from Nigeria] on the West African Flora revision. As a Christian he is the one to work with and there is a chance of completing the Flora if he has not



Leonard Forman. (1956)



Left to right: Ronald Keay, Nigel Hepper and John Hutchinson. (1972)



Edgar Milne-Redhead.

already done so, but this remains to be seen. [In fact, I was appointed Editor of F.W.T.A. vols. 2 and 3 in 1957]. A drawback is that there are already so many working on Africa that one tends to become just another – though five are special Colonial Office botanists for *Flora of Tropical East Africa* – [John] Lewis, [Jim] Hemsley; [Bob] Drummond, Miss [E. A.] Bruce and [Jan] Gillett. [Edgar] Milne-Redhead and [Pat] Brennan are the taxonomic giants of the area and I shall be the third man, odd man out for a while therefore it is up to me to work hard and make my mark. Let's hope that I get the chance to do so in the same way soon."

## A HUNDRED YEARS

By Graham Burgess

I have said before that carrying out research for obituaries forces one to look in detail at the history of Kew and whilst the details might fade from view certain impressions are re-inforced.

In the past 100 years the overall structure of the soft garden landscape, the configuration of trees and shrubs has changed little. The main pathways and access routes are relatively unchanged. The enclosing boundary wall is the same of course. There have been considerable changes in the garden buildings, both those used for display and the more practical ones used for production. The old T Range; Number 5 Cacti and Succulents and the old Melon Yard Pits have all gone. Displays have moved from pots into open ground under glass and the Princess of Wales Conservatory is a fine addition to Kew's landscape. There is argument as to whether this has affected effective husbandry.

Efficiency became a very fashionable term and new management techniques were brought into play. I was involved in some of the early Time and Motion Studies that led to the long grass policy in areas of Arboretum South. Composting on a large scale became a reality. Part of our study of staff procedures at the sharp working end led to Supervisors getting permission to ride bikes, hitherto only the Assistant Curators could do this. Supervisors were swapped about from discipline to discipline with I think negative results, no other Botanic Garden in Europe entertained this approach, preferring to leave those steeped in a particular group to continue with their studies. With the prospect of the traditional way of doing things fading from view, these mentors withheld their knowledge. Many were getting old and close to retirement, so the links with the past were severed. Everywhere the people who could just as easily grow a melon as an orchid or prune a grape as well as a *Philadelphus* were moving on.

The drive for efficiency was happening countrywide but a major change had taken place. Heads of State and diplomats could no longer enter into interpersonal conflict with other states with impunity for a horrific device called the atomic weapon could result in damage at home that not even they could shelter from. The concept of a "low profile" crept into the language of diplomacy. It found its way into management also and a well-trying component of the old system, a person who entered into daily interpersonal conflict with his staff, disappeared. I am talking of the Foreman. The military-like discipline was replaced by modern management techniques that sought to persuade subordinates that perhaps they should do this or that in a reasonable manner for the overall benefit of the organisation. The strategic objectives became unclear, so this new team approach struggled in its application. The Berberis Dell and its collection celebrated by Ahrendt sits in a key geographical location and offers little to botanists or pleasure garden seekers. How to handle such prickly situations, human or phytological that is the question?

Some of the basic reasons for a Botanic Garden were being eroded by a new science that peered down electron microscopes and analysed the results of various brews in test tubes. The scientific usefulness of the Order Beds and specific plant collections was eroded. In some European Gardens the order bed function was switched to displaying those herbaceous plants suitable for town domestic gardens. In the last century the great colonial empire closed down so the function of Kew as a testing ground and training ground for imperial employment ceased. Related revenue streams began to dry up.

From the mid 1950s the concept of a Leisure Industry emerged. Fuelled by millions of ordinary folk empowered by consumerism alternative leisure venues appeared.

Prior to 1915, Kew entertained four million visitors per annum and most came by public transport. The effect of the World Wars was devastating to Kew. The big fight since then has been to attract visitors who are tempted by more distant venues. The motor car and aeroplane carried people away from Kew. How much of an attraction is it to visit Kew to see a palm tree when you can lie or swim beneath them as part of a very inexpensive package holiday. New devices like Television and the Internet allow people to enjoy leisure activities without the bother or expense of leaving home.

Consumerism and the profit motive entered every part of our life in the last century and one of its key flagships is merchandising. The average consumer is pre-disposed to want to buy something and is often frustrated if this is not possible. The positive result now extant at Kew is the dissemination of educational goods and the making of some profit on sales. The catastrophe is that a large shop, such as one might find in any street, was placed in a key location by the Victoria Gate. The visitor entering the Gardens is confronted by a retail outlet instead of the scene-setting grand prospect of the Palmhouse. Kew has had so little experience of landscaping on the site that the management tools were not in place. I have only one experience to equal this and that is when, as a V.I.P., having been shown round the Great Hall of the People in Beijing we were assailed, still within the great building, by a couple selling Peking Duck carry outs.

The need to tap into the latent interest in Kew in a more direct way led to the formation of The Foundation and an active Friends of Kew. They provide valuable resources to Kew. The *Kew Guardian* publication is a valuable addition to the life of Kew, bringing news each month. It is distributed to Kewites, thus giving those of us who have left Kew a more up to date feel for the place. The Mutual Improvement Society preceded the Guild and it is still active. From its earliest days when senior staff gave the lectures, it has evolved to its present state where the lecturers are mixed between staff, students and outside experts. The Friends may now attend these lectures.

The effect of falling demand for what Kew has on offer has been mitigated by a general underlying rising-trend in the country for home gardening. The key statistic is that 74% of people have a garden less than 4,000 square feet in area. In our consumer society the numbers game is everything so that is where the money is, where the people are. Only recently has the media woken up to this and we have seen a change from T.V. programmes where botanically inclined horticulturalists wax on about rare plants in the setting of gardens or remote natural habitats, quite beyond the reach of the average person, to a new approach called the makeover. Ordinary gardens are transformed. A Kewite is in the forefront of this.

The gardening market was transformed by containerisation. Previous to the 1960's nurserymen took orders all summer and from September onwards uplifted open ground stock. The trade peaked in the winter. In the ornamental landscaping trade it still does but the trend is moving to spring and the steep curves either side of the peak are filling up as Garden centres sell throughout the year.

In their heyday up until the 1960s every large Parks Department had an Annual Flower Show. These were dropped with the exception of departments with a strong tourist clientele, such as seaside towns. The Royal Horticultural Society expanded in the 1990s from the traditional fortnightly shows in Westminster and Chelsea Flower Show to additional venues throughout the country.

In 1984 we had our first International Garden Festival in Liverpool and several National Festivals followed. These gave an enormous positive impetus to mature and more varied landscape schemes. The great gardening public visited in their millions.

We have seen the effects of herbicides and insecticides, many derived from chemicals generated during the war as poison gases. I have still to write the obituaries of people who filled glasshouses with nicotine smoke and other spasm-inducing chemicals as part of the everyday husbandry, myself amongst them. Kew has lately seen the introduction of more natural and safer methods of husbandry.

At the very end of the last century we saw the introduction of non-chemical control of weeds by sophisticated tilling machines. These echo the activities of the man with a hoe and maybe we will see the return of the chance seedlings that often emerged between the rows and went on to become flagships of our nurseries.

The rise in consumer expectations presented itself in the urban environment. The new towns reflected liberal ideas and new houses were built amongst expansive green areas. This created a demand for large sized plants, particularly trees and the nurseries responded by

growing tightly specified stock. The designers of this new landscaping were not the parks department sort staffed by Kew trained people with a wide plant knowledge, but architects with limited plant knowledge. A safe bet was to go indigenous. As most of the indigenous plants can be raised from seed there was a downward pressure on price which made landscape schemes more affordable.

Research has shown that the average person knows trees, bushes and flowers with little understanding of species detail, so it has never been a problem. There are still examples of the work of plantsmen in our older public parks and in the street tree schemes designed by The Road Beautifying Association.

Kew trained people are still in every part of the profession, nothing has changed there. Their influence is still great. From the early days of the Kew Lady Gardeners we have continued with a non-sexist tradition.

Recently the dried flower collection was dropped from the curriculum – an unfortunate development in my view. There is no substitute for the close scrutiny of plants prior to collection, the sensitive harvesting with all the tactile stimuli associated with this and the careful mounting and labelling necessary for effective curation. It is a primitive form of data handling and a real connection with the earth. The fellowship of joint plant collecting trips is a valuable experience.

Students are trained much more in the presentation of their ideas and knowledge in a competitive market place.

Kew still has some of the vestiges of a training that is partly an apprenticeship. It is a form of slavery where the expectations imposed upon the student are heavy and rigorous. It is multi-disciplinary and thus a good learning situation. In many other areas of industry the apprenticeship schemes have collapsed and we are faced with a shortage of skills. This is apparent in many parts of our own industry.

There is a gradual warming of the climate and we can see plants normally killed by our winters sailing through unharmed. Kew suffered from heavy winds in 1987 and the whole country lost nearly all its elms through Dutch Elm Disease. Apart from these events little has happened to affect the growth of plants.

Kewites live and die, mostly from natural causes. The two exceptions have been the two world wars which took a heavy toll and more recently we have seen the effects of AIDS.

The Kew Guild keeps most of its old traditions. *The Journal* runs like a rich and continuous vein through the years. The Guild is richer financially. In 1914 it turned over 89 pounds three shillings and nine pence. £336 sat in the Capital Account. In the last century we abandoned our old currency and the penny cost to enter Kew and we became decimalised. In October 1999 The Guild carried forward balances of £195,946.24.

The Award Scheme grows steadily and dishes out substantial help in funding to Kewites applying for funds. In 1999 the law on charity status resulted in certain essential changes, but at heart the Guild is run by caring Kewites who give up valuable time on our behalf.

## SIR GEORGE STAUNTON ESTATE – THE KEW CONNECTION

By Peter Maunder, A.H.R.H.S.

On 11th June, 1994, the Hampshire Gardens Trust celebrated its tenth anniversary with the official opening of the new glasshouse at the Staunton Country Park. The speaker for this occasion was Professor Ghilleen France, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. This event could also have celebrated the long connection between the Leigh Park Estate and Kew trained gardeners spanning nearly 200 years.

In 1792 Sir George Leonard Staunton sailed from Portsmouth as Secretary of the Special Embassy to the Emperor's Court in Peking. He was accompanied by his teenage son, George Thomas, who was the only member of the Embassy able to converse in Chinese with the



Emperor Kien Lung. Much botanising and collecting of specimens was accomplished en route from Tientsin to Peking and from Jehal to Canton. The plants introduced included **Cupressus funebris**, **Macleya cordata** and **Polygonum chinense**.

In 1815, another Embassy was dispatched to China, this time with George Thomas Staunton as second-in-command, with Dr. Clarke Abel as physician and a Mr. Hooper, a Kew gardener. Mr. Hooper was to be responsible for the plant cabin used to protect and preserve the living specimens on the return journey.

Sir George purchased Leigh Park in 1820, and lived there for nearly 40 years. Close by the house was an impressive conservatory forming part of an extensive range of glass within the walled garden. In 1853 the tropical aquatic house was built and in the same year the **Victoria amazonica** flowered having been supplied by Sir Joseph Hooker, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The pleasure grounds developed during this period extended to over 400 acres and included a Chinese garden centred on the lake.

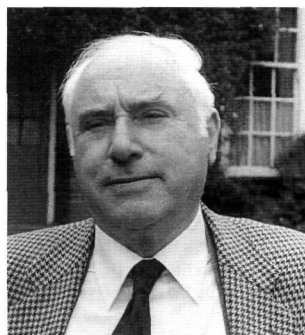
The Estate was purchased about the middle of the century by Mr. W. H. Stone, whose Head Gardener, Mr. Young, won awards in 1862 at the International Exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society at South Kensington. His exhibit was of hot-house fruits including 'Pines'.

The Fitzwygrams followed as owners of the Estate until the end of the Second World War, during which Leigh Park was commandeered by the Royal Navy.

Portsmouth City Council purchased the Estate in 1946 to develop a major re-housing project. The Parks Officer responsible for the lands within the Estate designated as parkland was the Director of Parks and Recreation, he was John Studley, a Kewite who then gradually brought the pleasure grounds and walled garden under control and rectified years of damage and neglect. The garden maintenance staff was increased and support was available from the arboricultural and landscape units within the department.

In 1970 another Kewite, Peter Maunder, took over control of the Parks and Recreation Department, including the gardens at Leigh Park. It was during this period in the 1970s that all leased parcels of land were taken back under direct control and work initiated on Estate buildings. Previous agricultural tenancies were terminated and the increased acreage made available as public open space. The support given by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust was much appreciated in the development of one of the first Local Authority farm parks. The collection of farm breeds relevant to a Ferme Orn   of the middle 19th century was comprehensive, featuring poultry, pigs, sheep, cattle and heavy horses. During this period two other Kewites were closely involved with the development of the Estate. Brian Nash, Landscape Officer, lived in the stable block and was concerned with design works and plantings of those additional areas being absorbed into the maintenance programme. Jim Heyworth was Training Officer responsible for staff training, including the many apprentices who gained wider experience in the walled garden, growing fruit and vegetables. These were later to be exhibited each year in the Portsmouth Guildhall Autumn Show and at Southsea Shows.

The Country Park Estate is now under the control of a Joint Management Committee, comprised of representatives of Portsmouth City Council, Hampshire County Council, East Hampshire District Council and Havant Borough Council, together with the Forestry Commission, The Hampshire Gardens Trust and the Countryside Commission. On 21st April, 1994, The Duke of Gloucester, in the presence of the Chairman and members of the Management Committee, with all those involved with the projected 'launched' the replacement **Victoria regia** water lily in the new aquatic house. One hundred and forty years had passed since the first specimen flowered at Leigh Park. After four months of careful nurturing the new

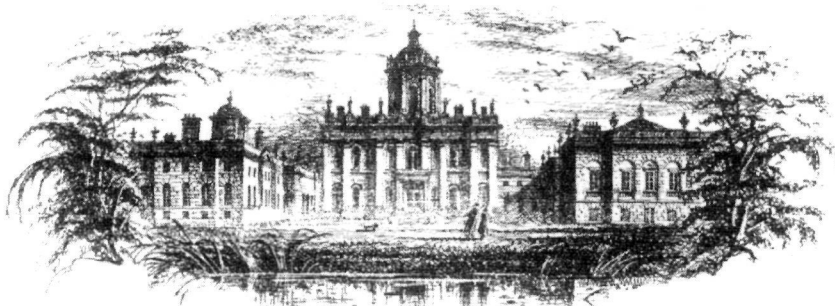


Peter Maunder, A.H.R.H.S.

plant flowered under the care of Ian Turner the then Head Gardener, who was also trained at Kew.

The Conference Programme organised by the Hampshire Gardens Trust, held on 19th October, 1999, highlighted the Chinese journeys of the Stauntons and their legacy at Leigh Park. The visit in the afternoon to the Estate, underlined the input of George Staunton in respect of garden features, but also to the introduction and growing of plants. Today the present Head Gardener, Chris Bailey, plans an important role not only growing ***Victoria amazonica*** and the stove collection donated by Kew, but is closely involved with the training of aspiring gardeners. It could well be that the fruiting of ***Stauntonia hexaphylla*** is not so far away.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and gardeners who have trained there since Mr. Hooper in 1815 through to Chris Bailey today, have been associated with George Staunton's plant collections, and his Estate created at Leigh Park. May it long continue.



## *Castle Howard Arboretum Trust*

*(Sent by John Simmons, O.B.E., V.M.H., Honorary Curator and printed as received for Guild members' interest – Ed.)*

### **Benefactors News**

November 1999

#### **Benefactor's day, 1999**

The Benefactors who braved a very cold and wet April day to greet our Patron in the arboretum would, I am sure, be surprised by the speed with which the new land, on which the Prince of Wales planted a commemorative deodar cedar, has greened and established. Given by the Howard family to mark Castle Howard's Tercentenary, this extra seven acres of hillside has transformed the north-eastern area of the arboretum aesthetically and functionally.

On its crest the newly planted belt of native trees, which are to form the Tercentenary Wood, benefited from last summer's warmth and moisture and can be expected to put on good growth next year. The aim of course is for the wood to give shelter from north-easterly winds and to screen out the farm buildings.

The deodar cedar planted by the Prince of Wales is the focal point of the extended vista, now some 600 yards long, which is part of the sponsored Furniture Makers Walk due to be opened by the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers for the Millennium. The deodar is part of a group of nine and was chosen, not just because it will grow well on this hill's sandy soil and come to form a lovely feature, but more because of its historical links to Kew and Castle Howard. Whilst the Lebanon cedar has been grown in Britain since the 17th century, both the deodar (1831) and Atlantic (1840) cedars are 19th century introductions. Coming from the western Himalayas it was then thought that the deodar would not grown in Yorkshire, and there

was great debate about its potential as a timber tree. At that time the 7th Earl of Carlisle (Lord Morpeth), one of the Hon. Simon Howard's ancestors at Castle Howard, was the Commissioner (1846-50) for the Government's Department of Woods and Forests and it was this Department that was responsible for the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Kew's then Director, Sir William Hooker, was thus well known to the 7th Earl and there is particular correspondence relating to the importation of seed of **Cedrus deodar**. William Nesfield, the 19th century garden designer responsible for major work at Castle Howard, also planted an avenue of deodar cedars at Kew.

The weeks prior to the Royal visit had been mild and so brought on the willows and much new growth. Then, on the previous day, severe frost and heavy snow showers drastically altered the vernal scene. By the time the gleaming red helicopter settled its Royal passenger into the Arboretum the snow had gone, but the guests still needed heavy rainwear as they formed into groups to receive the Trust's Patron, His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales.

But Royal smiles and cheery greetings soon dispelled the clouds as the Prince met all benefactors, officials and staff in the arboretum and went on to tour Ray Wood. However, even the hardiest appreciated better the following reception within the Great Hall, where a blazing log fire set the scene for both informal discussions and speeches by the Trust's Chairman, Robin Compton and His Royal Highness.

Around 70 Benefactors, guests and staff were present, including some of our American Benefactors, such as Mr. and Mrs. William Jansen and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Cabot. The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew was well represented by staff and also its Chairman, Viscount Blakenham with Viscountess Blakenham and Director, Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance with Lady Prance.

### **Public Opening**

The Royal visit was also used to herald the first public opening of the arboretum. To test visitor interest the arboretum was opened on the first weekend of each month with visitors being shuttled, in a Land Rover driven by Neil Batty, from the House car park to the Gate House entrance. Within the arboretum, visitors could follow one of the two general interest trails, or on two fixed times each day take a guided tour with Lin Hawthorne who is now the arboretum's Consultant Education Officer.

Visitor response was very limited initially, but from word of mouth and local media coverage, the numbers steadily increased. For the coming year the weekend openings will be continued (the dates are given at the end of this newsletter) and limited weekday opening is also planned.

Work to prepare the arboretum for visitors has progressed apace and much has been learnt from the Open Weekends. Whilst we had taken the layout for granted, visitors were soon lost within its 127 acres and so signage became a priority as did seats, shelter and a deer proof visitor gate. With the exception of shelter most of these needs will be completed by staff as winter tasks.

### **The Gate House Entrance**

Neil Batty and Ken Cherry are very effective at self-help and, with limited resources, they converted one of the old stone farm buildings to a tractor and machine garage, workshop and maintenance base. Then, whenever time or funds have permitted, the area has been tidied, gates repaired and repositioned and a good hard standing prepared for cars.

The major task, however, is in converting a large central stone barn to meet visitor, exhibition and educational aims. Duncan Peake (Estate Manager) arranged for the architectural survey and conversion plans which have since been favourably received by the planning authority, who are also sympathetic to the simple modification of an existing and safer vehicle entrance to the south of the Gate House.

That achieved, the most difficult aspect now is the process of raising sufficient funds to cover the expected £90,000 for the conversion work. The first floor will be used to form a fine classroom which can double for functions, lectures and the like, whilst on the ground floor the

main space is for exhibition and information on the arboretum and its collections. There are useful adjacent rooms for conversion to kitchen and toilets and the positioning of the building allows it fine views across the eastern half of the arboretum.

Once complete it will make the daily opening of the arboretum a practicality and offers the opportunity to commence an educational programme for regional schools and adult interest groups, along with the ability to explain more about the scientific and conservation potential of the collections. Work on the first exhibition is well advanced. It is for the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers and will show how trees are grown and used to make English furniture, emphasising the environmental gains of growing timber. Depending on funding it is hoped to have the building ready by July.

### Collections

The shade house in the far corner of the arboretum has already proved its value for holding and growing on plants received for planting. The new plantings are of specimens from the Kew and Wakehurst nurseries and derive from Kew's expedition programme, additionally some rare specimens are also received on exchange with other specialists and arboreta. The three plantation areas of larch and firs existing in the arboretum have been further thinned to leave screens and sheltered sites for the new plantings and there are other areas throughout the arboretum where replacement plants are needed.

Some new trees can be given pride of place, one such being a new lakeside group of **Acer cappadocicum** seedlings collected by a recent Kew expedition to Pakistan. This lovely maple can be caught by frost when young, as experienced with plants from northern Iran and western China, but interestingly these Pakistani plants were unaffected by last April's frosts which widely removed blossom and young growth in both Ray Wood and the arboretum.

As indicated the emphasis for the arboretum is on authentic natural source plants but the entrance and lakeside areas and linking vistas are geared for visitors with the inclusion of cultivars. Fortuitously the Furniture Makers use the wood of many flowering trees and these are being grouped in the entrance area working to a design by Trustee, Lady Lennox-Boyd.

For the lakeside it is planned to use fine autumn foliage trees and others with attractive winter barks. At the far end of the lake there is a small, slightly concealed and sheltered dell which holds some old tree stumps. Here a glade of Japanese maples is planned, with ferns planted amongst the tree roots, taking the theme from our Patron's rootery at Highgrove. Since only a limited purchase of plants is involved a small amount of sponsorship would soon implement this project.

When devising the two trails for visitors the Hon. Curator was conscious of Trustee, Sir Richard Storey's idea of emphasising the pleasure of watching an arboretum develop and thus trees reflecting different aspects of the arboretum's role were chosen, with an emphasis on those that might have been thought unlikely to prosper in North Yorkshire. Some of these were mentioned in the last Newsletter and to these one might add the trio of Mexican silver firs, **Abies durangensis**, **A. hickelii**, and **A. vejari**, which sit in a fairly exposed position above the sand banks. Using these as indicators the batch of Mexican oaks received from Maurice Foster will also be planted in this area. The oaks, however, have been held in the Hon. Curator's home cold greenhouse for two years so as to develop woody stems. This will be an optimistic planting since some of these species have a habit of producing new seasons growth in early winter! Fortunately they seem to undergo several phases of growth throughout the year.

### Records

As mentioned last year, with Kew's help and funds from the Iris Damton Trust, a new database programme was written by Sarah Edwards and this has now been installed by Sarah and Steve Ruddy from Kew. With all the previous collection data transferred the new system has worked perfectly, such that it has already been sold to another arboretum so providing funds for its further development. The greatest gain though is in its linking to Kew's new label embossing machine. New labels can now be requested electronically via the database to Kew using

either a floppy disk or an E-mail attachment. Then, with the speed of the embossing machine, accurate labels can be produced very quickly and returned to Castle Howard for attaching to the trees. Consequently the costs for both process and label are markedly reduced. This has been the Trust's Kew Liaison Officer, Tony Kirkham's particular project at Kew, and it is pleasing that the arboretum has had a role in its successful development.

## Staff

Over the year Leading Collections Arborist, Neil Batty and Grounds Arborist, Ken Cherry, have continued to maintain and develop the arboretum and they were helped in this by volunteers: Andy Flockton, who has been a great asset over the last two years and, more recently by Peter Barker, a further volunteer who is bringing many new talents to the arboretum.

Mavis Jarvis who has worked for the great benefit of the Arboretum for the past 20 years and amongst other duties set up the plant records database has, in theory, retired, but in practice has stayed on as Honorary Records Officer to undertake the task of adding Jim Russell's extensive records to the database. A new Records Officer, Alison Brisby, has been appointed with an extended role including continuous on site stock-checking of the collections. The backlog of stock-checking is vast, so this change is very welcome.

As mentioned, Lin Hawthorne's role has also changed from being our official guide to that of Consultant Education Officer and this is on a consultancy arrangement which includes the production of the exhibition and interpretive material associated with the Furniture Makers Walk.

## Adopting Trees

Following in the wake of the successful schemes run at Kew and other arboreta, a scheme to allow the adoption of trees has been approved by Trustees. By this means selected trees can be adopted and labelled in memory of loved ones or for any special family purpose, such as a grandchild's christening, wedding anniversary or the like. The scheme will be managed by Mavis Jarvis who can be contacted at home on 01653 618 275.

The trees selected can either be new or established plants and certainly the growth on the young trees is such as to give confidence in their future. As the arboretum develops it is giving more shelter to its tender members and notably leaves are holding longer in the autumn. This year too the fiery red *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory' was, as Ken Cherry noted, actually lighting up the arboretum with its phosphorescent fall leaves in October; hitherto it has mistimed its display and missed October.

## Visitors and other events

A very pleasing evening evolved from the arboretum inviting all Castle Howard staff to visit for drinks by the lakeside. This event and much else of the work of staff, particularly of Neil and his dog Gemma (Honorary Arboretum Rabbit Catcher), have been filmed for an extensive television series on the 'Great Estates' to be shown nationwide on Channel 4 early in the New Year.

On a technical level the arboretum hosted a Workshop on tree establishment by the Tree Forum group from PlantNet; an organisation of botanic garden and other plant collection technical staff. The delegates were greeted by the Hon. Simon Howard and the day was arranged by Tony Kirkham, Mark Flanagan (Windsor) and Hugh Angus (Westonbirt) and it proved to be a very successful event with over 50 members attending.

To commemorate James Russell's lifetime achievements the Yorkshire Garden Trust organised a seminar in York which was extremely well attended and showed both how influential and how many friends Jim had made through his wide ranging interests and work. There were several papers including one from our Chairman Robin Compton and another from the Hon. Curator. The Russell archive is now held at the Borthwick Centre (University of York) and its value as a research source was described by Peter Goodchild.

The arboretum has had good press coverage over the year and two feature articles, one in April in *Country Life* and another in autumn in the International Tree Foundation Journal, *Trees*.

### Wildlife

As was discovered from the reaction of many first time visitors, the arboretum is already being seen as an oasis of tranquillity. Certainly too, this writer finds great pleasure in the arboretum in all seasons. As on a crisp winter's morn when frost trails white fingers over low branches and plovers twist in flight, or in early spring when willows mass their gleaming catkins to a thin sun and the curlews call, gliding amongst trees. Then as early summer green's the trees, purple marsh orchids (*Dactylorhiza*), and ragged-robin now garland the bogs areas while the rare bogbean's (*Menyanthes*) white fringed flowers edge the lake from where a lazy heron flaps away. And here in the height of summer, kestrel chicks can be heard calling their parents to search harder for rodents.

From such signs we know that the trees are forming a haven for wildlife and a treasured place for all who live and work amongst them. Twenty-one years on, the arboretum is also fast becoming a special site for both local visitors and international scientists alike.

### 2000 Dates

**Garden Open Weekends:** 1st and 2nd April, 6th and 7th May, 1st and 2nd July, 5th and 6th August, 2nd and 3rd September, 30th September and 1st October, and every Wednesday from April to October.

**Benefactors Day:** 27th October.

**Opening of the Furniture Makers Walk:** 21st July.

## NEWS RELEASES

*Reproduced for the information of Kew Guild Members*

### THE YEAR 2000 AT THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

#### January

**2 & 3** Millennium Celebration: Winter Landscape, Children's Events, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**29** "Wild Spring" cottage garden display, Princess of Wales Conservatory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. (Until 30 April)

#### February

**12** Orchid Festival 2000: Orchids for the New Millennium (until 26 March)

Crocus Carpet, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. (Until early March)

#### March

**11** One-day Spring Photography Workshop, organised by Kew Adult Education, Wakehurst Place, Ardingley, West Sussex.

**16** One-day course: "A Bulb for All Seasons." Adult Education 2000, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**25 & 26** One-day courses: "Hazel designs for the Garden." Adult Education 1000, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

#### April

**4** One-day course: "Pruning Demystified." Adult Education 2000, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**7 & 8** Weekend course: "Basket-making for Beginners." Adult Education 2000, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**April (continued)**

**13th** One-day course: 'Propagating Techniques'. Adult Education 2000, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**18th** One-day course: 'Hazel Designs for the Gardens' organised by Kew Adult Education at Wakehurst Place, Ardingley, West Sussex.

**29th** 'Wild in the Woods': bluebells, woodland crafts, guided tours and story telling in the conservation area around Queen Charlotte's Cottage, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. (Until 1st May.)

**May**

'Wild Summer' a Millennium celebration featuring a traditional cornfield and its colourful wild flowers, The Broad Walk, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**8th** Week long botanical photography course, 'Plants in Focus' Adult Education 2000, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**16th** One-day course: 'Introduction to Paper-making' Adult Education 2000, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**June**

**1st** One-day course: 'Wild Flower Gardening'. Adult Education 2000, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**5th** Two-week course in botanical illustration, Adult Education 2000, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**7th** Plant Auction, Kew Gardens, organised by The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**July**

**3rd** Four-day course: 'Painting Flowers in Watercolour'. Adult Education 2000, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**26th** One-day Kew Adult Education course: 'Sketching in the Field'.

**September**

**7th** One-day course: 'Plants Identification Made Simple', Adult Education 2000, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**16th** One-day course on basket making, organised by Kew Adult Education at Wakehurst Place, Ardingley, West Sussex.

**October**

**2nd** Week-long course: 'Botany for Beginners', Adult Education 2000, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**KEW TO PLANT A COUNTRYSIDE VISTA FOR 2000**

A golden wheatfield dotted with English wild flowers will greet visitors to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, next summer.

The feature is being created to celebrate the opening of Kew's Millennium Seed Bank – sited at Kew's other garden, Wakehurst Place in West Sussex – which will conserve all the bankable species in the U.K.'s flora as well as ten per cent of flora world-wide. The Wheatfield with Wild Flowers will also bring home the message of how man should try and use the land for agriculture in a sustainable way, so that native flora can continue to flourish.

In autumn next year, the area used for the wheatfield – along either side of the Broad Walk between the Orangery and the Palm House Pond – will be the scene of a major landscaping project: The replanting of an avenue of cedars first created when Kew became a national botanic garden in 1841.

Today only two of the original cedars survive, the gaps having been filled, in the 1930s, with North American Tulip trees. Several of these Tulip trees were badly damaged in the Great Storm of 1987 and five are being replaced as part of this project which will add 13 new cedars.

The 1841 design, by the famous English landscape architect William Nesfield, included large kidney-shaped beds, now plated with **rhododendrons**, and smaller beds close to the Broad Walk itself. The new project, made possible by support from a donor, will result in the restoration of a layout closer to Nesfield's plan.

#### **Briefing paper on Restoration of Nesfield's Broad Walk, RBG Kew**

- Following the conversion of Kew into a national botanic garden in 1841, the famous English landscape architect, William Nesfield (*pronounced* 'Nacefield'), was commissioned to design a new layout in complement to the buildings and designs of Kew's architect, Decimus Burton. Today little remains of Nesfield's work elsewhere in the U.K., but amongst the best known surviving features at Kew are the major vistas, radiating from the Palm House and Pagoda, and the planting plans for Decimus Burton's grand Broad Walk, which takes visitors from the Main Gate on Kew Green up to the Palm House Pond, via a 90° turn at the Orangery.
- Nesfield designed the plantings for the Broad Walk around 1846. The main stretch from the Orangery up to the Pond was flanked by pairs of the newly introduced **Deodar Cedar**, these stately trees alternating with large kidney-shaped beds, smaller flower-beds being positioned close to the gravelled surface of the Broad Walk itself.
- Late 19th century illustrations show the grandeur that the two lines of cedars created, but sadly these trees were badly affected by increasing industrial pollution towards the close of the century and only two of the originals survive today. As a consequence of this the 1930s saw the planting of North American Tulip Trees as replacements in some of the positions where cedars had died. Nesfield's kidney-shaped beds still exist and are planted with **rhododendrons**, but large rectangular beds have replaced the smaller beds closest to the Walk itself and are in conflict with Nesfield's design.
- Under the terms of the U.K. National Heritage Act, 1983, which established R.B.G. Kew as a Non-Departmental Public Body on 1st April 1984, we are expected to maintain the heritage elements on our estates, including the buildings, landscapes and collections.
- During the Great Storm of October 1987 considerable damage was done to the plantings along the Broad Walk, including the loss of major limbs and entire trees. The loss of shade from these trees has affected the health of the **rhododendrons** in Nesfield's kidney-shaped beds and this situation is unlikely to improve unless new trees can be planted.
- Since the Great Storm the Gardens' management have been developing and implementing replanting schemes in many parts of the Kew estate. One of the areas that deserves careful attention is the Broad Walk, where we see an opportunity to restore the key original elements of Nesfield's design, especially the two lines of cedars that were lost last century. Such a restoration has been discussed for some years, but until recently the resources to achieve it were lacking.
- Recently a donor has offered to support this restoration plan and it is now the intention of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to remove only five of the nine Tulip Trees currently flanking the Broad Walk and plant 13 semi-mature **Atlantic Cedars** in the positions of Nesfield's design.
- Four of the best Tulip Trees will be retained, as will the three existing cedars (two **Deodars** plus one **Atlantic Cedar** planted last century) and the old Copper Beech beside the horseshoe-shaped eastern path. **Atlantic Cedars** will be used because other specimens at Kew indicate that this species will perform better in Kew's dry climate than the more moisture-loving Deodar. The effect these will give will be similar to that of Nesfield's **Deodar Cedars**. The modern rectangular beds will also be removed and replaced by smaller beds or planters, which will be closer to Nesfield's plan.
- This is a project to celebrate the new Millennium and thus the tree plantings are planned to take place in October and November 2000. This will be preceded by the ploughing up of both sides of the Broad Walk in autumn 1999 preparatory to the sowing of a wheatfield with colourful wildflowers, as another Millennium display for the summer of 2000. This Wheatfield with Wild Flowers will provide a link with Kew's Millennium Seed Bank project, which in 2000



will have conserved seeds of all bankable species in the U.K.'s Flora. It will also bring home the message of how man should try to use land for agriculture in a sustainable manner, so that our native flora can continue to flourish. After the planting of the new cedars, turf will replace the wheatfield and the Broad Walk will once again resemble Decimus Burton's grand processional way in the style that Nesfield intended.

- The removal of the five Tulip Trees will take place in October 2000 at the same time as the majority of the new cedars are planted. We see both activities as forming a public attraction. This will include a Gala event, when the world's last remaining Barron's Tree Transplanter, a Victorian machine for moving and planting large trees, will be contrasted with modern equipment, as both methods are used to ceremonially plant the first new cedars. The horse-drawn Barron's Tree Transplanter was restored in 1999, with the support of the Kew Friends, and will be operated by staff in Victorian dress.
- The loss of five Tulip Trees cannot be avoided, since members of the Magnolia Family do not withstand transplantation unless as very young plants. The species is common both in the wild and in cultivation and the specimens to be removed are far from being good examples of this tree, which is better represented in other parts of the Gardens, as well as by the specimens to be retained along the Broad Walk. Additional specimens of the rare and endangered **Chinese Tulip Tree** will be planted elsewhere in the Arboretum to compensate for the loss of these five **American Tulip Trees**. The timber from the five trees will be offered to local projects and/or craftsmen free of charge. On balance Kew will gain at least eight new trees from the Broad Walk restoration project.

#### **KEW PUTS ITS GIANT COMPOST HEAPS ON SHOW – AND IS GIVING AWAY SAMPLES!**

Kew Gardens is offering visitors a brand new attraction – a sight of its giant, steaming compost heaps, probably the largest in the country.

A viewing platform has been constructed overlooking the area previously closed to the public using some timber grown at Kew but also some illegally imported, confiscated by H.M. Customs and Excise and donated to the Gardens.

The new feature, which will be open from Saturday 23rd October 1999, will illustrate the important environmental benefits of composting: the low cost of transforming waste and avoidance of the use of landfill sites and the exploitation of peat bogs.

Kew produces over 100 tonnes of waste plant material every week. It is mixed with 20 tonnes of horse manure from the Household Cavalry and Metropolitan Police, watered and turned regularly. After ten or 12 weeks, it is ready for use throughout the gardens. Two thousand sample bags of Kew compost will be given away to visitors over the next few weeks.

Wood produced when trees have to be lopped or felled is also used within the gardens as either timber or wood chips. Timber is also donated to local schools, colleges and churches.

The Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Professor Peter Crane, says: "We have a proud record of recycling 99 percent of our organic waste. Through this new project, Kew aims to show how it is possible to provide an enormously useful product, thereby improving the soil and growing healthier plants."

#### **KEW BOTANIST WINS TOP U.S. AWARD**

One of the most distinguished botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Dr John Dransfield, has been awarded the David Fairchild Medal for Plant Exploration by America's National Tropical Botanical Gardens.

Dr. Dransfield, who has been at Kew for more than 25 years, is a leading expert on palms – such as rattans – in the economies of developing countries.

The award, which was presented at David Fairchild's home, Kampong in Coconut Grove, Florida, on Friday (19th February), marks Dr. Dransfield's achievements in discovering new species or cultivars in remote areas of the world, the bringing into cultivation of new and

important plants and his crucial role in the conservation in their natural habitats of rare or endangered species.

## EXCERPTS FROM THE 'KEW SCIENTIST'

Reproduced with kind permission of the Editor, Professor M. Bennett

### NEXT DIRECTOR APPOINTED

*April 1999 Issue 15*

Professor Peter Crane has been appointed to succeed Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance as Director of R.B.G. Kew, when Professor Prance retires in August 1999. Professor Crane is currently the Director and Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Field Museum, Chicago.



Kew's next Director, Professor Peter Crane, alongside a bust of Sir Joseph Banks, who many consider as Kew's first but unofficial Director.

He is also a professor in the Department of Geophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago.

His primary research interest is in large-scale patterns of plant evolution and particularly the integration of palaeobotanical data with information from living plants. Together with Professor E. M. Friis (Stockholm University), he pioneered the study of previously unrecognised, minute, but exquisitely-preserved fossil flowers from the early Cretaceous. This research has revolutionised angiosperm palaeobotany by permitting accurate systematic comparisons of fossils with their living relatives and providing insights into pollination and dispersal in extinct taxa. His recent

research has also involved large-scale synthesis of fossil pollen and spore data to clarify the dynamics of global vegetation change during the mid-Cretaceous.

Professor Crane is an accomplished plant systematist, being among the first to employ cladistic methods of phylogenetic analysis. He has first-hand knowledge of the flora and vegetation in several parts of the world and has undertaken research on living plants in numerous families in order to establish a secure basis for comparison with fossil material. In fact he considers himself a plant systematist first and a palaeobotanist second. The quality of his scientific research has been recognised by several awards including the Bicentenary Medal of the Linnean Society of London in 1984 and his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1998.

At the Field Museum, Professor Crane has had responsibility for collections numbering over 20 million items and 200 staff. Amongst his achievements has been the establishment of an Office of Environmental and Conservation Programs which applies the Museum's collection resources and expertise to meet urgent needs in biological conservation. Commenting on Professor Crane's appointment, the Chairman of the Kew Board of Trustees, Lord Blakenham, said: "The value of Sir Ghilleen's contribution to Kew's development cannot be overstated and the Trustees knew how vital it was to find a successor of Peter Crane's calibre. Peter's scientific achievements and international management experience make him ideal for the job. He is superbly equipped to lead Kew's crucial scientific work at a time of increasing world awareness of the necessity of defending the fragile environment on which we all depend."

### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*April 1999 Issue 15*

**The Development of Science at Kew** by Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, Director

As I write this column I am aware that it will be my last as Director. *Kew Scientist* has reported on many scientific developments and achievements during my Directorship, but I am

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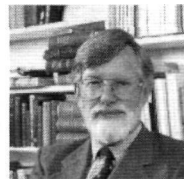
*April 1999 Issue 15*

**The Development of Science at Kew** by Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, Director

As I write this column I am aware that it will be my last as Director. *Kew Scientist* has reported on many scientific developments and achievements during my Directorship, but I am

glad that systematics still dominates our science programme. This builds on our history and our strengths.

Research in the Jodrell Laboratory now has much closer links with systematics and offers important collaboration for Herbarium taxonomists. The Jodrell extension brought together previously scattered elements and provided space to establish the molecular systematics programme, which Dr. Mark Chase quickly built into a world-leading facility. The Herbarium itself is making much greater use of the electronic opportunities now available to systematics, whether it is the databases, cladistic programmes or mapping methods used by individual systematists, the recent installation of the C.R.I.S. transaction management system, or the development of the Plant Names Project out of *Index Kewensis* and the plant names projects of Harvard University and Australia. This application of information technology has been admirably supported by the Computer Section.



Another area which has progressed well is economic botany with the establishment of the Centre for Economic Botany (C.E.B.). This developed our earlier focus on the needs of arid lands and the Plantas do Nordeste programme in Northeast Brazil became its worthy flagship. Building on the strengths of our systematic botany programme in Brazil, it is a good combination of basic survey work, economic botany and information technology. The C.E.B. has also made great progress with the S.E.P.A.S.A.L. database which contains so much data about the useful plants of arid and semi-arid lands. This in turn is one of the most useful tools of the seed bank, which has developed from a small but important facility into a major world player, as the Millennium Seed Bank. The bank, now a separate department within the administrative structure of Kew, is our major contribution to the *ex situ* conservation of the plants upon which the future of our planet depends.

As the environmental crisis deepens, I am glad that Kew is responding with greatly increased activities in conservation and the sustainable use of the environment. This is seen in so many ways, whether it be in conservation legislation, conservation genetics, our involvement with the Local Agenda 21 of Richmond, or in the many conservation education activities now incorporated into our teaching programme. The Living Collections Department, which is now fully incorporated into the science programme of the Gardens, is making a major contribution to our conservation activities both on site, in many parts of the world, and in new work on species' reintroductions.

I would like to thank all the staff for collaborating so well to achieve this development of science at Kew over the past 11 years. All sections have supported this effort, whether it is in administration, finance, or in the creation of a beautiful garden for the public to enjoy. Finally, I can't say how delighted I am that Professor Peter Crane is succeeding me as the next Director. I wish him well as he continues to take science, and the many other activities of Kew, forward into the new millennium.

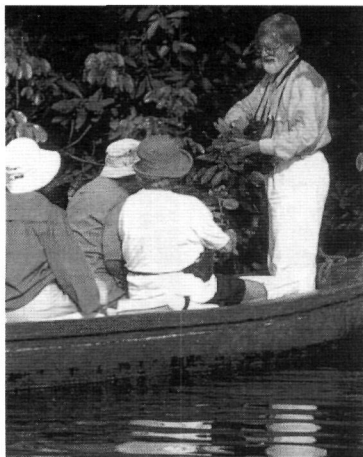
## CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

April 1999 Issue 15

### The Directorship of Sir Ghilleen Prance by Prof. Michael Bennett (Editor)

On 13 August 1999, RBG Kew will say a sad goodbye to Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance F.R.S. when he retires as its 12th Director. It is unnecessary to await the judgement of history to assess the impact of his term. Clearly it has been 11 golden years for Kew's science, and his legacy is already as outstanding as the many new science developments dotted about the landscape.

In providing both continuity and change, he has strengthened and promoted all that is best in over two centuries of Kew's botanical past. His leadership has sharpened the institute's focus on its core science business, emphasising the pre-eminent importance of the collections on which our plant systematics, conservation and education programmes depend, while strongly supporting new molecular and informational approaches which unify and communicate our research.



His Directorship has seen an impressive construction programme for Kew's science facilities: the Sir Joseph Banks building (1990); extensions to the Jodrell Laboratory (1994) and Herbarium Wing D (1998); restoration of the Palm House (1990) and Museum No. 1 (1998); development of the Melon Yard (1997), Lower Nursery (1998) and Mycology Building (1994); and laying the foundations of the Millennium Seed Bank (1998). When this century is viewed from the next, the 1990s will surely feature as the outstanding decade of development and renewal in Kew's history.

Professor Prance has led Kew to unprecedented success in fund raising for science, based on his experience and vision in creating the Kew Foundation. He has engendered a new will and skills to support government, N.G.O.'s and international bodies in developing new global policies and best practice on botanical matters essential for the future.

With his wife Anne he has hosted an impressive programme of events, transforming the Director's house into an embassy for plant science and making Kew seem like an honorary scientific member of the United Nations.

R.B.G. Kew is now positioned as a world centre of excellence, in the vanguard of forward looking institutions able to address pressing problems of people and plants, and the global environment. Professor Prance's outstanding personal contributions to these scientific developments have been marked by a growing list of honours, including Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1993, the prestigious International Cosmos prize in 1994, a knighthood in 1995, honorary degrees at 11 universities in Europe and the Americas, and most recently, the Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria Medal of Honour. It has been a privilege to work with Professor Prance and to share the vision of one of Kew's greatest directors since Sir William Hooker became the first in 1841.

## EXCERPTS FROM THE 'KEW GUARDIAN'

Reproduced with kind permission of the Editor, Spence Gunn

### KEW ENVIRONMENT LECTURE

*January 1999*

#### Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand

The eighth Kew Environmental Lecture was given on December 11th by H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand.

The Thai Royal Family has supported a large number of projects in that country which recognise the relationship between the environment and the quality of life of the country's people. The Princess, who has visited Kew on a number of previous occasions and Kew has been closely involved with the establishment of the new botanic garden at Chiang Mai in the North of Thailand. The Princess described some of the recent projects she and her family have been involved with.

Her most recent work has been to develop a conservation project on the Samaesarn Archipelago in Chon Buri, a group of islands covered primarily by dry evergreen forest. The project has been under way for less than a year but there have already been biodiversity surveys and studies of the geology, soils and water resources; and educational visits are being conducted.

The Royal Family is also behind a conservation project to conserve endangered indigenous plants and has set up a germplasm bank with a plant genetics database and facilities for

micropropagation. As well as investigating potential uses of native plants, the project involves taking genetic fingerprints of native species in order to prepare patents for useful plants to protect them as national assets. Among those being studied in particular detail are makieng (*Cleistocalyx operculatus*), bael fruits (*Aegle marmelos*), Pitcher plants (*Nepenthes gracilis*) and rattans (*Calamus* spp).

The Princess said that great emphasis was also placed on raising public awareness of the importance of preserving biodiversity. There is a school botanic garden programme in which children are encouraged to study the plants in their locality; and a project which encourages villagers to work together in groups or as cooperatives to cultivate useful species – this generates income so that people no longer have to grow opium poppies or undertake illegal logging in the forests.



H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.



Kew's Plants & People Exhibition in Museum No.1, which opened last year, has won the prestigious Interpret Britain award from the Society for the Interpretation of Britain's Heritage, for the quality of its presentation and content. There were more than 80 entries. The photograph shows Gail Bromley (Head of the Education Department) and colleagues Laura Guiffreda and Pat Griggs, in the Museum. They collected the award at a ceremony at Kensington Palace earlier this month.

The judges praised the Museum for being 'beautifully displayed' and singled out the selection of themes and artifacts and the quality of the texts and audio aids.

More than 93,000 visitors have seen the exhibition since it opened.

## WE HEAR

February 1999

Four appointments to the Board of Trustees of R.B.G. Kew were announced in January. They are: Sir Jeffery Bowman (the Queen's Trustee), Rosalyn Franklin, Richard Laphorne and Iain Oag. Three Trustees have been re-appointed: Spencer de Grey, Professor Hugh Dickinson and Anna Ford. Sir Jeffery Bowman, formerly a Trustee, succeeds the Earl of Selborne as the Queen's Trustee.

Rosalyn Franklin is a garden designer and lectures on garden design for the R.H.S. Richard Laphorne has been Chairman of the Foundation and Friends of Kew since 1997. He is Vice-Chairman of British Aerospace, and a non-executive Director of Orange plc. Iain Oag is Corporate Affairs Manager of Allied Domecq and is responsible for their external relations programme in the arts, education and the environment. He has an M.A. in botany and an M.Sc. in brewing science.

## NEW STAFF HELP DEVELOP INTERPRETATION IN THE GARDENS

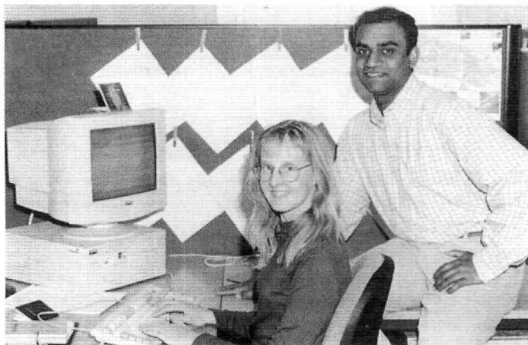
February 1999

Two new staff have joined the education section for a year to help bring forward a number of important visitor interpretation projects at Kew and Wakehurst Place. Dr. Erica Bower is an ecologist who joins Kew from the Ivel Valley Countryside Project, while Neeth Abey will be familiar to many L.C.D. colleagues as he trained in the School of Horticulture before pursuing his M.Sc. at Reading.

The main project currently under way for the interpretation team, is interpretation elements for the public areas of the Millennium Seed Bank. These will be multi-media displays high-lighting the importance and diversity of seeds and giving insights into the role of the Seed Bank in conservation in the U.K. and elsewhere in the world.

But Erica and Neeth will be working, alongside Laura Guiffrida and Pat Griggs on interpretation for the new peony beds; the compost viewing area near the Stable Yard; information sheets on

pest control, peat alternatives and the Queens Cottage Grounds; and for the lilac, and lavender collections, the Grass Garden.



Neeth also has a particular interest in developing ways of interpreting the Convention on Biological Diversity, and Kew's relationship with it, to visitors. "We are planning a survey to see what level of knowledge visitors have of the C.B.D. already" he said.

Pat Griggs said: "Now that we have more help with interpretation we would encourage L.C.D. staff to contact us about elements of the

collections that need interpretation. We are also developing a temporary interpretation system so we'd like to know about things such as particularly interesting or unusual plants that are coming into flower or that are on display for a limited time; or particular horticultural operations that need explaining. It would also be nice to know about the things visitors regularly ask staff about."

## IN FOCUS

February 1999

### Survey reveals who our Friends really are

A survey of the membership of the Friends of R.B.G. Kew, conducted through a questionnaire in the Autumn issue of *Kew* magazine, reveals that Friends are as likely to be families with school age children as they are to be retired people; and they are all people with an above average understanding of the importance of Kew's Mission and a strong desire to support Kew's work, *writes Spence Gunn*.

12,500 questionnaires were sent out, representing 50 per cent of the membership, and more than 1,200 replies have been returned – which is a very high response rate for this type of survey. The results will not only help the Friends organisation to develop the services it offers members, but also to develop its fund-raising activities in areas of Kew's work that members are most likely to support.

Surveys like this tend to be more likely to be filled in by those responding positively but even taking that into account, the results show that Friends are exceptionally well informed about all aspects of Kew's work and maintain a strongly positive view of Kew as an organisation. They are well placed and willing to support Kew's mission both with donations to appeals and through volunteer help.

In the first few years of the Friends, members tended to be drawn more strongly from older age groups and those living in the immediate vicinity of Kew but the growth of membership, which now stands at more than 25,000 households, with almost 50,000 members, has brought in a much wider cross section of society with a much larger geographical spread both in the U.K. and overseas.

### What the survey shows:

- Even spread of ages from 30 to 70+



- 26% families, 73% individuals
- 36% visit Kew or Wakehurst between two and five times a year; 18% up to ten times and 15% more than ten times
- Friends tend to have above average incomes and are drawn from all walks of life. Few have a professional involvement with plants
- 50% belong to the National Trust, 28% to the R.H.S.
- 82% have a garden
- Free entry to Kew and Wakehurst Place is the most important benefit to Friends, followed by the magazine and their Guest Passes. And 24% said fundraising for Kew was the most important or second most important element of their membership.
- 96% of respondents intend to renew their membership. There was an even split between those renewing mainly to take advantage of the benefits and those renewing mainly to continue supporting Kew.
- When asked to rank the most important aspects of Kew's work, 'Caring for the Gardens and Living Collections', 'Conservation', 'Training Overseas Scientists' and 'Searching for New Uses of Plants' were ranked highest.
- The magazine was rated highly as helping inform members about Kew's mission with 90% agreeing that 'it helps me appreciate what R.B.G. Kew does.'

## SEED BANK TOPPED OUT – MAY 99

*May 1999*

A milestone in the development of the Millennium Seed Bank was reached on Thursday 13th May, which saw the Topping Out ceremony performed by Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, together with Alan MacKinnon, Chief Executive for Longleys Construction, at The Wellcome Trust Millennium Seed Bank Building. This marks the formal completion of the structural building work.

Specially invited guests, drawn from the major sponsors, the design and construction teams, and the professional advisors to the Project, observed as the Director climbed the scaffolding to reach the highest point of the structure, where he placed a cleat into the completed barrel-vault roof.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, Chairman of the Millennium Commission, (£30m contribution) and Mr. Peter McNelly, Director of Finance of The Wellcome Trust (£9m donated) congratulated Architect, Paul Williams, from the Stanton Williams Architectural Practice, London, on their outstanding and innovative design for the building. Peter Raymond, Sponsorship Manager for Orange Telecommunications Plc., (£2.5m donated) was unfortunately unable to attend but sent a message of congratulations.

John Lavin and the project management Team anticipate a June 2000 building completion date, allowing the Education/Interpretation and Living Collections team to 'move in' to prepare the building to receive its first visitors to the public exhibition area – The Orange Room – in autumn of 2000.



Michael Heseltine, Chairman of the Millennium Commission and Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, Kew's Director, perform the topping out ceremony at the Millennium Seed Bank.



A memorable Official Opening programme is currently being planned and we look forward to keeping you all up to date with the news in future editions of *Kew Guardian*.

The Millennium Seed Bank Project is one of the largest international conservation projects ever undertaken. It is being carried out in collaboration with many countries around the globe and aims to secure the future of almost all the U.K.'s native flowering plants as well as helping to safeguard 24,000 species of dryland plants worldwide against extinction – that's about ten per cent of the world's flora. The Millennium Seed Bank will be a world resource of seed conservation, research and education.

When Kew launched the Millennium Seed Bank Appeal on 31st May 1996, Sir David Attenborough, Patron of the Appeal, described the Project as "... perhaps the most significant conservation initiative ever undertaken." Since May 1996, the Appeal's contribution to the Project has reached £15m.

## A SILENT REVOLUTION ON THE RECORD

May 1999

There's a revolution under way in the Living Collections Department, with the aim of making labelling easier, quicker and much more cost effective.

The new labels, which do not completely replace the existing black and white laminated display labels, are credit-card sized and made of aluminium and are embossed with the label data. Similar pot labels can also be produced. "They are very durable and a great advantage is that we can produce them directly from the L.C.D. Database so that it will not be possible for errors to creep in," said John Lonsdale, Head of L.C.D.'s Technical Section.

The aluminium labels, which are widely used in North American plant collections, were seen in the Arnold Arboretum and Morris Arboretum. The system and materials were investigated by Tony Kirkham, Head of Horticultural and Services Section, and have been trialled ahead of the latest release of the L.C.D. Database, which has provided a direct user interface to the new system.

The new labels work out at only a tenth of the cost of Kew's laminated labels. The low cost will allow the use of more than one label on the larger shrubs or trees, improving security and making it easier for people to locate the labels.

"Another innovation is that we have produced standard terms for presenting the plant's

geographical distribution on the labels," added Steve Ruddy. Label Range closely follows the T.D.W.G. system. The L.C.D. Database will continue to hold detailed geographical information for individual accessions together with wider range statements – but for labels all the accessions of a taxon will carry the same accepted label range term."

Staff responsible for labelling are able to order their labels directly from the Plant Records database via their computer terminal. The embossing machine can produce 200 different labels in one operation taking about 30 mins.



The Kew Explorer (people mover), operated by R.B.G. Kew Enterprises, was delivered to the Shaft Yard on Tuesday 4th May. It is driven by a team of full-time and part-time drivers and takes fare-paying visitors to the remoter parts of the Gardens.



Kew Guild Dinner top table, left to right: Cyril (Mitch) and Audrey Mitchelmore, Alan and Alison Titchmarsh, Richard and Wiena Ward, Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, Rosamond and David Shanon and Lady Anne Prance.  
June/July 1999

#### KEW MEDAL WINNERS

*September/October 1999*

Three well-known and greatly respected members of staff of R.B.G. Kew have been awarded the Kew Medal to mark out-standing service to the organisation. They were presented with their medals by botanist and broadcaster Professor David Bellamy (right) at the R.B.G. Kew School of Horticulture Prize Day on September 10th.

Jill Cowley (centre left) has been with R.B.G. Kew for more than 31 years, making a major contribution to the work of both the Living Collections and the Herbarium. But she has also had a major role in the running of the staff organisations: the Kew Guild, Kew Club and the I.P.M.S.

Richard White (centre right), of the Buildings and Maintenance Department, has supervised numerous important renovations and new buildings at Kew and has done so much to ensure cooperation between consultants, builders and users.

David Cutler (inset) retired on August 13th after 37 years of service to Kew. His publications are recognised for their meticulous quality which has reflected well on Kew, and he has built a worldwide reputation in plant anatomy. He also devoted much time to promoting Kew by helping staff, students and visitors alike, proudly representing Kew's vision to many V.I.P.s, guests, donors and the media, well beyond the call of normal duty. Cutler has also been awarded the Gold Medal of the Linnean Society for services to the Society. This is only the second time this particular medal has been awarded.



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

September/October 1999

As I sit down to write this piece for the *Kew Guardian* it is exactly four weeks since I arrived. From the very first day at Kew everyone has been wonderful in helping me and my family find our way in our new surroundings. I greatly appreciate all the efforts by so many of you that have helped make our transition from the U.S. go so smoothly. We are very grateful for the warmth with which we have been welcomed into the Kew community.



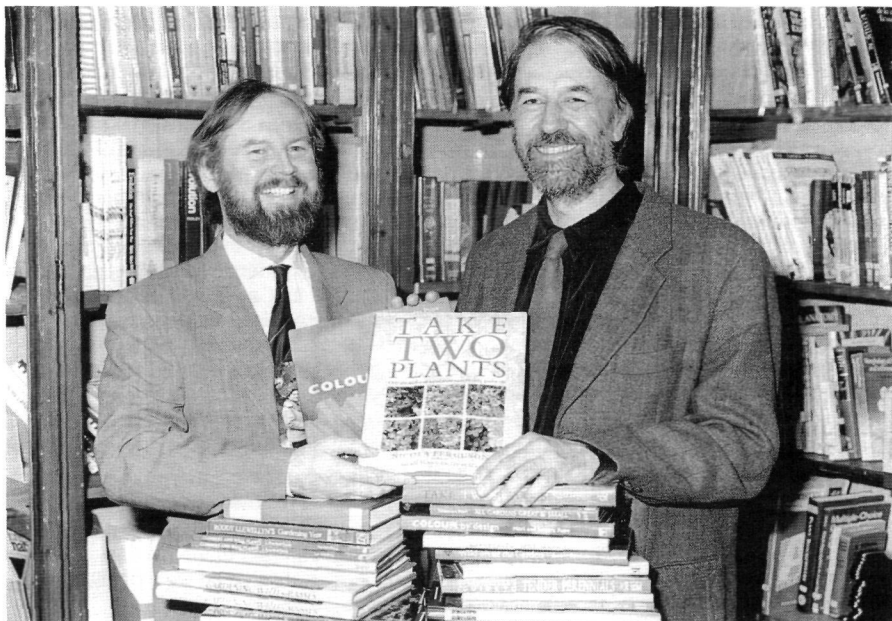
Peter Crane.

In the first few weeks my primary objective has been to visit all of the different departments at Kew and Wakehurst Place, so that I can meet you and so that I can begin to understand the many different ways in which you contribute to the organisation. I have also been meeting individually with our Trustees to get their perspectives on Kew and on the major challenges that we face. To me, the most valuable outcome of these meetings so far has been my increased awareness of the true dimensions of this great institution. I have been broadly familiar with Kew's activities since I was a summer student here almost 25 years ago, but it has nevertheless been a revelation – as I have toured the departments – to begin to understand the full extent, extraordinary strength and international reach of Kew's programmes. It is a privilege for me to be part of the team and to have the opportunity of working with you.

Since my arrival, I have been asked one question more than any other – what are your plans for Kew? I can answer this straightforwardly and simply. It is inevitable that we will need to be increasingly proactive in securing resources to support the important work that we do – but beyond that I have no pre-conceived ideas about the specific directions that we should take. Our mission is clear and vitally important, but it could be fulfilled in many different ways. Kew is a large and complex organisation and it will take time for me to understand its full complexity. It is also important for me to learn about you – the people that make up the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew – because we must have a common vision if we are to realise our objectives and get the best out of our team. I have had the opportunity to meet only a fraction of you so far – and I hope that will change in the coming weeks – but please introduce yourself whenever the opportunity arises. I am very interested in meeting you, learning about what you do, and hearing your ideas on how we can work together to ensure that Kew remains strong and can grow into the future.

In the departmental visits that I have made so far, I have been particularly impressed by two things. First, the extraordinary dedication and hard work of the staff. And second by the increasing awareness, among so many of you, of the need for all the different departments of Kew to work together to meet common objectives. Different departments inevitably have different responsibilities, but enormous progress has been made over the last several years toward increased collaboration. This trend must continue if we are to overcome the many challenges that we will face in the coming years. Kew must continue to evolve along a single common trajectory if it is to flourish in the next century. We will also need to work together to ensure that as this evolution occurs we can balance our core strengths with new initiatives. It is vital that we don't endanger our base as we stretch for the future.

Please bear with me as I continue to learn about Kew. My aim is to have all my departmental visits completed as soon as possible, and to be able to present some of my preliminary impressions in my first presentations to staff (Oct. 14, 20 and Nov. 3). In the meantime, thank you for your patience. I look forward to working with you all in the coming years to maintain this institution's great strengths and develop them in ways that ensure our continued international pre-eminence.



Ian Leese, Principal, School of Horticulture, receiving a donation of books from Graham Rice of The Garden Writers' Guild. Graham is Gardening Correspondent of the *London Evening Standard* and is a Kew Diploma graduate.

## OBITUARIES

### FRANK EUL

Frank Eul passed on at the age of 90 years on June 6th 1999.

Life can be tough and tougher for some. Many people suffered from flu this winter but in the great flu epidemic of 1918, when Frank was only nine years of age, he lost both his parents. A letter from his daughter Sue describes how this early experience led him to devote so much of his life energy to his family. Re-unions were important to him and at the last that he attended in person he sat amongst his three children, six grand-children and two great grand children, with all their families.

He had another family and that was the great family we are all members of and Frank's greatest love according to his own family was horticulture, the world of plants and public leisure.

His early life found him on the move training in prestigious private gardens in Stratford Upon Avon, Coventry, Penrith, and Buckinghamshire, often working for members of the aristocracy. In May 1932 he entered Kew. He immediately joined the Botany Club and spent his three years in the Tropical, Decorative and Arboretum Departments. In February 1935 he left to become



General Assistant at Blackpool Parks Department. In his spare time and for two years he taught horticulture, general botany and rural science at Blackpool Technical College. He also gained his National Diploma in Horticulture and his Diploma in Parks and Recreation Administration.

In 1938, at the age of 29, he was appointed Parks and Cemeteries Superintendent at the Borough of Nelson in Lancashire. He was very young to be taking on a responsibility of this sort but even greater challenges were soon to follow. On May 29th 1944 he took up one of the most challenging posts in British Parks, as Superintendent at Bexley in Kent. In the same year he was elected to the Council of the I.P.R.A. He subsequently sat on all the main bodies concerned with the planning and formation of modern parks departments throughout the United Kingdom. All the ingredients were there, the skills inherited by labour that had known the highest standards of private service, management that was practically trained as well as disciplined and efficient in implementation and a liberal political climate that approved of parks for the masses. Frank held all of these skills in his enthusiastic hands. He has a record of consistently passing on his knowledge to others and he was a regular member of the Kew Guild Committee. In 1963 he was unanimously elected President of the Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration and in 1971 became our President.

Hall Place gardens were laid out from scratch by Frank and H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent opened them in 1952. *The greatest legacy is the recreational facilities at Bexley and the substance his endeavours put into the Parks world nationally.*

He was a keen photographer and, together with Mrs. Eul, gave many lectures on the topic of *English Gardens*.

He gardened at home until he was 83, when his eyesight started to fail him. He attended Kew events as much as he could in his latter years and always insisted on wearing his Kew tie on other important occasions, such as his grand-children's weddings.

We send our condolences to his family.

### **GEOFF NORMAN GRAHAM 1943-1999**

We were very saddened and shocked to hear of the premature death of Geoff Graham. He died suddenly of a heart attack whilst in Malta and Sicily on holiday on the 13th October 1999. He was only 56 years of age.

He began his career as an apprentice on Kingston-upon-Hull Parks Department in 1959. On 5th October 1964 he entered Kew as a student. He was Honorary Secretary of the Cricket Club and in March 1965 gave a Mutual on mulching. Whilst at Kew he was very interested in hockey and running and took part in The Kew Guild Race.

After qualifying at Kew he left to attend the Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration at The Grotto and in 1967 gained his Diploma there.

His next career step was to join the Newport Parks Department in Clywd. On the 17th May 1969 he married a Kewite, Miss M. Jones at St. Andrews Church, Bebbington on the Wirral. Brian Nash was the Best Man at the wedding. He wrote to *The Journal* in 1969 saying how much he was enjoying life at Newport and that Marion was working at Cleppa Park Experimental Horticulture Station. He obtained his final D.I.P.A. in 1970. In the same year Brian Nash and Alan Rich visited him in Newport.

He then moved to a new job as Deputy Parks Superintendent and Cemeteries Manager of Bebbington District. His duties were many and varied and included organising the 'Miss Bebbington' beauty contest as well as establishing one of the first country parks at Eastham Woods on the banks of the River Mersey.

In 1974 local government re-organisation led to his taking a post as Area Recreation Manager in the new metropolitan borough of Wirral. He was involved in some key initiatives such as the integration of the separate cemeteries into the main organisation and the introduction of one of the first urban park ranger services in the U.K. He applied his knowledge to the setting up of the procedures for competitive tendering.

He brought a combination of spiritual awareness and professional expertise to the area of crematoria. He had obtained his certificate of Institute of Burial and Cremation and Administration in 1971 and took part 1 of the I.B.C.A. Diploma in 1973. He oversaw the installation of new cremators at Landican and a foetal cremator, all complying with the new stringent standards of the Environmental Protection Act. He opened a woodland burial ground, and a Baby Memorial Garden is nearing completion. He welcomed The Charter for the Bereaved and his caring attitude led him into close contact with community groups and Friends groups at various cemeteries.

Bereavement filled a great part of his working life yet he accommodated it within his outgoing lifestyle. He was a warden for his local church, Secretary at the golf club and a keen home gardener where he indulged in his love of plants. On hearing of his passing all have at first been shocked, for he never had a day's illness in his life, this shock then being followed by the kindest thoughts and memories.

To his wife Marion, family and many friends and colleagues we send our condolences.

### JOHN DOUGLAS HELM

Doug, as he was known to friends, was born in Middleton Tyas, Richmond in Yorkshire. After leaving school he worked in his father's gardens and then took various posts in private gardens belonging to the gentry.

When the Second World War broke out he volunteered and served all over Europe in the army.

After the war he worked in the gardens of Clifton Castle, Masham Yorkshire for Lady Curzon Howe. He was well known and respected by the family whom he had worked for before the war.

On the 4th April 1947 he entered Kew. He left a year later to join The Commonwealth War Graves Commission in France where he was involved in the urgent landscape of the new war cemeteries.

He married in 1949 and returned to England in 1950 where at Brighouse he became Deputy Superintendent of Parks.

He subsequently moved to Southend and Sheffield Parks before becoming Parks Superintendent of Llandudno in 1963. He remained there until his retirement in 1980. Llandudno was one of the most popular holiday resorts in Britain and the floral displays were renowned.

He was a Life Member of the Guild.

Doug died suddenly on the 29th September 1998, aged 81 years. To his wife, Marian, we send our belated condolences.

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The Guild has received notification that **Dan MacGuffog** passed away on the 11th January, 2000. **Richard ('Dick') Shaw**, past Curator at Kew (1966-72) died on 6th January and **Roger Storr** (1970) died on 22nd March 2000. We send our condolences to relatives. Obituaries will appear in next year's *Journal*.

Additionally we heard that **John Souster**, previously Assistant Curator at Kew until 1965, died on 26th January in Oxford. John resigned from Guild membership several years ago.

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Obituaries for *The Journal* have been researched and collated by Graham Burgess and I thank him for dealing with this each year.

Notification of the passing of Kewites should be made initially to the Guild Secretary, who will in turn contact other relevant Guild Officers. Non-Guild members' deaths will be mentioned under 'News of Kewites' in your *Journal*.

In some cases the only information we are able to obtain about departed Kewites is that which has been printed in previous *Journals*. — Ed.

# **THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1999**

	AWARD SCHEME				
	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 1999 £	Total 1998 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Subscriptions . . . . .	6,440.25			6,440.25	7,150.41
Donations and Legacies . . . . .	2,020.00	75.00		2,095.00	10.00
Investment Income – COIF . . . . .	1,378.50	4,621.62		6,000.12	5,898.42
– Interest . . . . .	876.82			876.82	1,061.30
Annual Dinner . . . . .	2,531.50			2,531.50	2,162.50
A.G.M. Day . . . . .	548.10			548.10	656.50
Summer Outing . . . . .	191.60			191.60	0.00
Sale of “Kew Plantsmen” . . . . .	460.00			460.00	292.00
Sale of Emblems . . . . .	0.00			0.00	28.00
Journal Adverts . . . . .	0.00			0.00	340.00
	14,446.77	4,696.62	0.00	19,143.39	17,599.13
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
<b>Direct charitable expenditure:</b>					
Kew Guild Journal . . . . .	4,888.00			4,888.00	5,292.00
Prizes . . . . .	495.00	13.00		508.00	382.00
Awards . . . . .		4,150.00		4,150.00	5,490.00
Annual Dinner . . . . .	2,750.14			2,750.14	2,393.98
A.G.M. Day . . . . .	1,108.53			1,108.53	892.38
Summer Outing . . . . .	200.80			200.80	0.00
Postage . . . . .	1,000.00			1,000.00	1,518.87
<b>Other expenditure:</b>					
Cost of “Kew Plantsmen” . . . . .	423.15			423.15	134.85
Cost of Emblems . . . . .	0.00			0.00	19.78
Insurance . . . . .	21.01			21.01	38.06
Honorary Officers’ Expenses . . . . .	111.36			111.36	92.00
Past Presidents Badges . . . . .	0.00			0.00	550.37
Membership Leaflets . . . . .	508.78			508.78	0.00
Sundry . . . . .	384.48			384.48	141.15
	11,891.25	4,163.00	0.00	16,054.25	16,945.44
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b> . . . . .					
	2,555.52	533.62	0.00	3,089.14	653.69
<b>OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS</b>					
Gains on investments:					
Unrealised . . . . .	5,746.09	7,231.65	12,032.86	25,010.60	18,020.64
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>					
	8,301.61	7,765.27	12,032.86	28,099.74	18,674.33
Balances brought forward at					
1 January 1999 . . . . .	57,917.47	50,473.17	83,496.99	191,887.63	173,213.30
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT</b>					
<b>31 DECEMBER 1999</b> . . . . .	66,219.08	58,238.44	95,529.85	219,987.37	191,887.63

# **THE KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1999**

	1999		1998	
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Investments .....		198,560.99		173,550.39
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stocks    — Emblems .....	565.20		565.20	
— Centenary of Kew Plantsmen ..	2,459.85		2,883.00	
	<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
	3,025.05		3,448.20	
Debtors .....	225.38		322.16	
Charities Deposit Fund .....	19,800.00		15,800.00	
Cash at Bank .....	417.12		109.67	
	<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
		23,467.55		19,680.03
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Life Subscriptions .....	56.17		59.33	
Creditors .....	1,985.00		1,283.46	
	<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
		-2,041.17		-1,342.79
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b> .....		21,426.38		18,337.24
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b> .....		219,987.37		191,887.63
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
General .....	66,219.08		57,917.47	
Restricted .....	58,238.44		50,473.17	
Endowment .....	95,529.85		83,496.99	
	<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
		219,987.37		191,887.63
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>

These are summarised accounts extracted from the Annual Report and Accounts of the Kew Guild. The Annual Accounts were approved on 25th January 2000 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 1st January, 2000)

### Staff:

Abeygunawardana, Upaneetha	Cribb, P. J.	Kell, Shelagh P.
Andrews, Roselle	Crow, Emma	King, Kathleen
Andrews, Miss S.	Cutler, Dr. D. F.	Leese, Ian
Atkins, Mrs. Sandy	Davis, Steve	Leon, Christine
Barnes, David	Done, Mary	Morley, James
Beentje, Henk	Edwards, P. J.	Otto-Knapp, Iris
Bell, Miss S.	Ferguson, Ian Keith	Owens, Dr. Simon
Bidgood, Sally	Fox, Emma	Parry, Belinda
Bower, Rebecca M.	Gallick, Edina	† Prance, Professor Sir G. T.
Boyce, Peter	Godfrey, Michael	Ravenhall, Mrs. T.
Brent, Mrs. Helen	Green, Paul W. C.	Scott-Brown, Alison
Brett, Robert	Hardman, David	Staniforth, Martin
Bridson, Diane M.	Hastings, Laura	Swinburne, Marina
Brown, E. W.	Hayes, Mrs. D.	Taylor, Nigel P.
Brummitt, R. K.	Henchie, Stewart J.	Walley, D. A.
Cowley, Mrs. Jill	Johns, Professor Bob	Weekly, R. J.
Crane, Professor Peter	Johnson, Margaret	

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

(as at 1st January, 2000)

### Students:

Beaghen, Jessica	Hirsch, Jennifer	Parsons, Harriet
Berenbrinker, Mirco	Hoblyn, Tom	Pearson, Jane
Bishop, Alex	Horne, Sarah	Pritchard, Kate
Brown, Rosminah	Hudson, Ian	Reece, Matthew
Chen, Jinyong	Jones, Karen	Sharp, Nicky
Crawford, Silvia	Jurgielewicz, Helenka	Stevenson, James
Csiba, Mr. Laszlo	Lavelle, Christine	Taylor, Jemima
Emmerich, Frank	Mengel, Bernd	Thompson, Janet
Fowler, Alys	Moyle, Keith	Weddell, Christopher
Gardner, Hannah	O'Rourke, Antony	Wyatt, Andrew
Heidieker, Claudia		