Volume 14 Number 106

2001

THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD

THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD

1



Founded in 1893

The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present

Events of 2001

Published in 2002

Volume 14 Number 106

Registered charity No. 306064

Hon. Editor: Jennifer Sophie Day Telephone: (01794) 388614 Email: kewguildeditor@hotmail.com Printed by Rayment Printers Ltd., 5 Horsham Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 2JN. Telephone: (01306) 886198 Fax: (01306) 742148 Email: office@raymentprinters.sagehost.co.uk

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|------|
| Trustees and Committee | 3 |
| Editorial | 4 |
| Patrick A. Nutt, President | 5 |
| Michael Griffin, Vice President – A Few Characters in the Everyday | |
| Life of Kew Gardens, 1955-1964 | 9 |
| Outgoing President's Report (2000-2001) | 14 |
| The Kew Guild Award Scheme | 14 |
| Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild | 15 |
| Rules of the Kew Guild 2000 | 19 |
| School or Horticulture, Kew Diploma Prize Day Speech 2001 | 24 |
| Kew Medal Winners | 26 |
| Presentation of Kew Diplomas and Prizes 2001 (Course 36) | 27 |
| Kew Guild Visits 2001 | 33 |
| Course 39 | 34 |
| Kew Guild Awards Scheme Report for 2001 | 35 |
| Successful Local Involvement in Local Agenda 21 | 36 |
| A Visit to Jersey Lavender Farm | 37 |
| Bhutan | 38 |
| Giant Alpines of Ecuador | 39 |
| Nymphaeas | 40 |
| Japan | 41 |
| An Orchid fieldtrip in South-Western Australia | 43 |
| Visit to Claude Monet's Garden, Giverny, France | 44 |
| Up and Over in Down Under | 45 |
| The Living Collections Department at Kew During 2000 | 49 |
| A Christmas Greeting from our Patron, H.R.H. Princess Alexandra | 52 |
| The Living Collections Department at Wakehurst Place During 2000 | 53 |
| The Living Collections Department at Kew during 2001 | 57 |
| Horticulture and Public Education Department at Wakehurst Place 2001 | 61 |
| The Director's Activities During 2001 | 65 |
| Secretary Wanted | 66 |
| Reminiscences | 67 |
| New of Kewites at Home and Abroad in 2001 | 68 |
| Yearly Weather Summary for R.B.G. Kew – 2001 | 83 |
| Wakehurst Place Weather 2000 | 84 |
| Wakehurst Place Weather 2000 | 85 |
| Obituaries | 86 |
| Accounts | 90 |
| Members Address List | 90 |
| List of R.B.G.Staff and Honorary Research Associate Members and | 92 |
| Students of the Kew Guild | 103 |
| | 103 |

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

THE KEW GUILD Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

The Kew Guild Committee 2001-2002

Advisors:

Professor E. A. Bell, B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D., C.Chem., F.R.C.S., F.L.S.
Professor Sir Ghillean T. Prance, F.R.S., M.A., D.Phil., Fil.Dr., F.L.S.
M. J. S. Sands, B.Sc., C.Biol., F.I.Biol., F.L.S., F.R.G.S.
J. B. E. Simmons, O.B.E., M.Hort.(RHS), F.I.Hort., C.Biol., F.I.Biol., V.M.H.

Officers:

President: Patrick A. Nutt President Elect: Allan Hart, A.L.I., M.I.Hort. Vice-President: M. J. Griffin, F.I. L.A.M., F.I.Hort., Dip. P.R.A. Past-President: A. P. Paterson, M.Hort.(RHS), M.Ed., F.L.S.

Honorary Secretary: M. Clift Honorary Treasurer: Ms R. M. Bower Honorary Membership Secretary: D. M. Barnes Honorary Editor: Mrs. J. S. Day Events Officer: T. F. Risely

Committee Members:

| Retire 2002 (four year period) | | Retire 2002 (three year period) | |
|--|---|--|--|
| D. Hardman T. Martyn D.Taber K. Woolliams | Wakehurst Place Brentford Cheam U. S. A. | Prof. D. F. Cutler G. A. Pattison | Kew Woking |
| Retire 2003 K. R. Jones H. J. Fleigner C. Funke | Ashford Twickenham Godalming | <i>Retire 2004</i> Mrs. S. Atkins Ms P. Holt Ms E. A. Leche C. Weddell | Kew Maidenhead Chile Richmond |

Ex Officio Member: I. Leese Award Scheme Chair: A. Hart Students' Union Representatives: Ms K. Steele, J. Evans

EDITORIAL

I feel a great deal of pride in and affection for this issue of the *Journal*. There have been some fantastic submissions this year, and I think you will agree that it makes fascinating reading. As always, I find myself a bit awestruck by people's achievements, and envious of those who are travelling to exotic climes in pursuit of plants. The contents of the *Journal* represent hours of effort, and I would like to thank all of those who contributed to making this year's edition what it is.

I am reiterating last year's solicitation for contributions, with a new twist. I'm sure the first thing you noticed was the disappearance of the Modena green cover. We wanted to take the opportunity the cover space affords us to promote the talent of the artists among our membership. If you have artwork that you feel would make an excellent cover, or know someone who has, please get in contact with me. A committee will select a piece of work each year for reproduction in two tones (black and white, or two other colours). The deadline for non-computerised text is January 15th, 2003, and for computerised text (ie. as a disc or email attachment) it is February 15th, 2003.

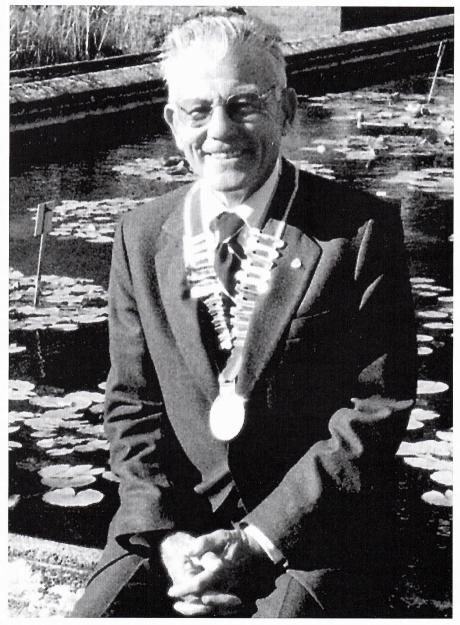
Jennifer Day Hon. Editor

Your Guild contacts are:

Membership/Subscriptions: David Barnes on 020 8332 5567 (telephone), 020 8332 5580 (fax), d.barnes@rbgkew.org.uk (email) Honorary Editor: Jennifer Day on 01794 388614 (telephone/fax), kewguildeditor@hotmail.com (email)

Front cover photograph courtesy of A. McRobb. Copyright of the Trustees of R.B.G. Kew.

PATRICK A. NUTT President 2001/2002



Patrick was born in Hendon, Middlesex, on March 17, 1930, and spent his boyhood years within walking distance of Golder's Hill Park and Hampstead Heath, giving him an excellent exposure to flowers, trees and aquatic life. Later the reputation of Perry's Famous Aquatic Nursery at nearby Enfield and Thomas Rockford's in the Lea Valley also influenced his choice of future vocation.

The events of September 3, 1939 when Britain declared war on Nazi Germany, unalterably changed lifestyle priorities. His mother, raised on a small farm in Gloucestershire, channelled the family's energy into vegetable, fruit and poultry production to combat food shortages. Their garden soil consisted of a heavy, tenacious London clay (legend had it that it was subsoil excavated from Hampstead's underground station to Golder's Green!). The soil on the three nearby allotments was somewhat better loam, but heavily infested with club root. Patrick's textbook in those wartime years was the *R.H.S. Vegetable Garden Displayed*, and he attempted to reproduce the highly skilled work, so vividly reproduced in the excellent pictures.

Three unsuccessful attempts to obtain a scholarship at a secondary or technical school while attending Wessex Gardens Boy's School left him with the singular prospect of becoming a Garden Boy-Apprentice at school-leaving age. No vacancies existed at Hendon Parks Department, so he obtained a useful position at a thriving market garden in Rosebank, Lanarkshire, Scotland. This garden supplied salad crops for the Glasgow Market. When Patrick revisited this area in 1968, it had developed into one of the finest glasshouse centers in Scotland.

Patrick commenced his apprenticeship at Hendon during the last grim winter of the war where the sun didn't appear to shine for days. V2 rockets, for which there was no defense, were an additional hazard, especially working in glasshouses. One landed nearby during the Battle of the Bulge, Christmas 1944, destroying a pub and breaking much glass, but fortunately, since it was Sunday, there were no casualties. The usual horticultural work was supplemented on occasions by trips by lorry to the London docks to load coal to keep the greenhouse boilers going.

It was with great relief that the war in Europe was over in May 1945. Rotation as an apprentice exposed Patrick to pioneer work, such as demolition of air raid shelters and the progressive excavation of areas being restored to playing fields. His constantly read 'bible' in those days was W.J.C. Lawrence's wonderful little volume, *The Young Gardener*. Compulsory military service loomed in 1948. From recruit camp in West Kirby, he volunteered to be a gunner in the RAF. The Berlin airlift had just commenced. Once the confrontation in Berlin subsided in 1949, he was able to continue his horticultural studies by correspondence courses and private study in off-duty hours. Following the great example of nine candidates from Stalag XXA prisoner of war camp who all actually sat for the R.H.S. General Examination (Seniors) in 1942 (five passed), Patrick also sat for the examination and passed right at demobilisation. This, too, stood him in good stead for a gruelling interview by the Ministry of

7

Agriculture and Fisheries Examiners in order to commence at the R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, under the ex-servicemen's programme, with the final goal of the Wisley Diploma.

Intense rivalry existed between the regular students and ex-service veterans, often culminating in the fortnightly plant identification tests, which were contested with extreme competition, up to 'cup final' pitch. The trainee 'champion' who often obtained top marks was Eric Gibbons (Kew, 1953), a fine plantsman, very observant and resourceful. Even before completing his studies at Wisley, Patrick had applied to commence as a student at Kew, the main reasons being to further his education and gain more glasshouse experience. He served sequentially in Decorative, the Temperate House (where his group were responsible for the initial plantings in the newly-completed Australian House), the Ferneries, where he worked under the most courageous and dedicated Bert Bruty (Bert had survived a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp), and finally the Arboretum. This was the winter of the Killer Smog, December 5, 1952, with its terrible death toll. Patrick and a number of other interested students were also able to attend University of London's night school classes for botany and entomology at Richmond Technical College, to supplement their Kew studies during 1951-1953

Patrick had explored the possibilities of emigration, and soon after leaving Kew in March 1953, he applied for a position as a second gardener on a large estate in Lucas, Ohio, USA. The owner, Louis Bromfield, besides being a Pulitzer Prize winning novelist, was a disciple of Sir Albert Howard. Louis was an ardent conservationist farmer who was also involved in the creation of the Muskingum Conservation District, where in 1913 the floods had produced the greatest tragedy Ohio has ever known (\$300,00,000 damage in 1913 figures). To prevent this ever occurring again, dams were built and lakes created, with much reforestation. His methods and practices resembled what we call today integrated pest management. Patrick's main duties, besides the homestead and grounds, were production of top quality vegetables. He eventually became head gardener in 1955.

Louis Bromfield's untimely death in 1956 led Patrick to Longwood Gardens in south-eastern Pennsylvania, an area which possessed a rich heritage as regards North American horticulture. Longwood was the 300-acre estate of the late Piere Samuel duPont (with additional farmland, 1,000 acres in all). Longwood was rapidly becoming a public display garden and wished to carry on the work of one of the most eminent Kewites to work in the USA, namely the late George H. Pring (President of Kew Guild, 1951; Superintendent Emeritus, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis). The condition of this new position was to be willing to study and work under George (a truly outstanding opportunity), who was employed as a consultant. Besides continuing Pring's *Nymphea* breeding programme, collections of palms, cycads, bromeliads, cacti, succulents and orchids were to be built up. George proved to be the finest mentor under whom Patrick ever had the opportunity to work and study. Early successes include: a hybrid Victoria in 1960 (*Victoria cruziana x V. amazonia*); the flowering of *Amorphophallus titanium* (one of

Pring's goals which was to prove very successful at Kew later); and the fruiting of the breadfruit in the 1970's in the newly-planted Palm and Cycad House.

Patrick met Ann Stevens in 1957, and they married in September, 1958. They lived in 'Frog Hollow' on the Longwood grounds. All three of their children, Fiona, Robbie, and Andrew, were born while living in Longwood houses. Being close to the pools and greenhouses was a great advantage for climate control, both summer and winter. Judicious use of roof heating coils can prevent heavy, wet snow build up which can result in sever loss of panes of glass. Close proximity to the pools was also advantageous for nocturnal pollinations and night photography.

In 1968, Patrick and Ann purchased the house and 2.4-acre garden of the late Dr. Aubrey Thomas, Pennsylvania State Entomologist. Aubrey was a dedicated plantsman and the garden included four of the *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* from the original 1944 collection in central China, and several nice specimens of *Franklinia alatamaha*, the tree first discovered by John and his son, William Bartram, along Georgia's Altamaha River. Worldwide locations of this tree are now recorded by historic Bartram's Garden in their 2000 census.

In 1973, Patrick was promoted to Greenhouse Collections Foreman, followed in 1987 in an exercise in consolidation to share overall greenhouse display, and then in 1990 to Floriculturist with charge of all four acres of greenhouses, and then, finally in 1992 to Assistant Department Head of Horticulture, a position he held until 1995. This completed 38 years of service to preserve and enhance the spirit and beauty of the Garden, and promote opportunities for learning in horticulture and related fields. Longwood's professional Gardener Training Program commenced in 1970, and several Kew students have spent a year at Longwood as part of the International Program.

In 1986, Pennsylvania State University awarded Patrick the Flower Grower of the Year Award. In 1992, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society honoured him with their Certificate of Merit, and in 1994 the Massachusetts Horticultural Society awarded him the Silver Medal for greenhouse displays shared with students. Patrick has assisted or led a number of trips to Costa Rica, the Amazon, and the Rio Negro. He has served twice as a Guild Committee member, and in 1999 was a recipient of the George Brown Award.

Patrick is still quite active, especially with seven grandchildren who enjoy visits to his garden. He sincerely trusts that the Kew Guild doesn't subscribe to Nigel Nicholsen's thoughts on reunions. Nigel feels that the habit is obsolescent because members, "develop differently, drift apart and have no wish to witness their appearance, reflected in the awful faces of men whom they have not seen for 30 years" (*Retrospect*, Long Life, p.67). The number of visitors from Kew over the past 44 years is far too numerous to list, but the liaison with John Simmons, while he served on Longwood's visiting committee, has, without a doubt, been the most beneficial, the very successful and popular Mediterranean House being just one benefit.

MICHAEL GRIFFIN

Vice President (2001-02)

A Few Characters in the Everyday Life of Kew Gardens, 1955-1964

I was given a copy of Ray Desmond's excellent book *Kew: the History of the Royal Botanic Gardens* as a Christmas present a couple of years ago, but such is my apathy for concerted reading (once I've got through the daily newspapers and post with its letters, periodicals and trash mail) it took until I was recently on holiday in Spain (thereby missing the Guild AGM!) for me to really get into it. I cannot confess that I found it an easy read, but I sure wish that there had been a book like it around when I first walked through the Curator's Gate some 50 years ago at the tender age of 16, for I would have understood much more clearly what the Gardens were about and stood for.

As I continued to read, I saw photographs of past Directors, Herbarium Keepers, Curators and others, even botanists in Brunei in 1990, but there, on page 314 was an 'unnamed Servant of the Crown', packing a Wardian Case (indeed I suspect one of the last to be used). I got to thinking about the many mainly gardening staff that I knew in my almost ten years as Boy, Improver and Student, and felt that it was a pity that they were just that: unnamed. In the days I speak of, most were people who had given much of their lives to the Gardens, some giving service to their country between 1939 and 1945 and then returning afterwards. Many were real characters, and so far as I can see their modern day counterparts are no longer around. In my working life in amenity horticulture, Kew was certainly not alone in employing such colourful characters, perhaps horticulture in general has been a haven for these people. Indeed, one of my also retired colleagues points out that the only reason I don't see these characters around today is because I have become one myself!

Where to begin is the difficulty, but on that sunny terrace, looking out on the sparking and placid Mediterranean, with a drink in my hand I began a list, making a note of what it was I remembered most and what made them in my mind, CHARACTERS.

On that first morning in October 1955, I was placed in the tender care of Foreman, Fred. Larkbey, for it was to the Decorative Pits that fate had directed me. Indeed, over the years I believe I got on with him fairly well (we even shared a *Daily Telegraph*, me reading it on my daily train journey and he at lunch time; I paid one week, he the next). My first few weeks were something of an Indian summer as I was supernumary and spent most of my time with Propagator, Jack Jackman (later to become Foreman in the Flower Garden), taking cuttings. "This is alright," I thought, until the other Boy was moved on and I had pot washing and soil mixing all to myself. Reading the book about the way in which the Hookers removed climbers from the glasshouses put me in mind of Fred in the old No.4 Conservatory. Once he had a pair of secateurs, look out: he really didn't know how to stop. I also recall how Stan Rawlings the Assistant Curator was trying to build up a stock of *Amaryllis*, but as soon as he obtained

additional plants, a similar number of the 'blasted things' would go out of the other end of the glasshouse to the tip. Another Jackman was Frank, who had a hovel in the Lower Nursery (which at that time was only an outdoor growing area) and a more colourful character is hard to imagine. As he sniffed snuff, with every other word was a f* or a b*, and a conversation an education in itself for a young lad. Every day he wobbled rather than propelled his bicycle to and fro along the Kew Road in a fashion that was later to be his undoing, as one day he fell into the path of a lorry and was killed.

Fred Burnell was the "Chrysanthemum king" and magnificent plants he grew, too, from the impressive *Poitevenes* to the incomparable Japanese. A nicer fellow it was hard to meet, always smiling and cheerful. It was unfortunate that in his later years he could not grow these plants as he succumbed to the dreaded rash. One unmissable figure to be seen several times a day as he made his ponderous way to and from Gumley Cottage was the Deputy Director, Dr. Bor (not spelt Boar, nor Bore, but BOR, as he was wont to introduce himself to the cowering new student). After a year or so, it was to the Flower Garden with Ernie Skyrme in charge; here life was pleasant, with little urgency about much. Ernie was a good practicing Christian with a quiet unassuming "bless you my son" after even a sneeze, and even in the coldest weather I never saw him wear socks. On a rainy day, he had been painting white labels with that new fangled emulsion paint that had recently come onto the market. He diluted it so much it was more water than paint, but Stan Rawlings was still able to UNO stencil the plant names for the herbaceous border around the T Range.

Often to be seen walking purposefully around the Gardens was the Director, Sir Edward Salisbury (generally with a bunch of keys jangling in his hands behind his back), but always ready to pass the time of day as he went on his way. Ted Pooley, an inveterate pipe smoker, was the Director's Gardener, looking after the grounds around the Director's house, but more importantly his tennis court and vegetable garden, which were sited on the land between the Herbarium and Kew Palace. Jim Claiden was the quaintly titled Bird Keeper and Bellringer; as his title suggests, he did just that, ringing the large bell at closing time and looking after mainly the waterfowl, feeding them in winter.

There was rose pruning at the rear of the Palm House in the March winds with Charlie Preston who had been at Kew since 1922, apart from a spell in wartime as a stoker in warships driving the Arctic Convoys. I never saw Charlie without his Trilby hat even in the hottest of weathers (and with his pipe clenched in his teeth): neither sun nor fog (and there were plenty of those 'pea-soupers', such as you couldn't see your way around the roundabout at Richmond) nor wind nor rain would move it. There were several other Prestons in the Gardens at that time: Trevor was a student and destined to head the parks of nearby Ealing (but I'm not about to write about students); G. H. of whom more later; but in the Stable Yard was the mechanic, also a Preston, who rode around in a pre-war Morris truck with what appeared to be a homemade body. If you never wanted to see a machine again, you sent it for repair: there was a JP mower that wasn't seen for a whole season!

The 'home shed' of the Flower Garden was also the base for Arboretum North, under Foreman, George Gardener, who, in the mornings before 10am (remember, no cycling in the Gardens after 10am), rode his pre-war 'sit-up-and-beg' Raleigh bicycle. More of a gentleman within the walls it was hard to find. In the Flower Garden was also little Charlie Stringer who was a finger or so short and very full of his own importance. Apparently, he lost the finger(s) some years previously in a horse-drawn mower accident. At that time there were still a couple of horses in the Gardens used for moving rubbish to the fire site in the Queens Cottage grounds; that fire burned incessantly. Ted Stevens, the 'quiet giant,' was always around and his response to our hello was little more than a grunt, but a very friendly one nonetheless; his laugh was infectious to the extreme.

A number of us went to the Post Office Savings Bank complex in Ruskin Avenue for our government subsidised lunch in their canteen each day (have you noticed these days that's where your Inland Revenue demands come from!), and there we met up with Bill Mullins (Fred had another name for him which I'll not use here) who was the Gardener to the Herbarium. What intrigued us was the amount of salt poured onto his daily lunch: sitting on nearby tables, we began to time him, and a pour of 60 seconds or more from his salt cellar was not unusual, whether it be fish or fowl.

Time passed and a move to the Herbaceous Department came along, where a new world and range of characters emerged. The last Preston, George H. was Assistant Curator, along with young Alan Cooke as Foreman. He was always bidding his master's dues and with a "we always spot water in this department" was out of sight in a moment to measure and plot the rocks on the Rock Garden for his lunchtime break. He was keen to the point of being apprehended by the Law for coming in early over the wall one morning. My favourite of all our characters must be Jack Paske, Seed Collector and a wonderful Welshman, who, as an out-of-work miner, had forsaken the Valleys to come to London in the 1920's depression, ending up at Kew. He seemed to know most things about everything, and certainly in the Order Beds he did, from cultivation to harvesting and dispatching seed around the world. Were alternative medicine to have been in vogue at that time, he could have made his fortune. Our conversations in the old Alpine House whilst cleaning seeds should have put the world to right once and for all. My time there was limited for Her Majesty called, and for the next two years it was National Service and the RAF. although I ended up only a few miles away at Uxbridge and within sight of the Flagpole and the Pagoda as I made my way to and from my home on my day off each week.

Returning to Kew as an Improver, also meant a return to the Herbaceous Department, and after a few weeks weeding on the Rock Garden, I took my courage in my hands and told Alan that I hadn't come back to Kew just "to weed his b* Rock Garden." It obviously didn't do any harm, because the following day I moved into the Alpine Yard, which was much more interesting, even though Alan's stock comment for compost and pot size was that it was "not quite what I had in mind." George Preston remained in charge, and I had a couple of pleasant forays with him and lorry driver Arthur Goatley whilst on our way to Rickmansworth to remove plants from

12

the garden of the new Director, Dr. (later Sir) George Taylor. No motorways, remember, it was a top speed of 30 mph in the Morris Commercial truck. A stop or two at a roadside cafe, which I don't think George was terribly happy about, and an admission that he was buying a new car "because the old one (yet another Morris) couldn't overtake anything." Within another few weeks, I was on the move again, this time to the T Range and a charge in the orchid showhouses (No.s 13 & 14) with the Cattleva, Dendrobium, and etcetera for the summer. Lew Stenning, was Assistant Curator (he didn't trouble us much), and George Nicholson was Foreman, while Ron Rule was his assistant. Whilst E.W. MacDonald (Mac to all, and a very good friend of the Guild who acted as Dinner Toastmaster for many years) had always been a passing acquaintance, it was here that I first rubbed shoulders with him as the Sherman-Hoyt Cactus House was part of the overall T Range glasshouse complex, all now no more than history as a result of the construction of the Princess of Wales Conservatory. Mac was an occasional visitor to the Melon or Office Yard where there was a pit-house between other houses of the Decorative and Tropical Pits. In this pit ostensibly growing cactus for the showhouses, resided the formidable Miss Kelly, a short, fiery, long-haired Irishwoman who used to swear and row with most people but particularly Mac and Lew, who would come flying out of the house with Miss K. in hot pursuit, swearing and waving her arms about. Mac used to take immense pleasure in placing the spikiest Aloe or Agave near the corner posts in No.5, to deter what he always saw as the corpulent lady visitor from sitting on them.

The summer of 1960 was a warm one, but come the autumn I got the feeling there ought to be more to horticulture than just Kew, and so began to enquire around, initially speaking to the Curator, 'Big Bill' Campbell. I guess at some stage Stan Rawlings got to hear about it, too, and he wanted me to go into private service near York, which I didn't think too much of. I guess that was about the most major disagreement I had with him in my years at Kew (he didn't take to easily to those who had independent views, and it took some years for him to forgive me for not taking his advice). Bill said he had a good friend in charge of the Parks Department at Brighton, so one Saturday I propelled my new Lambretta scooter down the A23 and had my first meeting with Ray Evison (who I was to succeed as Director many years later). The offer of a job moved me from Kew for a couple of years before my return as a Student in 1962, where in my absence the wind of change had been blowing. Whilst I was away, 'Big Bill' had retired and Lew had taken his place. In Bill's all too short retirement, he used to visit Brighton frequently, and as an impressionable lad I was immensely impressed that he would always look me up at Brighton's Stanmer Park Nursery to ask how I was and have a chat.

First move was back to the familiar surroundings of the Alpine Yard, but by this time Alan only looked after the Yard, with Ian Beyer in charge Rock Garden etc. Ian, like myself had served as a Medic in the RAF and was later to become Deputy Curator, although at the time I speak of Sammy Pearce filled that position. George Preston now had a separate entrance to his office, as previously he had needed to walk through the potting shed and messroom to get there. A day worth remembering came when Alan, reaching into one of the raised frames without propping it, as he

was wont to do, let his hand slip with the result of his head appearing through the glass. George came to his door. "What you done to that frame, Alan!" Not "Are you hurt," or "do you need any help:" always the practical man, our George. My second move was to the Ferneries with dear Burt Bruty as Foreman and Stan Rawlings, now Assistant Curator of the Tropical Department. Burt was one of the nicest fellows you could meet, having survived the war in Japanese hands building the Burma Railway. He would walk out of the potting shed in the morning and sniff the air in the house, and sometimes say, "There's a dry plant in here," and sure enough, there would be, somewhere. You could only very occasionally get him to talk about his experiences. "Uhugh! Uhugh!," he would say in his placid way, "they would come to the M.O. and plead with him to cut off an arm or a leg that was infected. Uhugh, no anaesthetic, they would plead with him to do it." The other difference of opinion I had with Stan at that time was about going up into the gutters to fog wash: they were pretty rotten and I refused to do it. There was general support for my action from the Student and Improver Gardeners Association (of which I was, coincidentally, Chairman), mainly as a result of the dangers of rotten gutters, the amount of glass around and the heights. A deputation had to go to the Curator and it was agreed we would only fog wash from the ground in future. So I guess the outcome was both sensible and successful.

My third move was to the Tropical Pits where John Simmonds was at that time Foreman (prior to being appointed Curator), having succeeded Norman Hickman, although, in my early days Eric Curtis was there before moving to Scotland. My main recollection of this time was a visit from Lew who retained a keen interest in matters tropical. Entering my charge, he went all gooey over a gesneriad I was growing, I think it was *G. leuconeura*, but it had striking silver-grey, deeply farinose foliage, and as he ran his hand over it his eyes rolled and he said, "Lovely, lovely." Finally, a move to the Arboretum Nursery with George Brown, Assistant Curator with his deep throaty voice and Tony Schilling as Foreman, prior to his going to Kathmandu, and on his return, Wakehurst Place. Tony was always routing off to climb up mountains and the like. Also sharing the mess room were the Temperate House Pits with Bill Bridle as Foreman; "Arr! Thirty-four degrees and four killed on the M1," always welcoming you with the overnight minimum temperature and the disaster of the night.

All this brings me back to where and why I started this discourse: the 'un-named servant' packing the Wardian Case. Harry Ruck was Packer and Storekeeper, and definitely one of the old school: not the speediest or most sprightly of folk, but if you were sent for a pound of two-inch nails, that is what you would get, even if one had to be cut in half to make up the weight! Watering cans with more solder around the base than metal and always needing repair, and sprayers that blew washers like they were going out of fashion were his hallmarks, but he was a good friend of Fred Larkbey, so we did well in the Decorative Pits. Even if, as a Boy, one of my other jobs was to take the towels out to the Ladies lavatories once a month, it was a way to get further afield around the Gardens, and to see plants in areas that I wouldn't otherwise get to, so it wasn't all bad. Indeed, I guess it must have been good,

because it was an introduction that has served me well throughout my working life, but I guess if I were starting anew it wouldn't be to Amenity Horticulture that I would look as a career, not in the U.K. anyway!

As a parting shot, since I have referred to many people who I believe are/were my friends, may I say that if I have inadvertently offended any by the comments I have made, then my sincere apologies for I have not set out to hurt anyone, only to record for posterity, a hopefully lighthearted vision of that seen through my own eyes.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT (2000-2001)

by Allen Patterson

A number of areas exercised the Guild Committee over the year. The first, about which Members will know, was the Award Scheme, and we all offer sincere thanks to Allan Hart (now President-Elect) in promoting the scheme to the benefit, not just of those who received grants, but the Guild as a whole in demonstrating one of its major charitable functions. It was Allan, too, who organised a splendid visit to Canary Wharf with its superb associations of buildings and plantings.

Efforts continue to contact Kewites who are not Guild Members and to encourage their participation. Unfortunately, the Committee has so far failed to find a way to fill the information gap left by the demise of the *Kew Guardian*. It is hoped that a digest from the fortnightly *Vista* and the *Kew Scientist* may be able to be made available.

We were all delighted that the Director and Mrs. Peter Crane were able to attend the Annual Dinner in spite of their hectic schedule. While we were enjoying pre-dinner drinks in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, the Director was presiding at a Japanese reception in the Temperate House. His thoughtful after-dinner speech gave no hint that he and his family were leaving for America at the crack of dawn the next day. As always, Tom Risley's organisation and Richard Ward's expertise ensured the success of the evening.

It gave me great pleasure to pass the Presidential chain of office to Patrick Nutt at the A.G.M. on September 9th, wishing him a pleasant trip back to Longwood. He left two days later on a date the world remembers with horror. His flight was returned to Britain and the travellers were housed for three days at Butlins Holiday Camp in Bognor. No Kew Guild Presidency could have started less auspiciously.

My own year in office was helped enormously by fellow Committee members who, mainly being based in or near Kew, were able to be more effective than from a distant Scotland, and I thank them all. They will not think it invidious if I record special appreciation to Secretary Mike Clift whose impeccable agendas and minutes kept us together wonderfully.

THE KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME

The Kew Guild Award Scheme provides valuable support to its members. Please help the Guild to continue this tradition of giving and support the Award Scheme by making donations or by recognising the Award Scheme in your will. Plant a seed for tomorrow!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD by Mike Clift Secretary 1998-2002

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild, held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew on Saturday 8th September 2001.

The Guild President, Allen Paterson, declared the meeting open at 14.10 and welcomed the 26 members present to this Annual General Meeting. He reminded members that these meetings are a necessary and legal part in running a charitable organisation.

01. 01. *Apologies* had been received from: Bob Adams, Rosemary Angel, M. A. Arnold Gilliatt, C. A. Attwood, Professor E. A. Bell, Viscount Blakenham, Nick Boyes, E. W. Brown, G. E. Collins, J. B. Comber, Jill Cowley, Eric Curtis, Prof. David Cutler, Mary Done, G. Dykes, H. J. Eaton, T. Elton, John Evans, Hans Fleigner, Rev. Hugh Flower, Charles Funke, John Gaggini, M. C. Godfrey, Paul Gooding, E. A. Grant, Mike Griffin, J. Halhead, David Hardman, Norman Hickman, Nick Hoskins, Robert Hughes, Peter F. Hunt, Edward Locke, Mike Lycett, Topher Martin, Brendan Mowforth, Roy Mowforth, Sophie Piebenga, Prof. Sir Ghillean Prance, Trevor Preston, J. Reynolds, John Sales, F. Senogles, Nigel Taylor, Elizabeth Tite, J. P. Tregear, J. Ward.

02. 01 The President then asked the Secretary to list the Guild Members who had died since the last Annual General Meeting.

These were: G. H. C. Vanson (1934), E. W. (Ted) Storey (1952), Past President 1978 and Fred Larkbey. A period of silence was kept in their memory.

03. 01 *The Minutes* printed in the *Journal* were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

04. 01 Secretary's Report: M. Clift considered that the last 12 months had been a very active period for the Committee. The Questionnaire had been finalised and distributed and he was certain that David Barnes would be reporting on the returns received. He reminded members that the Director at the Annual Dinner had commented that the Orangery would not be available for the 2002 Annual Dinner. He reported that a Sub Committee was reviewing options concerning the timing and place to hold this important event. He noted that the *Guardian* had not yet been replaced. Another Sub Committee was looking into ideas to replace this link. He reported that a visit to Canary Wharf, organised by Allan Hart, is scheduled for October. Work on the Guild Archives has begun, starting with the photographs. He concluded his report, stating that he will be standing down as Secretary at the 2002 Annual General Meeting.

In discussion, John Woodhead commented that the absence of the *Guardian* is a major link that Guild Members have lost with Kew. He hoped that a replacement will soon be put in hand. Jennifer Day commented on the problems and the cost of distributing *Vista*. Comments were added that might the internet provide an alternative access for Guild members.

In his review of this item, the President agreed with comments but asked for the incoming Committee to put this item at the top of their agenda.

05. 01. *Treasurer's Report:* Rebecca Bower referred members to pages 478-9 in the *Journal* for the Financial Statement. She added that it would show legacies of £11,000 which have been invested for long term income. We also received £3,400 in donations, much of this was from the Co Op Bank for the trees planted early last year. There was a further addition from the Phillip and Granville Trust. She added her thanks for these donations.

She had written off the *Kew Plantsmen* and some memorabilia. One would see that \pounds 5000 in awards had been made. We would also note that investment income had fallen because of vagaries in the stock market, this is a problem for everyone. Overall the financial state was good.

Comments were made on our investments, Rebecca added these were in the Charities Official mixed fund.

The President asked for approval of the report. This was accepted by members. In conclusion, the President thanked Rebecca for her Report and for keeping the Committee fully informed of developments.

06. 01. *Membership Secretary's Report:* David Barnes began by updating the membership figures. These showed:

| Staff | 40 |
|--------------|-----|
| Students | 27 |
| Corporate | 6 |
| Life Members | 8 |
| Trustees | 2 |
| Standard | 356 |

This gave a current total of 459.

David added that there were problems in obtaining current addresses of those members who have either left or moved. He would welcome all members paying by Standing order and discontinuing the option of cash payments. These present problems as well as extra correspondence. He commented that the database now lists members email addresses and he thought this might be a better way than the Internet to keep contact with members.

David then presented a detailed report on the questionnaire returns. He had received 21 percent, some are still being received. He added that there would be a further review prepared for next year's *Journal*.

In discussion, comments were made that these figures could be presented to a specialist organisation to review to possibly to sort out losses. It would be worth spending money now we have some facts on which to work.

David Barnes considered that the visits add another interest for members. Further comments were made on the fellowship between students. It was suggested that this was more relevant after moving away from Kew. It was thought that the younger members do not find fellowship that important, except within their own group. The Guild and the Friends were also compared and the opinion was the Friends had more to offer than the Guild, there was the suggestion that Guild Membership should provide access to the Gardens. The Event's Officer later commented that membership of the Friends by a Guild Member, for its Magazine and entry tickets, was very worthwhile for £17.00.

The President thanked David for his Report and for the review on the questionnaires.

07. 01. *Editor's Report:* Jennifer Day began by commenting that the Indexing had been done to add to this *Journal*. She believed that as the *Journal* was the only item that all members received, it ought to be more representative with more members providing articles. She added that she will take any articles submitted.

Looking forward she confirmed the *Journal* size will not change. She thought the font and print size will change, to make for easier reading. She considered that we change to Times Roman. The green covers are produced from expensive paper and here she would follow up member's comments and have either artwork or photographs on the cover. She would ask members to provide a selection.

In discussion Jennifer confirmed that we would keep the spine and details in future copies. Further comments suggested that we ought to receive advanced notice of planned events. David Barnes noted that with our now more accurate membership list we have only a modest number of extra copies this year. In conclusion, Jennifer thanked both the Secretary and also David Barnes for their help during the year

The President, in a review of Jennifer's Report, asked members whether they were in favour of the proposed changes. By a show of hands they agreed. He thanked Jennifer for her report and review.

08. 01. *Events Officers Report:* Tom Risely began by noting that there were fewer visits this year.

A smaller number had attended the Dinner, but in his view this was the best one yet held at Kew. He gave his thanks to the Director, Julie Bowers, Richard Ward and to the Students for their help in this event. He noted the next visit was 14th October.

Commenting on the Dinner, he commented that he makes an attempt to estimate charges from the Caterers costs which have other extras included. This year this was slightly more than $\pounds 30$. We subsidise the Students at half price and pay for the Guests. He added that in recent years these extra costs have been borne from Guild Funds rather than being added to the meal costs for those attending. The menu cards have been differently presented for a few years now.

He agreed that we had missed an opportunity after this meeting in not organising a lecture and visit in the gardens. He would like to see this reinstated at each A.G.M.

In discussion, comments were made that help would need be available with these events. Could prize winners present their papers to the Guild. The President then commented on the site for next years Dinner. He hoped to keep this event in the Kew area and not to have to revert to distant options. He thanked Tom for his report.

09. 01. Award Scheme Report: Allan Hart reported that 13 awards had been made this year and some input provided for the Students field trip. He will be arranging for a pro forma for future applications for awards. He has recently appealed for funds for the Award Scheme, which has resulted in donations of $\pounds 2,200$ which has been invested.

He will also be asking those who have received awards for donations, some of whom are not Guild members. He then advised members that Brian Lowe, who was one of the group that instituted the Award Scheme, had suffered a stroke.

In discussion, Allan reported that Nigel Hepper had donated books to the Scheme and Kenwyn Pearson had a plate that could be added to the list.

The President then thanked Allan for his efforts and commented that he was listed as President Elect, but that he has agreed to continue with the Award Scheme as well.

10. 01. *Student Prize Day:* Our President, Allen Paterson, reported that this event was a successful occasion. He noted that the Guest of Honour yesterday, was Lord (Richard) Attenborough The students had a good day. He was pleased to report that both the Director and Ian Leese thanked the Guild for its continuing financial contributions.

11. 01. *Rule Revision:* The President commented that the revised wording had been distributed and asked if the meeting agreed to this alteration to Rule 9. By a show of hands this was accepted.

12. 01. Honorary Membership: The President suggested that we could honour persons of note. In discussion this idea was likened to Honorary Degrees that these should reflect on the organisation as much as the recipient. Alan Mitchell was cited as an example of a person who might have appreciated such an award and at the same time add renown to the Guild. It was also suggested that it should not be awarded every year.

The President then suggested that the Committee put together the method of operating such a scheme. This was approved by all present.

13.01. *Retiring Members of the Committee:* The Secretary listed these members and commented that we lose this year some who have proved to be regular attendees of the Committee.

| As Vice President | Leo Pemberton |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Committee Members | Dr. Colin Hindmarch |
| | Nigel Taylor |
| | Louise Allen |
| | Graham Burgess |

The President thanked them for their efforts.

14.01. *Election of Officers:* The President Allen Paterson commented that all Officers should be re-elected annually. He added: Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Award Scheme Chair to those listed on the agenda.

| President | Patrick Nutt |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Vice President | Mike Griffin |
| President Elect | Allan Hart |
| Committee | Mrs Sandy Atkins |
| | Miss Pamela Holt |

These persons were duly elected.

15. 01. *Any Other Business:* Ian Leese commented that Monday's Mutual Lecture would be given by Patrick Nutt. This would be in the Lecture Theatre at 5.30pm.

As there were no further matters to discuss, Allen Paterson thanked the Guild for the great honour of enabling him to be President. He then thanked all members of the Committee, Officers and especially the Secretary for their input into the Guild. He further added that we need a person to take over as Secretary from Mike Clift, who will have held this post for four years. He asked members to think of possible options here. He also thanked Joan Hart who has acted as 'Mistress of the Robes,' kindly keeping the Presidents Chain. He had great pleasure in asking Patrick Nutt to come forward and amid much applause, transferred the Presidential Chain of Office.

Patrick Nutt began by proposing a vote of thanks to Allen for his efforts over the last 12 months. He then commented that he left Kew in 1953, and in '51 heard George Pring give a talk at Kew, later he worked and studied with George in the States. He was pleased to note that several Longwood students had come to Kew before going on to other places. He was proud to accept this honour and would endeavour to carry out the Presidency from a distance. Allen then thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 4.14p.m.

The next A.G.M. will be held on Saturday 7th September 2002.

RULES OF THE KEW GUILD 2000

Name of the Association

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

Objects

- 2. The objects of the Guild shall be:
 - a. The advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge, particularly in connection with the work of The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Wakehurst Place (hereinafter included with The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew), and among members of the Guild.

- b. The encouragement of excellence in horticultural and botanical education at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew by the provision of prizes and grants for Students and the administration of the educational funds of the Guild.
- c. The provision of facilities for leisure time education and recreation in the interests of the social welfare of Students and others having need of such facilities who are within the provisions of Section 1 of the Recreational Charities Act 1958.
- d. The administration of the Award Scheme and other charitable funds of the Guild for the objects of the Guild, and the assistance from such funds to members of the Guild at the discretion of the Committee.
- e. The publication of a *Journal* in furtherance of one or more of the objects of the Guild.
- f. Generally to do all such acts as shall further the active and corporate life of the Guild as may be lawfully done by a body established only for the purposes recognised by the law of England as charitable.

Membership.

- 3. a. Membership of the Guild shall be open to past and present staff members of The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, International Trainees and Research and Liaison Scientists, provided they have worked continuously at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for at least twelve months. Membership of the Guild shall be open to Diploma and Postgraduate Students as from the commencement of their course of training.
 - b. In addition, at the discretion of the Committee, any person associated with Kew but outside the categories set out in (3a) may be admitted to membership of the Guild.
 - c. Honorary membership may be awarded at the discretion of the Committee.
- 4. Members of the Guild shall have the right to vote at meetings and shall be eligible for election as officers of the Guild or to serve on the Committee.
- 5. Any member wishing to resign shall give written notice to the Secretary or the Treasurer before the first day of December in the year of his or her intention to resign.
- 6. a. The Committee may, by resolution communicated to the member in writing, stating concisely the grounds on which it proposes to act, call upon any individual to resign from the Guild. If the member does not so resign within 48 days, the Committee may, by resolution, terminate his or her membership.
 - b. Before coming to any decision, the Committee shall give the affected member proper facilities for stating his or her case to it, either orally or in writing as the Committee may determine.

Annual Subscriptions.

7. The Annual Subscription, which shall be payable on January 1st of each year, shall be such a sum as the Annual General Meeting shall, from time to time, determine and shall entitle members to each issue of the Kew Guild Journal and other publications should they be produced.

Any member whose full subscription is unpaid by 30th April in the relevant year shall not be entitled to receive the *Kew Guild Journal* until all arrears be fully paid.

The Annual Subscriptions are agreed at the Annual General Meeting and published in the *Journal* following any alteration.

Management of the Guild.

- 8. a. The business of the Guild shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of the Honorary Officers: namely, The President, Vice President, President Elect, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Events Officer, Award Scheme Representative, Archive Representative and Principal of The School of Horticulture together with 12 ordinary members including three overseas members and two Horticultural Student Representatives. The Members of the Committee are the Trustees of the Guild.
 - b. Nine members of the Committee shall form a quorum. The Committee shall meet from time to time as may be necessary. Nine members of the Committee may, by signed written notice to the Secretary, request him or her to call a meeting of the Committee and if such a meeting not be called within 30 days of the despatch of such notice the said nine members may themselves call a meeting of the Committee by giving 21 days notice in writing sent to all members thereof.
 - c. The Committee may regulate its own proceedings by standing order or otherwise as it may think fit. No act or proceedings of the Committee shall be invalidated by any vacancy on the Committee or on the grounds that a member of the Committee was not qualified at or had become disqualified after the date of his appointment. The Chairperson of the Committee shall have no second or casting vote.
 - d. The Committee may appoint Advisors to the Committee. Their function will be to bring to the Committee special expertise and experience in respect of Guild Matters.
 - e. At least seven days' written notice of a meeting of the Committee shall so far as is practicable, be given to every Committee Member.
 - f. A Chairperson of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee to take the Chair in the absence of the President, Vice President or President Elect.
 - g. Auditing the Guild's Affairs. There shall be an Independent Examiner appointed by the Guild at the A G M.

Election of Officers and Committee.

9. a. Officers, with the exceptions of the Principal of the School of Horticulture, the Award Scheme Representative and the Archive Representative who are ex Officio and non voting members of the Committee, shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. Any vacancy among the Officers shall be filled as soon as possible by co-option by the Committee and any person so co-opted shall hold office only until the elections at the following Annual General Meeting.

- b. Four ordinary Committee members shall be elected each year and shall hold office for three years and they shall not be eligible for re-election to the main Committee for at least 12 months after the end of their term of office. Any vacancy among ordinary Committee Members shall be filled at the next Annual General Meeting, the member elected completing the term of office of the member whom he or she has replaced. The two Horticultural Student Representatives shall be proposed by the Horticultural Students.
- c. Candidates for election as officers or ordinary members may be proposed by any member of the Guild provided that the names of candidates be sent in writing to the Secretary at least twenty eight clear days before the Annual General Meeting.

Meetings.

10. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at Kew or Wakehurst Place on either the second or third Saturday in September. At the Annual General Meeting the Report of the Committee and a Statement of the Accounts shall be submitted and election of officers and Committee Members and the Independent Examiner shall take place.

At least 14 clear days before the Annual General Meeting the Secretary shall circulate to all members a Financial Statement and agenda of the meeting which shall include a list of candidates for election as officers or ordinary Committee Members or as an Independent Examiner with their proposers.

- 11. A special General Meeting of the Guild may be convened at any time by the Committee and shall be so convened within 42 days of receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing. Such a requisition must be signed by not less than 35 members stating the purpose of the meeting and setting out any resolution which it is intended to propose thereat. Notice of the meeting, with an agenda thereof, shall be sent to all members at least 28 days before the date appointed for the meeting. Amendments to any resolution set out in the agenda shall be sent to the Secretary at least 14 clear days before the date of the meeting and shall be sent by him to all members with an address in the United Kingdom at least seven clear days before the date of the meeting other than that specified in the notice and any duly proposed amendments. The Chairperson of the meeting shall be nominated by the Committee.
- 12. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by any members shall not invalidate any proceedings or resolutions at any meeting of the Guild or any Committee thereof.
- 13. At a General Meeting each individual member whose subscription is fully paid to the date of the meeting shall have one vote and no more except the Chairperson who shall have a second or casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

Alteration to the Rules.

14. These rules may be altered by a two-third majority of those present at an Annual or Special General Meeting. Any proposals for the alteration of Rules shall be

sent to the Secretary in writing at least 21 clear days before the date of the Annual or Special General Meeting and shall be sent by him or her to all members at least 14 clear days before the date of the Annual or Special General Meeting.

Dissolution of the Guild.

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

Property of the Guild and the Committee.

- 16. a. The Guild may purchase or otherwise acquire and hold property of any nature and may sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise deal with the same. Guild funds may be invested in the name of a limited company established by and wholly under the control of the Guild for trust purposes.
 - b. Investments may be in or upon such shares, stocks, funds, securities, investments and property, real and personal, freehold or leasehold in any part of the world upon such terms and conditions (if any) as the Committee (who are by law The Trustees) shall in their absolute discretion think fit. The Committee may from time to time sell vary and transfer such investments and property.
 - c. The Committee may deal with the said investments as if they were the sole beneficial owners thereof.
 - d. If legal proceedings of any kind are resorted to or defended by the Guild the Committee shall, prosecute or defend such proceedings in the name of the Guild or otherwise on behalf of the Guild as may be necessary.
 - e. The Committee members will be the sole Trustees of the Guild and evidence of its decisions as signed by an official Minute of the Secretary will be conclusive evidence.
 - f. The Committee shall be effectively indemnified against any liability costs expenses and payments whatsoever which may be properly incurred or made by them in relation to the trusts of the property and investments of the Guild or in relation to any legal proceedings or which otherwise relate directly to the performance of the functions of the Committee.

SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE KEW DIPLOMA PRIZE DAY SPEECH 2001

by Ian Leese, Director of Studies

Mr. Deputy Mayor, Lord Attenborough, Chairman, Director, Mr. President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, may I add my welcome to you on this day which is the main event in the calendar of the School of Horticulture. Kew is not quite the same as your own Jurassic Park, Lord Attenborough. You concentrate on nurturing dinosaurs, whereas we raise Kew Diploma students. If I may say so, I think that we are far more successful than you in the process. Kew Diploma graduates are productive and creative, particularly this week, while your dinosaurs are violent and destructive.

It is now my pleasure to give a report on the activities of the School of Horticulture over the past academic year, highlighting the success of our students and graduates. I must thank everyone who contributed in any way to the course, and many of you are in the audience today, for ensuring that our students receive the best possible start here which is the basis of their future careers.

Most Kew Diploma graduates stay within botanic gardens after their training, and a number are employed on the staff at Kew. Earlier this year saw the start of the restructuring of the Horticulture and Public Education Department, of which the School of Horticulture is a part. All the new Heads of Sections appointments, Stewart Henchie, Tony Kirkham, John Lonsdale, and Greg Redwood, together with the new Practical Training Co-ordinator, Martin Staniforth, are Kew Diploma graduates. One of the immediate beneficial effects of the restructuring will be the introduction of a structured practical training programme for Kew Diploma students and junior staff in the next academic year.

Other developments amongst Kew Diploma graduates on the staff here include Helen Long gaining a permanent post looking after the Plant Reception, Dispatch and Quarantine Unit, and Madeleine Groves is now Scientific Officer in the Conservation Projects Development Unit in the Herbarium. The Royal Horticultural Society has also recognised the expertise of Kew Diploma graduate, Tony Hall, manager of the Alpine Unit, by presenting him with their Associate of Honour award. Another Kew Diploma graduate engaged in conservation, but this time in Australia, is Dr. Mike Looker who has been made Director of the Trust for Nature in Melbourne.

After botanic gardens, many Kew Diploma graduates work as head gardeners of private estates. This year saw Harvey Stephens appointed as Head Gardener of Borde Hill Gardens in Sussex, Stephen Torode as Head Gardener of the National Trust garden, Polesden Lacey, in Surrey, and Penny Hammond in charge of another National Trust garden, Saltram, near Plymouth. John Lanyon, Head Gardener of Cothele in Devon, has been awarded £9000 from his employers, the National Trust, to research narcissus species growing wild in the Tamar Valley. In previous years, several Kew Diploma graduates went into parks management as a career. With the advent of compulsory competitive tendering, these numbers have reduced considerably. The achievements of two graduates this year should be noted, however. Firstly, Alan Lovett has been appointed one of the Audit Commission's Best Value Inspectors, assessing the quality of parks and open spaces, and John Palmer is now Head of Amenity Services at Crawley Borough Council.

Landscaping has always been a popular career route for our graduates. Recently, Isabelle van Groeningen has created a contemporary design for the Secret Garden at the National Trust property, Cliveden, replacing the Rose Garden designed by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe in 1959. Dan Pearson was featured in a BBC television series showing his landscaping work at Home Farm in Northamptonshire.

Some graduates desire to enter the field of education after graduating. James Furse-Roberts successfully gained his M.Sc in Habitat Creation and Management, and is now enrolled with Reading University for a Ph.D dealing with plant collections in botanic gardens. Phillip Lusby has joined the School of Horticulture at Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh as a lecturer in conservation. Christopher Weddell has recently started work with the Royal Horticultural Society as Information and Interpretation Technician at Wisley Garden.

Perhaps the most famous Kew Diploma graduate, Alan Titchmarsh, was once again presented with the 'TV Broadcaster of the Year' award by the Garden Writers' Guild. A number of other graduates have followed him into the media. Last year's graduate, Esther McMillan, was nominated for another Guild award, and has been promoted to the post of Features Editor in the trade journal 'Horticulture Week'. This year's graduate, Tom Hoblyn, is unable to be with us today, because he is taking part in a BBC film about the re-construction of the voyage of Sir Joseph Banks to Australia. This will be very good for Kew's interests since Tom is playing the role of a Kew botanist, and so he has been given official leave of absence for this purpose. You have had your own influence on Tom's interest in the media, Lord Attenborough, because he maintains your garden in Richmond.

International links, like with Australia, take place naturally amongst Kew Diploma students since several are from overseas. The School of Horticulture also administers the Internship Programme of three months' work experience in the gardens, and so this is another way for international exchange. This year, we have had 26 interns from all five continents. Alex Henderson, who was appointed to the School's staff in January, helped by Linda Pilgrim, has succeeded in organising a variety of activities for the interns to stimulate them in their studies, in addition to the work experience that they gain in the gardens. Dealing with the needs of these people, as well as Kew Diploma students, can be demanding, and I want to pay tribute to the way in which the other School of Horticulture staff, David Barnes, Pam Black and Barbara Hanson, work so hard. David had now left his School position after 11 years with his appointment as Departmental Health and Safety Officer, and you will hear more about Barbara Hanson a little later.

Finally, I must thank all of Course 36 who are leaving us today for the immense contribution that each of you have made to Kew during the past three years. You have toiled long and hard in the gardens; you have researched projects that managers have not had the time to do so themselves; you have contributed to many Friends and Foundation events; you have been excellent ambassadors for Kew both at home and abroad, and you have done all this in a good humoured and dynamic way such that it has been very enjoyable to have been with you.

We wish you all success in the careers you have chosen – whether in the media, as we have heard; some on the staff at Kew and other botanic gardens, in private estates, and others going onto higher education. Kew will always remain open to you as a resource, and we encourage you to keep in touch with us with your news. Above all, in whatever you do, we ask that you uphold Kew's mission which is: "to ensure better management of the Earth's environment by increasing knowledge and understanding of the plant and fungal kingdoms – the basis of life on earth."



KEW MEDAL WINNERS

Kew Medal Winners Sheila Thompson (left) and Barbara Hanson (right) pictured with Professor Peter Crane and Lord Attenborough.

PRESENTATION OF KEW DIPLOMAS AND PRIZES 2001 (Course 36)

We begin with the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes to third year students of Kew Diploma Course 36. 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, Allen Paterson, is on the platform. The Guild, an association of past and present Kew staff and students, 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. The Merlin Trust, the Royal Horticultural Society, and the International Plant Propagators' Society have all given significant funds to our students and Kew staff this year.

MIRCO BERENBRINKER

The Proudlock Prize, donated by the Kew Guild, to the runner-up in the Plant Portfolio project.

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

The Landsman's Bookshop Prize for the best third-year landscape design project.

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 design.

The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens Prize, awarded by the local Rotary Club to the person who has done most for charity. In this case, he has worked with the local Queen's School, in creating a garden classroom.

Life Membership of the Students' Union for services rendered as Sports and Social representative, and for outstanding commitment.

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

ALEX BISHOP

The Dummer Memorial Prize, sponsored by the Kew Guild, for the best Plant Portfolio project.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

JINYONG CHEN

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

SILVIA CRAWFORD

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 Kew Guild Individual Study Prize, donated by the Guild to the person attaining the second-highest marks in their third-year Dissertation.

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

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.

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize, donated by the City Livery Company, which also recognises the top student position.

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

LASZLO CSIBA (CHIBA)

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 with a long association with the Kew Diploma course. Mr. Hepper has asked that the cup be given in recognition of the highest achievement in plant identification assessments.

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 Cameroon to assist in the identification and conservation of tropical forest plant species on Mount Cameroon.

Kew Diploma Pass grade.

ALYS FOWLER

Life Membership of the Students' Union for services rendered as President over the past three months, and for working tirelessly as Course 36's representative on the Independent Panel, the School of Horticulture's overseeing body, over the past three years.

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

TOM HOBLYN

I mentioned Tom Hoblyn earlier, who is on his way to Australia. He has obtained *The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize*, awarded by the City of London Livery Company, to the person who has done most for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew during the course.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.



Company of Gardeners' Prize as top Kew

Diploma Course 36 student, pictured with

Mr. Allan Edwards, Master of the Company.

IAN HUDSON

The Mike Bracegirdle Prize for Ecology and Conservation, for outstanding results in these subjects, and donated by the main lecturer of the courses.

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.

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

HELENKA JURGIELEWICZ (YURGILEVICH)

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

'The Kew Gardener' Arboricultural Prize, sponsored by Matthew Vincent, a Kew Diploma graduate, and proprietor of 'The Kew Gardener', situated near Kew Gardens Station, for the person who came top in the examination of that second-year subject.

The Metcalfe 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 Squire's Garden Centre Prize, donated by the local garden centre, for the most appropriate and imaginative use of plants in the final-year landscape design project. *Kew Diploma* Honours grade.

KEITH MOYLE

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

The 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.

The Fred Larkbey Cup, sponsored for the first time this year by Mr. Graham Larkbey in memory of his father who worked at Kew for 23 years as foreman in charge of all the extensive areas of bedding plants. Fred was very much a no-nonsense practical gardener of the old school, who loved nothing better than getting his hands dirty, so with this in mind his son has asked that the Cup be awarded annually to the best practical student each year.

Life Membership of the Students' Union for services rendered as President over the past year.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

ANTONY O'ROURKE

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

JANE PEARSON

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.

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

MATTHEW REESE

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

JAMES STEVENSON

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

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Before moving on to the second and first-year prizewinners, we have one further award to make to someone who started with Course 36 and stayed with them for their first year at Kew while he undertook a study of the management of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in preparation for the time when he will take over the direction of the beautiful floral Island of Mainau in Lake Constance from his parents, Count Lennart and Countess Sonja Bernadotte. We have much to be grateful for from this person because the Mainau Foundation now fully fund a study tour to Mainau for all first-year students every other year. All we have to do is get to Zurich. This year, the Rotary Club of Kew Gardens and the Kew Foundation gave very generous grants towards those costs.

COUNT BJÖRN BERNADOTTE

Life Membership of the Students' Union for all the above services rendered to Kew Diploma students.

That concludes the presentations to third-year students. We turn now to secondyear student prizes.

FRANK EMMERICH

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

A study tour to South Korea to research Korean horticultural techniques with respect to the conservation of endangered and endemic plants was made by the Frank, who is also the recipient of the *Kew Mutual Improvement Society's Prize* for services rendered as Secretary.

HANNAH GARDNER

The David Dalziel Travel Scholarship awarded to Hannah for a trip to Japan to visit traditional Japanese gardens as well as to study native plant habitats in the wild.

KATIE STEEL

In April, a tour to South Africa to study Lithops species in the northern Cape was made by the Katie, the final prizewinner, who is another recipient of the *Kew Mutual Improvement Society's Prize* as Secretary of the Society.

JESSICA BEAGHEN

The Margolas Study Tour Award is provided by the Margolas Trust to help with the costs of travel involved specifically in relation to horticultural or botanical studies. This year, the Trustees gave their support for Jessica's trip to Bhutan. She is also the joint recipient of the Sir Joseph Hooker Prize presented by the Director in memory



Kew Diploma Prizewinners pictured with, left to right, Mr. Allan Edwards (standing), Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, Dr. Shirley Sherwood (front row), Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Richmond, Professor Peter Crane, Lord Attenborough, Lady Attenborough, Lord Blakenham, Mr. Allen Paterson, President of the Kew Guild, Professor Hugh Dickinson, Mr. Michael Carston (standing), Ian Leese.

of his famous predecessor to the student who has done most for the Kew Mutual Society, in this case as joint Chair. The prize is augmented by a cup donated by Mrs. Hazel Hyde who retired as Administrative Officer of the School of Horticulture in 1993.

JANET THOMPSON

Janet is one of the two other second-years who are recipients of *Kew Mutual Improvement Society prizes* for being the other joint Chair.

MIMA TAYLOR

As the Treasurer of the Society, Mima is the other recipient of a Kew Mutual Improvement Society prize.

JENNY GRUNDY

The Professor Keith Jones Cup, donated by a former Keeper of Jodrell Laboratory, is a final Kew Mutual prize, presented to the person who has given most 'items of interest' talks to the Society. This year's winner, Jenny, is a local resident, a Friend of Kew, and with her husband Peter, has made substantial financial contributions to Kew's work overall.

Two first-year students are with us today.

TOM COWARD

The Merlin Trust, as I mentioned at the beginning, gives substantial support to our students and staff. This year a special 'Merlin Millennium Tour Scheme' was available as a national award. This enabled Tom to take part in the Alpine Garden Society's tour to the Dolomite mountains.

JOHN EVANS

Due to the generosity of one of our lecturers, Mr. Tom Reynolds of Jodrell Laboratory, the *Tom Reynolds Prize for Plant Biochemistry and Physiology* is awarded to the person obtaining the highest marks in this subject in the first year. John, as the winner also gains *The Institute of Horticulture Prize*, sponsored by the Institute, for the person with the best overall performance in the first year.

ANNE CHAPMAN

Gardens staff of the Horticulture and Public Education Department, of which the School of Horticulture is a part, have benefited 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*'. Anne, who is a staff member from Wakehurst Place, Kew's satellite garden in Sussex, made a visit to Bhutan to study the natural habitats of plants growing in the Tony Schilling Asian Heath Garden at Wakehurst.



Course 39 Kew Diploma students pictured with School of Horticulture staff Ian Leese, Barbara Hanson, Paul Black and Alex Henderson.

EMMA FOX

Emma, as the Kew staff member with responsibility for growing the giant tropical waterlily, *Victoria amazonica*, in the Waterlily House which adjoins the Palm House, was granted this funding, with additional monies from the Kew Guild, to travel to the Amazon to see this plant in its native habitat.

LUKE HULL

Luke made a trip to Costa Rica to see native plants in botanic gardens in relation to receiving plant material in Kew's Quarantine House.

HELEN THOMPSON

Helen made a visit to North America to study the display, breeding and management programmes of *Syringa* collections.

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

KEW GUILD VISITS 2001

by Allan Hart

The Guild's autumn event was held on Sunday, October 14, 2001 when 22 members and friends visited Canary Wharf in London's Docklands. The tour was led by Tony Dartington, Vice-president of the Canary Wharf Group, who is responsible for the long-term management. An engineer by profession, Tony has developed a great interest in plants and landscape design. We were particularly privileged in being able to visit the thirtieth floor of the tower where the marketing suite is located. Tony gave us an excellent insight into the development of the Wharf. This included the importance of an integrated transport system illustrated by a scale model of the London region. The models of the existing and proposed development were outstanding, as were the views over the Isle of Dogs.

The landscaped parks and streets are, in fact, gigantic roof gardens as there are multi-level car parks, shopping malls, and traffic roundabouts below. Many new techniques were evolved, including formulating and manufacturing a 'topsoil' – all of the 30,000m³ being of the same quality and moisture content, enabling it to be placed mechanically into position by conveyor belt.

The tour following lunch prompted lots of discussion, particularly the scale and immediate maturity of the planting, and the innovative techniques developed to ensure the rapid establishment and continuing good health of the landscape. Each square and park has an individual quality: Canada Square being planted with **spruces** indigenous to Canada; Jubilee Park being plated with a large number of *Metasequoia* glyptostroboides 12 to 15 metres high.

Tom Risley proposed a vote of thanks and the gift of Kew Plantsman and Ray Desmond's *Kew: the History of the Royal Botanic Gardens* to Tony for his hospitality.





TIM BLANCPAIN

PORTIA BOSCH

ANDREW CONNER

MARCELLA CORCORAN



LOUISE DANKS



MARTIN HAMILTON



HELI MARKKOLA



MARTIN O'HALLORAN



CARL POOLEY



STUART ROBBINS



ELLEN SIVELL



RIEKO TAKARADA



IAIN TURNBULL

THOMAS UNTERDORFER

QUELINE VAN DER MERWE



COURSE 39

KEW GUILD AWARDS SCHEME REPORT FOR 2001

by Allan Hart, Chairman

The awards scheme sub-committee this year comprised: Annabel Chantler (Hon. Secretary) and Rebecca Bower (Hon. Treasurer), very well supported by Susyn Andrews, Emma Fox, David Barnes, Mark Bridger and Mark Pitman, with Katie Steele and Sylvia Crawford representing the students. This year ten applications for awards were received and discussed at the meeting held on March 12, 2001, and grants were made as follows:

Louise Allen. Successful Local Involvement in Local Agenda 21 (Ph.D. fees) £600.

Susyn Andrews (Redman Award). A Visit to Jersey Lavender Farm £500.

Jessica Beaghen (Dallimore Award). Bhutan £250.

Ruth Bone (Redman Award). Giant Alpines of Ecuador £400.

Hannah Gardener (Arnold Award). Japan £380.

Chris Kidd (Dallimore Award). Living Collections Database £500.

David Menzies. An Orchid Fieldtrip in South-western Australia £440.

Harriet Parsons (Dallimore Award). Eastern Himalayas £250.

Course 36 (Redman Award). Reading Field Trip: Spain £650.

A proportion of the available funds is always retained for mid-year applications and a meeting was held on July 17, 2001 when grants were made to:

Peter Maunder. Films for Lecture Tour £60.

Anthony O'Rourke. MSc. at Reading University £1,000.

Tarja Ravenhall. Visit to Claude Monet's Garden, Giverny, France £223.

Martin Sands. Up and Over in Down Under £500.

TOTAL FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THE YEAR

£5,753

The Honorary Treasurer retains £50 of each award, which is only forwarded to the recipient when the report of the study tour is received for publication in the Journal.

The Chairman undertook the task of raising funds by a Millennium Appeal to members, friends and the landscape/horticultural industry, with the following results:

GUILD MEMBERS Anonymous Peter Barnes Arthur Bell Ernest Chantler Jill Cowley Anthony Dunball M. Harrington M. J. Heaton Pamela Holt

Allen Paterson Kenwyn Pearson Sophie Piebenga John Sales Helen Tasker Professor Tindall John Tregear Richard Ward **Guild Members Total: £1,130.50**

LANDSCAPE/HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRY

Belwood Trees Ltd. Chase & Dalby Architects Deepdale Trees Ltd. Enjay Reprographics Ltd. Hillier Nurseries Ltd. Indoor Garden Design FRIENDS David Fiford Peter and Rosie Hosken Macgregor Smith Landscape Architects Melcourt Industries Ltd. Whiting Landscapes Ltd. Wyevale Nurseries Ltd.

Industry Total: £1,200.00

Michael and Sheila Ludlow **Friends Total: £175.00**

The appeal is ongoing and we hope to add to the $\pounds 2,500$ raised to date. Any contributions from members would be well received. The money is invested with the Charity Commissioners, and only the interest paid out in awards.

The committee welcomes applications from the membership for a wide range of projects:

Fare subsidies Attendance at specialist lectures Further education Purchase of books and equipment Tuition or examination fees Aid for publication of specialist books or papers Assistance for pensioner members to attend the Chelsea Show, Guild Dinner or AGM

Plus any other project which the sub-committee may find acceptable.

SUCCESSFUL LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL AGENDA 21

by Louise Allen

"Local authorities, as the level of government closest to people, have a vital role in educating and mobilising the public to get behind the goals of Agenda 21." (UN, 1992)

Much of the emphasis within Agenda 21 is placed on action by the world's population at a local level, in fact two thirds of the action in Agenda 21 requires action within a more local area. A whole chapter concentrates on the role of local authorities and is concerned specifically with the need to find out the views of local people and to involve as many different kinds of people in the processes of preparing the strategies – women, young people, indigenous people and those with their own cultures – the aim being that this should have been achieved by the end 1996. Now that we gone beyond this deadline, the process of encouraging successful local involvement in Agenda 21 should be guaranteed, but is this the case? This is one of the key areas that I am addressing in my research.

It is exactly this idea of actively involving the local community in working together with the local authority towards sustainable development that makes Local

Agenda 21 more than just a collection of environmental initiatives at a local level. By getting people involved in Agenda 21 projects, the end result will be that you are actually educating them about Agenda 21 and sustainable development at the same time as "getting the job done". But how well have local authorities recognised the implications of this link between process and product? Initial observation suggests that in many cases there is an emphasis on local initiatives that lack any convincing evidence of attempts at deeper attitude change.

My research project, now in its fourth year, addresses how the participation process is being managed and is trying to discover the actual methods and techniques being used by local authorities to insure that Agenda 21 succeeds. The success of these methods is being measured in terms of the fundamental issues of awareness building.

Agenda 21 has come along at a bad time for many local authorities and this cannot be ignored. The re-organisation of authorities, the cuts in funding and the change in attitude towards local government have come at the same time that they are being asked to take on a very new initiative. Yet Local Agenda 21 needs to work and there is evidence of many innovative local initiatives currently being undertaken in Britain which demonstrate that we are moving in the right direction. The task is to continue to do so.

Finally, I am identifying ways of incorporating Agenda 21 into the lives of a greater number of people within the community. To think globally is important but it will be local action that results in Agenda 21 succeeding.

A VISIT TO JERSEY LAVENDER FARM

by Susyn Andrews

As part of my ongoing research for the forthcoming publication of *The Genus Lavandula*, in the Botanical Magazine Monograph Series, I needed to revisit a lavender farm in Jersey, a place I had last seen in August 1992.

Jersey Lavender was started by David and Elizabeth Christie in 1983 and although there had long been a tradition of perfumery locally, this was the very first time that an aromatic crop had been grown and distilled on the island.

David's maternal grandparents had moved to Jersey after the First World War and settled in the parish of St. Brelade in the southwest of the island. They built a house called 'Sands' among the sand dunes and David was brought up there on a small dairy farm. Today, there are plants where there were formerly cattle and some nine acres around the estate are devoted to lavender. Four commercial clones of *Lavandula angustifolia* are grown for distilling, i.e. 'Fring A', 'G4', 'No. 9' and 'Maillette', while *L. x intermedia* 'Grosso' is grown for distillation and for drying. All have been specially selected for the quality and quantity of their oil or for their resistance to shab, a fungal disease of lavender. The harvest or lavandage begins at the end of June and ends in late August. It is cut by hand and carried to the distillery or laid out on sheets to dry in the sun. The fields surround the distillery and the bottling rooms.

At the distillery, the lavender is packed into a steel container, lowered into one of two stills and tightly sealed. Live steam is passed through the plant material which vaporises the essential oils. The vapour is cooled rapidly in a condensor and the distillate poured into a florentine flask, where the precious oil is separated naturally from the distilled water and is tapped off. Each clone is distilled separately. Next door is the laboratory where the oil of the individual clone is blended after it matures. In here a range of fragrances, soaps and toiletries are made entirely by hand. All the products are bottled and packaged on site.

The Christies also run the distribution side of their business and their sales department markets over 50 different fragrance items, totalling in all some 130 high quality products which are also available by mail order: www.jerseylavender.co.uk.

Nearby the second oldest of the seven U.K. National Collections of *Lavandula* is situated. It was started in 1990/91 and is particularly important as it contains several commercial French clones, as well as wild source material collected by the Christies in southern Europe and around the world. Today, it contains material of 20 species, subspecies and varieties as well as 70 cultivars and hybrids. Several vouchers were taken for herbarium specimens and chemical analysis, as well as numerous photographs. Detailed descriptions were collected and the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (1986) was much in use.

I would like to thank the Kew Guild Award Scheme for the grant which provided me with the means to visit such an important lavender collection.

BHUTAN

by Jessica Beaghen

Words will never describe my trip to Bhutan adequately. I travelled there via Bangkok and Kathmandu on a long and arduous journey, not helped by a broken aeroplane and bad weather, although I am glad they don't fly when they can't see the mountains, as they do get very close. I went to help develop the Royal Botanic Garden in whatever way I could. It is very new, having only opened to the public in 2000, and covers 29 sq km, with a lot of work still to do. It is intended as a site for recreation of the Bhutanese and tourists, and is situated 15km from Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.

My main task was to design and plant the flower gardens with the help of the labourers. A few annual and perennial plants, as well as some shrubs were in their two polytunnels. These could be supplemented at a later date by plants collected on field trips. I was very aware of the differences in our cultures, and didn't want to offend anyone, so relied heavily on Sithar Dorji, Assistant Conservation Officer and Namgay, Head of the Labourers, for guidance, and together we came up with a colour scheme for the Garden based on the colours of the prayer flags and the colours used when dignitaries visit. We also paid particular attention to the order the garden would be planted in, as this also has great significance.

At the end of my first week I went on a hike to the top of the world, or so it seemed. The Americans had arrived to give a workshop on biodiversity and bioprospecting, and they had room in their minibus for me, so I joined them. We climbed up and up, past lots of fantastic plants and trees, including *Betula alnoides* and *Rhododendron arborescens*. At the top we were at 3,700m, and it had been a very hard climb, but worth it for Phajoding Goemba, a monastery built by Shagcha Rinchen in the 15th century, and the views of Thimphu in the valley below.

The following week I attended the majority of the workshops the Americans were running, learnt a lot and met a lot of people. I also attempted installation of a database at the Garden (but wasn't very successful with this), continued to oversee the work of the labourers, and organised an unofficial visit to the Garden by the Honorary Secretary of the Bhutan Society with a view to them providing some sponsorship for part of the Garden.

My last week in Bhutan flew past. My trip to Bhutan was a chance in a lifetime to experience first hand a place that is one of the biodiversity hotspots in the world. I was very lucky to achieve what I did in the short time that I was there and am privileged to have met the people that I did, and to have experienced such a beautiful landscape. Being a part of the development of the first Botanic Garden in Bhutan was a privilege, and I am honoured to have been a part of it.

GIANT ALPINES OF ECUADOR

by Ruth Bone

In June of this year I flew to the Andean city of Quito, a UNESCO world heritage site at an altitude of 2,500m. The Spanish colonial buildings of the Old Town tower above narrow stone paved streets full of market vendors, cobblers and beggars. In the east of the city high-rise glass tower blocks house the financial brokers and business executives of the new Quito. My accommodation for my first week in Ecuador was located in the in-between streets which make up the tourist district. Patrolled by security officers, the streets here are lined with internet cafes, restaurants and tourist centres where holiday-makers can book anything from a bungee jump to a guided tour of the Galapagos.

Ecuador is a small country, approximately the same size as Britain, and is remarkable for its diversity of environments, people and cultures. To the west, over the Cordillera Occidental, lie the mangrove swamps of the Pacific coast and 2,000 miles beyond that are the famous Galapagos Islands. To the east, over the Cordillera Oriental, water pours from the mountains to form tributaries to the Amazon Basin. In the highlands the majority of the population lives on the altiplano, a plateau formed between the two ridges of the Cordillera chains. Agriculture is the main industry but tourism is becoming increasingly important to the economy.

My travel scholarship aims were to see the giant alpine tree daisy, *Espeletia*, which in Ecuador is restricted to an area of grassland towards the country's northern

border with Colombia, and to find alpine *Puya* species. *Puya* has a much wider distribution in Ecuador and can be found in a range of habitats from the dry desert valleys of the equator (after which this country is named) to the snowy inclines of volcanoes such as Chimborazo (exceeding 6,000m in height) and the cloud forests of the northern sierra.

In Quito my first task was to pick up a telephone and attempt a Spanish conversation. I then ventured out into the city to acquaint myself with Q.C.A. Herbarium at Universidad Catholica and Q.C.N.E. National Herbarium. Here I studied pressed specimens of *Puya* and *Espeletia* and made notes from their collection details. Mercedes Asanza of Q.C.N.E. was instrumental in arranging my visit to the biological research station at Guandera in the north, and, in the company of David Suarez (a mycology and botany student) I traveled at the end of June to the wet and windy home of *Espeletia pycnophylla subsp. angelensis*.

Preceding this, however, I undertook a 14 hour bus journey by night from Quito due south to Loja, near the Peruvian border. My generous host Dr. Jens Madsen (Aaarhaus Botanical Institute Denmark) found work for me in the university herbarium and ensured that I was able to explore the fringes of Podocarpus National Park. Due to uncharacteristically bad weather that caused landslides left right and centre on all branches of the muddy Pan American Highway, botanical exploration had to be curtailed on more than one occasion. However I was delighted to witness the flowering of a magnificent *Puya* with a 2m tall inflorescence of iridescent green flowers and yellow pollen.

The diversity of the paramo flora exceeded all my expectations and the travel scholarship, for all of its challenges and difficulties, has been one of the most rewarding experiences during my time at Kew. Financial assistance from the Kew Guild, the David Dalziel Scholarship, the R.H.S. and the A.G.S. made this trip possible. Thanks also to all those who helped, particularly Mercedes Asanza, Dr. Katya Romoleroux, Dr. Bente Klitgaard and Dr. Jens Madsen.

NYMPHAEAS

by Graham Burgess

After years of sitting on the Kew Guild Committee and hearing first of the many creditable awards and then the comment, "Does everyone know the facility is available to all Kewites, not just students?" I thought why not, so I applied. I made an application for assistance with a project that has interested me for years, and the Guild responded with some financial support.

I am studying certain aspects of the *Nymphaeas*. They have interested man since Egyptian times, and their great beauty and hallucinogenic effects have led to them attracting symbolic value. They grow all over the world in one for or another. Until the latter end of the 19th century the interest had not been intensive, but this was all to change due to two men, both of them French: Bory la Tour Marliac and Oscar Claude Monet. The former carried out extensive research on the genetic potential of the various species, and at a time when genetics was in its early stages. My studies have revealed where he obtained his breeding material, and how he managed to cross them to produce the many hybrids we find all over the world. I have exposed the secret rebus which he used to conceal and yet reveal the techniques and structure of his breeding process. In his lifetime, many asked how la Tour Marliac achieved his successes, but he never revealed it. Having said that he did not reveal it, this is not entirely true, for he developed a special code which he incorporated into his plant names.

How interesting that another Frenchman should take an interest in the *Nympheas* and that he should also hide secrets in the manifestations of his interest. My study included the life and works of Monet. I have visited his garden at Giverny and the places in Paris where he, with others, practised his art. I have studied the paintings in the Louvre and the Musee Marmottan. In the course of all of this, I have discovered secrets in the *Nymphaea* paintings. Hopefully my work will be published and I will be able to thank the Kew Guild for its support.

JAPAN

by Hannah Gardner

As I look back on the summer of 2001 that has just come to a close, three weeks in particular bring back memories so vivid and so many in numb er that it is hard to know where on earth to start a summary, for that is all this can be.

It was with a fair amount of trepidation that I approached my first Japanese train platform, having disembarked at Osaka International Airport last June. Within minutes (we are talking seriously efficient) I was gliding through the city suburbs, heading for Kyoto. This, the first of many great train journeys taken during my three weeks in Japan, whetted my appetite for what was to follow. Curvaceous bonsai were evident behind nearly every closure, the reflective water margins and grassy green of regimented rice fields punctuated the grey urban sprawl, replacing the lawns we are so accustomed to in England.

My first week was spent in Kyoto, the historical centre of Japan, and to my delight, I found that the city, nestled as it is in a wide basin between tree-covered mountains, retains much of its character, whilst embracing the frenetic facets of modern Japan. I did see Geisha in Gion, and the temple and shrine gardens, although overwhelming in number, proved to be as inspiring and engaging as I have hoped. I can only mention the most notable of the many visited here.

The Japanese-led tours of Shugakuin Villa (133 acres), in the foothills of Mt. Hiei, and at Katsura Imperial Villa (17th century) gave me a glimpse into secular landscape design. the tiny but perfect meditation gardens at Ryoan-ji in the karasensui style (late 15th century) and Daisen-in Temples were simple, affecting and immaculately curated by the current generation of monks. The intention here is to express the spirit of Zen through the media of only rocks and sand. These much-reduced

elements are used to express the abstracted essence of nature. I also found time to visit the golden pavilion at Kinkakuji, where I have to admit I found a very handsome, 600-year-old, gentlemanly *Pinus sylvestris* to be of much greater appeal that the more commonly revered and recently restored, very shiny pavilion. Other gardens I visited include: Kyoto Botanic Garden; Ninnaji; Tofukuji (1940, re-designed by Mirei Shigermori); Hein Shrine (1895); and Saihoji.

An overnight train swept me across the heart of Honshu, through Tokyo, up the coast eventually leading through the tunnel and into Sapporo, the main city of Hokkaido. My stopover here was certainly action packed. First, I took a tour of the Botanic Garden, where I wandered under giant two-metre *Petisites* and hunted for *Trillium* in shady corners of the nursery. The rock garden is enjoying something of a renaissance and will, I feel, return to its former glory in years to come.

I spent a total of 12 days in the north, dividing my time between the great open spaces and long days of botanising offered in the mountains, and socialising in the name of good relations between the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and our Japanese friends.

Leaving the friendly a fun people of Takinoue and inspired by an earlier conversation with Dr. Takahashi of Sapporo University, I boarded the night train bound for the northerly port of Wakkanai, my destination the tiny island of Rebun, lying in the northerly reaches of the Sea of Japan. The last frontier between Russia and Japan, the island more closely resembles the uncluttered Russian coast where life is harsh and function takes precedence over form. There is no glossy finish to these islands, no bonsai, in fact few gardens at all. There is no need as the whole island (save the few perimeter villages scattered along the shelf that borders the land and the sea) is clothed by knee-length coastal meadows. Here I found in abundance *Trollius hondoensis*, *Hemerocallis esculenta*, *H. middendorffü*, *Iris sanguenea*, *I. setosa*, *Geranium erianthum*, *Polygonatum sp.*, *Lilium*, *Leontopodium*, *Allium* and giant umbles (*Pleurospermom camtscaticim*). Unfortunately, it was too late in the season to spot the rare *Cypripedium macranthum var. rebunense*, an endemic relatively common in cultivation, but now difficult to find on the island due to over collection.

Too quickly, it was time to move on. I had completed the two day walking course that spans the length of the island (15km) and had found, inland, interesting orchids (*Orchis aristata*), roses and climbers (*Hydrangea petiolaris*). Shoreline sitings included the tattered pink petals of *Dianthus superbus var. longicalycinus* and the glaucous succulent *Mertensia asiatica*. I spent a day on the neightbouring volcanic island of Rishiri and botanised the foothills, quickly finding the endemic little yellow poppy (a variety of *Papaver fauriei*), but was beaten by the weather and could not make the summit in the time I had. I wanted to compare alpine flora on the main island with what I had seen on Hokkaido. In general, I felt my trips plant-hunting there had been a little early in the season: the weather wasn't good for most days and a lot of areas were still covered by snow. Another few weeks would have made all the difference.

In Nagano, the mountainous area I visited next, lying just north of the Japanese Alps, I found more in flower. The volcano Myoko-san (2,446m) and its neighbour Hiuchiyama (2,462m) are relatively undiscovered and dramatic mountains with a varied, interesting flora. I was immediately struck by the contrast to the peak of Daisetsuzan in the north. Here, the higher areas had been virtually bare, whilst now I was rewarded with spreading, stunted meadows. My two-day hike led me up through the forested foothills where I found *Rhododendron aureum*, *Shortia soldinelloides f. alpina*, *Trillium*, *Clintonia uneiodes*, *Polyganatum sp.* and the ghostly *Monostropastrum globosum*. The visual highlight was beds of silk-hatted *Paris japonica* running amok under the thick trunks of prostrate *Betula ermanii*.

I had an incredible journey through Japan, negotiating the hazards of menus written only in Japanese (and my resulting diet of randomly selected raw fish); decoding kanji subway instructions, signposts, timetables . . . the lot; and drinking reservoirs of green tea enabled me to explore areas of great natural beauty. I have become a more cultured and enlightened horticulturalist. Japan is a country of so many contrasts that even though I travelled as widely as I could in the given time, I feel that I only scratched the surface of what there was to see.

I should like, once more, to sincerely thank my sponsors. Your support enabled me to enjoy such a fantastic experience and light the spark of what will now be a life-long interest and involvedment with Japan. I made the most of my opportunity, but I am grateful you gave me the means to do so.

AN ORCHID FIELDTRIP IN SOUTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA

by David Menzies

The First International Orchid Conservation Conference was held in Perth, capital of Western Australia from September 24th to 28th, 2001, and was attended by 130 delegates from 22 countries. At the end of a most enjoyable and informative Congress, 46 of us embarked on a five-day study tour of the south-western region of the state, where around 80% of the more than 300 terrestrial orchid species are endemic. The climate is broadly Mediterranean, having cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Orchids are found in a wide variety of habitats, with some species being common to many areas whereas others are very specific and local in their distribution. All have evolved in close association with their insect pollinators, resulting in some truly bizarre forms, and also stunning colours seen nowhere else in the family.

Andrew Brown, our guide, is a noted orchid botanist, and during our five days together, his good humour never left him, despite the provocation of independentminded enthusiasts who tended to disappear over the horizon at every stop. He was ably assisted by Laurie, our coach driver, a font of local information, expert navigator and provider of sustaining refreshments throughout each day. A number of orchid species require fire to encourage flowering, while others prefer to grow in seasonally wet soils. As a result, clothing tended to become both black and wet, soon forgotten in the excitement of the chase.

The most common genus is Caladenia, spider orchids to Australians, of which more than 140 species occur in the State. The common name refers to the attenuated sepals and petals of many species, the largest flowers of which are nearly 30cm long. Caladenia have hairy stems and a single, hairy leaf, prefer open areas, and vary in flower colour from white to yellow, green or pink. A species we found every day, was C. flava, with broader, bright yellow blooms, sometimes in large numbers. After a while it became a relief to find other genera. such as: *Elythranthera brunonis*, the glossy, purple enamel orchid; species of the tall leek orchids, *Prasophyllum*; *Pyrorchis nigrans*, red beaks; *Pterostylis* recurva, the jug orchid; and various species of sun orchids, Thelymitra, which open only when it is warm and sunny. The best *Thelymitra* have clear blue flowers. rare in orchids, but the nicest example was adjacent to a very dead kangaroo, which made photography almost unbearable. The most bizarre orchids are undoubtedly the hammer orchids, Drakaea sp., and the flying duck orchid, Paracaleana nigricans. Both of these diminutive charmers were found growing in open, sandy places and are examples of plants which use pseudo-copulation to encourage pollination.

Of course orchids are only a part of the rich flora, and we enjoyed seeing many of the other elements, including carnivorous plants, especially *Drosera sp.* in many forms, *Utricularia* in wet places, and, during the third day, the Albany pitcher plant, *Cephalotus follicularis*. Colourful legumes were very common in some areas, as well as the unique grass trees, *Xanthorrhoea sp.* In all, we saw nearly 80 species of orchid, and the 30 photographers among us took almost 11,000 photographs. I am most grateful to the Kew Guild for making this field work possible.

VISIT TO CLAUDE MONET'S GARDEN, GIVERNY, FRANCE by Tarja Ravenhal

Claude Monet (1840-89) was first a gardener and secondly a painter. In his early life, he created gardens wherever he lived. He was very fond of Japanese-style gardens, and often bought Japanese prints to inspire him. Monet was 50 years old when he managed to borrow enough money to buy Le Pressoir. The property covers two and a half acres. Monet worked alone in the garden, except when helped by his. He started a five o'clock every morning, deadheading and inspecting plants before taking his canvas and paints to record the beauty of them.

My long-time ambition to visit Monet's garden came to fruition in May this year. I took a bus trip with many other enthusiasts to see for myself the glory of this garden. The gardens were full of people, so I headed first to the Japanese water garden, which is reached by a tunnel laid under the busy road that divides it from the main house and its garden. One enters near the Japanese bridge, which was clad in *Wisteria sinensis* in full flower and giving off its fragrance on a hot May day. Though none of the water lilies were out yet, their foliage floating and glistening on the surface of the pond was enough to create a cooling effect. The willows cascading

into the water with their apple-green foliage gave an ideal backdrop for the **Iris** (eg. *I. foetidissima*), Japanese **azaleas** with soft pink hues, and Japanese **maples** in various colours. Even today, one can experience the mood Monet was so keen to create, even the lone boatman clearing the petals from the pond was fit for the picture. The little river Epte which feeds the lily pond has several bamboo bridges over it, and tall *Arundinaria japonica* create a screen from the water garden while smaller-growing *Sasa veitchii* open a vista on the other bank. *Taxodium distichum* underplanted with a few **red tulips** offered the colour needed.

The pretty, pink main house with its green shutters is surrounded by sumptuous flowerbeds which slope down from the house. Large iron frames between flowerbeds, clad in pink and white *Clematis montana*, create a secluded feeling. Colours harmonise, with beds under-planted with tulips, wallflowers, *Ornithogalum, Myosotis, Thalictrum*, and *Bellis perennis*. Some of the walkways were closed, which was a good idea because there was the opportunity to take pictures without people in them.

When Monet died, the gardens went downhill fast: his children had a difficult relationship with their father. It was the curator of Versailles, M. van der Kemp, himself a gardener and painter, who, helped by his American wife and a lot of financial support from the United States, took up the challenge to bring Monet's garden back to its glory. It is a lovely, small, artist's garden, and thanks to Monet keeping documents and receipts from his purchases, it can now reflect what he saw as beautiful. I thank the Kew Guild for affording me to see it.

UP AND OVER IN DOWN UNDER

An account of a field visit to some World Heritage forests of North Queensland associated with the Fifth International Flora Malesiana Symposium in Sydney

by Martin J. S. Sands

Australia, that huge expansive island continent with its vast arid heartland, is scarcely a place that immediately comes to mind as home to lush tropical rainforest. Indeed, despite several short visits 'down under' in the past, four months under canvas in the Kimberley region of the far north-west and even a brief previous visit to Queensland in 1969 – it still came as a surprise – and a delight – to rediscover the humid warmth and rich luxuriance of the Flecker Botanic Gardens. It was to this relatively small but impressive tropical garden in Cairns, gateway to important rainforests of World Heritage status, that I was taken almost immediately after touchdown in Queensland early on Friday, 31st August, 2001. After the long journey from England, it provided a wonderfully relaxing start to a few days of exploration in the heat of north-eastern Australia, before going south into the lingering chill of early spring to attend the International Flora Malesiana Symposium in Sydney.

Funded in part by a generous Kew Guild Award and starting in Cairns, I was shortly to join a four-day pre-conference field programme to look at a range of plant communities and landscapes and consider the contrasting vegetation of the monsoon and wet tropic areas of Queensland. For a few days prior to the trip however, I was travelling with Peter Wilkie of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh and later on Friday we explored *Pandanus* swamp forest and wetlands dominated by Giant Paperbarks (*Melaleuca leucadendra*), both associated with the Flecker Gardens. Then, towards evening we and several other delegates were taken inland by one of the enthusiastic members of the organising committee – as ever wearing his trademark, a remarkably battered and moth-eaten bush hat.

Leaving Cairns and passing fields of sugar-cane, the highway leading to the Atherton Tableland soon winds its way up into the Great Dividing Range and enters the rainforest, where several key locations were visited. These included an experimental forest plot for species of Lauraceae, and notably Eacham crater-lake where, more than 30 years earlier, I had swum at dusk with the turtles before driving through the night to Mount Surprise in the dry cattle country of the out-back. Now there was an opportunity to walk in lake-side rainforest where, amongst the leaf litter, we saw the creamy flowering heads of the parasite, *Balanophora fungosa* and were lucky to see the conspicuous pale under-surface of leaves laid out by a bower bird to attract its mate. Eventually our small party arrived in Atherton where we left our botanical friends who would be attending several days of pre-conference workshops and then, extremely tired after nearly three days without going to bed, Peter and I returned to Cairns.

Next morning, considerably refreshed, we awoke early to a glorious sunrise over the bay, which, cleared of its original mangrove, is now an important, internationally recognised locality for many species of birds. It was exciting to see for the first time for example the Australian Pelican and Azure Kingfisher, as well as the Masked Lapwing with its yellow wattles. The official fieldtrip was not beginning until the following Wednesday and so we took the opportunity to spend the day on the Great Barrier Reef. By 8.30am we were well on our way aboard a sleek and powerful silver catamaran speeding northeastwards from Port Douglas to the Agincourt section of the reef. This is situated on the very edge of the continental shelf 40km from the shore and to snorkel for several hours over the rich array of brilliantly coloured corals and fish was a new and unforgettable experience, only very inadequately represented later by photographs from a disposable under-water camera.

On the Sunday we visited a range of mangrove forest types not far from Cairns, as well as the Mount Whitfield Conservation Park, before going to Atherton again for two days. Here I worked for a while in the C.S.I.R.O. herbarium and unofficially attended one of the workshops on taxonomic databasing, as well as seeing the Duck-billed Platypus in its natural habitat just out of town. During my stay, I also visited Mair Swann, who has lived in Atherton for a long time but was once a free-lance artist at Kew.

The pre-conference field visit began in style early on Wednesday, 5th September with a breath-taking journey on a very exciting skyrail which begins near Cairns and – reflecting the title of this account – rises 'up and over' the densely forested mountains for 7.5km to Kuranda. It is the world's longest gondola cableway, capable of carrying up to 700 people per hour in each direction and, travelling at no more

than 18km per hour, offers an outstanding and ever changing close view of the rainforest canopy, often clad in rattan palms and other climbers and with large, impressive epiphytic **Staghorn** and **Basket ferns**. At Red Peak station, at an altitude of 545m in the MacAlister Range, there is a chance to leave the gondolas and, on boardwalks, experience the forest from within. Here the trees notably include the **Maple Silkwood**, **Alexandra palms** and the massive **Kauri Pine**. Further along the cableway, giant hard-wooded **Red Penda** trees emerge from the canopy reaching a height of 50m. At a second stop there is an excellent rainforest Interpretive Centre and walkways lead to superb views over the Barron Falls where the river drops 280m towards the coastal plain. Finally, after an unforgettable one and a half hour journey, the gondolas cross the Barron River on a cable spanning 388m between towers and descend to the terminal.

From Kuranda the party of some 20 or so botanists (from several countries) set off in a powerful 4-wheel-drive trailer bus heading out into a very different landscape and northwards for more than 300km via the inland highway to Cooktown. On route, in stark contrast to the wet tropical rainforest, we encountered the eucalypt dominated communities of the monsoon tropics, stopping in a particularly dry area near to Mount Carbine, a deciduous vine thicket just to the north of the Palmer river and a lagoon on Kings Plain Station. All of these communities have adapted to the extremes of a predictable but short wet season and a prolonged, hot dry season, frequently contending with both flood and drought every year.

We spent the night in Cooktown where, in June, 1770 after striking a coral reef, Captain James Cook beached his ship for repairs at the mouth of the river which was later named after it – the 'Endeavour'. During a stay of several weeks, Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander made numerous collections in the area, and in August Cook landed at Possession Island and claimed the east coast of New Holland for King George III. Interestingly, only a few days before our arrival, the modern replica of the 'Endeavour' had anchored at the same place during a voyage following Cook's exploratory route along the Australian east coast.

Next day we spent the morning about 35 km to the north of Cooktown on land belonging to the Aboriginal Community at Hope Vale. Here there was an opportunity to explore plant communities developed on an extensive Quaternary dune field. For the most part the vegetation appeared to be structurally not dissimilar to Mediterranean maquis, but the track eventually led into coastal vine thicket and then mangrove thinning out onto a beach of variably coloured sand. In the dune field there were many species belonging to the family *Myrtaceae* including three of *Melaleuca* and it was interesting to see other typical Australian genera represented by species of *Boronia*, *Banksia*, *Grevillea* and *Xanthorrhoea*. Leaving Hope Vale, we took a dirt road inland and stopped for a picnic lunch at the picturesque Isabella Creek falls. It was here that one of several minor incidents befell me, which were later used by many of the party to serve as reminding markers of interesting botanical localities! In this instance, in flicking a teabag out of boiling billy-water, the string caught and the bag rebounded on my thumb for long enough to remove the skin and cause a painfully deep burn. During the afternoon we journeyed for sometime, first over the Battle Camp range and then through part of the Lakefield National Park where we stopped to photograph the rare fern, *Platyzoma microphylla*, endemic to northern Australia and now placed in a family of its own. Later, almost at dusk, there was just time to see some interesting aboriginal rock art on a sandstone escarpment before spending the night in a characterful roadhouse at Lakeland Downs.

The third day was spent back in the rainforests of the wet tropical coast on the long return journey to Cairns via Cape Tribulation and the famous Daintree River. This Stretch of the Oueensland coast is one of the few areas in the whole of Australia where large tracts of intact rainforest still sweep down to the sea and we stopped in many places of particular botanical interest. Although in this instance not ourselves going aloft, we were able to visit the Australian Canopy Crane Research Facility near to Cape Tribulation. The crane itself rises to 47 metres and, with an operational radius of 55 metres, it provides research access 'up and over' a full hectare of rainforest canopy. Under the crane arc there are 657 trees with a diameter at breast height of more than 10cm, comprising 79 species in 32 families – all of which have been identified, labelled and recorded on a GIS database. Further south in the Daintree National Park, there are several excellent boardwalks which penetrate deep into extensive mangrove and, at the Environmental Centre, another one threads its way through lush, unspoilt rainforest. Also at the Centre there is a splendid wooden observation tower, 23 metres high with five viewing platforms, so here we were able to go 'up and over' the canopy once more.

The fourth and final day of the trip was spent on the Atherton Tablelands where the emphasis was on linking soil and climate to forest type. Driving up over the Gillies Range to Lake Barrine in the Crater Lakes National Park, we explored good forest including impressive giant Kauri Pines, before going to see the massive Curtain Fig near Yungaburra with its vast skirt of aerial roots dropping 15 metres to the ground. Out on the open Tableland, we stopped for lunch in the old hotel in Malanda, believed to be the largest all-wooden building in the southern hemisphere, and during the afternoon, we were extremely lucky to see the rare Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroo, now endangered because of its diminishing rainforest habitat. Travelling then by the Palmerston and Bruce Highways with two further stops on route to Cairns, our final experience of the tour was an early evening view of the twin peaks of Mount Bartle Frere, which, reaching a height of 1,622 metres, is the highest mountain in Queensland.

Next morning, after a truly memorable and instructive pre-conference field visit, we all flew south to Sydney to begin the very full week of the Symposium itself. This was the fifth triennial meeting (the third was held at Kew in 1995) to review progress in the ongoing major task of producing the Flora of the Malesian region, a vast area stretching from Peninsular Malaysia to eastern New Guinea and including Indonesia and the Philippines. For me it was also an opportunity to discuss with friends and colleagues my own work on *Begonia* and *Symbegonia* species, of which more than 400 grow in the Flora region.

At the end of the conference I flew to Kuala Lumpur to join my brother, Tim, for a week of reconnaissance in preparation for a future wildlife tour – but that's another story!

THE LIVING COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT AT KEW DURING 2000

by David Hardman

The year 2000 at Kew was one dominated by Festivals, weather, conservation and flowers. In this report the writer selects a few of the key points in what has been a challenging year and the first complete year under the new directorship of Professor Peter Crane.

Good growing conditions characterised the spring with generally mild weather, an absence of late spring frosts and the absolute minimum during May of 5.5°C. This created a challenge in keeping the lawns adequately mown and they remained luxuriant throughout the whole summer. All over the south of England there was a wonderful flowering of **magnolias**, Kew being no exception.

Special events sustained a four seasons theme starting in February with the annual spring 'Orchid Extravaganza', which has grown considerably every year since its inception. This was followed by a very successful 'African Summer' with a sculpture exhibition 'Chapungu' remaining immensely popular throughout its stay at Kew. As summer wore on, three African huts were constructed entertainingly accompanied by Zimbabwean friends to create a village close to the sculptures. There were three different types of huts built including one for children, one for adults and a kitchen area.

In September staff from various departments braved wet weather to join the Herbaceous section team in planting 70,000 **daffodil** bulbs along both sides of the Broad walk, replacing the experimental display of "Wheat and Wildflowers". This had been spectacular through June and July with a display of **corn cockle**, **cornflower**, **red poppy** and **golden chrysanthemum**. This received much praise from our visitors, although not without early concerns about the all-over netting, which was installed to protect the seeds from hungry birds. Through summer, the Water Lily house witnessed many tropical butterflies that were released regularly as a trial to evaluate the effectiveness of this new additional display experience, which was favourably received by garden visitors.

The hot sunny summer days helped the development of **pumpkins** in the Duke's Garden bringing excitement in advance of just one part of the 'Fruitful Autumn' festival. The **pumpkin** displays at Kew, most notably in the Waterlily House and Duke's Garden, were widely praised and will be repeated in 2001. On October 20-21st the Grass Garden was in spectacular condition for the festival weekend and was the focus of live interpretation on grasses, delivered by both science and horticultural staff. Nearby, in the north end of the Princess of Wales Conservatory, the wonderful smell of tons of ripe apples cascading off an old farm cart and in baskets around a 100-year-old cider press came close to provoking a feeding frenzy amongst visitors. The associated Apple Days on October 28-29th were also very popular, with many visitors bringing specimens for identification by our home-grown and external experts.

The Autumn Festival closed with a heritage weekend on November 3-5th, Tony Kirkham directing his appropriately dressed team working the restored Barron's Tree Transplanter, in competition with modern equipment, while planting 14

replacement **cedars** along Nesfield's Broad Walk. The Transplanter was pulled by two fine Suffolk Punch horses, which attracted a great deal of interest from young and old alike, as did a selection of Model T Ford cars parked alongside.

The extraordinary rainfall total of 877 mm for 2000 has reset the average at nearly 618mm, but this statistic hides another, more remarkable fact. We recently obtained summarised data derived from the Royal Observatory, part of former Royal Kew, where weather data were first recorded in 1697. From these it would appear that in 2000 the three autumn months of September, October and November were not only the wettest in over 300 years, but also exceeded the previous record (mid-1800s) by a considerable margin. Moreover, in the last five years we have experienced large fluctuations in rainfall – it was only recently that a case for the installation of a major new irrigation system at Kew was prepared following the 1996 rainfall total of less than 420 mm.

Not surprisingly this made some horticultural operations quite problematic and, unusually for Kew, the ground was so soft that vehicles could not be used without incurring serious damage to turf. As a consequence, removal of autumn leaves didn't happen, they decomposed where they fell, and the general lack of outdoor activity resulted in an accumulation of organic matter in the Stable Yard, hampering the processing of green waste.

Whilst there was widespread damage following the gale on October 30th, aided and abetted by heavy rain, it only felled a dozen trees at Kew. This is, perhaps, a reflection of our tree management programme, which has ensured that all recognisably vulnerable specimens have been treated or removed before the forces of nature have had their way. However, we were able to plant an extra pair of **cedars** where **tulip trees** had formerly stood thanks to the gale. In all a further 250 trees were planted in the Arboretum to redress the balance for some of the losses over recent years.

The autumn monsoon was a sustained very mild period, but things changed abruptly with the snow and ice between Christmas and New Year. In December, Christmas trees of all shapes and sizes were installed and lit, or in the case of the **deodar cedar** near Victoria Gate, decorated with giant ribbons: 'Shimmering Christmas' transformed Kew into a landscape of twinkling lights and festive sounds. Around the Palm House pond 18 trees and the central fountain were illuminated and opportunities to sing carols, taste mulled wine, mince pies and roast chestnuts were available.

Other new initiatives instigated around the Gardens included the installation of new ultrasonic fogging nozzles trialled in the Temperate Nursery in an attempt to reduce calcium carbonate deposits on foliage. In the Tropical Section good results have been obtained from using water purified by reverse osmosis on insectivorous plants and ferns and a new horticultural protocol database has been developed and is being trialled for staff to record cultural techniques. A workshop entitled '*Conservation of Mature Trees*' was held and attended by 30 external delegates on July 27th and supported by the manufacturers of our 'Terravent' machine. A similar meeting was held for representatives from the War Graves Commission.

Kew's contributions to the conservation of the U.K.'s flora reached a landmark with the first flowering of a reintroduced Kew-raised plant of *Cypripedium calceolus* (Lady's Slipper Orchid) at the site in Yorkshire. The specimen concerned was planted in 1989 and is now about 14 years old from seed. Bryophyte conservation work began in the Micropropagation Lab with a Scientific Officer being recruited to work on the three-year *in vitro* project funded by the U.K.'s national conservation agencies, (English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales).

The Conservation Genetics Unit completed reports on genetic diversity/ fingerprinting in *Calandrinia feltonii*, *Tecophilaea cyanocrocus*, *Tulipa sprengeri* and *Mellissia begoniifolia*. Meetings have been held to discuss future activities in support of *ex situ* conservation of *Mellissia begoniifolia* (St. Helena) and as a result hand-pollination commenced following investigation into its genetic diversity, which was found to be low. The successful result of the hand-pollination process is seed of *Mellissia begoniifolia* that has been harvested and sent to the Millennium Seedbank to ensure that the long term future of this previously extinct species is secured.

Turning to staff, I am delighted to record that Tony Hall (Alpine Unit, Herbaceous Section) has been made an Associate of Honour by the Royal Horticultural Society in addition to his award of the prestigious Lyttel Trophy from the Alpine Garden Society. In December the Curator, Nigel Taylor, was awarded a Ph.D. for his thesis entitled 'Taxonomy and Phytogeography of the Cactaceae of Eastern Brazil'.

Mary Thorp (Grass Garden) has been appointed by the Royal Horticultural Society as a judge for Floral Committee A, and after 30 years service to the gardens, Mrs. Pat Ives retired from the Plant Records unit. Emma Fox (Palm House) and Kath King, (Tropical Section) benefited from field experience in Brazil and Irian Jaya, respectively. Emma travelled in a group with Patrick Nutt to see *Victoria amazonica*. Richard Wilford (Herbaceous Section) was seconded part-time to Personnel Dept (P.P.D.), to assist with the L.C.D./Education Restructuring project.

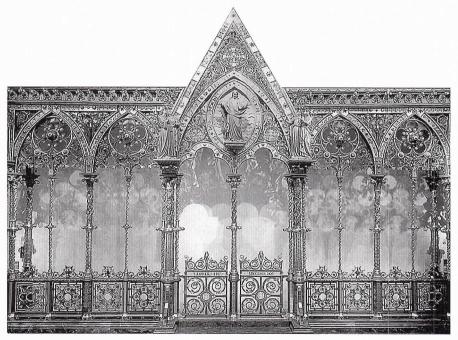
L.C.D. staff from all areas contributed amenity ideas in an all day brainstorming session led by the Director, Professor Peter Crane on September 25th in relation to the development of a Kew Site Master Plan. Progress was significant with the assistance of the Garden Club of America student intern, Stephanie Jutila.

The Arboricultural Unit was featured on the BBC's Blue Peter programme on February 28th. Filming has also increased at Kew and the Palm House was used to shoot a major film, "*Sleeping Dictionary*". The Palm House is now regularly opened for special evening events.

The Living Collections Department has seen numerous important visitors: Mr. Bob Debus (Environment Minister for New South Wales) on February 2nd; H.R.H. Princess Alexandra, our Patron, who attended for a Guild tree planting ceremony on the Pagoda Vista on March 6th; the Malaysian Minister of Agriculture, the Director of the Singapore Botanic Garden and the Director of the South Korean National Arboretum. Baroness Hayman (M.A.F.F. minister) visited on October 16th; First Secretary Bruce Babitt (Dept of the Interior, U.S.A.) and Prof. Peter Raven (Director, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis), both in connection with the official opening of the M.S.B. and annual Kew Environmental lecture on 20-21st and then Brian Bender (the new M.A.F.F. Permanent Secretary) on November 24th.

All in all it was a difficult year, but one where all the challenges were accepted and the results have been highly successful. These were just a few of the highlights to be savoured.

A CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM OUR PATRON, H.R.H. PRINCESS ALEXANDRA



AR With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Land

PATRON

THE LIVING COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT AT WAKEHURST PLACE DURING 2000

by David Hardman

In an exciting period, the garden at Wakehurst Place gained national recognition as the "best garden" in, "*The Good Britain Guide 2001*" and the Millennium Seedbank opened its doors to the public over the August Bank holiday weekend. We attracted many favourable comments about the quality of the garden, which recognised the great level of commitment from staff achieving such high standards, whilst undertaking the challenge of the new areas presented by the M.S.B. project, vacancies and periods of poor weather. The British climate proved the wettest on recent record with over 1,300 millimetres of rain. (see Table 1).

Our new venue, the Orange Room provides an additional garden feature under cover. Visitors are able to appreciate how the structure fits into the landscape and see the work of the Seedbank staff at first hand.

Reflecting on the great progress made this year, successes have been achieved against contrasting extremes. The unpredictable conditions hampered progress: although the large areas to the front of the Millennium Seedbank were graded and cultivated for autumn, the record rainfall waterlogged the soil making planting impossible. The greatest workload for landscaping fell to the Machinery and Turf Maintenance Unit, who met the challenge of moving hundreds of tons of materials in grading and preparing the large areas for planting. The lawns around the building were prepared with quantities of quality loam, and then the turf laid to provide a canvas for the Peter Randall-Page sculptures.

The parterre beds represent the diversity of U.K. habitats and promote the need to maintain these valuable areas, having taken considerable effort the resulting displays are an excellent example of teamwork between the Machinery and Turf Maintenance; Nursery and Garden Units. Just filling these containers with the different soil mixes was a major task, all undertaken manually as the site was not designed for large machinery operations. The excitement of finally planting the 210 representative species for displays is the culmination of many years of trials in nursery beds.

The start of the year witnessed the largest amount of new plantings throughout the estate since the Great Storm. Accessions from recent expeditions to Taiwan, Hokkaido, Sichuan, Russian Far East, Pakistan and the southern Appalachians of the U.S.A., with over 500 accessions from 180 taxa have been planted in all parts of the estate.

In Westwood Valley the largest planting programme for many years saw 160 trees and shrubs added to the appropriate geographic areas of the collections, including some substantial *Rhododendron* species held in the woodland nursery.

The North and Central American plantings in Horsebridge Wood have been greatly improved with one of the largest plantings of this range of material seen at Wakehurst Place. The list below indicates the range and diversity plus the garden location numbers:

Locat 832 Abies concolor, Juniperus scopulorum, Larix occidentalis, Pinus contorta var. latifolia, Magnolia dealbata, Quercus lanceifolia, Quercus polymorpha.

Locat 833 Cupressus macrocarpa, Cupressus sargentii, Pinus contorta var. murrayana, Pinus coulteri, Pinus sabiniana.

Locat 834 Quercus coccinea.

Locat 83501 Acer leucoderme, Acer negundo, Quercus nigra.

Locat 836 Abies fraseri, Liquidamber styraciflua, Acer pensylvanicum, Carya tomentosa, Carya glabra, Carya cordiformis, Juglans nigra, Quercus alba, Prunus virginiana var. melanocarpa, Quercus rubra, Quercus velutina, Quercus prinus, Quercus pallustris.

Locat 837 Abies balsamea, Picea mariana, Pinus banksiana.

Locat 838 Gymnocladus dioica, Nyssa sylvatica.

Locat 839 Chamaecyparis lawsoniana, Cupressus goveniana, Cupressus goveniana var. goveniana, Picea sitchensis, Pinus attenuata, Pinus lambertiana, Pseudotsuga menziesii.

Similarly, planting was completed in the Mediterranean and Irano-turanian sections of Bloomers Valley and in the Patagonian section of Coates Wood. The list below indicates the diversity and planting locations :

Irano-truranian in Locat 82006 Cedrus deodara, Quercus glauca, Acer cappadocicum, Corylus jacquemontii, Fraxinus xanthoxyloides, Juglans regia, Parrotiopsis jacquemontiana, Prunus cornuta.

Mediterranean in Locat 83003 Abies pinsapo var. marocana, Arbutus andrachne, Crataegus azarolus, Mespilus germanica, Quercus pubescens.

Southern Hemisphere Collections in Coates Wood Locat 83002 Austrocedrus chilensis, Pilgerodendron uviferum, Lomatia hirsuta, Nothofagus dombeyi, Pitavia punctata.

The following species were added to the Pinetum; *Picea smithiana* from the Hokkaido expedition, *Abies forrestii var. georgii* from Sichuan (No.569), *Calocedrus formosana*, from the Taiwan expedition and *Picea asperata*, *Pinus wallichiana*, *Pinus pinea*, *Abies delavayi*, *Abies sibirica var. semenovii* from other sources.

At the end of February Andy Jackson and David Hardman undertook collecting expedition to Australia in collaboration with staff at R.B.G. Sydney, R.B.G. Melbourne, R.T.B.G. Hobart and the Tasmanian Arboretum at Devonport. Most target species available were collected successfully to support the collections at Wakehurst Place. Collections of the conifers, Pencil Pine *Athrotaxis cupressoides*, the **King Billy Pine**, *A. selaginoides* and their hybrid *A. laxifolia* have been potted on and with agreement the surplus seedlings have been offered to R.B.G. Edinburgh for their conifer conservation programme.

54

Some 30 seedlings of Nothofagus moorei from Barrington Tops in New South Wales have grown to 20-30 cms. tall and, surprisingly, despite doubts about the quality, seed collected from both Victoria and Tasmania of N. cunninghamii have germinated well. The Tasmanian endemic N. gunnii has also given good results. All collections were made from the highest altitudes possible to increase the chance of survival at Wakehurst Place. Other target genera included the following; Anemone, Atherosperma, Athrotaxis, Baeckea, Bellendena, Billardiera, Blanfordia, Celmisia, Dianella, Diselma, Dracophyllum, Drimys, Eucalyptus, Eucryphia, Helichrysum, Hibbertia, Microcachrys, Microstrobus, Nothofagus, Olearia, Phyllocladus, Podocarpus, Prionotes, Richea, Rubus, Telopea, Viola. Important contacts were made ensuring future collaborations to share the knowledge gained about the species collected. This resulted in collections made on our behalf of N. gunnii and the threatened endemic conifer Microstrobus niphophilus.

Back at Wakehurst Place, March provided what was considered the best ever-flowering display of *Magnolia*. The lack of any hard frosts meant they remained undamaged throughout an unusually warm spell. A request to send up as many specimens in flower of *Daphne bholua* to the R.H.S. Show on January 25th for discussion by Floral Committee B was achieved. Some interesting points were raised including the longevity of different forms and the various methods of propagation.

In the nursery *Pyrularia pubera* (a parasite on *Quercus*) has proven difficult to germinate but one seedling is growing on a native oak. This is a first in cultivation in this country and was collected from the southern Appalachians of the U.S.A. The Black Poplar (*Populus nigra subsp. betulifolia*) group planted over 200 young trees into selected and agreed sites in East and West Sussex grown by the Nursery

In the gardens below the Balustrade, the area containing **Bistorta** was removed to reveal the sandstone terraces. This southerly aspect in the Slips provides an ideal site for the many Mediterranean plants held in the collections previously without a suitable planting location, including several natural sourced **Phlomis** removed from the West Mansion Border. Several **Cerinthe major** specimens planted close to the path received a great deal of interest.

Major refurbishment of the Bog Garden commenced as the final stage of the post storm redevelopment of the Water Gardens. The construction work was to have been completed this winter, but on draining and dredging the Bog Garden it became apparent that substantial drainage works must be completed on the northern bank before the water in the Bog Garden itself can be controlled.

The path layout in the Iris Dell was re-aligned on a gentle slope using compressed stone scalpings. Removing the steps from the west-bank of the stream allows disabled visitors a route through the Iris Dell and an additional circular island bench site, surrounded by the same *Rhododendron* cultivars used in the scheme.

The mild, wet season resulted in some outstanding plant growth in the Sir Henry Price Memorial Garden, which once again has received much praise from garden visitors for its colour and interest and required only minimal irrigation.

Contractors established hard surfaced paths in the **Oaks** from the entrance to the Millennium Seedbank site, and from the lower end of this path along to the restaurant. The areas immediately adjacent to these paths have been graded and will be sown with grass. A shrub screen to visually break the winding path from the service road to the restaurant will be established.

Considerable work has been undertaken on all the lawns fronting the Mansion, the Croquet lawn has been given several scarification treatments to remove the "thatch" and relieve the soil compaction. This is the start of a long-term programme of improving the quality of these lawns.

The most significant programme of coppice restoration in the Loder Valley Nature Reserve during Kew's management of the estate with over 0.5 hectare of neglected mixed coppice woodland being restored by coppicing coupled with careful thinning of **oak** standards. This work was awarded Woodland Improvement Grants (W.I.G.) to meet the targets of biodiversity conservation for dormice and the restoration of neglected woodland. Products from this work have included charcoal, oak thinnings for estate work (fencing, benches and label stands) and coppice materials including pea sticks and rods for **roses** in the Memorial garden.

A proposal to restore ancient semi-natural woodland in Forest Ridge was discussed and supported during a site visit by the Consultative Panel in May and has been approved by the Forestry Commission. Significant improvements were made to the proposal, specifically the management of existing rides to a bio-diversity specification and the creation of a new ride. Work will be preceded by an investigation into the utilisation/marketing of the small poor quality pine to be harvested.

All horticultural graded staff benefited from their new contracts offered in last year's pay agreement, which saw their hours of work reduced to 36 per week from December 6th. This brought them into line with all other Kew staff with the net result being a loss in approximately 80 hours of staff time in the gardens.

The Oak Signage funded by the Friends of Kew through the Auction is now installed, and blends in well with the natural image of the gardens. A major Miłlennium celebration had to be postponed due to the fuel strike in September, the Big Weald Cycle Ride will now be held in May 2001.

Other annual events included the Bluebell and Autumn Colour weekends, the Woodland Skills day and the Craft Fay, which all proved successful. The Annual Carol Concert was the best attended in nine years with over 2,000 attendees around the **giant redwood** Christmas tree.

Finally members enjoyed a hectic day whilst being shown the gardens and Millennium Seedbank as part of the Guild's A.G.M. in September, celebrating the day the President and President elect planted two **oak** trees.

by David Hardman

Restructuring came to fruition as the new Heads of Sections prepared to recruit new posts early in 2002. The Science Audit and Quinquennial Review required a great deal of attention and their reports provided useful direction and endorsements. The Events programme continues in a drive to increase visitor numbers and the Kew Site Masterplan with its consumption of supporting documents, maps and meeting time has continued, and Kew became the U.K.'s 2002 nomination for World Heritage Site status.

In April, the completion of Phase 1 of the renamed Horticulture and Public Education Department (H.P.E.) restructuring project was achieved with the appointment of four new Heads of Section at the Kew site and the creation of a new post of Practical Training Co-ordinator. The successful candidates and newly defined sections of the new Horticulture and Public Education Department (H.P.E.) are Stewart Henchie (Hardy Displays), John Lonsdale (Public Programmes and Curatorial Support), Tony Kirkham (Arboretum and Horticultural Services), and Greg Redwood (Great Glasshouses and Training). Martin Staniforth was appointed as the new Training Co-ordinator and is based within the last-named section, which also includes the School of Horticulture. David Hardman remains Head of Section at Wakehurst Place where in February Christine Newton was appointed to the new permanent post of Education Officer.

Detailed sectional plans were evaluated for the H.P.E. restructuring project and approved by the Directorate. These plans provide for increased management focus on collections supporting Kew's science programmes and on use by our visitors. The new Horticultural Trainee and Student rotational training scheme was launched in October. This is a practical training programme developed for rotational Band A staff and Diploma Students, both of whom spend one year in each of the three Sections. A change in the percentage of marks awarded for practical elements of the Diploma has been revised and will be applied to the new intake, increasing the value of such activity from around 12% up to 50%. In readiness for the September 2001 course intake 18 of the Order Beds were cleared, their collections re-located and the soil prepared for use as Diploma Student vegetable plots.

After the wet winter, which killed some specimens due to disease related to waterlogging, we did not get an early spring and temperatures during the February to April period remained generally low, as did sunshine levels. This ensured a very long drawn out spring and one when plenty of rain continued to fall (March was a 22-year Kew site record at 103 mm). Saturated soil conditions and concomitant access difficulties for machinery characterised the entire winter/spring period. There was the briefest of respites during part of February, but not enough to allow the ground to dry out. Although it was generally cool there were no serious late frosts and early flowering *Magnolia* and *Rhododendron* were spectacular. May brought an abrupt change towards much better weather, helping achieve the best

visitor numbers for the month since 1994, but ironically the sudden change, which included drying winds, placed some plants under considerable water stress and irrigation of new trees became necessary. The summer was generally kind, at least in horticultural terms, bringing a good mixture of sun and rain in evenly spaced periods. Temperatures exceeded 30°C on days in each of the three warmest months of June, July and August. A short dry period in July and rather more rain than usual in August ensured conditions for plant growth were nicely balanced with those that promote public visitation. More importantly, increased focus on and investment in publicity, and a now established programme of seasonal festivals at Kew seem to have combined in helping Kew realise a much-desired upturn in visitor numbers.

The largest and most publicised Orchid Festival ever during February and March witnessed an excellent attendance and great interest in fantastic floral displays as did the very busy Easter and May bank holiday weekends. At the Bluebell and Broomsticks weekend (May 6-7th), over 340 visitors entered the Native Trees competition at the Adult Education stand.

The Nike 10K Run London event was a new venture and brought great attention to the Gardens, which became the focus of media attention for the day. A free entry day saw large crowds and a new passing audience as the area became filled with runners of all shapes and sizes. Preparation and organisation of the event for the day was huge.

H.I.H. the Crown Prince of Japan was present for the opening ceremony of Japan 2001, on 24th May, which saw the Temperate House and North End elaborately decorated. Much time and effort went into developments for this Festival including: Kobayashi paintings Exhibition, development of the Japanese Dolls display in the Secluded Garden Conservatory, the Visual Learning Foundation display at White Peaks; Kimonos and Bonsai displays, interpretation for the Japanese Gardens, Minka House, bamboos and PoWC display panels. Support was given to building six Japanese designer gardens. Their construction required complicated liaison and planning meetings to guarantee their smooth development and installation to an extremely tight deadline that had to be accomplished in only three weeks. In addition there were carp kites to source and install, the weekly changing of Bonsai exhibits, preparation of the Bamboo Garden for the planning and construction around the Minka Japanese country house and a rice terrace to design, construct and plant up in the PoWC. An associated programme of workshops and a two-week Botanical Illustration course in June with lecturer and botanical artist Annie Farrer was held. With the re-organisation of the Temperate and Tropical nurseries into one section approximately 2,000 Chrysanthemum plugs were grown on to create a spectacular autumn display.

Elsewhere around the gardens in a drive to overhaul and improve the diversity and potential use of collections in the Lower Nursery, some 60 new accessions of ferns (both tropical and temperate), 50 **orchids** from culture in micropropagation, 80 species of carnivorous plants (esp. *Sarracenia*) plus 50 more from microprop were added to the collections. More plants are being grown in wall baskets to increase space in the Lower Nursery and to allow easy display and coverage of bare concrete walls in the PoWC. This has also improved the growing conditions with better air circulation and drainage and plants have already responded well. A new reverse osmosis unit has made a huge difference to the health of many plants. In advance of the re-development of the Filmy Fern House area the collections have been re-located – the filmy ferns to a special environment in the tropical nursery, the tree ferns containerised, and the hardy ferns moved to the Woodland Garden and Woodland Glade.

The PoWC temperate **orchid** zone is undergoing re-landscaping to provide improved growing conditions and display capabilities. A dramatic new display of **orchids** and cool-growing *Nepenthes* is being installed incorporating rock faces and waterfalls in a more realistic diorama. The *Begonia* and carnivorous plant displays were both overhauled and new material added. Re-wiring of the PoWC is continuing to improve growing conditions and allow increased visitor access in the evenings. The desert ephemerals at the South End rejuvenated well and another successful flowering occurred.

Victoria cruziana has been planted in the Water Lily House on the 200th anniversary of its discovery in the hope of crossing it with *V. amazonica* in the PoWC to produce some viable hybrid seed.

In the Palm House *Amherstia* flowered well after a long break and the *Strongylodon* vine was exceptional, with over 40 racemes. The large *Caryota* palm produced its final inflorescence and will die. A *Roystonia* palm broke through the roof of the tallest section of the Palm House and was dismantled by the Tree Unit on June 11th, featuring on regional TV news. *Sophora howinsula*, a critically endangered endemic from Lord Howe Island, flowered for the first time and is to be the subject of a number of papers. Below in the Marine Display some tropical sea horses bred young, which is almost unheard of in captivity, additionally an inter-tidal rocky shore alga regenerated itself from spores, which appears to be the first time this has been recorded in such an artificial environment.

The planting theme in front of the Palm House was 'Ornamental Vegetables' the last display on this theme was in 1988 although it differed in that the emphasis this year's was more towards vegetables rather than a mixture of vegetables and herbs.

The Broad walk display of *Narcissus 'February Gold'* followed by *N. poeticus* '*Recurvus'* was successful. The large subtropical planters placed out on the Broad Walk during summer have been well received by most visitors, being especially popular with those confined to wheel chairs. An additional 40,000 bulbs of *Narcissus 'February Gold'* were planted to widen the spring display and encompass the turf around the kidney-shaped beds whilst 336,000 *Chionodoxa forbesii* were delivered for mass planting in front of White Peaks.

Two-hundred and seventy trees, all from recent expeditions were planted including *Acer*, *Cornus controversa var. shikokumontana*, *Liriodendron chinense*, to recreate Tulip Tree Avenue, *Stuartia sinensis* and *Corylus chinensis*. The Tree Council and Centre Parcs launched 'A Walk in the Woods' at Kew, which included a tour of the collections for the Duke of Kent prior to the event.

Another important visitor was His Excellency Mohamed Al Sayed, personal representative of His Highness Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates who donated all of the plant material from the garden Charles Funke designed at the Chelsea Flower Show. The plants range from small herbaceous plants and shrubs, standard **citrus** trees, which were used outside the Orangery in summer and multi-stemmed **palms**, which were plunged around the 'White Peaks' development during summer, through to 16 **date palms**, some of which are over ten metres high.

Regarding conservation matters, the first annual report and steering group meeting on the U.K. conservation agencies-sponsored **Bryophyte** project was delivered and held. Techniques have been developed for initiating bryophytes into sterile culture and cryopreservation trialled. Techniques (encapsulation, desiccation, and cryopreservation) have also been developed for **Drosera** and **Saintpaulia** material. Seed of **Bromus interruptus** was harvested from the living collections and sent to the M.S.B. An initial survey of Hymenoptera at Kew has revealed c. 150 taxa, making it one of Surrey's most diverse sites. A member of staff has been redirected to manage the Wildlife Database, one of the most comprehensive of its kind for the area covered.

The figures for school visits are building to good effect after a lot of development and innovative support management going into the schools programme over the last two years. The Teacher Support Programme, with nine supply teachers now fully trained, offers programmes both on Kew's standard requests (rainforests/plant adaptations) and a new programme 'Local Biodiversity at Kew'. This is in addition to support of activities provided in four Kew site relevant teacher packs ('Evolution House', 'Spices', 'Plants Across the Curriculum', 'Looking for Links').

A new scheme was launched in May with ten 'school programme volunteers'. These volunteers meet arriving school groups, orientate them, offer relevant health and safety advice and provide supporting information where appropriate. These new volunteer 'Meeters and Greeters' also support the focus and orientation of school groups in the Palm House during peak visiting hours. Here they have been a success, learning from and allowing the staff some relief and therefore time to get on with their work away from constant questioning by the public.

In traditional fashion a number of plants received awards from the R.H.S. at Vincent Square shows including:

Juno Irises (Silver Medal for an exhibit of the Iris aucheri Group), I. orchioides, I. kopetdagensis, I. aitchisonii, I. linifolia, I. parvula, Notholirion thomsonianum, Ranunculus seguieri. Likewise, at the Chelsea Flower Show: Polygonatum hookeri, Omphalodes lojkae, Xerodraba mendocinensis, Iris tenuis and the first flowering of Dionysia muzafarrianii from Iran was achieved.

In preparation for Christmas, three weeks were spent re-turfing behind 1,600 metres of cable trenching along the Broad Walk and Palm House Pond areas in support of Christmas lighting plans. The increase in illuminated displays could be seen by all as Christmas events drew in the crowds and the close of another eventful year at Kew.

by David Hardman

In a year of major changes we saw the Living Collections and Education Departments amalgamated at R.B.G. Kew to create the new Horticulture and Public Education Department (H.P.E.) as an additional part to the restructuring exercise. Foot and Mouth Disease, the Science Audit and Quinquennial Review all made a major impact on what turned out to be a very busy year.

Like many other local gardens, gardening has yet again been a challenge for everyone this year. The extremely wet weather witnessed in 2000 continued well into 2001 ensuring that statistically this was one of the wettest in recent time. (see Table 1).

The remnants of the wet winter and spring left the ground heavy, cold and difficult to work, this meant a slow start for much of the planned landscaping work due to the atrocious conditions underfoot. Weed seedlings thrived and required full attention to keep them under control as the warm weather appeared.

Currently, the major project for Chris Clennett's team is the renovation of the Bog Garden, which restarted with clearance of the remaining moribund plantings. Drainage and clearance of the bank to the north was completed in December and the hard landscaping of the water feature will continue next year. Andy Marsh succeeded John Hooton in this part of the garden, John retired in April after 36 years service and commitment to the estate. His work throughout the gardens and specifically his input to the Water Gardens, the Iris Dell, Ditch Beds and the Slips remain a testimony to his work as an enthusiastic and highly professional horticulturist.

Below the Balustrade in the Slips, a Mediterranean theme was completed in May with additional plantings of wild source material. An area designated for plants from the Canaries and Madeira shows the highly adapted and specialised plants of these islands and adds to the feature's educational potential.

A reduction to bracken growth is noticeable in Westwood Valley around groups of newly planted trees, this may be due to strimming in early summer before the fronds have fully developed and then again in late autumn as part of the overall sward maintenance programme.

Several incidences of older **rhododendrons** having died for no apparent reason have been of concern. The results of samples sent away for analysis have added little information to the actual cause of death, only revealing secondary fungal infections and not the primary source. This maybe the after effects of localised water-logging due the heavy rainfall putting plants under stress and susceptible to secondary pathogen attacks.

The Australian collecting trip (E.T.A.Z.) undertaken by Andy Jackson and David Hardman resulted in some excellent young plants developing in the nursery. With agreement the surplus seedlings were delivered to R.B.G. Edinburgh for their conifer conservation programme. Three young plants of *N. cunninghamii* from this trip were presented to H.R.H. Prince Charles when he officially opened the Wellcome Trust Millennium Building. Already *Eucalyptus*, *Viola* and *Banksia* have been planted in the garden with other plants from the expedition to Chile (H.S.P.X.) undertaken by Stewart Henchie and Charles Shine.

Planting of an extensive *Rhododendron* screen to separate pedestrians from vehicles along North Drive between the Stable Restaurant and Millennium Seedbank was completed in April. Although views of the W.T.M.B. will be partially obscured, the improvement in visitor movement and safety has already been observed. The **rhododendrons** were grown in the woodland nursery in Bethlehem Wood.

The M.S.B. landscape nears completion, with just the remaining trees to be planted. All the ground contouring work was finished and several grass cuts made, taking off all the arisings. The parterre beds have received wonderful accolades for their impressive design, construction and impact of display, which has captured the public's imagination. The "shaw" beds and hedges have required attention to control weed growth emerging within these areas. The 100 Millennium Seedbank **oak** trees have now been fully sponsored.

Restoration of semi-natural woodland from conifer plantation in Forest Ridge is being used by Dr. Ralph Harmer, Forest Research, Alice Holt as a research site. Three replicates of select fell, select thinning and clear fell have been marked within an overall matrix thin. Base-line biological surveys and hemispherical photographs have been completed. Trees have been marked for felling and extraction. Harvesting commenced in November. No further harvesting is planned in the first five years of research. However, work will continue on the creation of conservation rides and thinning of adjacent plantations.

Approximately two years after direct sowing at the base of North American **oaks** in Horsebridge Woods shoots of three plants of *Pyrularia pubera* have appeared although all of the host trees are exhibiting stress possibly linked to acting as a host to this hemi-parasite.

The first phase of the **Starfruit** Project has been completed. This is a collaborative project between R.B.G. Kew and Plantlife, liaising with Seed Conservation Department, Jodrell and H.P.E. Seed was produced from plants regenerated by Frances Stanley in Clive Foster's nursery team more plants will be produced next year. Some of this seed is to be used by Plantlife for a reintroduction programme in Buckinghamshire and staff from the Jodrell have taken D.N.A. samples for analysis.

Having received the accolade as the "Best Garden" in the *Good Britain Guide* for 2001, this has been consolidated by the many favourable comments about the quality of the garden recognising the great level of commitment from all staff in achieving such high standards for many years. Although our year was shortened with the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease across the country, which witnessed the whole estate closed to public visitors from March 6th in order to protect neighbouring farm animals from infection. An estate wide programme of disinfectant barriers was put in place to ensure the virus did not enter the site. With only limited

access to parts of the ornamental gardens we opened on 12th April and finally got back to normal on May 19th.

The "forced" closure had a detrimental effect on our visitor numbers, resulting in a loss of about 40,000 over the equivalent period last year. By the end of the year some of this deficit had been recovered through a concerted effort of marketing every event and item of interest at Wakehurst Place and the Millennium Seedbank.

Greater publicity saw Wakehurst Place featured in an episode of the Meridian TV series Grass Roots. The presenters, Matthew Biggs and Richard Jackson, included plants from the Southern Hemisphere collections and the large scale composting operation in full swing undertaken by Dave Marchant's team. Chris Bassett, Sam Pierce and Ted Shirley were featured using the Jenz chipper with its phenomenal appetite to reduce materials to a compostable size with their other large machinery. The work of the Seedbank's Curation and Germination departments was also covered with interviews from Dr. Hugh Pritchard and Janet Terry on BBC Radio Four's 'Growing Science' programme 'Seeds and Weeds' with Pippa Greenwood.

Traditionally the first event of the year, the May Bluebell Weekend was cancelled as a precaution against Foot and Mouth Disease with the rescheduled Big Weald Cycle Ride, postponed from last year for safety reasons during the petrol strike. Over 13,600 people attended the Craft Fayre in August, which had a Viking theme this year. The weather had a dramatic influence over the weekend, Saturday saw temperatures soaring to 35°C draw in the crowds only for the Sunday to have torrential rain and dramatic thunderstorms before lunch that dissuaded the would-be later arrivals.

This year's Autumn Colour event gave visitors an opportunity to take tours around the garden and woodlands by Gardens staff, Volunteer guides and Rangers. Previously a weekend affair it was held on three consecutive Sundays, which ensured visitors could appreciate the autumn tints over a longer period.

To encourage people to buy estate grown trees from Wakehurst Place in the run-up to Christmas, Festive Family Fun Days were again organised by Iain Parkinson and Enterprises staff to encourage youngsters and their parents to get involved in making Christmas decorations from natural products provided by the estate. The Carol Concert saw over 2,350 people singing carols beneath the spectacularly lit Christmas tree to music provided by the Salvation Army Band and two choirs, which filled the cold evening air with wonderful sounds. The team again led by Dave Marchant put on a spectacular evening and it is a credit to all those who organise and this wonderful event.

Our final figure of just under 300,000 visitors was one that many thought unthinkable earlier in the year, the slow autumn and the last two months being dry helped us achieve spectacular numbers in the garden. The increase in visitor numbers from September onwards certainly went against the national trend, especially after the events in New York on September 11th.

Scientific visitors have also been in evidence throughout the year, with the Science Audit team treated to a full day at Wakehurst Place as part of the review in March. The new Science Strategy was included in the presentations to them. Their

final report has been very supportive to our work and with their endorsement we will proceed to develop links and follow the direction set out in the Science Strategy. The U.K. aspect will become more focussed at Wakehurst in the garden, reserve and the Seedbank, which will also continue to have great inputs to the overseas programmes.

On September 14th colleagues from the Chief Scientists group of D.E.F.R.A. visited to become more acquainted with the work at Wakehurst Place, touring the gardens with the H.P.E. managers in the morning and the Millennium Seedbank project team in the afternoon.

The Quinquennial Review team met with various staff as part of Phase One of their review, which continued throughout the year when they made their report. This has some interesting recommendations for the site including comments about the proposed construction of a new Visitor and Plant Sales Centre. Preparatory work to establish the location and design of the new building is being undertaken by a team of staff from all the Departments having an interest in this project, including Enterprises, Buildings and Maintenance, H.P.E., and Corporate Services along with the proposed designers. A representative from the National Trust will join the team at a later stage.

Nursery staff hosted a Propagation Forum day at Wakehurst Place to see behind the scenes of the unit and discuss various issues concerning techniques and plants production. Twenty-five people from nine different gardens attended, which was an excellent turnout for this group.

Staff travelling abroad included; Steve Robinson and Anne Chapman who were awarded John Scott Marshall travel scholarships. Steve went to Ecuador in January to assist in an Earthwatch bird-ringing programme this will assist him in acquiring his licence and his duties as Warden in the Loder Valley Nature Reserve. Anne travelled to Bhutan in May to study the flora and habitats of many plants that grow in the Water Gardens, Tony Schilling Asian Heath Garden and Himalayan Glade.

The Wakehurst Education Officer became a core-funded post at the end of February as part of the restructuring exercise. This commitment to education offers greater opportunities for everyone to be more involved with the promotion of the garden's work to a wider audience. The development of our schools programmes will focus on an audience that has great personal interest in its own future. We will be able to expand and build on our own strengths and capacity within the garden and so increase the range of experiences we give to all our visitors.

With 4,000 students involved in the schools programme it has been a busy year. The new Millennium Seedbank facility excites interest especially for advanced students. We are perfectly placed to allow them to study both *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, contrasting the work of the M.S.B. with our own managed nature reserve. Also students often gain their first experience of seeing scientists at work when they enter the public area – this message is very powerful and the role models of young men and women at work is potent. A series of activities for young people over the school holidays has seen growing interest.

A review of the schools education programme is being undertaken across both sites to recommend the best direction for the future with the primary objectives of increasing the number of schoolchildren being supported whilst maintaining a high quality provision. Currently, a business plan is being prepared.

Finally, our government funding body for many years, M.A.F.F. was also re-organised to form the new Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (D.E.F.R.A.). This has many potential benefits to R.B.G. Kew, which now finds itself more central to the objectives of this new Department as it strives to promote its work to a wider audience. New links are already being established and a workshop in Bristol was held in November to discuss areas of mutual benefit.

THE DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITIES DURING 2001

by Eleanor Bunnell

As well as day-to-day running of Kew and other commitments with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. and the Royal Society, this year Peter Crane has had several major projects to deal with including the Science Audit, Quinquennial Review, Site Masterplan and at the end of the year the World Heritage Site nomination. During the year he was also elected as a Foreign Member of the National Academy of Sciences in the U.S., as well as the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The Science Audit and the Quinquennial Review were both commissioned by D.E.F.R.A. (formerly M.A.F.F.). The Science Audit team concluded that they considered R.B.G. Kew to be not only unique within the U.K. but also a world class, internationally important scientific institution. They found that the scientific work was generally of a high or outstanding quality and was being managed effectively. The Quinquennial Review team's brief was to look at the status of Kew and whether Kew should continue to exist and if so, in what form. The review team concluded that the role of R.B.G. Kew in its research, conservation and educational remit remains highly valued and necessary. Further, it provides a wealth of staff expertise in the guardianship of historical and living collections that are a national and international asset. The second phase of the Quinquennial Review was to look at selected parts of Kew's internal structures, systems, processes and management in detail – this will be completed early in 2002.

As part of the Quinquennial review recommendations closer links have been made with D.E.F.R.A. Ministers and Peter and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Lord Blakenham, have held several meetings with Ministers to discuss both Kew's strategic direction and future funding.

The programme of seasonal festivals established at Kew in 2000 was extended in 2001. As a result of these activities and increased investment in marketing there was an overall increase of 16% more visitors during 2001. The Foot and Mouth outbreak caused Wakehurst Place to be closed for six weeks – visitor numbers there still matched those in 2000. Once again, the Orchid Festival was extremely successful and this was followed by Spring, Summer and Autumn Festivals and the year closed with the Christmas "Making Spirits Bright" festivities. In July for the first time, there was a Nike Fun Run with free entrance to the gardens all day. Ten thousand runners (including Peter) took part in the 10km race and an overall 26,400 people came through the gates that day.

The Summer festival at Kew was co-ordinated with the national Japan 2001 festival. Events with a Japanese theme were held throughout the year at Kew and the gardens looked very colourful with koi carp kites flying from flagpoles. There were Japanese showcase gardens, a Minka House constructed in the Bamboo Garden, a display of kimonos and bonsai and many other events. Chokushi-Mon and the Japanese Landscape were also highlighted. The main event in Kew's participation in Japan 2001 was a visit by His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan.

The Duke of Kent paid a visit during April as part of an event promoting the Tree Council. In September Lord Attenborough gave away the prizes and made an excellent speech at the annual School of Horticulture Prizegiving. The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Margaret Mee exhibition and lecture given by Ruth Stiff in October.

Peter Crane has given several lectures over the year including a lecture to the German Palaeontological and Systematic Biology Societies in Bremen, Germany, at the National Trust Gardens Conference in Bath, the University of St. Andrews, the University of Cardiff, the Fairchild Garden, Miami and Singapore and Thailand, and locally for the Spelthorne Natural History Society. In November he gave two lectures in Bristol, one at the University and the other at Wildscreen. He also attended the International Orchid Conservation Conference in Perth, Australia and European and international Botanic Gardens conferences in Palermo and Cordoba. He attended the Geological Society of America meeting in Boston. He was also a member of the Visiting Committee to the Department of Organismic and Evolution Biology at Harvard. Peter made several visits to Washington D.C. in connection with serving on the Smithsonian Science Commission and the Board of the National Museum of Natural History.

A major restructuring of both the Herbarium and Horticulture and Public Education Departments was also initiated and implemented during the year. The two retiring Trustees were Professor Hugh Dickinson and Mrs. Rosalyn Franklin. Their replacements will be announced early in 2002. Lucinda Matthews was appointed the new Head of Marketing, and Peter Hall was appointed the new Head of Retail.

Just before Christmas the first staff carol service was held in St. Anne's Church – this was very well attended and afterwards staff went to the Director's House for the annual Pies and Punch get together.

SECRETARY WANTED

For those members who attended the Annual General Meeting is 2001, this heading will not be a surprise. I then announced that I will be standing down as Kew Guild Secretary after this year's A.G.M. This will complete a four year spell in this role.

Should you be able to make some time available and consider this to be a worthwhile challenge, please make contact with the writer (M. Clift, 01276 20743) to discuss this role.

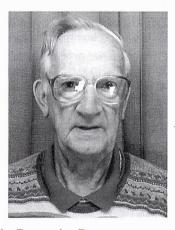
REMINISCENCES

by H.J. Eaton

I have been re-reading the 1999 *Kew Guild Journal* and finding that few of my contemporaries are still listed. I thought I would send you a few biographical notes for future reference.

Biographical notes

- 1915 Born March 28.
- 1930-1933 Apprentice at Willam Barron & Son.
- 1933-1938 General nursery work for Barrons.
- 1938-1940 R.B.G., Kew: Palm House, Water Lily House, No.1 House, Tropical Pits in Melon Yard, Passed N.D.H. Inter. I was in digs in Bushwood Road with Dickie Bird, John Norris, Len Riley and latterly with Cyril Mitchelmore when he fort come to Kow as a heaving



when he first came to Kew as a boy in the Decorative Department.

- 1940-1946 R.A.F.: Trained and flew as a navigator for four and a half years. Took part in the big glider operation on D-day and Arnheim. Flew to India in the autumn of 1944. Met and married my wife, an army nursing sister, in 1945. We returned to the U.K. in January, 1946. My wife died in 1999. We have a daughter and a son, and one grandson.
- 1946-1949 March-September Returned to R.B.G., Kew and the Tropical Pits, the same charge as I left in 1940. In September, I became Assistant to the Director, J. S. L. Gilmour, who had been Assistant Director at Kew before the war. Passed the N.D.H., Final.
- 1949-1977 Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Development and Advisory Services.
- 1949-1953 Assistant Horticultural Advisor Bedfordshire, and District Officer for Biggleswade Area.
- 1953-1956 County Horticultural Advisor, Isle of Ely.
- 1956-1962 County Horticultural Advisor, Worcestershire.
- 1962-1977 Director, Rosewarne Experimental Horticultural Station, Cornwall. The main crops on the station were *Narcissus*, winter cauliflower, early potatoes, spring greens and *Anemones*. We had breeding programmes for *Narcissus*, both for early flowering outdoor daffodils, and tazettas for the Isles of Scilly where we had a small sub-station. A new, hardier strain of *Anemone* was produced and marketed as the St. Piran strain. The greatest success has been the *Narcissus* breeding programme, which has produced a number of new varieties for both Cornish and Isle of Scilly growers. There was an article in the 2001 edition of the *Daffodil and Tulip Yearbook* by A. A. Tompsett who was the Deputy Director at Roswarne, and who is now a private consultant in Cornwall.

I have been growing and breeding **lilies** for many years, and we registered a number of new varieties bred on the station. I was awarded the Lytell Cup by the R.H.S. Lily Group in 1979. I am still growing **lilies**, and also **daphnes**, but the Dumfriesshire climate is a harsher climate than any I have encountered before, so I am still learning through trial and error.

Also a brief note about the moving of large trees with the machines designed by William Barron. I was an apprentice with the nurseries of William Barron and Son at Borrowash near Derby from 1930 to 1933 and worked for them afterwards until 1938 when I came to Kew as a student gardener. Yews were moved at any age, and the reason for the invention of the machines to move large trees was to move large yews to train into the topiary at Elvaston Castle where William Barron was head gardener for the Earl of Harrington. (There was a short article fairly recently in, I think, *The Garden*, about the discovery of the headstone of William Barron's grave in the Methodist Graveyard at Borrowash).

The moving of large trees was a rare occasion during the depression years of the late twenties and early thirties. I never worked on a tree moving job, but the office wall had numerous pictures of past contracts. I can remember a few. A **yew** tree at Buckland Church in Devon which had to be moved on rollers as it was too large for any machine was moved to allow the enlargement of the church. In the office, there was also a picture of a large **yew** being moved for the Frankfurt Botanic Gardens in Germany. I think it was before 1914. It took two days to transport on a machine from the original site to the new site outside the town as the overhead tram wires had to be moved aside to allow it to pass. It had been planted originally to mark the opening of the original garden. There was also a picture of a **copper beech** moved from the yard of the Officer's Brewery in Derby (in June in full leaf) to the park of the manor house at Borrowash. I think this was in the 1920's. This was still thriving in the 1930's – we rented part of the park and I was able to identify the tree. A machine was sent to India in the 1920's I think to move mature trees to furnish the ground of the new Vice-regal lodge and government buildings of New Delhi.

When I went to Kew in the autumn of 1938, to my surprise they were using a two-wheeled Barron machine for moving small trees in the Gardens.

NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 2001

Compiled by J. R. Woodhams

The Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Horticulture which took place on October 6th 2001 in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre at R.B.G. Kew, witnessed a gathering of Kew people, a number of whom received awards from the Institute as did Kew itself.

Professor Peter Crane, the Director of Kew, gave the James Bruce Lecture with the title 'Shades of Green: Evolving Role of the Botanic Garden'. In the context of a growing world population and the many threats to plant diversity the Director relived Kew's history indicating that Kew's future role was to increase knowledge

through research, use educational programmes and all means at its disposal to increase the publics' understanding of environmental issues and play an active role in the conservation of plants. Before his talk Professor Crane accepted on behalf of Kew, the Institute of Horticulture Nora Strucken Project Award 2001, awarded to Kew for the prestigious Millennium Seedbank situated at Wakehurst Place in Sussex. This annual award instituted in 1999 by the I.O.H. is given for a recent project which has made a significant impact on Horticulture. It has been renamed as above as the assets of the Nora Strucken trust have been transferred to the I.O.H. with the duty to continue an award in her name. A stainless steel plaque is given bearing the Institute's logo, the name of the award, the recipient and citation. Following completion of the main agenda of the meeting other awards were made. Leo Pemberton (1998) was presented with an Institute of Horticulture award. The citation reads as follows: "In recognition of his contribution to horticultural and arboricultural education at the Kew School of Horticulture and as a principal examiner for the Royal Horticultural Society, Royal Forestry Society, the Arboricultural Association (of which he is also a past chairman) I.L.A.M. and City and Guilds, and as administrator of the Studley College Trust". (There are never more than 50 holders of the award at any one time). Jane Pearson (Course 36) was awarded the Aberconway Medal and Prize 2001 for her dissertation on 'Dracaena: The History, Botany and Analysis of the Dragons Blood Collection at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew'. Interesting to note that she was the winner of the Institute's national annual competition of submitted written projects open to all students of Horticulture and Horticulturists under the age of 30. Jane is to be congratulated on that achievement. The prize consists of a £500 travel award and Jane intends to visit the Canary Islands to study Dracaena draco in its natural habitat.

Three of the 13 members elected to fellowship of the I.O.H. at the meeting are members of the Kew Guild – **Dr. Colin Hindmarch**, **Derek Parker**, and **John Watkins**. More news on each can be found elsewhere in this section.

During the mid-day break at the meeting the compiler spoke to **Rupert Browning** (1976) and to **Peter Maunder** (1954) Past President of the Kew Guild. Peter was enthusiastically asking among other things about the Bonsai collection recently acquired by R.B.G. Kew as part of this years Kew-Japan celebrations. It was therefore particularly disturbing to hear so soon after of Peter's death (see Obituary in this *Journal*).

Kew staff including Stewart Henchie, Kath King, Phil Griffiths, Greg Redwood and Martin Staniforth were on hand to lead tours of the gardens during the afternoon. Unfortunately the weather was not at its best. Ian Leese, Head of Kews School of Horticulture, covered much of the necessary organisation in relation to R.B.G.'s input as host for the day.

Vista Issue 30 (December 11th, 2001) reported that **Dr. Phillip Cribb** had been unanimously elected by the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society to receive the Westonbirt Orchid Medal at the London Orchid Show next March. The medal for 2001 is intended to honour any scientific literary or other outstanding personal achievement in connection with **orchids**. The article concluded with congratulations to Dr. Cribb for this well deserved award as well as gratitude for all that he has done to advance orchid science and conservation.

Ray Desmond, former Chief Librarian and Archivist at Kew, and Deputy Keeper of the British Library, has been awarded an M.B.E. (January 2002) for his services to garden history. Ray Desmond has written a number of books relating to the history of Botany and Horticulture and in 1995 published – '*Kew: The History of The Royal Botanic Gardens*' (R.B.G. in association with The Harvill Press, London). Congratulations from the Kew Guild on this award.

BBC Gardeners World magazine has two Kewites as Garden writers, David Gardner (1999) who was followed there by Leigh Hunt (see elsewhere under News of Kewites). David completed the Kew Diploma Course in 1992 staying at Kew, initially working with the cacti and succulents in what was Tropical Section L.C.D. and then in 1994 moving to the Herbarium to work with Susyn Andrews in the Horticultural Taxonomy Unit. In a fax to the compiler, David writes, "I have enjoyed talking to and interviewing some of the current gardeners and plants people such as Alan Titchmarsh (1974), Monty Don, Rachel de Thame and Roy Lancaster during my two years at the BBC. I really enjoy talking to Roy in particular as he is so enthusiastic about plants. He is full of interesting anecdotes and it is hard not to get as fired up about the plants he is describing as he is! I also enjoy attending the Garden Writers Guild lunch where we get the chance to see and meet some of the most influential designers and gardeners of the moment".

Vista Issue 25 (September 11th, 2001) reported that **Madeline Groves** (1991) who works within the Conventions and Policy section at Kew would be giving an illustrated talk at the Friends of Kew October coffee morning entitled "*C.I.T.E.S.* and Plants – the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora".

Penny Hammond (1987) has taken a change of scene with the National Trust moving from Audley End in Essex to take charge of the trusts 18th century gardens at Saltram near Plymouth. On completing the Diploma course at Kew Penny spent six years working in the Alpine and Herbaceous department at Cambridge University Botanic Garden, before taking up the post of Head Gardener at Ham House near Richmond in Surrey. News of Penny appeared in *Horticulture Week* (April 5: 36, 2001).

Vista Issue 24 (August 21st ,2001) Kews in house newspaper reported on its front page the recipients of two Kew Medals. They were **Barbara Hanson** in recognition of her work in the school of Horticulture and supporting the diploma students through their three year course, and **Sheila Thompson** a Friends of Kew volunteer in recognition of her dedicated work mainly in the fern section of the Herbarium.

Alison Eastman, a sandwich course student in the anatomy section of the Jodrell Laboratory, was also featured. Alison won a bronze medal in the womens lightweight sculls at the World under 23 championships in Ottensheim, Austria.

The Richmond and Twickenham Times (Friday December 7th, 2001) carried a feature on page 10 with the heading "We can't keep on wasting resources says prizewinning Landscape Architect Allan Hart" (1958). Allan of Allan Hart Associates based in East Sheen won a prestigious National Landscape Award given by the British Association of Landscape Industries. The project involved the creation of a roof terrace garden for an international bank building overlooking the River Thames opposite the Tate Modern. The terrace is used for office functions and meetings. A series of open rooms have been created with timber decking and aluminium planters. The plantings feature grasses and other perennials that will withstand the windy conditions. The judges commented that the scheme was simple, yet provided a pleasing and elegant effect in a hostile environment. The article mentioned that Allan has lived in East Sheen for 30 years and has seen a deterioration in maintenance of the borough's open spaces. Allan was quoted, "I think there is a lack of resources which has resulted in an overall deterioration in these spaces quite rapidly and quite seriously and I think the issue needs to be addressed in a very serious way." The *Times* article was reasonably lengthy and Allan was able to talk about his career especially about his studentship at Kew. Congratulations from the Guild, Allan, on your winning this prestigious award.

Vista Issue 20 (June 19th, 2001) included information about a Memorial at the Wetland Centre, Barnes to **Rupert Hastings** (1955-1993). Rupert's connection with Barn Elms is being commemorated by W.W.T. at the Wetlands Centre (previously Barn Elms) by a project adjacent to the Wildside Hide and Reservoir Lagoon. The project is a live **willow** 'triple lattice' screen with a bird feeding station to attract wintering small birds. The feeding station will allow close-up photography of the birds from the hide and in Summer the willow will screen the lagoon off from walkways to avoid disturbing the water birds.

Nigel Hepper, now retired from the Herbarium has been researching the history and cultivation of the Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) for publication. This developed into a fascinating project looking up old archives and visiting estates across the country to see and photograph beautiful old trees dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries.

Dr. Colin Hindmarch (1968) writes "John Woodhams read something about me in the 'New Fellows' section of the *Horticulturist* and said that I should let Guild members know what I have been getting up to. The write-up mentioned my recent involvement with the European Commission and the Council of Europe on the management of agri-ecosystems and referred to two publications emerging from this work. One examines a proposed typology for ecological corridors within the Pan European Ecological Network – Hindmarch, C. & Kirby, J. (2000): *Corridors for birds within a Pan-European Ecological Network*. Report to Bird Life International for the Council of Europe. To be published by the Council of Europe in their *Nature and Environment* series, No.123 (in press) and the other, *Land Management: The Hidden Costs* – Hindmarch, C. & Pienkowski, M. (2000): British Ecological Society ISBN 0632056525 Blackwell Science, Oxford, explores a way of reconciling the needs of biological conservation and agricultural production. Both publications are outspoken, controversial and get to the heart of the debate on sustainability. With regard to *Land Management: The Hidden Costs*, this examines the need to integrate the interests of biological conservation, food security and agricultural production into a sustainable approach to land management – no small task. It is rightly critical of the accumulated mess of agricultural and conservation policies that have brought western Europe's environment to a low ebb and threatened human health, but it also looks at the underlying causes of the phenomenon, and sets out an approach to land management that compliments rather than undermines the health of the environment. It deals openly and rationally with complex and important environmental issues at a time when the debate on the subject is still bogged down by vested interests, self justification and plain old muddle. It is unlikely to be a best seller, but it is finding its way into University libraries throughout the world, and the ideas it explores are increasingly becoming a force for change in Europe.

"It might encourage some to know that I became involved in these projects as a self-employed scientist having been made redundant from a local authority. The change was not without its difficulties, but it revived my career, expanded my horizons and gave me the flexibility and time to grow up with my grandchildren – a real pleasure. Valerie and I have had five children, Colin, Paul, Justin, Emma and Charles. Colin died as a baby in my last year at Kew – 1968, but the others have gone on to do all sorts of interesting things – not least to provide us with a clutch of beautiful grandchildren. So far we have Joy, Alice, Lawrence, Lili and most recently Thomas who weighed in at 11lb 4oz on the December 4th, 2001".

Whilst attending the British Pteridological Society/Species Survival Commission Specialist Group for Pteridophytes Symposium "fern flora Worldwide threats and responses" held at the University of Surrey, Guildford, 23-26 July 2001, the compiler met-up with Dr. Robert (Bob) Johns and Peter Edwards from the Kew Herbarium and also Phil Lusby (1981) and Ruth Davis. Phil's paper entitled 'Woodsia Conservation in the U.K.' in which he described the implementation of part of the U.K. Species Action Plan for the rare British fern Woodsia ilvensis gave good initial reports of progress. Ruth attended in relation to her work as Species Action Officer with Plantlife. Ruth has been with Plantlife for a number of years having commenced with them as a volunteer after completing her Kew Diploma. Funding from the Merlin Trust and the Kew Guild enabled her to travel to Canada to study terrestrial orchids right across the country. There then followed a short contract with Plantlife working on conservation and land management matters relating to the European native Ajuga chamaepitys before taking an M.Sc. course at Reading University. It was then back to Plantlife as Species Action Officer. Following further contact through Sandra Bell at Kew the compiler was able to get an update from Ruth who takes-up a new post in December as Senior Water Policy Officer within the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds – Water Policy Team. Here Ruth will work with the European Water Framework Directive which sets standards for all surface and ground water throughout the European Union. A set of chemical and ecological standards will be established for all water bodies within the member states and which must be achieved by 2015. Ruth will work with others

toward rapid transposition of these standards into U.K. Law. The new regulations should bring about improved quality of habitat for birds, plants and other wildlife. Ruth sees her new work as an intellectual and political challenge and is impatient to get started. Ruth can be contacted on email: ruthdavis@ rspb.org.uk

John Lanvon (1990) was heard on the Radio 4 'Open Country' programme in January 2001. The programme was recorded in and around the Tamar Valley. John works as Head Gardener at the National Trust Garden at Cothele near Saltash and has become particularly interested in the numerous daffodil varieties in the hedgerows and gardens of the Tamar Valley. The area was at one time home to a thriving daffodil industry. John also featured in an article (Horticulture Week, March 8th, 2001 :3), which stated that a £9,000 grant awarded through the National Trust would facilitate on-going research with regard to nomenclature etc by John and others. It was most unfortunate that the Foot and Mouth outbreak caused the cancellation of the 'Spring Daffodil Weekend' at Cothele this year but, undaunted, John endeavoured to beat the



John Lanyon (Photograph courtesy of *Horticulture Week*).

restrictions on movement by emailing photographs of particular specimens to former Royal Horticultural Society daffodil registrar Kate Donald, for help with identification.

Kew's in house newspaper *Vista* Issue 29 (November 13th, 2001) reported the retirement of **Bill Loader**, Head of Computing Section, after 18 years service at Kew. Bill was presented with a digital camera and a print, the former will be quickly pressed into service for Bill is off on a trip to New Zealand. Bill was Chairman of



Sir Paul Nurse's 1969 student photo (Photograph courtesy of *Vista*).

the Branch Executive Committee of the P.C.S. and **Ken Bailey** presented Bill with a gold P.C.S. badge for his service to P.C.S.

In Vista Issue 28 (October 23rd, 2001) one of the headlines proclaimed – 'ex-R.B.G. Kew sandwich student wins Nobel Prize for Medicine'. The person so honoured is **Sir Paul Nurse**, Director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, who has been jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2001. Earlier in his career Sir Paul did his first degree in Botany and was a Sandwich Course student (Jodrell Laboratory) in the late 1960s. A return visit to Kew in 1994 to explore common interests was instrumental in promoting



Rachel Martin (Photograph courtesy of *Horticulture Week*).

new research into cancer protective properties of plant-derived compounds, linking the Jodrell Laboratory and the M.R.C. Toxicology Unit at Leicester University.

Rachel Martin (1994) has not been one to let her career stagnate. After completing the Diploma Course at Kew Rachel moved to Tresco Abbey Gardens on the Isles of Scilly where she completed a scholarship year. This was followed by 30 months at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire where the emphasis was on organic gardening. The next move was to the south west again where Rachel gained the Head Gardener post at Trebah in Cornwall and this year saw her appointed to head-up the horticultural team at Exbury Gardens at Southampton where her plans are to

extend the gardens season in to late Summer and carry forward a breeding programme for the *Nerine sarniensis*

collection.

Horticulture Week 'Careers in Horticulture 2000' featured Rachel together with three other Diploma Course students: **Paul Pollard** (1999), **Leigh Hunt** (1999) and **Christine Lavelle** (2000). Paul has found there is a strong market for garden design and is a partner in PrimaFlora, based in Wraysbury, Middlesex. Paul mentioned that most of



Christine Lavelle (Photograph courtesy of *Horticulture Week*).



Paul Pollard (Photograph courtesy of *Horticulture Week*).

their designs were built by the company. He indicated that there is much to fit in to

the working day, dealing with enquiries, visiting clients to discuss needs and possibilities and then comes the drawing board design work. The article concluded with a Quote from Paul "What Diarmuid Gavin does on TV is great, but unfortunately you don't get the opportunity to build like that very often."

Leigh is now Garden Writer for BBC Gardeners World magazine where he joined **David Gardner** to cover horticulture in a team of 16 writers. Leigh's course at Kew included a placement at Birmingham Botanic Gardens which is where he developed his writers eye on bi-monthly reports. His day is usually split between producing articles and researching for work in the pipeline. There is constant need to check captions and features for accuracy especially plant names and facts. Leigh mentions that he has the opportunity to meet personalities in the gardening scene at dinners etc and was quoted "I recently sat next to Pippa Greenwood and **Alan Titchmarsh**. It's interesting to see how they compare in the flesh with their TV personalities."

Christine has continued her association with teaching following completing the Kew Diploma and is now lecturer in amenity horticulture at Writtle College in Essex. Before joining the Kew course Christine had worked as a gardener for the National Trust for Scotland, helped in the garden centre at Levens Hall in the Lake District and after travelling round Australia secured her first training job as Garden Supervisor at Askham Bryan College at York. Prior to joining Kew there was a move to Otley College in Suffolk as Head Gardener. Apparently Christine finds the lecturing interesting and sometimes challenging. Asked what is the best aspect of the job Christine said "When you see the students developing academically and practically", and the worst aspect "Very occasionally students filter through who don't want to be there. Discipline can be tricky, but experience wins through."

Brendan Mowforth (1975) sent in news of his work as Assistant Chief Leisure Services Officer for Calderdale M.B.C. The post carries responsibility for a wide range of services including parks and open spaces and more recently water gardening on a grand scale with the restoration and maintenance of 14 miles of canal! Brendan writes "Working with three other authorities, a Millennium Grant and Development Grants have been secured to a value of £22 million for the project. Engineering work entailed going under the M60 motorway and the demolition of a shopping centre. Having secured the grants, the works are being implemented by British Waterways, my role now being a Director of the company established to restore the canal. As one may imagine, whilst it is not horticulture the opportunity to be involved in such a project has been exciting. With completion due in June 2002 it will be back to our own mini jungle and its plant collection." Thank's Brendan for the information and I suspect **Kenwyn Pearson** (1975) may have been in contact!

Our new President, **Patrick Nutt** (1953), was installed in office at the A.G.M. on September 8 2001. Following this, Patrick stayed on in the U.K. in order to give a lecture, on Monday September 10, for the Mutual Improvement Society at their usual venue in the Jodrell Lecture theatre. His talk was on Burley Marx, his life, and the impact he had on landscape architecture and garden design with particular emphasis on the Cascade Garden at Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania U.S.A. Patrick illustrated the talk with some good slides. It was a well received lecture with a good attendance, following which the students had prepared a marvellous BBQ outside the School of Horticulture which again was well received and enjoyed by all.

Patrick was due to depart England on September 11th and had in fact got into the air when the awful terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York and also the Pentagon happened. His flight was returned to Gatwick and he was taken along with others by coach to Butlins at Bognor Regis for a three night stay until it was

safe to fly again. During this time Patrick says he was very well looked after, and he eventually returned to Gatwick on the 14th and was airborne again on Saturday 15th though his destination had been changed to Baltimore. From there he took a train and eventually arrived back home to his wife Ann, who no doubt was relieved and pleased to see him.

The compiler received several mailings from Patrick during the year with information relating to Longwood, the Morris Arboretum and to a trip he made with wife Ann to Alaska in July. Patrick, though now retired, keeps very much in touch with Longwood. Through lectures and guided tours he takes the opportunity to convey his love and enthusiasm for **waterlilies** and aquatic plants generally to students, fellow enthusiasts and friends etc. The first mailing included a colour photograph of the Dorrance H. Hamilton Fernery at the Morris Arboretum which has been beautifully restored. After 100 years it is now the only free standing fernery in North America. Always ready for a challenge there later followed photocopies and notes relating to the journey by boat along the coastline of Alaska and an alpine climb which was much enjoyed. The Americans take their autumn colour very seriously. Within the last mailing were cuttings from broadsheet newspapers explaining with colour coded maps how the colour was progressing from Maine through Pennsylvania. 'Leaf Peeping' tours have become something of a speciality. Thank you Patrick for the unfailing enthusiasm you show for the Guild.

Following meeting **Derek Parker** (1978) at the Institute of Horticulture A.G.M. at Kew in October, a couple of Annual Reports from the Commonwealth War



Professor Sir Ghillean T. Prance, past Kew Director, with Derek Parker.

Graves Commission plus notes for the Journal duly arrived with the compiler. Derek has, since 1992, held the post of Director of Horticulture for the Commission though in fact joined them in 1979 as a Professional and Technical Officer, responsible for the maintenance of all horticultural machinery in France. Promotion to Higher P.T.O. came along in 1982 and Derek moved to Eastern Mediterranean Area based in Athens, where responsibilities included supervision of horticultural maintenance in Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia (former), Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Syria and the Lebanese Republic. September 1983 saw a move to North Africa Area Office in Cairo where responsibilities covered Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Algeria and Tunisia.

After only 18 months in Egypt Derek moved sideways and was promoted to Senior Executive Officer in the Management Service Department based in Maidenhead U.K.. This was an administrative post, the department having responsibility for carrying out auditing of the Commissions finances and reviews into policy and efficient working practices. A return to horticulture came in 1987 when Derek took over as Senior Horticultural Officer based in Arras France. This entailed supervision of eight middle managers and 320 gardening staff working in 800 cemeteries covering 200 hectares of turf and flower borders. As stated he gained promotion to Director of Horticulture in 1992.

Derek mentions that his present job involves a broad spectrum of activities including among other things; the need to provide professional advice on current horticultural techniques and practices, revising horticultural policy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and revision and updating of modular training schemes (in-house training). There is need to inspect cemeteries and memorials worldwide to monitor standards of maintenance, thus Derek has a yearly programme of overseas visits. He is required to advise the personnel department on matters of Health and Safety also on training and recruitment and to audit the Areas annual machinery requirement - the annual budget for which is now around £600,000. Derek has to approve changes to the horticultural layout and design of a cemetery principally concerning the planting of trees. Derek concludes his notes with a list of projects that he has on-going including seep-hose evaluation in areas where the water supply is poor, the introduction of drought tolerant grasses such as Koeleria cristata 'Barkoel' and the use of mycorrhizae in all tree, hedge and shrubbery plantings. Thank you Derek for kindly supplying the information and as a footnote mentioning in a mailing just prior to Christmas that you met-up briefly with Jim Mitchell (1966) in Darwin during a visit 'down under'.

Through an address supplied by Leo Pemberton the compiler was able to contact Chris Pead (1964). Chris mailed news of his activities for Spelthorne Borough Council, and though he has now retired from his full time post with that Authority he still devotes one or two days a week as Horticultural Consultant to Sita (GB), the main grounds maintenance contractor in Spelthorne. Chris mentions there are no longer any qualified horticulturists either at Spelthorne or with the contractor and said this seems to be the trend with many Local Authorities at present. Chris indicated his last couple of years with Spelthorne were quite hectic as he was heavily involved with the landscaping of Staines Town Centre following major engineering works and part pedestrianisation of the High Street together with organising a Millennium wood planting etc. As ever computer work took a hefty chunk of Chris's time he states, "Together with the horticultural aspects of the work, a lot of my time was given up to computer work and I was on the user group committee at I.C.L. for their Synergy software. I also worked with Don Monroe of D.M.C. Systems in producing a user friendly tree maintenance software to monitor contractor performance and process complaints. I was also involved in Unix programming to create an in-house system to produce work schedules and invoicing data to interface with the Synergy software". Chris mentions that at Spelthorne he got involved with a tree wardens scheme and encouraged them to form a borough wide group as a counterweight to the tree haters! The wardens carry out planting schemes with local residents and under the Chairmanship of a Mr. Ray Thorn the group has become a model for the rest of Surrey.

Regarding other Kewites Chris mentions that he had met-up with Graham Lever (1962) on several occasions up to the end of the eighties. Graham worked for Slough Borough Council and was still apparently 'wheeling and dealing'. On the last occasion they both met Graham was trying to get a crew together for a transcontinental car

> rally. There was a re-organisation at Slough and Chris lost touch. Where are you now Graham? Another chance encounter happened whilst a member of Chris's tree wardens was on holiday walking the West Highland Way. Shirley Proud and husband met-up with another couple who happened to be Geoff Spate and wife Ann. Geoff completed the course at Kew in 1964, though returned on occasions to run for the Kew Guild Team in the Kew/Wisley Race. Geoff's address was eventually provided by Chris and through an exchange of letters Geoff provided more for the Journal. He mentioned that one can get quite nostalgic remembering friends and colleagues from nearly 40 years ago. Geoff continues "I was fortunate to get the opportunity to take early retirement in 1997 after over 31 years with Derby City Council. I left as Senior Assistant Director,



Geoff Spate.

Leisure Services with direct responsibility for parks cemeteries and crematorium and a wide range of leisure facilities. I was still running regularly until two to three years ago but stiffness in the old joints seems intent on letting me know that I am not Peter Pan".

Geoff says that he keeps in touch with **Ben Penberthy** (1967) who is teaching in Cornwall, though has now lost contact with David Coleman (1963). He writes "Ann and I have a son and daughter who now have their own houses so we have three houses and gardens to maintain if we get any spare time. Before retirement I was the City Council's representative on the Board of Governors of Broomfield College of Agriculture and Horticulture (Derbyshire). The college asked me if I would stay on as a 'Business Interest Governor' when I retired to which I agreed and am currently Chair of the Board. On retirement I was also persuaded to join East Midlands in Bloom and am currently Vice Chairman and help out with the annual judging". Geoff is pictured against a cedar which he planted in 1969/70 in their garden and indicates that it is when he drives around Derby and sees the many planting and landscape schemes that he has had involvement with that he is most conscious of the passing years. Geoff ends the letter on a very positive note that "It does give me much pleasure and satisfaction to have had a career that has allowed such creativity and to watch it being enjoyed by so many people day by day". In signing off he sends fond regards to many old friends. Thank you Chris and Geoff for responding so positively.

78

Vista Issue 27 (October 9th, 2001) contained on the front page a brief article 'Conservation and collaboration in Western China'. Roger Smith and Hugh Pritchard returned from a ten day trip to China where their itinerary included meetings with the Vice Governor of Yunnan Province, Liang Gong-Quing and other leaders of the West China Wild Biological Germplasm Resource Bank Project. They were due to attend the International Symposium on Ecological Construction and Biodiversity Conservation in West China to be held at Urumbqi, Xinjiang Province on 4-5 October, making a presentation on 'Towards the ex situ seed conservation of the plants of West China'. The visit to conclude with a meeting at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden to discuss existing and future collaboration.

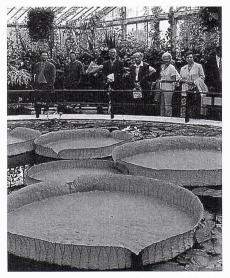
Vista Issue 18 (May 15th, 2001) included on the front page a short article headed 'Obituary for **Professor William T Stearn**'. The text stated "The Director regrets to inform staff that Professor William T Stearn, F.L.S. has died at the age of 90. Professor Stearn was a very distinguished systematic botanist and horticulturist whose work supported and enriched many of the major botanical institutions in the U.K. His best known work is '*Botanical Latin*' which is a standard work for taxonomists throughout the world and is now in its fourth edition. His last major work on *Epimedium*, about which he was very excited, will be published this year. He will be missed as a good friend, a frequent visitor and internationally acknowledged expert who freely gave of his time and knowledge and expertise."

Also on the front page of the above issue of *Vista* was the announcement that **John Lavin** had received his O.B.E. John was awarded this honour for his contribution

to conservation through the M.S.B. at Wakehurst Place. He was Project Director for Phase I of the Millennium Seedbank. Congratulations John from the Kew Guild.

A group of M.P.s were given a grand tour of Kew by **Nigel Taylor**, Curator, on July 10th 2001 following a welcome by the Director **Peter Crane**. The M.P.s were members of the All Party Horticultural and Gardening Group and the picture shows members of the group in the Water Lily Glasshouse No. 15 (extracted from *Horticultural Week* July 19th, 2001).

Stephen Torode (1982) featured in 'Move of the Week' *Horticulture Week* (November 16th, 2000) and was eventually contacted by the compiler toward the end of 2001. Stephen forwarded the



M.P.s visit Kew (Photograph by A. McRobb, courtesy of the Trustees of R.B.G. Kew).



Stephen Torode (Photograph courtesy of *Horticulture Week*).

following information "I was appointed Head Gardener at Polesden Lacey in October 2000. Polesden Lacey is one of the National Trust's most heavily visited pay-for-entry properties; embracing an historic house, gardens, countryside and two tenanted farms. The garden dates from the early twentieth century and is the third garden from this period that I have managed since leaving Kew. Following the course at Kew I moved to Glamorgan in south Wales to work as Principal Gardener in charge of the outdoor department at Duffryn Gardens – becoming Head Gardener in 1985. I entered private service for the first time in1993 becoming Head Gardener at Hollycombe House on the West Sussex/Hampshire border –

remaining there until taking-up the present appointment with the National Trust. I attended the National Trust's, International Garden Conference at Bath in May 2001 where I was able to renew acquaintances with a number of other Kewites including **Jim Buckland**, (1982) with whom I studied at Kew, **John Sales** (1958, Guild President 1994/5) and **Kate Richardson** neé **Jacobs** (1994) whom I first met at Duffryn.'' Stephen mentioned that he would be pleased to meet-up with any Kewites who find themselves at Polesden.

Richard Ward (1963) former Editor and Past President of the Guild (1998/99), sent through a few notes he wished to be included. Momentously, Richard is to merge the maintenance side of his landscaping business with 'Greenscene Limited' of Gunnersbury Park on the 1st April 2002. Richard states "I now hope to have more time 'enjoying' horticulture rather than 'rushing', and to spend time travelling and planning Rotary projects with the Rotary Club of Kew Gardens. Fellow Rotarians should note that the Kew Rotary Club meet every Wednesday evening 7.30pm for 8pm for dinner in the Function Room at the Coach and Horses Hotel, Kew Green. Check out the Rotary Website on www.kewrotary.org.

Richard added a footnote to say he had telephoned Lena and Andy Ferrari, of the Penguin Cafe fame (formerly at Kew Green) who now reside in Italy. They were both well and send regards to all. Indeed the compilers telephone also rang in December with Lena calling to send seasons greetings.

Following the Institute of Horticulture A.G.M. at Kew on October 6th at which the compiler met-up with **John Watkins** (?1981) the following notes arrived from John for the *Journal*. "I commenced my time at Kew in the autumn of 1978 as a garden apprentice in the Temperate Section working in the Temperate House under **Ron Rule** as Supervisor. I remember my first day at the age of 17 as if it was yesterday: being taken to the stores and signing in triplicate for my boots, bib-and-brace and donkey jacket and receiving my induction and being told how I fitted into the organisation – "well the students on the Diploma Course are the lowest of the low and you are lower than that!" Following restoration of the sections of the Temperate

House we followed the builders retreat by landscaping and replanting. I was fortunate to be involved in the landscaping of the South African section and both Octagons. After 18 months in the Temperate I transferred to the Decorative Section under the late **Fred Larkbey** and **Brian Halliwell** the Assistant Curator."

John mentioned that following his time at Kew his studies took him to Cannington College Somerset, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, N.T.S. Threave School of Gardening, then to the R.H.S. Wisley, first as Orchid Scholar and five years later as Glasshouse Supervisor. This was followed by his appointment as Curator at R.H.S. Hyde Hall. John then gained a post as Senior Lecturer at Hadlow College before moving to English Heritage in 1997 as Gardens Advisor becoming Head of Gardens and Landscape in 1999. Whilst at English Heritage John has been involved in helping to set-up professional horticultural teams at its nine staffed gardens, managing the Contemporary Heritage Gardens Project and latterly promoting the renaissance of public parks. Much of the work that John undertakes for English Heritage is by its nature high profile and John has featured on a number of occasions in the horticultural press relating to English Heritage projects. Thank you for responding to my request John. I trust the present induction process leaves a better impression on those now taking part!

John (log) Whitehead (1972) wrote in May 2001 to say that he hoped to delve into savings to include Bren, (Brenda March) on a 2001 botanical journey. Log says "Problems such as car-highjacking in South Africa, finance for long periods and her duties to part-time work resulted in Bren staying in Wales during my 2000 expedition". The letter concluded with the following note relating to his 2000 trip – "Two months and 74 slide films, resulted in a fascinating journey; visiting Halfhumans of the Richtersveld and measuring giant **Baobabs** in South Africa and two long ocean voyages to the islands of St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha".

A further note from Log dated December 2001, mentioned seeing exciting, but unfortunately often rare, endemic plants on far off islands; the two previously mentioned plus Mauritius, Reunion and Rodrigues. The compiler receives postcards, and is sure others do also, posted by Log whilst on his travels. There is always an amusing and apt sketch somewhere on the cards.

Whilst in the latter stages of compiling the News of Kewites section the compiler heard again from John that it was necessary for Brenda March and himself to return early to North Wales from their recent 2001 travels, for news reached them of the sad loss of Brenda's eldest son John Roger Price. The Guild sends deepest condolences.

Two Gardens publications, *Kew magazine* (Summer 2001:53), and *Vista* Issue 26 (25 September 2001) carried information relating to the new oak planters which are a feature of the Broad Walk restoration. Kew has sought sponsorship of these and **Philip Wood** – presently a Guild Committee member, *Kew Guild Journal* (Vol.13 No.104:329,1999) – who completed the Student Course in 1950 has sponsored a planter for the five year term. Philip followed his father **William Wood** who studied at Kew before him and who became involved in the establishment of the rubber



Sponsored oak planter at Kew (Photograph courtesy Mrs. W. Mealor).

plantations in Malaya. Philip is now retired and living in Australia. Alison Miller who works in Foundation and Friends informed the compiler that both Chas Shine and herself met-up with Philip at Kew when he visited this year and were able to go over some Kew history looking through the many photographs that Philip brought with him. See photograph of one of the oak planters above.

| YEARLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR R.B.G. KEW 2001 | HER S | UMMA | ARY FO | R R.B. | G. KEW | 7 2001 | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| 2001 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Year (Totals) |
| Month's Total rainfall (mm) | 71.5 | 81.2 | 102.9 | 69.8 | - | 33.3 | 40.1 | 92.5 | 60.5 | 125.6 | 36.6 | 20.6 | 771.7 |
| Most rain in one day | 20.0 | 15.6 | 14.7 | 11.9 | | 15.7 | 13.1 | 19.4 | 15.5 | | 1.11 | 6.3 | Jan 20.0 |
| Highest temp. Max. | 11.9 | 16.4 | 15.3 | 20.4 | 28.0 | 31.8 | 32.8 | 31.2 | 23.2 | 23.7 | 15.1 | 14.4 | Jul 32.8 |
| Lowest temp. Max. | 3.2 | 5.3 | 3.2 | 9.1 | 10.8 | 14.8 | 19.2 | 17.4 | 13.9 | 11.7 | 6.6 | 4.5 | Jan/Mar 3.2 |
| Lowest temp. Min. | -6.1 | -3.0 | -5.7 | -1.6 | 2.4 | 1.5 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 4.9 | 6.3 | -2.9 | -5.5 | Jan -6.1 |
| Highest temp. Min. | 8.2 | 10.5 | 9.6 | 1.9 | 12.2 | 18.0 | 17.5 | 16.9 | 13.1 | 14.5 | 8.5 | 10.1 | Jun 18.0 |
| Max Average | 7.6 | 10.1 | 9.8 | 13.7 | 19.4 | 20.8 | 24.6 | 23.9 | 18.8 | 17.6 | 11.8 | 8.4 | 15.5 |
| Min Average | 0.8 | 1.7 | 3.1 | 4.0 | 7.5 | 9.3 | 12.5 | 13.0 | 9.1 | 10.3 | 2.9 | -0.3 | 6.2 |
| 10cm Average | 2.3 | 4.1 | 5.8 | 8.9 | 14.2 | 17.7 | 19.3 | 18.4 | 14.2 | 12.7 | 7.1 | 3.7 | 10.7 |
| 20cm Average | 3.0 | 4.4 | 5.8 | 8.8 | 13.0 | 16.2 | 18.2 | 17.9 | 14.3 | 12.9 | 7.9 | 4.6 | 10.6 |
| 30cm Average | 3.9 | 5.0 | 6.4 | 9.6 | 13.0 | 16.1 | 18.3 | 18.4 | 15.2 | 13.7 | 8.9 | 5.7 | 11.2 |
| 100cm Average | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.7 | 9.1 | 11.2 | 13.9 | 15.6 | 16.5 | 15.3 | 14.0 | 10.8 | 8.0 | 11.1 |
| Snow days | - | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | - | 7 |
| Hail days | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 03 |
| Thunder days | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Gale days | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lowest grass temp. | -11.2 | -7.1 | -11.2 | -5.6 | -1.6 | -2.8 | 3.0 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 0.7 | -8.2 | LII- | Jan -11.2 |
| Lowest concrete temp. | -8.3 | -5.5 | -7.1 | -4.8 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 6.1 | 4.7 | 1.6 | 2.9 | -5.1 | -7.3 | Jan -8.3 |
| No. days air min < 0°C, | Ξ | 14 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 20 | 57 |
| No. days grass min $< 0^{\circ}$ C. | 20 | 19 | 12 | 15 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 24 | 114 |
| No. days concrete min< 0°C. | 22 | 17 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 23 | 89 |
| Rain hours A | 64 | 109 | 156 | 121 | 44 | 32 | 45 | | 92 | 115 | 83 | 45 | 985 |
| Rain hours B | 33.4 | 76.1 | 100.1 | L.I.T | 17.5 | 12.0 | 18.8 | 38.2 | 62.6 | 63.8 | 43.4 | 20.2 | 557.80 |
| Hours sunshine | 78.5 | 94.7 | <i>27.9</i> | 144.5 | 238.4 | 253.7 | 231.9 | 218.0 | 142.5 | 111.9 | 82.2 | 86.2 | Jun 253.7 |
| Av. Mean sun per day | 2.53 | 3.38 | 2.51 | 4.81 | 7.69 | 8.45 | 7.48 | | 4.75 | 3.73 | 2.74 | 2.78 | Jun 8.45 |
| Most sun in one day | 7.2 | 9.0 | 10.1 | 10.8 | 14.7 | 14.4 | 14.1 | 12.3 | 10.4 | 8.9 | 7.9 | 6.4 | May 14.7 |
| Fastest wind speed (knots) | 18 | 16 | 14 | 19 | 21 | 14 | 22 | | 18 | 22 | 26 | 28 | Dec 28 |
| And Gusts | 36 | 33 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 27 | 36 | 29 | 28 | | 36 | 41 | Dec 41 |
| And Direction | S | SSE | Е | S | S | SW | SW | Э | S | ESE | W | SW | Dec SW |
| No. of days with no sun | 8 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 46 |
| No. of days with no rain | 16 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 22 | 23 | 20 | 14 | 10 | 7 | 12 | 7 | 157 |
| Deepest snow depth (cm) | 0.5 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Fog days | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| pH Range | 5.54-6.80 | None taken | 6.05-6.50 | 6.64-6.69 | 6.35-6.81 | 6.82 | | None taken None taken | 6.64-6.68 | 5.81-6.68 | None taken | None taken | 5.54-6.82 |
| pH Average | 6.12 | 6.12 None taken | 6.21 | 6.67 | 6.55 | 6.82 | | None taken None taken | 6.66 | | 6.36 None taken | None taken | 6.48 |
| pH No. Tests | 3 | None taken | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 | None taken | None taken None taken | 2 | 4 | None taken | None taken | 25 |
| | | | | | | | | | | - | | | |

| WAKEHURST PLACE WEATHER 2000 | LACE | WEAT | HER 20 | 00 | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------|------------------------|---------------|
| 2000 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Year (Totals) |
| Month's Total rainfall (mm) | 35.0 | 83.0 | 22.5 | 123.9 | 120.1 | 14.9 | 47.5 | 38.6 | 137.3 | 288.7 | 222.0 | 202.5 | 1,336.9 |
| For Comparison 1999 | (120.8) | (8.35) | (40.2) | (56.5) | (33.7) | (60.5) | (10.2) | (117.5) | (152.7) | (66.8) | (36.4) | (165.8) | (869.45) |
| Rainiest day (mm) | 3rd 18.4 | 28th 13.7 | 2nd 8.4 | 14th 16.4 | 27th 30.6 | 20th 10.3 | 4th 19.1 | 3rd 15.5 | 15th 27.1 | 11th 51.6 | 5th 53.7 | 13th 37.5 | |
| Rainless days | 14 | 12 | 20 | 11 | 15 | 25 | 15 | 18 | 15 | 2 | 4 | 10 | |
| Highest Max. Temp. (°C) | 12 | 12 | 16 | 21 | 29 | 35 | 29 | 28 | 26 | 16 | 12 | 12 | |
| | 29th | 8th | 8th, 9th | | 14th, 15th | 18th | | 1st, 10th, 11th, 12th | 4th | 1st, 4th 18th, 23rd | 27th-29th | 4th, 7th, 11th-13th | |
| Lowest Max. Temp. (°C) | 1 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 15 | 16 | 19 | 16 | | 5 | 0 | |
| | 26th | 16th, 17th 28th | 28th | 4th | 2nd, 3rd | lst | | 26th, 28th | 26th, 28th 16th, 18th-20th, | 21st | 20th | 29th, 30th | |
| | | | | | | | | | 24th, 25th 27th | | | | |
| Highest Min. Temp. (°C) | 10 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 16 | | 17 | 17 | 17 | 10 | 10 | 10 | |
| | 30th | lst | 9th | 25th-28th | 156h, 16th | 19th | 30th | 14th | | 2nd, 3rd, 21st, 22nd, 25th, 28th | 29th | 5th, 12th | |
| Lowest Min. Temp. (°C) | -4 | -2 | -2 | -1 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 10 | | 3.5 | -1 | -5 | |
| | 27th, 28th | 20th | Sth | | 28th | 2nd, 7th, 10th, 24th, 25th | | 21st, 22nd 21st 29th, 31st | | 16th, 17th | 4th | 31st | |
| Nights with air temp. below freezing | 11 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 6 | |
| Windiest Day | 29th W | 16th WNW | lst NW | 25th S | 2nd NNF | 22nd SSW | 14th NW | 28th SSW | 7th SW | 30th | 22nd | 13th SW | |
| | 19mph | 18mph | 16mph | 18mph | 17mph | 15mph | 16mph | 18mph | 18mph | 44mph | 32mph | 37mph | |

| WAKEHURST PLACE WEATHER 2001 | PLACE | WEAT | HER 20 | 01 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2001 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Year (Totals) |
| Month's Total rainfall (mm) | 129.9 | 123.5 | 119.8 | 85.0 | 32.4 | 15.6 | 53.1 | 6.66 | 102.5 | 159.3 | 40.7 | 28.3 | 989.5 |
| For Comparison 2000 For Comparison 1999 | [35.9] (120.8) | [83.0] (8.35) | [22.5] (40.2) | [123.9] (56.5) | [120.1] (33.7) | [14.9] (60.5) | [47.5] (10.2) | [38.6] (117.5) | [137.3] (152.7) | [288.7] (66.8) | [222.0] (36.4) | [202.5] (165.8) | [1,336.9] (869.45) |
| Rainiest day (mm) | 23rd 21.4 | 7th 4.3 | 22nd 15.8 | 8th 16.5 | 1st 8.5 | 15th 4.5 | 17th 24.4 | 18th 22.7 | 30th 23.3 | 7th 40.5 | 30th 8.6 | 4th 8.4 | |
| Rainless days | 13 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 23 | 21 | 20 | 16 | П | 9 | 14 | 15 | |
| Highest Max. Temp. (°C) | 10 | 12.5 | 15.5 | 19.9 | | 33.6 | 33.5 | 35 | 23.6 | 25.6 | 16.7 | 13.8 | |
| | 1st, 2nd, 4th, 23rd, 24th | 14th, 21st | 22nd | 2nd | 11th | 26th | 27th | 25th | 28th | 13th | 2nd | Sth | |
| Lowest Max. Temp. (°C) | 2 16th, 17th | 2.1 28th, 30th | -3.5 3rd | 9.5 14th, 18th | 8.5 1st | 15 17th | 17.5 10th | 18.6 31st | 14 17th | 11.5 21st | 6.6 8th | -1.0 22nd | |
| Uichoot Min Tomn (90) | 0 | 0 | c | 0 | 14 | 2 11 5 | 10 | | 15 | 16.2 | 11 5 | 19.61 | |
| ruguest wun. temp. (C) | 24th | 6th | th, 11th | , 1st, 2nd | h, 17th, h | 26th | 4th | 26th | 29th | 12th | 30th | 12.0 1st | |
| Lowest Min. Temp. (°C) | -3.5 19th | -3.1 5th | -3.5 5th | -0.5 19th | 3.1 5th | 5 8th, 11th | 8.5 16th | 9 10th, 27th | 6.5 10th, 25th | 6.5 22nd | 1.4 23rd | 4.0 23rd, 24th | |
| Nights with air temp. below freezing | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 | |
| Windiest Day | 24th SW | 6th WSW | 13th WSW | 4th NW | lst NE | 7th WNW | 12th SW | 17th S | 13th SW | 1st SW | 9th NNW | 6th NNE | |
| | 32mph | 30mph | 23mph | 25mph | 29mph | 21mph | 23mph | 20th SW 18mph | 24mph | 27mph | 26mph | 22mph | |

OBITUARIES

PETER MAUNDER

As the time passes I seem to know more of the people I write Obituaries for personally and the memories of the living person bring life to the history I glean from early *Journals*, family and friends. What I do enjoy is finding those common strands of enthusiasm and all embracing interest in things natural.

Peter crops up regularly throughout the pages of the *Kew Guild Journal* and there is no diminution with time. Search and you will find. I am not going to repeat much of what is already there In 1988/9 he was elected President of the Guild and his career up to then is well covered in the relevant *Journal*.

He entered Kew from Manchester Parks Department on 31st March 1952 following in the footsteps of his cousin Fred Maunder. Then he had few qualifications but it was the start of a journey that was to leave him Peter Maunder, N.D.H, N.D.Arb, D.I.P.R.A, F.L.S, F.I.L.A.M, A.H.R.H.S. and Recipient of The Elizabeth Medal.

He was an enthusiastic organiser and a major force in the Kew tennis club. In 1952-53 he was Secretary of the Mutual Improvement Society when the average attendance was the highest for years and he won the Hooker Prize the following year. He left Kew in 1954 for a stint at The Bingley Sports Turf Research Institute, the same year Ken Burras left for Oxford Botanic Gardens.

He was soon back down south where he first moved to Torquay Parks Department and then he consolidated his Parks career in the major department at Portsmouth. He took over in 1964 from Mr John Studley, another Kewite. He resigned from work in 1980 due to ill health but this did not mean no more work, it just took a different form. He continued to work as an examiner for the Royal Horticultural Society's N.D.H./M.Hort, spent a lot of time building the Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies and supporting the Hampshire Historic Gardens Trust in their conservation activities. Time was also spent developing his collection of fruit trees and working with the R.H.S. Fruit Group.

Kew remained a focus for his thought and effort. Apart from being President he was Chairman of the Award Scheme in those early formative years and he was in regular touch sending articles and reports to the *Journal*.

Of his activities outside Kew we heard of his conservation work with the historic George Staunton Estate near Portsmouth but as you will see below there was a corpus of interest running very deep in other areas.

I thought it would be of interest for his eldest son Mike to share some thoughts with us, for here we have the third Kewite in the family. Mike wrote from Hawaii.

"Peter had a genuine, and very infectious love for plants and the stories and people associated with them. On coming across a plant he and his friends would trade strings of anecdotes, relating to the plants origin, their own experiences, summaries of previous gardens visited, known growers etc. So many of these tales would start with 'Yes, I remember that from Kew – you remember behind the old T Range.' My earliest memories are from the old Portsmouth City Nurseries where Peter would take me for walks. As I child I had a wonderful playground in the glasshouses and frame yards. A distant world of forcing houses full of **astilbes** and **daffodils**, raffia twine by every door, lots of standard **chrysanthemums** and potted **palms**.

Family holidays would be selected by Peter according to the number of interesting gardens and nurseries in any locality, the occasional Stately Home would be added onto the already crammed schedule to please Mum. Any garden subject to Peter's visits would be assessed on the quality of the lawns (edging and levels being give particular attention), weeding of beds, quality of plant collection and status of the labels – I'm afraid I still carry his assessment procedure with me when ever I visit a new garden. He had the sharp eye of a traditional head gardener, the profession his own father and grandfather.

Peter took a great delight in the variety of plants in cultivation whether revelling in a spring **rhododendron** garden in Devon, assessing summer bedding displays or exploring a **cactus** garden in Spain. Particularly fine plants would receive the ultimate appellation; they would be described by Peter as a 'bobby dazzler'. At home he developed his own plant collection with a wonderful collection of top fruit and half-hardy perennials; with the latter he turned a corner of Hampshire into a stunning tropical garden during the summer. He helped form my love of plants and my fear of becoming a narrow-minded and anti-social specialist! Peter had a great enthusiasm for ancient breeds of livestock. He played a pivotal role with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust in saving the Gloucester breed of cow from extinction and he could wax lyrical about the relative merits of various British and French bantam breeds. Peter had located the last Norfolk Horn ram and I was taken from school to see the ram just before he died, the last purebred individual of his breed. This was my first exposure to extinction and it had a profound impact upon me." (*Mike Maunder 2002 National Tropical Botanical Gardens, Hawaii*).

Life is what you make it and with great skills of love, care and fellowship Peter had a full life. Peter and Sheila Gilmour remember the times when at Torquay Parks during the winter they would motor out to have a quiet 'jar' in local hostelries free from the grockels. We have all transplanted trees and Peter arranged for the salvage of *Trachycarpus fortunei* palms that were threatened by a building project. At no cost they were moved to the sea front but how many of us have introduced birds to our landscapes, he did! The white doves at Cockington Court, such a popular and defining feature of the village, were installed by Peter and they bred beyond his wildest dreams.

I do not remember Peter at Manchester Parks Department but the same people that helped him, helped me and there were quite a few Kewites amongst them. Much later I was to enjoy the company of Peter and his wife Isabelle at I.P.R.A. meetings and Kew Guild Events where they were both always eager to lend a hand with catering. All in all a staunch Kewite a kind and generous man and a professional through and through. He will be missed and we send our condolences to his family and friends.

STEPHEN JOHN ROBERTS

1904 - September 9th, 2001

Jack, as he was known to those closest to him, entered Kew in June 1925 from Aldenham Park Gardens, Elstree. Prior to that he had done a course at Cannington College.

Kew was still very involved in the colonies and there was 30 million pounds worth of British Capital in Malayan rubber and at The Mutual Improvement Society Bean was in the chair. In 1924 1,535,855 visited Kew when entry was free. The 1925-26 examination results show him up with the top scorers in General Botany and in Geology and Soils he came top with 94 marks out of 100. Kew's attendance did not score so well in 1926 because the penny charge was introduced. Attendance fell from 1,671,840 to 1,162,547. One wonders what would happen to attendance if the present charge was removed as it has been in many London Museums. In that summer the now famous *Amorphophallus* flowered – can this be getting into a regular attraction?

In 1928 Jack helped organise and participated in a race between the Aldenham Gardens Running Club and the Kew Gardens Running Club. The former were guests of Kew on that social occasion.

Jack Cheek was one of his colleagues and Jack subsequently went onto Manchester Parks. He was there when Peter Maunder (see previous obituary) was there and we all benefited from the amazing **cactus** collection he curated.

Jack left Kew to enter the world of Parks, initially at Roth Park, Cardiff. The renowned and respected Kewite Bill Nelmes was in charge and they remained great friends.

In 1970 he moved to Llanelli in Wales working at Stardey Park. When he retired he moved five miles towards Camarthen with his wife Betty.

When she passed on aged 86 he decided to move to Cornwall where his sister Sylvia had enough room to make him at home. In his 15 years there he was approached many times to do extra work but he decided to concentrate on his own garden where, in his greenhouse, he raised seeds of all sorts of vegetables and flowers. He would often reminisce about Kew. His interest in sport never left him; he took a great interest in all sport and played golf with Sylvia. He was a very modest man, if you wanted to know something you had to ask. On a trip round Cannington once he pointed and said "That was my window". We know little more of his time at the college. He always loved Kew and when Barbara Lees, a friend, came down for the funeral she stopped in his room surrounded by *Kew Guild Journals*.

We thank Sylvia – the only person remaining in his family – for her thoughts and offer our deepest condolences.

The Obituaries have been researched by Graham Burgess, often from information in the pages of previous *Journals*. If you would like to contribute to an obituary, please contact the Editor. Notification of the passing of Kewites should be made to the Guild Secretary, who will in turn inform other relevant Guild Officers.

KEW GUILD ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31st DECEMBER 2001

THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2001

| | General Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | l Endowmen Funds £ | t Total 2001 £ | Total 2000 £ |
|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| INCOMING RESOURCES Subscriptions Donations and Legacies Investment Income – COIF – Interest Annual Dinner | 6,365.40 1,337.52 1,344.03 1,760.00 | 3,233.00 4,677.77 | | 6,365.40 3,233.00 6,015.29 1,344.03 1,760.00 | 6,581.81 14,400.00 6,017.06 1,458.27 1,970.00 |
| Summer Outing Sale of "Kew Plantsmen" Sale of Emblems | 238.00 3.00 | | | 0.00 238.00 3.00 | 45.00 100.00 0.00 |
| | 11,047.95 | 7,910.77 | 0.00 | 18,958.72 | 30,572.14 |
| RESOURCES EXPENDED Direct charitable expenditure: Kew Guild Journal Prizes | 3,585.00 495.00 | 13.00 | | 3,585.00 508.00 | 5,188.00 508.00 |
| Awards Annual Dinner Summer Outing Millennium Celebrations | 250.00 2,415.38 | 4,693.00 | | 4,943.00 2,415.38 0.00 0.00 | 5,330.00 2,284.73 45.00 693.02 |
| Postage Other expenditure: Cost of "Kew Plantsmen" | 168.46 | | | 168.46 0.00 | 473.50 93.00 |
| Write-off value of stocks Insurance Honorary Officers' Expenses | 29.89 | | | 0.00 29.89 0.00 | 2,932.05 17.80 110.00 |
| Stationery | 361.56 92.35 | | | 361.56 92.35 | 0.00 149.15 |
| | 7,397.64 | 4,706.00 | 0.00 | 12,103.64 | 17,824.25 |
| NET INCOMING RESOURCES | 3,650.31 | 3,204.77 | 0.00 | 6,855.08 | 12,747.89 |
| OTHER RECOGNISED LOSSES/GAIN Losses on investments: | NS | | | | |
| Unrealised | -6,041.63 | -7,603.63 | -14,130.75 | -27,776.01 | -10,180.63 |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS Balances brought forward at | -2,391.32 | | -14,130.75 | | 2,567.26 |
| 1 January 2001 | 66,424.54 | 54,697.43 | 101,432.66 | 222,554.63 | 219,987.37 |
| BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2001 | 64,033.22 | 50,298.57 | 87,301.91 | 201,633.70 | 222,554.63 |
| | | | | | |

THE KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2001

| | 20 | 01 | 2 | 000 |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| FIXED ASSETS | | | | |
| Investments | | 171,604.35 | | 199,380.36 |
| | | _ | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | |
| Debtors | 534.70 | | 543.93 | |
| Charities Deposit Fund | 30,500.00 | | 23,200.00 | |
| Cash at Bank | 342.42 | | 628.11 | |
| | | 01.077.10 | | |
| | | 31,377.12 | | 24,372.04 |
| LIABILITIES | | | | |
| Life Subscriptions | 47.77 | | 47.77 | |
| Creditors | 1,300.00 | | 1,150.00 | |
| | | | | |
| | | -1,347.77 | | -1,197.77 |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | 30,029.35 | | 23,174.27 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| NET ASSETS | | 201,633.70 | | 222,554.63 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| FUNDS | | (1.022.02 | | 66 404 54 |
| General | | 64,033.22 50,298.57 | | 66,424.54 54,697.43 |
| Restricted | | 30,298.37 87,301.91 | | 101,432.66 |
| | | 07,301.91 | | 101,432.00 |
| | | 201,633.70 | | 222,554.63 |
| | | | | |

These are summarised accounts extracted from the Annual Report and Accounts of the Kew Guild. The Annual Accounts were approved on 14 January 2001 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.